

Bulletin of the Kenton County Historical Society

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JANUARY/FEBRUARY

2003

January Program Features Road Talk

Tuesday, January 14th at Trinity Episcopal Church, 4th & Madison Avenues, Covington (7 pm) Dr. Joseph Gastright, Society Vice-president will continue his discussion from last year on early Northern Kentucky roads. This segment will emphasize the transition period when toll roads were being phased out for publicly funded routes. The toll road companies were bought out with tax money and eventually paving of major routes was begun. Slide illustrations will accompany the discussion.

Gray & Hemmingray Glass -- February Program

On Wednesday, February 12th at Trinity Episcopal Church (7 pm), Jeanine Kreinbrink, Behringer/Crawford staff archaeologist, will present the artifacts, discoveries and story of the Gray & Hemmingray Glass Company site project before the Embassy Suites construction. Slide illustrations and actual artifacts discovered on the site will be shown.

History Day Plans Near Completion

The planning committee for History Day 2003 has been meeting for several months and most of the day's speakers and events have been finalized. The event will occur on the third Saturday [March 15th] this year on NKU campus, which coincides with mid-term break on the campus. The program as of this writing is as follows:

- **Keynote Speaker** *Dr. James Ramage,*
"U. S. Grant: The Rise and Fall of His Public Reputation."

Workshops (confirmed)

- *Lewis & Clark Navigation -- Chuck Parrish*
- *Lewis & Clark At Big Bone Lick -- James Duvall*
- *Beginning Genealogy -- Hamilton County Genealogical Society*
- *Indian Artifacts in Bracken County*
- *Covered Bridges of Kentucky*
- *Underground Railroad -- Ernest Jackson*
- *Civil War Hospitals in Cincinnati & N. Kentucky -- Jack Simon*
- *Morgan's Raid -- Lester Horwitz*

National URR Freedom Center & NKU Freedom Studies Symposium

An interactive workshop and symposium is planned for Saturday January 18th, 9:30 am to 3:30 pm at the Otto Budig Theatre of Northern Kentucky University. Panelists and participants will share some aspects of their research. Described as "Legacies in The Borderlands -- Documenting and Interpreting Local/Family Histories." Special emphasis will be focused on assistance of unresolved problems or challenges of their individual work.

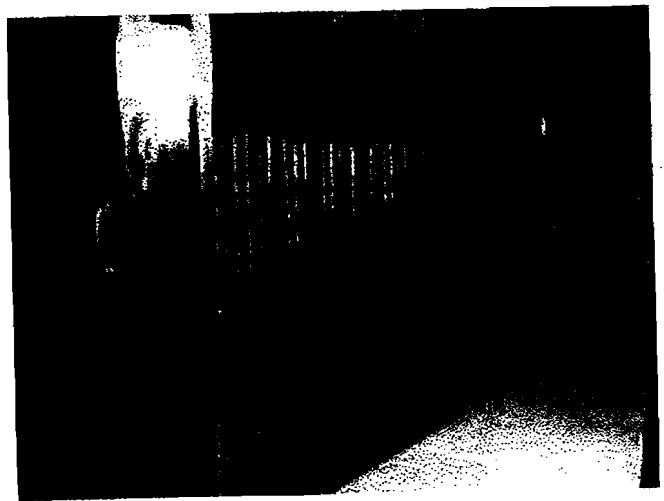
The workshop is free but limited to the first 40 registered by January 2nd, 2003. For information call (859) 572-5817 or e-mail freestudies@nku.edu.

President, James Kiger; Vice-president/Programs, Dr. Joseph Gastright; Treasurer, Dan Carter; Board Members: Emily Bailey, Charles King, San Juan Romero, one open seat. Editor: Karl J. Lietzenmayer
www.kenton.lib.ky.us/~histsoc

Stewart Iron Works Model Jail Cell Available

A salesman's operating jail cell model complete with carrying trunk has become available. KCHS and Behringer/Crawford Museum are interested in acquiring this artifact for the Museum's collection.

The owner has had offers from \$2500+ but would like to see it stay in Northern Kentucky. He is offering this rare item to us for \$2000. We are requesting only monetary pledges from now to March. Cut the pledge form on the enclosed insert and mail to KCHS. If more convenient, you may indicate your pledge on our e-mail instead. If there is sufficient support by March, the pledges will be called in at that time.



NOTES

Hello,

Dec. 13, 2002

I just spent the last several days in Newport and Covington attempting to discover information on ancestors from this area. After spending time in the Kenton County Library and receiving their History & Genealogical Guide, I accessed their online site after arriving home in northwest Ohio.

Seeing the Civil War site, I put in the name *Berndt*, and found the name **Charles Berndt** listed as having been a member of Covington Regiment 4, Company B. It also indicates he was buried in Linden Grove Cemetery. I have had a picture in an old Berndt family album – no names on any of the photos – of a Civil War soldier who I'm now certain is this individual. Included is a copy of his photo.

Is there any additional information in the Linden Grove records, or any other Berndts listed in their records?

Sincerely,
Emma Pleiman
Spencerville, Ohio
ecplei@wcoil.com

Researching: **Berndt, Streine, Marsch, Sauerbrey, Schneider** in the Northern Kentucky area.

Ms. Pleiman:

The records of Linden Grove by George C. Dreyer show two Charles Berndts and a Fred C. Berndt.
Editor

Editor:

I thoroughly enjoyed the December *Bulletin*. I was saddened to hear that so few are doing the work [and] that so many "splinter groups" are being formed. Kentucky has been one of the most important states in the formation of our country. It was one of the most important states used for land grants and much of our country has genealogical roots in this state.

These "splinter groups" should realize that there is strength in numbers or they will soon fall by the wayside. They will find that they too will have too few doing all the work. ...

I am sorry to hear the editor is resigning in January but I appreciate the work she has done as well as efforts of all the officers. I only wish I lived closer so that I could attend the meetings. Perhaps some of the "splinter groups" could attend some joint meetings and make plans to at least cooperate and share in the history of the area.

Glenn Winston

Dear Glenn,

My impression of most of the small "splinter groups" throughout the county [there are only 2 or 3 viable organizations as of now] is that they are very interested in cooperation with KCHS. Actually these small groups have more assets to assemble the history of their individual area in far more detail than we can.

*As you point out, the critical issue is the sharing and communication of their information and activities with the County Historical Society. In the future, the *Bulletin* will dedicate space for each intra-county history group so communication lines are connected.*

Editor

THE JOSEPH KUCHLE FAMILY HERITAGE

Carol Ann Kuchle Whitehead

In the 1870s, Edward and Josepha Wolf Kuchle lived on a farm in Wurttemberg¹ complete with barn and a saloon where Edward served lunches. In 1874, Josepha, 24 and small in stature gave birth to Joseph, the first of twelve children: Joseph, Michael, Peter, Michael, Rupert, Rupert, Gottlieb, Maria, Rupert Amelia, Johannes and Emma.² The family was hard working with large hands, rosy cheeks and a good disposition and sense of humor.

The Kuchle children attended school and Catholic Church after which Joseph and his brothers did farm chores. Edward never wanted his children in the saloon, considering it an unfit atmosphere for them.

As young men of Germany came of age, they were compelled to serve in the military for several years. Edward told his sons how cruelly the men were treated when he had served and insisted that he never wanted his sons to be subjected to that kind of treatment. He secretly encouraged the boys to consider leaving the country to avoid the military, making certain the authorities would not become suspicious.

Learning a Trade

Like many young men in Germany, Joseph learned a trade after grade school. Wanting to become a blacksmith he applied for his apprenticeship papers from the government. This was a contract binding Joseph to work for a blacksmith for a period of time to learn the trade, giving free room and board in exchange for his work. Joseph, now a *Landmann's* boy with apprenticeship papers in his pocket and a sack on his back, went off to a nearby village blacksmith. After that 'smithy' evaluated his work, he signed the apprenticeship papers and Joseph was off to the next village blacksmith. This continued until he completed his apprenticeship and became a full-fledged blacksmith with a "diploma." Joseph bid his family farewell, remembering what his father had told him about the military, and promised his mother he would always keep in touch.

Unrest & Emigration

A sense of unrest prevailed in 1891 and all Europe was expecting war. With his document and a few coins in his pocket Joseph worked his way through Germany, France, and then to the coast of LeHavre. He found work on a ship where his brother Peter had signed on, traveling from Hamburg to New York. The brothers shoveled coal in the boilers and performed other hard manual labor as part of the crew. Soon the Kuchle boys and their new friend, Joe Moosbrugger, a ship's baker, each received notice from the Kaiser that they were to return to Germany to join the army.

On July 18th, 1893 the ship landed in New York and the three lads conveniently walked off the ship. Once in America, the German government could not touch them unless they returned to their homeland, so for 25 years they were fugitives.

In a new land, with only a few coins in their pockets, hungry and not speaking English, these three

bucolic German youths were exposed to this new land of wonder. One of the first things they saw was a yellow fruit called a banana. They had never seen this funny looking fruit before and relished their first tastes of the banana.

Joseph and Peter Kuchle had a paternal uncle in Cleveland, Gebhard Kuchle. The three naval fugitives headed for Cleveland to find uncle Gebhard. In the dark, they thought they had found the right house but could not make out the address. One of them shinnied up a downspout to read the house number and was observed by authorities. Fortunately, Uncle Gerhard recognized them, saving the youths from a night in jail. They were welcomed and given food and shelter. Uncle Gerhard also sent them to night school to learn English and gain information to become US citizens.

Uncle Gebhard operated a street vendor stand where the family sold butter, ground peanuts, and other related items. After learning the language, the three immigrants went their separate ways. Joseph Kuchle worked in Cleveland as a blacksmith; Peter Kuchle went to New York and became a harbor fireman; Joe Moosbrugger went to Cincinnati area where he had relatives and plied his trade as a baker.

1893 Panic

In 1893, panic struck the United States. Agricultural depression and unsound railroad financing caused many banks to fail and miles of railroad went into receivership. The economic depression was severe and Joseph Kuchle lost his job as a consequence.

Learning of work available in Cincinnati, Joseph moved in with his shipmate friend, Joe Moosbrugger. Not yet finding blacksmith work and being very good at woodworking, Joseph decided to make and sell hand carved clocks. In 1893 he bought a second hand foot powered saw, scroll, and jig-saw and made his first German Cathedral Clock which took six weeks to finish. He realized with that time requirement he could never make a living at this endeavor.³ The next year the economy began to recover and Joseph found work as a blacksmith in Cincinnati, still rooming with Joe Moosbrugger.

Joe Moosbrugger's cousins lived on Highland Pike near Covington and on Sundays he and Joseph would visit the cousins Elseners. Joe Kuchle became enthralled with Josephine Elsener and on October 25, 1898 they were married. Joe Moosbrugger and his wife were witnesses.⁴ After Joseph and Josephine Elsener Kuchle's marriage, they lived on Colerain Avenue in Cincinnati and Joe worked as a blacksmith.

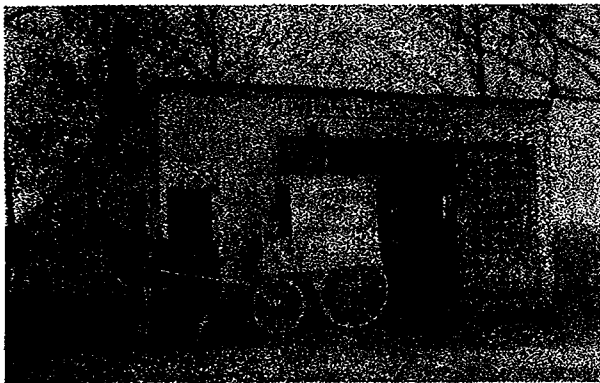


Marriage photo - Joseph & Josephine Elsener Kuchle
October 25, 1898

To Northern Kentucky

Shortly after his marriage, Joe found work at the John Decker Wagon Shop on the Covington/Lexington Turnpike [US 25/42]. He rented a white frame home on the Decker property for he and Josephine and on February 8th, 1900 their first child was born, Carl Kuchle.

Joe worked hard to provide for his family. Aware that his boss, John Decker, was making money with his wagon business Joe decided he would like to go into the same business on his own. A tract of land became available across from the Decker Wagon Shop on the east side of Covington/Lexington Turnpike. On September 27th, 1900 Joe Kuchle purchased 2.77 acres of ground, near Kyle's Lane, from William and Nellie Kyle Scott for the sum of \$1,025.00 with the assistance of bank financing.⁵



JOSEPH KUCHLE
Horse Shoeing, Wagon and Plow Work (c. 1900).

Old John Decker got so angry with Joe Kuchle for building a blacksmith shop across from his wagon shop that he would no longer rent the white frame house to him! Consequently, Joseph began work on his own home the same week Joseph Jr. was christened and succeeded in completing three rooms on his newly acquired property.

Community Telephone – A Tool of Reconciliation

Joe Kuchle was one of the few people who had a telephone in the area. A sign hung out in front of his blacksmith shop notifying people there was a telephone in the Kuchle's three-room home, offering it for public use. Joe Kuchle, being a peaceful man, knew that old John Decker was angry with him and was most uncomfortable. Seeking a solution and knowing that Decker not only had a Wagon Shop but green houses and a Florist Shop, Joe Kuchle thought of a scheme. He had one of his friends order flowers over the phone for John Decker. When the call came for Mr. Decker, who was then summoned to the Kuchle phone, Joe got Mr. Decker into his home and straightened things out. With their relationship restored, Joe Kuchle rented Decker's Shop for painting wagons.

Gypsies

Each spring gypsies arrived to camp along the Covington-Lexington Turnpike. These wanderers traveled in a horse-drawn caravan. The men earned their living by peddling and mending and the women played their violins and made predictions with fortune-telling cards. They developed the reputation of being shrewd and tricky, and often indulged in petty theft. Their wagons were often in need of fixing so they came to Kuchle's blacksmith shop where Joe would do the repairs. He then would set the wagon on his lot to be picked up the next day. During the night the gypsies took their wagon without paying for the work. This only happened to Joe Kuchle once. The next time Joe Kuchle repaired a wagon he set it out on the lot, but this time loosened one of the wheels. The gypsies returned during the night; however, they didn't make it off the lot before the wagon wheel came off. Returning the next morning, they paid their bill and picked up their wagon.

Each year when the gypsies returned Kuchle worked on their wagons. He always found some way to prevent them from taking the wagons without paying their bill. When automobiles came into being the gypsies made their encampments along Madison Pike (KY 17). Even today the gypsies still return to this area. Two of the gypsy queens are buried at Highland Cemetery, Ft. Mitchell and the clan comes each spring to pay homage to their dead. The tombstone reads "To Live in Hearts We Leave."

Journey to the Cemeteries

Burials in St. John's, Highland or St. Mary's cemeteries on the Covington-Lexington Pike took

nearly a day. Leaving church in Covington, the horse-drawn hearse labored up the long grade of the Covington-Lexington Turnpike. A tollgate stood on the east side of the Turnpike where Sleepy Hollow and Dixie Highway now stand and immediately south was Rush's Tavern. ⁶ Here the horses were watered and fed while the funeral procession had lunch. [The Tavern, noted for its fine food and the coldest beer around, had a dirt floor but there were always white tablecloths on the tables. The beer was kept in a cellar using ice cut from the nearby Schlosser ponds during the winter months, then stored between layers of sawdust.]

The funeral procession then proceeded to the Fort Mitchell cemeteries. As the entourage passed the blacksmith shop, work stopped, all hats were tipped, and respect was paid to the dead.



Kuchle Homestead (1910) showing brick addition – still standing at Kyles Lane and Dixie Highway.

Growing Family

A new Kuchle baby almost every year required an addition to the frame house. In 1910 a four-room brick addition facing Kyles Lane was added. That same year Joe Kuchle sent for his widowed mother, Josepha, to live with them. ⁷

Josepha loved this country but never learned to speak English. She was a big help to the growing Kuchle family and would often go to town on the streetcar, taking one of the children as her interpreter. After a few years Josepha wanted to go back to Germany to settle her husband's estate. Joe Kuchle begged his mother not to go, explaining that there wasn't enough there to warrant a trip. He said the children left in Germany could take care of things but Josepha insisted.

On her return to Germany in the summer of 1914, Josepha was trapped inside when World War I erupted. During that time, her son Michael was killed in Belgium, the first German soldier to fall in World War I. German officials sent Michael's belongings home and from one of his coins Joe Kuchle made a pin - a delicate flower inside a horseshoe. After the war, Josepha returned to America, weak and starving. Arriving in New York in December 1921 she managed to reach her son Peter's home in Connecticut. Having contracted pneumonia, Josepha died January 3, 1922. ⁸

St. John Church

The Kuchle family attended St. John's Catholic Church, a brick structure 95' by 55' located on Worth and Leonard Streets, Covington and the older children were educated in the neat frame schoolhouse that had 18-foot ceilings and pot belly stoves.

Most German Catholics attended Mother of God Parish, 6th & Washington Streets, Covington. The distance to Mother of God School and road conditions at that time necessitated a parish at the edge of town. ⁹ Old St. John Church, having served the parish for over fifty years, had now become too small and unsafe. [One of the sidewalls was eleven inches out of line.]

In 1908, the present church site was purchased – originally the old Colonel Morgan's property and by 1914, the present church on Pike Street (US 25/42) was dedicated.

At St. John's the first four grades of boys and girls shared a classroom but the 5th through 8th grade boys were separated from the girls. Slate boards were used and Carl was involved in a fight for his new slate on the first day when a fellow student tried to steal it, since he was using a second hand slate. ¹⁰

Play

Once during recess Carl and his classmates were playing at an old quarry when he spied some long sticks. Carl tucked them into his school bag and on arriving home began playing with them. A man at the blacksmith shop, recognizing the newly found treasures, quickly took them from him and explained that he was playing with highly explosive dynamite sticks! Carl often told this story, shivering each time.

In those days Carl and Joe Jr. played where an old Civil War redoubt Fort Mitchel [sic] stood. ¹¹ Trenches and powder kegs left from Civil War days were theirs to explore and they would climb the old military road to the rifle pits and imagine being in battle.

In 1910, Joe (now called "Pop") Kuchle had Fred Lewin, his team of horses and a scoop shovel dig a pond next to his blacksmith shop. The pond provided water for the animals, ice-skating in the winter and boating during the summer.

In 1912 the Covington-Lexington Turnpike, [a dirt road], was condemned by the Kenton County Court and a new paved roadway planned. The final value of the turnpike and property was set at \$38,943. This included roadbed, right of way, quarry, two tollhouses and lot appurtenants. The road was extended from the city of Covington to the Boone County line by January 1, 1914.

"Pop" Kuchle rented a stable at Lewis and Montague Streets near St. John's and had Fedders Hay and Grain Company deliver the hay. Carl and Joe Jr. drove their school age sisters to school in the horse and buggy but when weather was bad rode the streetcar. Fare was a nickel but school children rode for a 2-cent ticket. If there wasn't time to pack lunches, their

mother would give Carl money to buy a can of sardines and crackers.

"Pop" would send young Joe on horseback to Wesselman's store to pick up a German paper, *Volksblatt*. Wesselman's store was located at Western Avenue and Covington/Lexington Turnpike. Horses were nervous around automobiles and it was tricky to ride around one. Once, when a noisy auto passed young Joe on horseback, the horse was spooked and galloped between a tree and a fence. Joe managed to jump off the horse but got skinned up. When the horse came home without Joe, his parents thought the worst. "Pop" went looking for Joe and found him in the brush, bruised but nothing broken.

As the family grew, so did the work. There was laundry, cooking, and more diapers to wash. Bertha finished the sixth grade and was needed at home. Carl was needed in the blacksmith shop and only finished sixth or seventh grade. They worked long hours in the blacksmith shop. In 1913, "Pop" Kuchle saw the blacksmith business diminishing and automobiles coming into existence. The only place to get a Model T Ford shaft straightened was at a blacksmith shop in those days. The blacksmith shop was slowly turning into a garage.

Blacksmithy to Auto Mechanics

When young Joe finished the eighth grade he entered the business full time rather than attend high school, so "Pop" Kuchle sent him to live with a family in Erlanger where he could work and learn about the new automobiles. Two years later Joe came back to the blacksmith shop and showed his brother Carl what he had learned and together they grew up knowing the automobile inside and out. "Pop" did not care to learn the trade so he did the running and odd jobs for his boys.

As Fort Mitchell grew so did the number of cars. Business was good and in 1919 grading for a new garage was started (still standing). Fred Lewin quarried the rock for the foundation out of the hill below present St. Charles Retirement Home on Kyies Lane. Using four horses per wagonload of rock until he got over the top of the hill, he then unhitched two of the horses and hauled the rock the rest of the way to the garage site. The garage was completed January 1922 and a dance was held featuring a German Band to celebrate. All of Fort Mitchell enjoyed this memorable good time.

"Pop" Kuchle had a loyal Airedale dog named *Tenor* that slept in "Pop's" bedroom and the two of them enjoyed playing tricks on customers who came to pick up their cars. Pop would throw their keys into the lake! Of course, the person would be all excited and say, "What did you do that for?" "Pop" would then tell his dog, "*Tenor*—go get the keys!" *Tenor* would find the keys in the lake and bring them to him every time! Needless to say customers were amazed.

City Conveniences

When city water came to the area in 1925 the Kuchles added a bathroom to their home. What a wonderful convenience! The outhouse had gotten plenty of use and the

Kuchles were glad to give it up for indoor plumbing. A hot water furnace was installed providing hot water for baths and dishes. It also made drying diapers easier than hanging them around the potbelly stove.

There was always music in the Kuchle home, mostly piano and violin. After supper Joe Kuchle would usually ask Emily, who played piano, to entertain the family. Whoever played for "Pop" Kuchle got out of washing dishes. Two of the girls played with "The Little Flower Entertainers," a group that had a wonderful reputation for their fine music.

In 1930, Pop and Mom Kuchle took a three-month trip to Europe to see the Oberammergau Passion Play and visit their relatives.¹²

The children of Joseph and Josephine all eventually married and in 1948 the Kuchles celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary by riding in a horse and buggy to St. John's Church for a Solemn Mass in their honor. The Joseph and Josephine Kuchle story is typical of many immigrants who left a life of strife and trouble in the old world to prosper in America and bequeath a solid middle class life to their descendants.

A third generation Kuchle – Roger (Carl's son) – now runs the business in the same location.

About the Author

Carol Ann Kuchle Whitehead is a grand daughter of Joseph Kuchle and a long time member of the Kenton Historical Society. She resides in Ft. Mitchell with husband Edward Whitehead and has collected family pictures and data for many years.

Brief Family Genealogy

Joseph and Josephine Elsener Kuchle's Children and Grandchildren

Joseph Kuchle (1874-1950) m. Josephine Elsener (1876-1956)

1] Carl Edward (1900-1970) m. Emma Stamm b. 1904
Four children: Ralph 1929, Carol Ann 1932, Marjorie 1935, Roger 1944.

2] Bertha Louise (1901-1962) m. Carl Vagedes (1893-1937).
Five children: Infant Vagedes male 7-23-1923-7-24-1923, Joseph 1924-1987, Frederick 1929, Raymond 1931, Robert 1936.

3] Joseph (1902-1989) m. Clotilde Goeke 1907
Four children: Richard 1932, David 1934, Susan 1939, Sandra 1942.

4] Ursula (1903-1984) m. Edward Stamm (1902-1990)
Seven children: William 1927, Mary 1928, Robert 8-2-1930-8-3-1930, Thomas 1932, Blanche 1933, Annette 1940, Leo 1943.

5] Helen (1905-1955) m. Lawrence Averbeck (1884-1945)
Five children: Arthur 1930-1999, Evelyn 1931, Paul 1934-1974, George 1935-1992, Patty 1936-1993.

6] Alice Katherine (1907-1981) m. Harry Meyer, (1898-1999).

Three children: Jimmy 1933, Martha Ann 1939-1961, Paul 1945.

7] Josephine Ann (JoAnn) (b.1-24-1909, d. 1-27-1911)

- 8] Marie Virginia (1910-1926). Died of an aneurysm.
 9] Emily (1911-1995) m. Frank Froelicher (1909-1985)
Five children: Gene Francis 1937, Daniel 1940, Rita 1945, Celeste 1939, Josephine 1951.
 10] Frieda (1913-2001) m. Robert Hais (1912-1991).
Five children: Henrietta 1938-1985, Marilyn 1939, Janet 1944, Steve 1946, Virginia, 1950.
 11] Ruth (1914-1989) m. Louis Johannemann (1913-2001). Five children: Janie 1939, Dick 1941, Tom 1947-1986, Joyce 1950, Debbie 1956.
 12] Rose b. 1914 m. William Harry Avery (1913-1987).
Seven children: William Joseph 1937, Josephine Ann 1938, James John 1940, Connie Louise 1943, Mark Charles 1949, Michael Lee 1956, Donna Jane 1959.
 13] John (1915-2000) m. Dorothy Aulick (1917-1960).
Six children: Nancy 1939, Donald 1943-1990 Barbara 1946, Joseph 1949, Mary Josephine 1950, Douglas 1952.
 Second marriage to Elsie Snowden.
 Third marriage to Norma Hauser.
 14] Infant Kuchle (still born) female 3-4-1920

Josephine Frohlich (1894-1980) entered Sisters of Notre Dame 11-2-1912
 (Sister Mary Honorata, SND). Joseph and Josephine Kuchle raised this child.

¹ Wurttemberg lies directly south of Stuttgart and east of the *Swartzwald* (Black Forest). Lorraine, France is situated west of the *Swartzwald*.

² Note the recurring "Rupert" name. Usually, an infant was named, and then died shortly thereafter, freeing the name for re-use. This practice only adds to the genealogist's frustration! [Editor]

³ Joseph made another clock in 1894 for himself. This clock is now in the possession and being preserved by Fred Vagedes. Many of us still remember the beautiful Cathedral Clock in a glass case standing in the Kuchle's living room. Many years later, Joseph Kuchle had the idea to make each of his children a Cathedral Clock. Carl, being the oldest, received the first in 1939, Joseph Jr. and Ursula received half clocks due to the height of their mantels or Joe Kuchle was trying to hurry things along. No more clocks were made.

⁴ Joe Moosebrugger's mother was an Elsener & Josephine Elsener's mother was a Moosebrugger making them "double cousins." Josephine Elsener's family came from Menzingen, Switzerland. Josephine's parents Johann and Anna Barbara Moosbrugger Elsener had eight children; seven boys and one girl. Needing more land for the boys to farm, they decided to come to America. The family prepared for two years to make the move. The family left Menzingen on March 21st, 1885, with their eight children, the baby not quite a year old. They traveled through France to LeHavre where they boarded a ship named *Flouraine* to America on April 20th, 1885. They arrived in New York and traveled by train to the area of Ottenheim and Crab Orchard, Kentucky. After finding the land they purchased while in New York, not suitable for farming, the family felt they had been taken. The Miller family from Lancaster, Kentucky took the Elsener family in until they could help themselves. Sometime later the Elsener family moved on to Covington, Kentucky, where Johann built his family a home at 629 Highland Pike. The rock used for the foundation was quarried out of the hill right below present St. Charles Retirement Home.

⁵ This was Lot #8 in the division of the Jacob Kyle land and was situated on the Covington/Lexington Turnpike. \$100.00 was paid in cash and a promissory note was signed for \$925.00 payable by September 27th, 1905, and bearing interest at the rate of 6% per annum interest.

⁶ Rush's Tavern later became Lookout House. Present site of an office complex.

⁷ Josepha was widowed at the age of 45. Her husband had slipped on the ice outside their *Gast Haus* and died shortly afterward at the age of 47.

⁸ Josepha is buried in Willimantic, Connecticut. Joseph Kuchle was at his mother's side in her last hours.

⁹ In 1866, forty-two acres of land were purchased about two miles from the church on the Lexington Pike to serve as a parish cemetery.

¹⁰ Cyril Schilling, a beautiful blond curly headed kid the youngest of his family, had a second hand slate board. Cyril was jealous of Carl's new slate board and started a fight with Carl. Carl fought to keep his slate board. Sister quickly stepped in and put a stop to the fight and both parents were notified.

¹¹ One of 27 earthen fortifications that guarded Newport Covington & Cincinnati erected in 1862. Named for Gen. Ormsby Mitchel (*sic*), a West Point graduate & professor of mathematics, astronomy and philosophy at Cincinnati College (UC).

¹² Oberammergau, Bavaria presents their world-famous Passion Play every 10 years since 1634 in thanksgiving for deliverance from a plague.

Northern Kentucky Heritage Magazine

10TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

Coming soon with the following exciting articles:

- The Covington Cathedral
- Life of Frank Duveneck
- Petersburg Distillery, Part 2
- Story of Mary Draper Ingles

This issue is due to be mailed this month – the final issue for those who expire December 2002.

Spring/Summer 2003 will feature:

- Meriwether Lewis & Big Bone
- Wm. Clark's Manservant York
- Lewis & Clark Eastern Legacy

Be sure your subscription has been renewed

For 2003!

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

KENTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Bulletin January/February 2003



INSIDE:

The Kuchle Family Story