

Bulletin of the Kenton County Historical Society

Web: www.kenton.lib.ky.us/~histsoc Email: nkyheritage.kchs@Juno.com
P.O. Box 641, Covington, Kentucky 41012-0641 (859) 431-2666

January/February

2006

Saturday February 25, 2006 13th Annual Northern Kentucky History Day NKU

Prevailing themes will include genealogy, family life, the Civil War, and African American history.

David Schroeder, (local history librarian, archivist) will do an overview of immigration entitled, "They Came To The Commonwealth." He'll also cover Appalachian genealogy. Another speaker will show how to trace Civil War ancestors and another will do a history of the GAR.

Other presentations include: antebellum women's rights, slavery and family; American family history; Northern Kentucky's Ernst family; the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center; Black families forced out of Kentucky communities; and a pictorial history of African Americans in No. Kentucky.

NKU archivist, Jennifer Gregory, will demonstrate photo and document preservation. Other topics to be covered during the event will include Shaker culture, the History of Florence, a profile of a Burlington inventor, a Boone Co. murder trial (reenactment) and Stephen Foster (musical & narrative).

The schedule will include the opening speaker (10:15 AM in the BEP auditorium), 15 workshops (two sessions) and displays (in the University Center) by various organizations. Presenters are expected to use a variety of visual media from PowerPoint to handouts. History Day will start in the early morning and end by early afternoon.

Tickets are available in advance (\$6.00) or at the door (\$8.00). For more information on registration or for booth space, please contact: John Boh (859) 491-0490 or Martha Pelfrey (859) 441-7667.

The Bulletin

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The Kenton County Historical Society

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email: nkyheritage.kchs@Juno.com

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Bulletin Back Issues Indexed

As you may be aware,
the wonderful feature stories
in the back issues of our Bulletin
are currently being copied and indexed
and are being placed
on a special website for all to enjoy.

You can read those past articles
by going to our website,
www.kenton.lib.ky.us/~histsoc
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DANIEL CARTER BEARD

Childhood In Covington

The young Dan Beard is, for us, a window of life in Covington in the 1860s & '70s. This was a time when streets were unpaved or macadamized at best and many residents kept animals in their backyards.¹ City sidewalks carried a higher priority for paving (either with bricks or stone) than streets, since most citizens walked to their destinations or rode horse-drawn streetcars.

Covington had no sewers and drainage was in roadside gutters. Every day had a particular odor or fragrance unlike any other day. As germs had not yet been discovered, garbage was dumped in the middle of the streets, along with any ashes that accumulated in the fireplaces. Pigs, chickens, goats and birds took their share of the garbage and a good north wind could scatter the ashes.² With the smoke from the many coal fires, it is no wonder that city life at times became trying.

Daniel Carter Beard, one of the founders of the Boy Scouts, was born in Cincinnati on June 21, 1850. His father, James Henry Beard, was a nationally known painter.³ The family moved to Covington when Daniel was 10, in spring of 1861, shortly after the fall of Ft. Sumter. The family always rented a home in the city and the available directories show various addresses for James Beard and his family. About 1873, the family name disappears from the city directories.⁴

When Dan Beard visited his Covington boyhood home in 1929, he recalled with chuckles certain memories brought to mind by the sight of the Jesse Grant home at 520 Greenup Street, father of the president.

"My home [for a time] was just opposite that of Jesse Grant," Beard said. "I had two pet foxes, which I kept chained in the backyard. Mr. Grant complained that my foxes were killing his chickens. I went out each morning and found the animals still chained and told Mr. Grant that he must be mistaken."⁵

"One morning, I got up early and went out in front. In the dust, I noticed the marks of the chain trailing across the street. When I went to the foxes, they were very quiet and blinked at me innocently. Mr. Grant came over and reported some more chickens missing. After he left, I made Faust and Marguerite get up and saw chicken



Photo by Ron Einhaus

*Close-up of Daniel Carter Beard in a Covington statue.
Full view in the photo on the opposite page.*

feathers under them and the chain loose from the house. I discovered [the remains] of seven chickens there"⁶

"These foxes were sly enough to come back and bury their loot and make the chains appear fastened, but I fooled them."⁷ The young Beard fastened the two chains together and the next morning Faust and Marguerite were on the sidewalk, outside his family's fence with the chain caught around the pickets. "Sly as they were, they didn't know enough to go through the fence at the same spot!"

A Neighborhood Goat

A neighborhood goat at that time developed the habit of getting into the Beard's yard and ruining their garden. Nothing in his narrative mentioned how the goat

related to his foxes, but nonetheless, the goat was captured by a servant and locked in a little room near the back porch. Young Dan was determined to teach the goat a lesson by tying an old kettle around the goat's tail with a long rope.

"He leaped away around our house, crossed the front porch and onto our neighbor Mr. Nixon's porch. Mr. Nixon was a collector of the port and was dozing in a chair.⁸ Nixon was rudely awakened by a blow on the head with the kettle tied to the goat as the animal ran by him. As soon as he had recovered, Mr. Nixon, although he had a cut on his head, laughed as much as I did at the goat tearing toward home," Beard reminisced. Apparently the goat never returned.

On the Licking

One of young Daniel's favorite lounging places was the stone wall (still in place) on the bank of the Licking River where it empties into the Ohio. He wrote in his work *Animal Book*:

"One day while sitting on top of the wall watching some boys swimming, I saw a young cow walk up to the boy's heap of clothes before me and calmly eat their damp little shirts. As the tail of the last shirt disappeared, I left, because the boys were bigger than I was. I well knew that I would be held responsible for those shirts and the cow story would not be believed."⁹

Fondest Memory

Perhaps his greatest moment in boyhood was the occasion of seeing in person, Abraham Lincoln, as he rode in an open barouche, along Mound Street, Cincinnati in 1860. His reminiscences as stated in his autobiography were:

"Lincoln was different from any other man I ever saw. He inspired with real affection and confidence, tinged with great respect and no little awe. There was something quite difficult to describe, an atmosphere, if you please, which caused me to feel I should stand 'hat in hand' in his presence.

"This feeling could not have been due to anything that I had ever heard about Lincoln. I only knew my father had voted against him, so I am forced to believe that my childish reasoning sensed a great and definite purpose in the mind of this great man.

"As I ran alongside his open carriage, searching for a good view of his face, he turned toward me ... and smiled. At that very moment, I somehow felt my distin-

guished father had made a serious mistake in his choice of candidates."¹⁰

Beard's Home

There has been some question about what Dan Beard himself might have considered his Covington home. He wrote about 15 books in his long life and hardly ever mentioned the home now revered as the Dan Carter Beard House as the one he knew and loved. This may be due to evidence mentioned above that his family rented in various locations during their Covington years and never owned their home. Most references in his writings indicate he considered a Greenup Street domicile his home of memory. This home existed almost directly across the street from the Jesse Grant House at 517 Greenup Street – hence the fox story cited above.

The home we now know as the Beard House



Photo by Ron Einhaus

can be traced back to the 1830s as the home of a Mrs. Grace, who kept a select school for girls.¹¹ Later, the house became the home of poet George W. Cutter.¹² By 1960, the Beard House was being used as a nursing school by nearby Booth Memorial Hospital.¹³

Dan Beard's career was as an illustrator and naturalist. He studied at the Art Students League, New York City, and had illustrated many books when Mark Twain requested his talents to illustrate his first edition of *A Connecticut Yankee at King Arthur's Court*.

He became interested in work for boys early on and his best-known book, *The American Boys' Handy Book*, was published in 1882. After organizing the Sons of Daniel Boone (precursor of the Boy Scouts) in 1910, he served as national scout commissioner for the rest of his life. To boys all over the country he was known as Uncle Dan. Mt. Beard, adjoining Mt. McKinley, is named for him. In addition to many articles on woodcraft and nature study, Beard wrote *Pioneers and Sons of Daniel Boone* (1909), *American Boys' Book of Wild Animals* (1921), and *Wisdom of the Woods* (1927).

The full life of Daniel Carter Beard came to an end on June 11, 1941, but not before he finished his autobiography, *Hardly a Man Is Now Alive*, in 1939.

1. Refer to the May/June 2003 *Bulletin* photo of the 5th Street Covington home of John R. Coppin, showing his daughter's pet goat, "Lina."
2. "Dan Beard's Reflections of a Bustling Growing Covington," C. Geaslen, *Ky. Enquirer*, 27 Mar 1966.
3. Two of Daniel's older brothers, James C. and Frank, became illustrators & artists as well.
4. The Directories show the following [no directories for 1862-1865 available: 1866 – home, corner 2nd & Licking R.; 1867 – home, north side 3rd east of Garrard; 1868 & 9 – residence, 59 east 5th; 1872 – residence, 517 Greenup.
5. *Cincinnati Times-Star*, 9 May 1929.
6. *Ibid*.
7. *Ibid*.
8. Collector of the port dealt with riverboat docking fees, taxes, etc for the city.
9. *Ky. Post*, 12 Feb 1919.
10. As quoted in "Dan Beard's Reflections of a Bustling Growing Covington," Chester Geaslen, *Ky. Enquirer*, 27 Mar 1966. Beard's Autobiography: "Hardly A Man Is Now Alive" Doubleday & Co.
11. *Ky. Post*, 15 June 1915.
12. Cutter was a lawyer and arrived in Kentucky some time before the Mexican War. When that conflict broke out, Cutter raised a company of infantry and was its captain. This company was included in the Second Kentucky Regiment under Col. McKee. After the war, Cutter married Frances Ann Drake, widow of Alexander Drake, and the couple took up residence in the home we now call Beard House. His marriage later failed and Cutter left for Washington D.C. where he received a clerkship in the Treasury Department. Cutter held that position through several administrations and passed away Christmas, 1865.
13. *Op. cit.*, Geaslen.

KCHS Member Passes

Earl Nichols, 87, died November 27th at his home in Park Hills. He and his wife, Edythe Brooker Nichols, were long-time members of the Society, frequently attending the monthly meetings.

Earl was a retired lithographer with Stevenson Photo Color Company, Cincinnati, a retired lieutenant colonel with the Army Reserve, as well as a veteran of World War II. Our sympathies go out to Edythe and his family. Burial was at Highland Cemetery.

Bob Evans Passing



Photo by Bob Webster

Bob's Five & Ten spanned generations in its 58 years in Latonia, even after mega stores forced many of its competitors to close. Robert James Evans, 83, of Elsmere, the store's owner, died Monday, November 7, at St. Elizabeth South, Edgewood.

Mr. Evans opened the store in 1947, after serving in the Army during World War II. He started out with some counters purchased from an old Woolworth store. He was called back to service during the Korean War and his late wife, Anna Mae Schultz Evans, ran the store until he returned. When he did return, the store became his life's work. His son, Robert Jr., said it was great being a kid whose father ran a five-and-dime. "He always brought me things home," he said. "It was really neat! He loved running that store."

Mr. Evans kept the store open six days a week for most of its run, but recently he had cut back. During the mayoralty of Bernie Moorman, the city of Covington presented him an award designating a special Bob Evans Day. Evans proudly displayed this plaque in the store. Mr. Evans kept the tradition of the true five-and-dime alive, according to his son, and always offered toys at those prices. He even kept his original cash register, which he used right up to the end. Many of his early customers came back years later with their children and grandchildren.

Appropriately, the tradition of Bob's Variety Store will end with Mr. Evans. The family has no plans to reopen the store. His wife died in 1960. Other survivors include daughters, Judy Evans of Cincinnati and Carol Graham of Erlanger; a sister, Dorothy Price of Mason, Ohio; his long-time companion, Evelyn Zink of Latonia; and two grandchildren.

THOMAS DAVIS CARNEAL

By: John Boh and Karl Lietzenmayer

Land speculator, Thomas Davis Carneal (1786-1860) was born in Alexandria, Virginia. Around 1792, the Carneal family moved to Franklin County Kentucky. In 1800, the family moved to Big Bone in Boone County. In 1806, while his family moved back to Franklin County, Thomas stayed to establish himself around Cincinnati. In 1812, he was involved in military business with Newport founder, General James Taylor. In 1815, Campbell County appointed Carneal to survey the streets, "ways" and roads of Newport. In the same year, he married Sally Howell Stanley, a widow, and the sister of the first wife of Nicholas Longworth. In 1818, Kentucky Legislation established state banks in 45 towns. Taylor and four others including Carneal, organized the "first legal bank" in Campbell County. Carneal also officiated in the early development of some major roads. In 1820, the Governor appointed Carneal Justice of the Peace.

In 1814, Richard Gano and Thomas D. Carneal, with John S. Gano and James W. Bryson, purchased 200 acres for \$50,000 from Thomas Kennedy. In the same year, R. M. Gano sold his one-fourth interest to Bakewell, Page and Bakewell of Pittsburgh. In 1815, proprietors Gano, Gano and Carneal saw the Kentucky General Assembly establish Covington and appoint trustees, and they platted the new town. In the same year, Carneal sold his interest in Covington to Gano and Gano for \$4,000 and for a certain 9 ½ acres within the town limits at the east end of Fourth Street, valued at \$5,000.

About 1818, Carneal acquired lands including present-day Ludlow, where in 1820 he built one of Northern Kentucky's landmarks, Elmwood Hall, overlooking the Ohio River. In 1822, Carneal sold 540 acres to Alexander Sandford for \$6,480 and in 1828, he sold Elmwood Hall with 968 ½ acres for \$25,000 to William Bullock. Bullock began to plan his ideal community "Hygeia," which eventually became the city of Ludlow after Bullock returned to England.

Regarding the landmark Carneal House on East Second Street in Covington, deed records and old newspapers indicate that John Gano's son, Aaron, owned the lots during construction about 1820-1822. Over the years, newspaper accounts erroneously claimed that Carneal had built the house and that Lafayette had been entertained there. The highway historic marker for the home also claims the house was an Underground Railroad site. None



Covington's oldest brick home stands at 405 E. Second Street (cir. 1818). Built by Aaron Gano, Thomas Carneal neither owned nor ever lived there. The historic marker also incorrectly lists a visit from LaFayette. It is unknown how Carneal's name became attached to this home, when Ludlow's Elmwood Hall was his actual residence.

of these claims are verifiable. In 1930, F. A. Rothier and his wife resided there and references to the home as the Rothier House can easily be found.

According to tax records in 1820, Carneal owned land in Boone, Kenton, Gallatin, Henry, Davies, Pulaski, Hardin, Henderson and other counties. Besides Covington and Cincinnati, Carneal also partnered in a Louisville development with brother-in-law, James Breckinridge.

By 1828, Covington was competing with Newport to attract private investment. Carneal offered seven of his own lots in the name of Covington, which he sold for \$5 to developers of a cotton factory – the town's first large industry. In 1831, Thomas Carneal and wife Sarah sold their residence on the south side of Second Street between Scott and Madison and other lots for \$6,200 to the developer of the Covington Rolling Mill. Carneal moved to a new house on Broadway Street in Cincinnati.

Anticipating Covington's expansion west along the river in 1830, Carneal purchased 42 acres for \$2000 between the river and Sixth Street and the original town and Craig's road to the west. In 1832, Carneal sold these 42 acres for \$8,000 to Samuel Russell of Middletown, Connecticut. The parcel, which became the Johnston and Russell Subdivision, included the town's pioneer Burying Grounds and the site of St. Mary, the first Catholic Church

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Pleasure Isle

Just A Memory

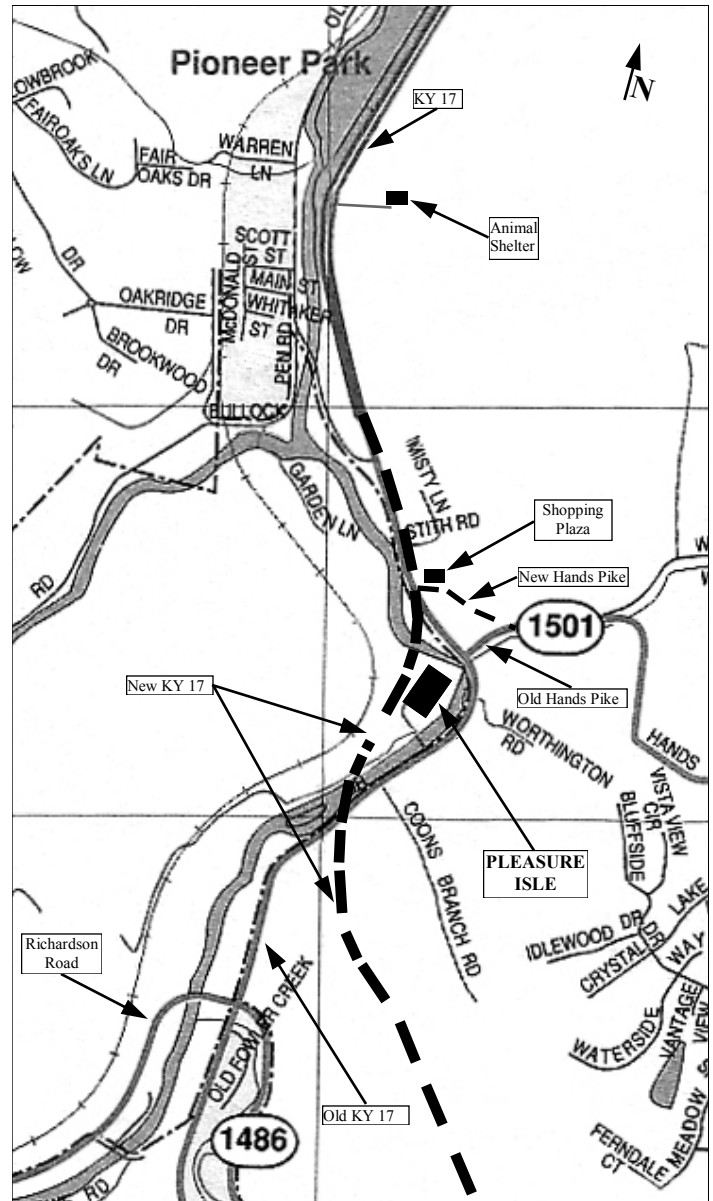
When George Winholtz built a spillway across the Banklick Creek in 1933, he suddenly converted the kids' swimming hole into a large, huge swimming hole everyone could enjoy. "Pleasure Isle" featured picnic tables, several amusement rides and a restaurant.

By the mid 1940s, a real swimming pool had been constructed replacing the swimming hole and a wonderful pavilion featured dancing under the stars with music by such favorites as "Freddie Morgan and his Pleasure Islanders."

In 1951, a new 110,000-square-foot pool, with a 1,000,000 gallon capacity, exemplified Pleasure Isle's success. Basketball and tennis courts had been erected and the Isle was a regional favorite.

Annexation possibilities by the city of Covington plagued Mr. Winholtz in the 1960s and rumors concerning the re-routing of Kentucky Highway 17 tormented new owner Charles Robinson and his son, Rene, during the 1980s and '90s. Not wanting to continue putting investment dollars into property that might be taken by the state for a new road, the property began to deteriorate some. Nonetheless, hundreds continued to enjoy the cool water each summer.

The state of Kentucky eventually bought Pleasure Isle in 1997. Rene Robinson padlocked the business a year later. The empty pool, by then overgrown with weeds, was soon bulldozed and the wonderful Pleasure Isle was later replaced by a new, four-lane KY 17. The map on the right shows the location of Pleasure Isle, as well as the approximate location of the re-routing of KY 17.



Covington Book Project Update

The special committee working on the history of Covington book continues to make steady progress and is still accepting volunteers.

Those interested in contributing to the project should contact the committee via email:

covingtonhistorybook@fuse.net

You can also view the updated list of topics by going to the Historical Society website:

www.kenton.lib.ky.us/~histsoc
and clicking on "Covington Book Project"

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in Covington (present location of the Federal Courthouse at 5th & Montgomery Streets).

In 1847, after the death of his wife, he moved to Frankfort, Kentucky. Still a resident of Frankfort, while visiting at Cincinnati he became ill. He convalesced in the residence of Nicholas Longworth (today's Taft Museum), but soon passed away. Carneal is buried in Spring Grove Cemetery, Cincinnati.

See chronological abstracts and a biographical sketch on page 140-141 in Allen Webb Smith, *Beginning at "The Point," a Documented History of Northern Kentucky and Environs, the Town of Covington in Particular, 1751-1834*, Allen Webb Smith, 1977; Paul Tenkotte, *Rival Cities to Suburbs: Covington and Newport, Kentucky, 1790-1890*, A Dissertation submitted to the Division of Graduate Studies and Research of the University of Cincinnati, 1989, pages 50, 51, 227.

Then and Now



Left and center: Home of the Dudley Glenn family of Latonia. After Dudley Glenn's death in 1911, his son inhabited the home, which he later razed. The two small brick houses (right) built cir. 1940s, now occupy this lot.

Middle photo, left to right: Dudley Glenn, Rev. Custis Fletcher (pastor of St. Andrew Episcopal, Ft. Thomas, and priest for newly formed St. Stephen, Latonia), Lucy Mason Glenn, "Ted" Glenn, Olivia, last two on right unknown. Daughter Lucy, standing on porch, was later accidentally poisoned by her sister Mable. Photo cir. 1907.

Mystery Photo

This year's topic will be "Grand Entrances to History"



ANSWER:

The James Ramage Civil War Museum, located on Highland Avenue, Ft. Wright.

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