

KENTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

E-MAIL nkyheritage.kchs@juno.com

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KCHS MEETING

DATE Tuesday, February 12

TIME 7 PM

PLACE The Baker Hunt "Art Club"
Auditorium
620 Greenup, Covington

Noted historian, Bernie O'Bryan, will speak on the war that many of us forget about, the Spanish American War.

Parking will be available
in the Baker-Hunt lot

Bulletin

FEBRUARY 2002

Notes from the Board Meeting of January 22

Treasurer Dan Carter reported a balance of \$29,229.15, \$25,000 of which is the bequest from the estate of Dorothy Weick. The \$25,000 will be spent on the book on the history of Covington and a new copier. The copier is used for most of our publications, the Bulletin and shared with Behringer-Crawford Museum.

Dan said the recent mass mailing promoting more subscriptions to the NKH Magazine was successful. However, many subscriptions came in without renewals the KCHS. It should be noted here that the memberships end on December 31. Please renew now if you have not already done so.

The projected budget is \$12,350 and was approved by the Board.

Kathy Romero has volunteered to e-mail members of our meeting times and programs. If you have an e-mail address, please send it in along with your renewal.

The Board approved writing a letter of support for the grant funding for Ft. Wright sidewalks.

History Day is coming up March 9. Brochures will soon be in the mail. We again are handling the pre-registration table as well as a KCHS table.

We still need volunteers to work on the Covington Book. The library is working toward completing the indexing of old newspapers. The next meeting date is February 14, 6:45 PM at the Covington Library.

The Historical Confederation of Kentucky, affiliated with the Kentucky Historical Society is sponsoring a "Museum and History Day" at the State Capitol Building on Thursday, February 21. The purpose is to show the legislators the importance of local museum and heritage groups preparatory to seeking more that the current minimal funding support. George Gressle and Karl Lietzenmayer will participate for Northern Kentucky.

The Kenton County Library has County Maps from 1914 for sale for \$10. Some of the land shown on the map go back to pioneer days because of land disputes up to that time. The KCHS still has early 1840 and 1850 maps for sale, as well as the 1877 Covington Atlas and 1883 Boone, Kenton, and Campbell Atlas.

COVINGTON'S FIRST CITY HALL (1843-1899)

Having used such impromptu places such as a log schoolhouse and the second floor of its first engine-house (frame building) for meetings Covington built its first brick city hall at Third and Greenup streets on a lot that had come to be dedicated for such use by the city leadership. The cornerstone was laid June 24, 1843. But this was also a dual ceremony as the cornerstone laying for Trinity Episcopal Church a few blocks away was also celebrated. And in that eventful year for Covington Linden Grove cemetery was dedicated in September. And John Quincy Adams briefly visited Covington on November 13, 1943 from Cincinnati where the cornerstone was laid for an observatory at what is named Mount Adams (1).

The ground level of the new city hall contained the Mayor's office, council chambers and an archival repository for the fire department and other records. After the glorious memory of George Washington had competed with that of Daniel Boone for the first choice, our first President won the honor from the city. A subscription drive in 1844 funded Washington's statue, which was mounted on the cupola. In the 1870s the statue was removed and relocated to ground level during the major remodeling (2).

After this extensive remodeling it was possible to think mistakenly that the city had built a second brick city hall, rather than reconfiguring the original one.

After the county was formed in 1840 and the county seat was built in Independence, Covington maybe shared some of its city hall informally with the county. However, in the 1850s the county did officially establish a second system of courts and records closer to the center of population density in Covington. Henceforth the city shared city hall openly with the county though the years (3).

In 1848 city hall was used as a hospital for casualties of the Mexican War. An officer from the U. S. 15th infantry had found that the military hospital in Newport was overcrowded. He had been refused in Cincinnati. Upon hearing of this Mayor Bushrod Foley offered the use of City Hall. Local physicians volunteered, as did other citizens for nursing duty (4).

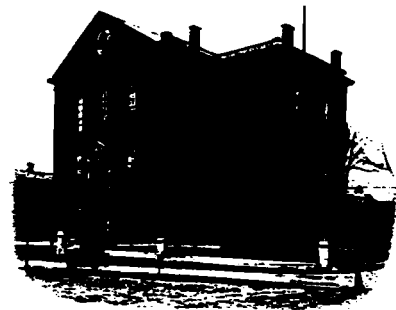
Covington's first city hall was demolished in 1899. Just before the second city hall was demolished some 70 year later, its cornerstone box was to be formally opened "in the chambers of Mayor Claude E. Hensley as officials from the city and county stood in patient curiosity." Finally the box was cut open. There was dampness. Inside was found a second box which "was the original box placed in the cornerstone" of the city hall built in 1843. Contents that were identified during the ceremony included gold and silver coins dated 1843 and 1899 and newspapers (5).

- 1 Orville J. Wiggin History of Covington (Daily Commonwealth); Don Barlow, "Covington's First City Hall," (KCHS Collected Papers); John Burns, History of Covington (unpublished); Covington Historic Preservation records.
- 2 Barlow; city of Covington Historic Preservation records
- 3 Burns
- 4 Barlow
- 5 Chester Geaslen, Enquirer (April 13, 1970)

FIRST PERMANENT COVINGTON CITY HALL (1843-1899)



CITY HALL AND COURT HOUSE, COVINGTON, KY.



DEMOLITION OF THE FIRST PERMANENT CITY HALL
COMMENCED IN 1899

PRESS RELEASE

Beargrass Press

January 2, 2002

New book tells the exciting story of a Civil War infantry regiment containing a company of men from Kenton County, Kentucky.


Louisville author Joseph R. Reinhart has researched and written a history of one of the Bluegrass State's premier Civil War combat units—the 6th Kentucky Volunteer Infantry Regiment. The 6th Kentucky fought at Shiloh, Stones River, and Chattanooga in Tennessee, and in Georgia at Chickamauga and in Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman's Atlanta Campaign (Rocky Face Ridge, Resaca, Pickett's Mill, Kennesaw Mountain and the siege of Atlanta).

Company A of "the old 6th Kaintuck," as it was fondly called, contained 74 men from Kenton County, 12 of whom were killed in action or died from wounds. Two more men died in Confederate prison camps and one died of disease. Company A was organized by Alfred Martin of Covington and mustered in on September 9, 1861. Martin became its first captain and rose to the rank of major before being discharged for wounds received at the battle of Shiloh. Richard C. Rockingham of Covington began service as a 2nd lieutenant and was promoted to lieutenant colonel before being killed during the battle of Chickamauga. Company A also contained five men from Campbell County.

Reinhart's book follows the regiment through three years of war and contains a full roster presenting the names and brief service records for all 937 officers and men who served in this hard-fighting combat unit.

For further information contact: Joseph R. Reinhart, 8420 Oxford Woods Court, Louisville, Kentucky 40222; phone 502-426-7296; e-mail sixthky@bellsouth.net.

9th Annual Genealogy Fair and Family History Night



presented by the History & Genealogy Department
of the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County
and the Hamilton County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society

Friday, April 26

5:30-8:30 p.m.

Atrium, Main Library

Special Attraction: Release of the 1930 Census after 72 years!

Schedule of Events:

- ★ 5:00 p.m. — Beginning Genealogy*—How to start the grand adventure of genealogy with Karen Everett, Huenefeld Tower Room, 3rd Floor
- ★ 5:30-8:30 p.m. — Displays and Specialists, Exhibits and representatives from 20 genealogical societies and historical collections, Chapter interest groups (i.e.-African American, Computers, First Families of Hamilton County, German and Irish) and experts to answer genealogical questions, Atrium, 1st Floor
- ★ 6:15 p.m. — Beyond Grandmother's Attic*, Stories about ancestors and lessons for life with Pamela Myricks, Huenefeld Tower Room, 3rd Floor
- ★ 7:30 p.m. — Tips on Using the 1930 Census without Soundex, Huenefeld Tower Room, 3rd Floor
- ★ 7:45 p.m. — Unveiling of the 1930 Census for Ohio, History & Genealogy Department, 3rd Floor
- ★ 8:00-9:00 p.m. — Microfilm readers reserved for use of the 1930 Census, History & Genealogy Department, 3rd Floor

* Space is limited. Please call to register for these programs. A genealogical door-prize will be drawn at each program.

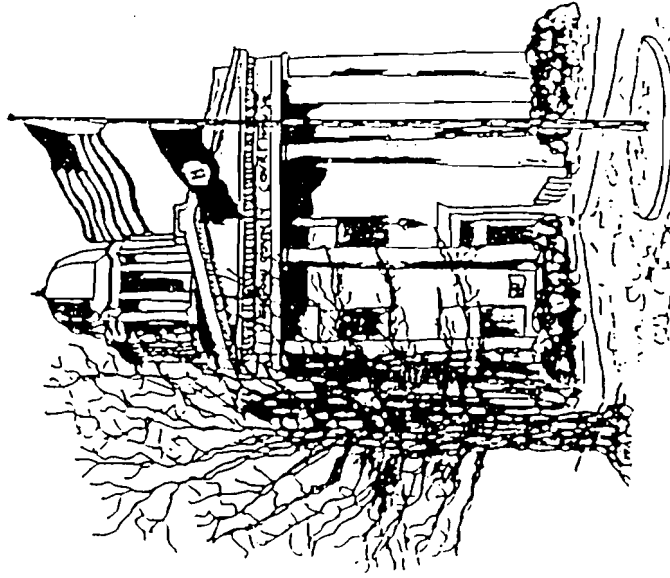
For information and registration, call the
History & Genealogy Department at 369-6905.
Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County
800 Vine Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202-2071

Interpreter for the hearing impaired available upon request. Please call the ADA Coordinator at 369-4406 (TDD 369-4409) at least one week before program.



**KENTON COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Bulletin February 2002



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

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