

Jan 91

The Kenton County Historical Society

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

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Kenton County Sesquicentennial-1990
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Kenton County Public
Library
Fifth and Scott streets
Covington, Ky 41011

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R E V I E W

January 1991

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

On Tuesday Evening, February 5th, 7:00 PM, Edna Donsbach will give an audio/visual presentation on HISTORIC HOUSES IN COVINGTON. In past years Ms. Donsbach has conducted tours for schoolteachers and made other presentations for schools. She will select houses from various locations and talk about their owners and briefly about the architecture.

There will be a brief business meeting beforehand. The meeting and program is free and open to the public.

Tuesday Evening

February 5th

7:00 PM

Kenton County Public Library
Fifth and Scott Streets
Covington

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 authorized in conjunction with the approach of the Kentucky Bicentennial Celebration in 1992.

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

THE SCHRAM PRINTING BUSINESS

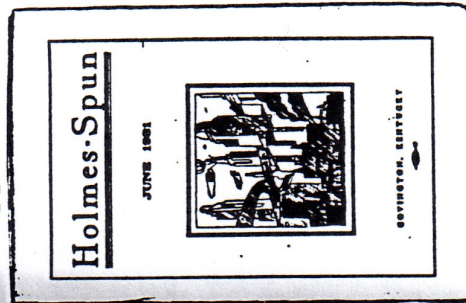
Gottlieb Frederick Adolf ("Fred") Schramm fled the German Kaiser from Tübingen, Germany, passed through Port Huron, Mich., and eventually settled in Florence, Boone County, Kentucky about 1896. Schramm (who deleted the second "m") began printing for Hopeful Lutheran Church, also affiliated with Globe Printing at Banklick and Main, in Florence (according to his son John). Herr Schramm did other contract printing during the decade before he and his partner established themselves as Semple and Schramm (on Pike Street, in the 1910-11 Covington directory). But Wm. L. Semple and G. F. Schramm commercial printers won early a big contract to print stationery and whisky labels ("Woodland," "Old Jordan") for Crigler and Crigler distillery located at the present site of First District school. By 1912-13 there address was 515 Scott in the Crigler building.

In 1918-19 they were situated at the northeast corner of Fifth and Scott "on the ground floor." John Schramm (born in 1907) recalled that here Semple and Schramm had a cylinder press which ran the length of the floor and "weighed a ton." Johnny Schramm started as a schoolboy feeding press here (and then typesetting). For John and his father the trip from Florence for a time required peddling their bicycles on a dusty or muddy gravel Lexington Pike to the End-of-the-Line in Ft Mitchell where they caught the street car.

By 1931 the owner had sold the building. Mr. Schramm soon bought out Semple and moved to the second floor of the Anthe building, 407 Madison, where the business remained until John Schramm retired in 1976. To this

day the Anthes still supply shaping tools used for decorative wood fabricating. Before Schramm the second floor once was occupied by the Kelley-Koett Company (approx. 1905-10), a manufacturer of X-ray tables (and an exclusive supplier for Mayo Clinic). Schramm Printing customers included these: Kelley-Koett (Mr. Kelley would come in and place orders himself); Anthe Tool; Heidelberg Brewery (stationery, labels for "Student Prince"); Masonic lodges (bulletins for Indra Consistory, Covington Lodge, Golden Rule Lodge, Colonel Clay Lodge); Union Light, Heat, and Power; Citizens Bank (whose president John Schramm spelled his surname with two "m"s); Booth Hospital; Holmes High School ("Holmes-Spun," a student booklet), for a few years; churches; etc. John Schramm recalled some of the other printers in Covington: Jameson (on Pike up from Hill's Seeds); Wolff Printing (Fourth and Court); Kyle Printing (400 block of Scott); Wm Fitzgerald (a Holmes High School print shop teacher, a Florence resident and friend).

Originally Schram set type by hand, before linotype became available. Schram once had simultaneously in his shop various items for hand typesetting, for linotype setting, a cylinder press, automatic and semi-automatic presses, cutting tools, etc. The business required long hours of tedious work, according to John and his wife Lillian Mathers (from English, Indiana) Schram. (by John Boh)



NEWS

At our January 9th General Membership meeting Dr. Alvin Poweleit presented to us a list of Women Physicians who practiced (including those now practicing) in Northern Kentucky, for which we thank him.

John Burns remains seriously ill in a nursing home.

NORTHERN KENTUCKY ARTS

Both the Behringer Crawford Museum and the Carnegie Arts Center are scheduled in the Greater Cincinnati Fine Arts Sampler Weekend, February 16 and 17. This year Northern Kentucky will loom larger among the scheduled sites for music, dance, opera, theatre, and visual arts.

THE NORTHERN KENTUCKY HERITAGE LEAGUE

The Heritage League is co-hosting a "Premier of Covington Landing's diorama Showboat, depicting the fascinating early history of this Northern Kentucky, Cincinnati, Ohio Valley region."

The event will include cocktail hour, meal (in the Steamboat Steakhouse, at 8:00 PM), and program for \$25.00. Time: February 22nd, 6:30 PM. For program reasons attendees will be expected to be on board by 6:30 PM. Capacity 136. The Heritage League would like to have a good attendance of people interested in local history.

Presently reservations are open only to members, or to guests of members KENTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

P. O. Box 641. Covington, KY 41012.

Membership \$5.00 per person. Membership and participation encouraged and greatly appreciated.