



Bulletin of the Kenton County Historical Society

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2016



**Northern Kentucky's Klingenberg Family
and Klingenberg Hardware**

Tobacco City - Covington, Kentucky

Northern Kentucky's Klingenberg Family and Klingenberg Hardware

Beth Dunn

The Klingenberg family of Northern Kentucky hardware store renown came to the area when patriarch Gerhardt Klingenberg immigrated from Mettinger, Germany in 1850. He settled in the Over the Rhine section of Cincinnati and raised his family. Gerhardt's son, John George Klingenberg, worked as a clerk for Western and Southern Railroad and John's son, Joseph G. Gerhardt, was born in 1889.¹

Joseph G. was baptized at St. Paul's Catholic Church on East 12th Street in Cincinnati, and attended school there, probably to the 6th grade. He went to work as a clerk and meat cutter at the Frank Gelhart Grocery at Montgomery and Losantiville. At some point before World War I, Joe got a job selling paint for Sherwin Williams, and he moved across the river to Bellevue, Kentucky, on Van Voast Avenue. He enlisted in the US Army in either 1917 or 1918 and was sent to a field artillery unit in Fort Riley, Kansas. Since it was so near the end of the war, he was discharged soon thereafter, as a Sergeant in the Quartermaster Corps. Back home, it did not take him long to move into the next phase of his life. He married Freda Deye in February, 1919, and they had their first child, Joseph John, in November of the same year.²

Klingenberg's Hardware and Paints opened the doors of its first store in 1922. Covington, at the northern tip of Kentucky, was already a century old when Freda Klingenberg convinced her husband Joe to give up traveling as a Sherwin Williams paint salesman and stick closer to home. Joseph Gerhardt Klingenberg, a budding entrepreneur, started his business at the corner Covington's Bush and Greenup streets.

Commerce was brisk in those post-World War I days. By 1926, Joe and Freda moved to Kendal Street in Covington and subsequently sent their chil-



Above: Wedding photo of Joseph G. and Freda Klingenberg, February 1919

Photo courtesy: Mary Evelyn Klingenberg Collection

On the Cover: Joe Klingenberg as an employee of R. H. Gelhot, Cincinnati grocery

Photo courtesy: Cincinnati Historical Society

dren to St. Joseph Catholic School at 12th and Greenup Streets. In just a few years, Klingenberg bought an empty lot next to the former Frank Duveneck home for \$2220 and built a bigger store on the corner of 13th and Greenup, at the cost of \$11,153.³ Joe took peculiar caution to eliminate from construction plans the usual sewer drains in the basement. This tactic would later prove to have been very shrewd. He held his grand opening in 1928 and a large crowd gathered to celebrate, with a drawing for



Grand opening of 13th & Greenup Klingenberg Hardware Store (c.1928)

Photos courtesy: John T. Humpert Collection

prizes. Joe's son, also named Joseph, vaguely remembered the first store as "dark, dingy, vermin-filled and unattractive,"⁴ therefore the brand new store was a huge improvement.

There were good times and difficult times. The younger Joe had vivid memories of the 1929 crash: "*I specifically remember one evening Dad came home from the store and told mother, in a kind of sad and plaintive, voice that he had lost a whole lot of money in paint brushes that day. I didn't understand then, how you could lose money when the brushes were unchanged on the shelf.*"⁵

In this way inflation inflicted damage on the business, but the store endured the Depression, supplying city residents with plenty of "do-it-yourself" items during those hard years.

Before long, Joe's four brothers joined in the work. Walter opened the Newport store in 1925,

having been a salesman for Sherman Williams Paints and also having spent time working for Joe in Covington. Ralph and Carl worked in the Newport store before starting their own stores: Ralph in Dayton around 1926 and Carl in Fort Thomas in 1940. A fifth brother, Herb, started a hardware store in Erlanger around 1950. As Klingenberg's Hardware expanded throughout Northern Kentucky, it had the distinction of becoming its biggest family-owned hardware chain.

Joe offered toys for the kids and pots and pans for the ladies, as well as the usual hardware fare of paint and building supplies. The Klingenberg brothers held a Sherwin Williams franchise and cooperated with collective buying in areas like glass, lamps and locks. A thriving business in radio sets and refrigerators also developed for a time.

During the 1937 flood, both the Dayton and Newport stores flooded. Walter in Newport watched

the Ohio River approach his store from Patterson Street and the Licking River came up 11th St. He removed many wooden kegs of nails from the basement to a rented garage in Southgate to avoid the floodwaters.⁶ Joe Klingenberg, however, avoided the floodwaters completely at the Covington store because of his foresight in constructing the basement without drains. During that era in the city of Covington, there were not separate sewers for rainwater and waste. When the buildings around the hardware store had their basements flooded during the big waters, not only did the sewers back up, bringing rain water with them, they brought some nasty stuff too.

Several blocks south on Greenup Street from Klingenberg's Hardware, a redheaded boy named Harry Humpert was growing up. When he turned 16, Harry went to work for Joe making deliveries after school hours. Then World War II broke out. After serving in the Army Air Corps, now the Air Force, earning his college degree in business and marrying a lovely lady named Tess Ruschmann, Harry went to work again for Joe.

It takes a particular kind of character to thrive in retail hardware; evidently Joseph Klingenberg had it and Harry Humpert followed in his footsteps. It is the kind of work that requires an attention to detail, immense patience, a steadiness that is unruffled by events and people, an ear for what customers say they want, an eye for useful new products and a definite level of willingness to risk. Joe's two sons, Joseph and Paul, worked for their dad and Joseph shared his honest feelings about the work: *"I saw periods of yawning inactivity in which it was difficult to keep occupied and it was boring. There were ever present hassles with difficult customers, discount policies, donation requests, competitive bidding and long hours. I was a bit of an introvert...and I found approaching customers somewhat difficult. I was not a salesman. In addition, I had found something much more intriguing and exciting. It's called Science and in particular that branch called Chemistry."*⁷

When the elder Joseph G. Klingenberg retired, Joseph J. declined his father's proposal to take over the business and went on to become a Chemistry professor at Xavier University. Joe's other son, Paul, also turned down the offer, choosing to go to



Harry Humpert in his newly acquired Klingenberg Hardware and Paints, 13th & Greenup (c. mid-1950s)

Photo courtesy: John T. Humpert Collection

medical school to become a surgeon.⁸ A trusted employee who had been Joe's right hand man for many years also moved on to another career. Harry Humpert was next in line as heir apparent.

In 1954, Harry John Humpert became the new owner of the original Klingenberg's store. In that post World War II era, items that had been scarce for years became available and Klingenberg's thrived. Over the course of the next two decades, the business built up enough for Harry to expand it. He discovered the perfect spot for another outlet in a former bowling alley on Winston Avenue, and the Latonia store was added to the Klingenberg's chain, making a total of six stores.

When Harry remodeled the Latonia store and had the walls stripped to add insulation, he discovered many places where doors had been filled in and covered in a previous remodel. He learned that those doors had led to stalls for race horses. Klingenberg's Latonia store had been a bowling alley with a history: the Latonia Race Track had stabled their horses there.⁹

Joe Klingenberg and Harry Humpert showed some surprising similarities. First was their active civic service. Joe worked with the Red Cross as a POW



Store Front of 13th & Greenup store (early 1960s).
Left to right: Bernie Heidelberg, Hollis Floyd, Harry Humpert and Bill Small.

Photo courtesy: Ray Hadorn

consultant and as a member of the Civilian Defense Corps during World War II. He held office with the Covington Chamber of Commerce and Humpert was also active in that organization, as well as having membership with the Jaycees. Both men served on the board of Burnett Perpetual Building and Loan, which later became Bank of Kentucky and then BB&T. Both were active members at Blessed Sacrament Church and in addition, Humpert helped found Mustard Seed, a Northern Kentucky Catholic Charismatic community.¹⁰

Humpert, just like Klingenberg before him, knew how to make the necessary sacrifices to achieve something in business. Formerly, the Humperts lived in Covington near St. Elizabeth Hospital on 20th Street. Over half of Tess and Harry's seven children were born there. Their eldest daughter, Beth, remem-

bers: "My parents spent their first 5 years of marriage sleeping on a pull-out couch while we three girls took the only bedroom. When my baby brother John was born, it was time to move to a bigger house in the suburbs."¹¹ Joe Klingenberg had moved his family to Fort Mitchell in 1931, and Humpert happened to move to the same street in 1957; the Klingenberg family lived at #51 and Humperts at #61.

Harry and Joe had agreed on a 10 year plan for Humpert to pay off his purchase of the hardware business. All Harry had to do was walk down the street to Joe's house to make his monthly payment. Joe passed away after a heart attack in 1958, and by that time, his son Joseph John, who was left a widower after his wife Evelyn met with an untimely death, had moved back with his five children to the home place at 51 Pleasant Ridge.¹² So at that point, Harry



Latonia store at 3916 Winston Avenue just after acquisition by Harry Humpert (c.1975).
This former bowling alley was originally the facility for injured and sick horses for Latonia Race Track.

made payments to Joe's widow, Freda, the lady who had instigated the enterprise in the first place by urging her husband to start his own business.

Almost all seven of Humpert's children worked for a time in at least one of his two stores. Two of them would go on to work full-time over the long haul: John and Julie. In fact, fourth daughter Julie Humpert met her husband at Klingenberg's Hardware. Dan, her betrothed, was a regular customer then and later became an employee too.

Although Joe Klingenberg was never able to convince the next generation of his immediate family to go into the hardware business, his granddaughter, Rosemary, made it her career for over 40 years. Rosemary, Joseph John's daughter, went to work as a receptionist at the Bob Dean Supply Company in Ft. Myers, Florida. She worked her way up through inventory control, inside sales, Department Manager

for power transmissions, and finally to Vice-President of Sales.¹³

The Klingenberg legacy reached across the Ohio River too, because it planted the seeds for another regional, independent family-owned hardware chain. Bill Small worked for Harry Humpert in the 1960's and when he left, it was to start his own store. Some of Bill's sons took a shine to the business and expanded it, making the Small's Hardware stores a well-known Cincinnati chain.

The Klingenberg hardware chain, though originally owned by the Klingenberg brothers, did not remain in the family. Each store, in its turn, either changed hands or eventually closed. Nevertheless the Klingenberg name has endured. Because it had gained such tremendous recognition throughout Northern Kentucky, the new owners of the old brothers' stores thankfully retained the familiar moniker.



Klingenberg's Hardware, located between Pike and 7th Streets and Madison and Washington Streets, Covington.
This building was formerly occupied by the Hill Seed Company.

The Newport store, for example, followed the same pattern as the Covington store in this regard. The Newport store was originally situated on one corner of 11th and Patterson Street in Newport and then moved across 11th to another corner. Walter Klingenberg lived upstairs above the store with his wife and children in the beginning. He came down around noon to work the lunch hours and the afternoon.

In 1936, Walter hired Bernie Heidelberg as a clerk. Bernie opened the store in the morning. One of his duties was to stoke the furnace and add coal to it during the winter months. A bell was attached to the door and when a customer arrived, the bell would ring and Bernie would run up the stairs to wait on the customer, and then go back down to finish adding coal to the furnace. At closing time, he would bank the coal into the furnace so Walter would not

have to come down and do anything more to the heat at night.¹⁴ When Walter died in the 1950s, Bernie Heidelberg was still on staff. He managed the Newport store for Mrs. Klingenberg until she died. Their children then offered to sell the store to Bernie before they put it on the market, and he willingly accepted.

Bernie told his son, Bernie Jr., that when he hired high school boys for the summer he counseled them that working at a fast food restaurant would teach them how to flip burgers, but if they paid attention on the hardware job, they would learn how to cut glass, pipe, keys and many other useful things.¹⁵ Bernie Jr. worked for a time for Harry Humpert at the Covington store, and eventually took over management from his father in Newport. He ran the store for many years and in turn sold the

Continued on page 10

Tobacco City - Covington, Kentucky¹

John Boh

The last tobacco auctioning warehouse in downtown Covington operated into the early 1950s, and the last manufacturing company until 1956. In 1919, a *Kentucky Post* front page photo depicted a parade of vehicles loaded with tobacco blocking traffic within a block of City Hall. Farmers were delivering their tobacco crops by wagons, automobiles, auto buses, and passenger cars to the Kenton Loose Leaf Tobacco Warehouse, 2nd and Greenup streets.²

By then, tobacco already had a long history. When the Kentucky General Assembly declared the Town of Covington a city in 1834, the street directory listed a “cigar manufacturer” and around ten persons with the occupation of “tobacconist.” Fast growing Covington in 1841 had 2,000 inhabitants, a rolling mill, cotton factory, flouring mill, hemp bagging factory, rope walks, a brewery, slaughter and packing houses. A newspaper bragged that annual production “...might reach 15 thousand kegs and boxes of chewing tobacco. Hundreds of hogsheads and boxes of leaf would be sold to all parts of the chewing and smoking world.”³

In 1844, the Covington Rolling Mill and Nail Factory employed 120; the Cotton Factory 70 to 100 (three-fourth females); and 22 tobacco and cigar manufacturers consumed 2,210,000 pounds of leaf tobacco, employing about 250 people!⁴ In 1858 Covington rated second to Louisville in Kentucky. The William B. Mooklar Co. had an “army” of workers in the “twisting room.” Nearby, rows of boys aged 10 and up were stemming the leaf and cutting wrappers. On the second floor tobacco leaf was flattened three times in three long rows of iron screw presses of immense power.⁵

During the Civil War, Louisville had its L&N Railroad delivering tobacco and other products to Union troops and elsewhere. But Cincinnati also had new railroad service passing through, and the

Covington & Lexington Railroad delivering farmer products northward.

From 6,000 hogsheads before the Civil War, Cincinnati by 1864-65 was dealing 50,000 and becoming a major hogshead market together with Northern Kentucky. The new “White Burley” tobacco strain produced in the region proved invaluable for chewing tobacco and later for the modern blended cigarettes.⁶

Promoting Covington industry as always the *Covington Journal* in 1864 reported 24 tobacco manufacturers employing 800 men and boys and annual production at over \$4 million.⁷ In 1869 Cincinnati and Covington sales exceeded \$6 million.⁸ In 1879, companies included Robert Hamilton & Co.; Simrall & Crawford manufacturing fine cut; Lovell & Gedge, both plug and fine cut; Lee & Smith, plug; the Gloré Brothers, Senour & Noonan, Lovell & Buffington, Hudson & Son, McNamara & Brothers, and the O’Brien Brothers using very fine white tobacco for filters making the manufactured article much finer.⁹

Newspapers and other publications detailed bigger tobacco firms. In 1882, the J. Shelley Hudson Tobacco Co. had a brand new White Swan, made of the finest White Burley filler, the Wrapper, a selected Virginia stock. The company manufactured in the 500 block of Madison Ave, in a three story brick 50 feet by 159 feet long, with a 40-horsepower engine, employing 50 skilled operatives.

Covington had firms new and old in 1886: Perkins & Ernst; Percival’s Leaf Tobacco Warehouse; W. C. Hamilton Tobacco Works; the Kenton Tobacco Factory, Lovell & Buffington and McNamara & Sealts. J. Shelley Hudson’s factory on Madison operated in two buildings, three floors each, for wrapping, storage, steaming, drying and pressing. The Robert Hamilton tobacco factory on Madison manufactured

fine cut plug and smoking tobacco. Street directories and maps of the time documented the overwhelming presence of tobacco. Shops and cottage industries included: Cigars, Billiards, 516 Madison; Cigars, 504 Madison, 536 Madison; Cigar Manufacturing, rear of 536 at 536 ½ Madison; Cigars, Confections, 13 Pike; Cigar Factory, 802 Madison; and Cigar Factory No. 1, 28 Pike. Operating near the elegant Riverside residential neighborhood were Senour & Gedge (100 block of Greenup); and Kentucky Railroad Tobacco Co., including a large warehouse (2nd and Greenup).

In the 1880s, employing 40 on Pike Street in a three story building, Henry Feltman's firm sold 125,000 fine cigars annually in Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Tennessee, Georgia and elsewhere. A German native, Feltman served as President of the German National Bank.¹⁰ Across the river, Cincinnati in 1890 had over a half dozen warehouses on Front Street. The number had dwindled substantially by 1940.¹¹ In 1890, Louisville made \$5.1 million in plug chewing tobacco. Next in Kentucky was Covington with chewing and smoking tobacco income of almost a million dollars; stemming and re-handling earning another quarter million.

The Anchor Tobacco Works, facing both sides of the block (East Pike and East 6th near Madison) by 1890 enjoyed a nation-wide reputation producing twist, plug and spun roll, selling in every state east of the Mississippi River and in Missouri, Kansas, and Nebraska.¹² In 1874 Lovell & Buffington, erected a large factory at 235 Scott, and in 1906 a six story structure just to the south. For its domestic and overseas market, Fountain Fine Cut won a gold medal in Philadelphia in 1876 and in Chicago at the 1893 Columbian Exhibition. Later, the popular Bull Dog Twist chewing tobacco and Bull Dog smoking tobacco won a gold medal at the 1904 St. Louis Exposition. In 1893 the company claimed 80 employees making 2,000,000 pounds valued at \$3 million.

E. O. Eschelby Co. at 409 West 6th Street appeared a final time in the 1956 directory, the last surviving tobacco manufacturing firm. The Kenton Loose Leaf Warehouse was incorporated in 1918 for the purchase and selling of leaf-tobacco, upon commission or otherwise. Soon the corporation relocated



its warehouse from Greenup Street to a new, larger building on the site of the old Federal League Ball Park next to the Lovell & Buffington.¹³

After 1900, farmers' tobacco was regularly unloaded directly from their vehicles into warehouse containers for auctioning.¹⁴ That was the scene in the *Kentucky Post* photo in 1919 at the Kenton Loose Leaf Tobacco warehouse. In 1933, the Covington Chamber of Commerce set a goal, a record sale of 12 million pounds. The Covington market, "...the equal of any in the burley belt, has plentiful transportation and sufficient parking." But the downtown nevertheless would become more and more congested and less viable than auction warehouses at Maysville, Carrollton, Cynthiana, Ripley, Ohio and Madison, Indiana.¹⁵

1. See an earlier, larger article: John Boh, "Covington - When the Tobacco Industry Was Big," *Bulletin of the KCHS, Sept/Oct 2010*

2. K. P., Jan. 28, 1919, p. 1

3. L. V. R., July 21, 1841

4. L. V. R., July 27, 1844, p. 2

5. "Tobacco Manufacturing," C. J., June 12, 1858, p. 2

6. W. F. Axton, *Tobacco and Kentucky*, The Kentucky Bicentennial Bookshelf, Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, pp. 54-57, 66-67

7. C. J., Jan. 15, 1864, p. 3

8. C. J., Oct. 2, 1869, p. 3

9. D. C., Feb. 11, 1879, p. 1

10. 1886 Sanborn Insurance maps; 1886, *Leading Manufacturers and Merchants of Cincinnati and Environs*, New York: International Publishing Co., pp. 237, 239

11. 1890 Cincinnati Illustrated Business Directory; 1940 Cincinnati business directory

12. *Illustrated Cincinnati: The Queen City of the West--Containing also Covington and Newport, Kentucky, and Hamilton, Ohio*, New York: Acme Publishing and Engraving Co., 2nd Ed., 1891, p. 205

13. Book 8, Articles of Incorporation, Covington Courthouse, pp. 57-58; K. T. S., March 14, 1919, p. 26

14. Rhea Taylor, "Basis for the Constitutional Convention Conflicts," *Filson Club*, Vol. 46, 1972

15. "Record Tobacco Sale for Covington Is Aim," K. P., Nov. 2, 1933, p. 1; in the late 1920s and early 30s the Tri-State Loose Leaf Tobacco Warehouse, like the Kenton Loose Leaf, hosted annual fall tobacco sales at the nw corner 2nd and Russell; Covington street directories

A Look Back at The Headlines

An on-going feature reliving local headlines.

This issue features:

The Covington Journal – December 31, 1853.

Local Headlines

The Greenup St. M.E. Church is to be lighted with gas.

The Fair at Greer's Hall, for the benefit of St. Mary's Cathedral Church, considering the numbers of attractions offered to the public during the week, is doing very well. The Fair, we believe, closes tonight.

The suspension bridge was crossed on Wednesday last, by Mayor Foley and Mr. George C. Tarvin of this city, in a buggy. We are happy to say that the first vehicular passage was accomplished without accident. Covington, as usual, takes the lead. What has Newport to say?

On Wednesday evening, December 28, 1853, the principal streets of the city of Covington were for the first time lighted with gas. The event was the subject of congratulations, especially by those persons whose business calls them out after night, — of which class, by the by, there is an astonishing number for a moral city like Covington.

Of the important events in Covington of 1853, we note the following:

- the opening of the C & L R R;
- the establishment of a free high school;
- the lighting of the city with gas;
- the recognition of Covington as the metropolis of a Roman Catholic diocese and the commencement of a Cathedral Church; and
- the erection of a splendid suspension bridge over the Licking River.

Why, at the close of 1854, will be not be authorized to report the following: the commencement of a bridge over the Ohio; the opening of a public park; and the erection of a first-class hotel?

Klingenberg — continued

store to his nephew, Don Hartig in 2004. Don managed the store for nearly 8 years before he made the decision to close due to declining business.¹⁶

All three of the other Klingenberg brothers passed the store to their sons, and in the case of the Fort Thomas store, Carl's son, Bill, and then two grandsons, Tom and Dave, inherited the business. By the early 1980's, John Humpert, the oldest of Harry's sons, joined his father in hardware. When Harry got ready to retire, he turned the management over to John. With a vision for the future and an appreciation for the past, John moved the Greenup Street store to the historic Hill Seed Company building on Pike and 7th in 2000. So far in the 21st century, Klingenbergs has proven to be an anchor store in an urban area that has weathered unsteady times.

Klingenberg's Hardware and Paint stores continue to play an important role in the continuance of the city of Covington, Kentucky. Many structures including churches, apartment complexes, homes, businesses and organizations contain hardware from Klingenberg's. In return, the cities' patrons have insured the endurance of Klingenberg's Hardware.

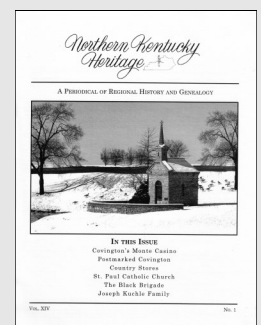
About the Author

Beth Dunn is a writer and documentary filmmaker who returned to Covington after 40 years away and is using her skills to give back. See "Old Archive Alive," a short video that tells more of the Klingenberg's Hardware story through the eyes of her father, Harry Humpert, at the following link: (<http://tinyurl.com/Klinkstory>)

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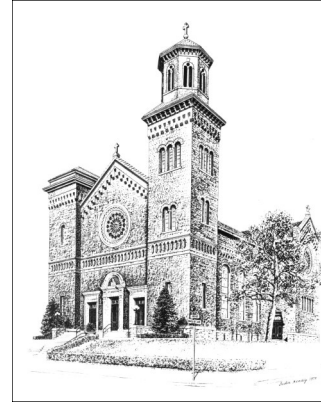
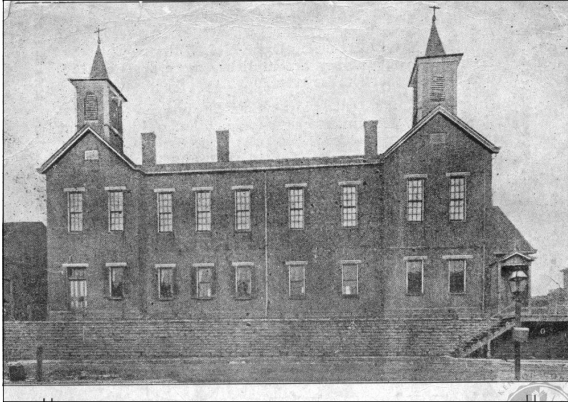
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Then and Now



Left: the original St. Augustine Church, located at what is now Covington's 21st and Russell Streets; Right photo: sketch of the Church as it looks today, at its 19th and Howell Street location.

Both photos courtesy Kenton County Public Library

Mystery Photo

Can you identify the mystery photo below? The answer can be found at the bottom of the page.



ANSWER:

Section of the main staircase inside the castle of Daniel H. Holmes. The residence served as Covington High School before the estate became Holmes High School.

Kenton County Historical Society

January - February 2016

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I Bet You Didn't Know

*Tidbits from Kentucky's heritage
for every day of the calendar year*

January 2, 1862: Gen. John Hunt Morgan and his raiders returned to Tennessee after capturing 1,800 men and destroying property in Kentucky.

January 13, 1864: Famous songwriter Stephen Collins Foster died.

February 3, 1900: William Goebel died, and his Lt. Governor, J.C.W. Beckham became the 4th person to hold the office of governor within a 2-month time period.

February 23, 1847: General Zachary led forces containing mostly Kentucky volunteers to a brilliant victory over 20,000 Mexicans under the command of Santa Anna.

February 27, 1849: The Covington-Lexington Railroad was chartered.

"On This Day In Kentucky" — Robert Powell

Programs and Notices

TOURING THE FLOODWALLS WITHOUT AN OVERCOAT (first in a quarterly series of presentations in 2016 by the KCHS)

Saturday morning, January 16, 2016

Erlanger branch of the Kenton County Public Library

Doors open as 10:15 a. m.; program begins at 10:30

A Power Point presentation by Karl Lietzenmayer, Senior Editor of *Northern Kentucky Heritage* magazine, on one of the region's finest attractions, the Covington floodwall murals painted by Robert Dafford depicting Northern Kentucky history in dramatic images: From pre-European times through early pioneer settlement and into the 20th century, details on the Roebling Bridge, the slave escape of Margaret Garner, familiar artists Frank Duveneck and Henry Farny, Northern Kentucky churches and more. **Free and open to the public**

BEHRINGER CRAWFORD ANNUAL TOY TRAINS

Continuing through January 17, 2016

Children and adults this year will enjoy special exhibits: "Charles Dickens Village Christmas in Victorian England"; Miniatures exhibit; a Wood Carving exhibit; and the fabulous annual interactive Toy Trains. The National Association of Miniature Enthusiasts, local chapter, will show tiny replicas of room scenes and furniture done quarter-inch to one-inch scales. The River Valley Wood Carvers will exhibit various carvings and burnings in three-dimensions.

Late programs on the holiday schedule:

December 31st (11 a. m. - 12:30 p. m.); members only - New Year's Eve Countdown (if not so become a member at the door) with games, crafts, lunch and "**countdown at noon**"; reservations required: 859-491-4003 OR education@bcmuseum.org
Admission is free for old or brand new members.

Saturday, January 2nd & Sunday, January 3rd - Woodcarvers Demos

HISTORY DAY 2016

The 23rd Annual Northern Kentucky Regional History Day is scheduled for March 19, 2016 at NKU. The opening speaker will be Dr. Don Heinrich Tolzmann.

His topic will be "John A. Roebling and His Suspension Bridge on the Ohio River." Previously, Dr. Tolzmann served as Curator of the German-Americana Collection and Director of the German-American Studies Program at the University of Cincinnati.

The workshop speakers will include Steve Oldfield, Don Rightmeyer, Eric Jackson, Bob Webster, Elaine Kuhn, and others.

The schedule with all the speakers and workshop titles is not yet completely ready. The final program schedule will be mailed to KCHS members in early 2016.