



Bulletin of the Kenton County Historical Society

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January / February

2007

I Bet You Didn't Know

Tidbits of Northern Kentucky History

This suburb of Covington lies roughly between the Boone Co. line, I-275, and the Dixie Highway, five miles south of downtown Cincinnati. It began as the crossroads community of Timberlake, named for Major Thornton Timberlake, pioneer settler and owner of much land on the south side of the present Dixie Highway. In 1876-77, a station on the Cincinnati Southern Railroad was established where the tracks crossed the highway and was named Greenwood Station for Miles Greenwood, the railroad's first president. It was later named Silver Lake for the silvery appearance of the water on the nearby RR reservoir. The post office of Greenwood Station was established in 1877. Finally in 1882, both the railroad station and post office were renamed for a German-born English financier who had rescued the railroad from financial trouble the previous year. His name: Baron Frederic Emile D'Er-

Kentucky Place Names, Robert M. Rennick

Latest News

The 14th annual Northern Kentucky Regional History Day will be held at NKU on Saturday February 17, 2007. This year's event will be better than ever. Opening session starts at 10:00AM with Dan Hurley's presentation on the 1937 Flood. Other sessions follow featuring more topics of local interest. The event runs until approximately 2:00PM. Advance registration is only \$6.00 per person. You may also register at the door beginning at 8:00AM for only \$8.00 per person. For further information, please contact the History Day website at: www.nku.edu/~hisgeo/historyday/ or telephone John Boh at 859-491-0490.

Memorial

It is with deep sorrow that we report the passing of a dear friend, board member and past president of this Society. Dr. Joseph F. Gastright died on December 9th at his Wallace Woods, Covington home. Joe authored several books and had written dozens of articles published in various periodicals. An authority on many topics of local history, his knowledge of this region's early roads, transportation and especially the Roebling Suspension Bridge was hardly surpassed by anyone. He will be greatly missed.

Upcoming Programs

January 16th and 17th, 2007

Representatives from both the Society and the Kenton County Public Library will collect and/or scan and return old photos in order to archive them in the library's permanent collection. Help us preserve local history by bringing in your treasured or historic photographs. Dates, times and locations are as follows:

Erlanger branch —

Wednesday January 17, 2007 - 11am to 2pm and 6pm to 9pm.

Covington branch —

Thursday January 18, 2007 - 11am to 2pm and 6pm to 9pm.

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The Kenton County Historical Society

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ARTICLES FROM BACK ISSUES ARE INDEXED ON OUR WEBSITE!

The Latonia Ice and Fuel Company

By: Mary Jo Hardcorn

In 1902, two brothers, Joseph and Phillip Mueller, formed a partnership in their hometown of Latonia, Kentucky. They chose the business of harvesting and delivering ice to local residents. With a later expansion into the coal delivery business, this family-run operation would eventually span over six decades.

Joseph Mueller, born in 1870 and Phillip Mueller, born in 1879, were the sons of John Mueller and Apollonia Godar, from Germany. John arrived in the United States around 1857. He died here in 1922 and was buried in the cemetery at Holy Guardian Angels Church, which at the time was located at the foot of the Dudley Connector (now Dudley Road) where it intersected with the Banklick Turnpike (now Madison Pike).¹ The church is long gone but the small cemetery still exists, situated just southwest of the I-275 / Rt. 17 interchange. Joseph married Elizabeth Wiehoff and raised eight children while Phillip married Mary Ann Lewin and raised nine. Many of Joseph and Phillip's children would later join in the family business.

Ice Harvesting

In the days before electrical refrigeration, ice had to be "harvested" from frozen lakes during the winter months. It was then sold in 50 to 75-pound blocks by horse and wagon to local residents in the hotter months of the year. With the Muellers' business, they constructed a spring-fed lake along the eastern side of Banklick Pike near its intersection with Highland Pike. The exact location was across Banklick Pike from the old Latonia Springs Hotel and Spa; a forty-room inn operated during the nineteenth century.² The actual lake stood on the site of the present-day TANK bus garage. The entire lake, with depths of up to sixty-feet in places, was dug using only picks and shovels, and mules to help haul away the dirt. The ice was cut from the lake with large saws, loaded on horse-drawn wagons and stored in a sawdust insulated building near the lake. The Muellers would



Ice Harvesting at the Mueller Lake near Latonia Springs Spa

then load their enclosed wagons with ice, travel the Covington and Latonia neighborhoods and sell it by the piece to stock their customers' ice boxes. A fleet of trucks would replace the outdated horse-pulled wagons by the 1930s.

The business was strictly ice harvesting for the first few years, but the operation changed dramatically in 1908. Articles of Incorporation were filed in the city of Covington for a new business name at that time. A *Kentucky Post* article stated, "The ice plant is practically a young concern. In order to add the fuel business, they will branch out." Joseph and Phillip Mueller, along with Fredrick Lewin, were listed as incorporators. Capitol stock in the venture is \$80,000.³

Frederick Lewin was Phillip's brother-in-law and was very well known in the area. Lewin owned a large rock quarry located off Kuhr's Lane in what is now the town of Kenton Vale. He was also a key figure in many road construction projects, including the Covington-Lexington Turnpike (now Dixie Highway). Rock from his quarry was also used to help build Covington's Mother of God Church. Now a dead end road, Kuhr's Lane once continued up the hill, eventually connecting with Kyle's Lane near the site



*Left is Phillip Mueller's residence, located along the Banklick Turnpike.
Right is Joseph's home which still stands today,*

of the new Fort Wright City Building.⁴

Phillip Mueller built and lived in a brick house situated directly across Banklick Pike from the lake while Joe built a large stone house adjacent to the lake. Phil's home is long gone, but Joe's original stone house still stands and is occupied by a law firm and other offices. The building stands directly next to the TANK bus garage. In the 1950s, after the Muellers had moved from that location, the large estate was transformed into a restaurant called Rio Rita by the Lake.⁵

Manufactured Ice

With the development of refrigeration and the process of manufactured ice, cutting and storing lake ice was becoming an unnecessary venture. By 1910, the brothers had relocated their business to a large warehouse on Eugenia Avenue in Latonia. There they manufactured ice in 300-pound blocks and stored them in a warehouse with walls approximately three feet thick, insulated with sawdust. Few residents could use such large blocks of ice so another process involved scoring the ice with large saw blades so they could be broken into 25 to 50-pound blocks. This process would also produce "snow" as a byproduct, which children enjoyed in the summer months. The smaller blocks could also fit in a crushing machine to produce crushed ice.

In 1930, the Mueller's business made newspaper headlines again. The article stated, "Members of Covington City Commission will decide today whether or not citizens will have ice delivery on Sun-

days. Phillip Mueller, President of the Latonia Ice and Fuel Company, told the committee that he didn't feel citizens wanted Sunday delivery. He said, 'There is no more need to deliver ice on Sunday than there is to build roads.'"⁶

The two brothers continued to sell coal and manufactured ice from the Eugenia Avenue location until 1938, when Joe Mueller died. He was buried at Holy Guardian Angels Cemetery. Phil Mueller took over full operation of the business at that time. According to the *Kentucky Post*, Latonia Ice and Fuel apparently had a second location in 1931: "Covington firemen were called to the Latonia Ice and Fuel Company, 15th and Neave Streets, where a valve on an ammonia tank blew off. Firemen were forced to don gas masks in order to shut off the flow of ammonia fumes. Damage was estimated at \$200. There were no injuries reported."⁷

The Latonia operation was certainly the headquarters of the huge business. At full capacity, that plant could produce one hundred 300-pound ice blocks in a 24 hour day. Because the Eugenia Avenue plant was located along the railroad lines, Latonia Ice & Fuel obtained a contract with Fruit Growers' Express to supply ice for their rail cars, moving fruit and produce from Florida. The railcars would be dropped off in the rail yard by railroad employees. Latonia Ice and Fuel had a winch rigged up, whereby they could move the ice or coal cars around on the tracks as they needed. After the cars were all loaded, railroad workers would come back and retrieve the



Blocks of ice are readied for rail cars carrying produce from Florida.

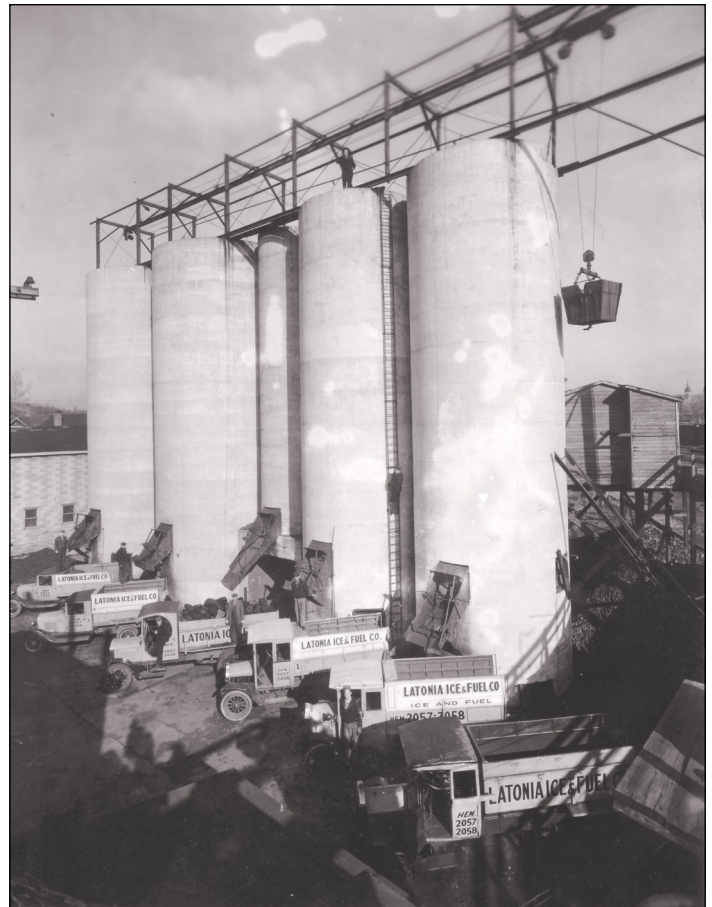
cars later in the day. This unique business arrangement was viable until more modern refrigerated rail cars were developed in the mid 1950s.

Coal Delivery

With regard to the “fuel” end of the business, wholesale coal was delivered to the company’s Latonia coal yard by rail cars. The cars were pushed over an open pit under the track and hopper doors in the bottom of the cars were opened to deliver the coal. An electrically operated gate opened allowing the coal to fill a steel bucket connected to a conveyor system. The bucket of coal would be delivered to the top of storage silos. Each bucket contained about $\frac{3}{4}$ ton of coal, filling the five concrete silos, each over 90+ feet tall. An entire fleet of heavy coal delivery trucks was required to service the business’ many customers. The huge silos have since met the wrecking ball, being razed in the 1990s. The site where they once stood tall is now used as a school bus parking lot for the Covington Public School system.

Phil Mueller died on May 30, 1954, with services at Holy Cross Church and burial at Mother of God Church, Latonia. After Phil’s death, several of his children took over running the company. Phil’s son, Phil Jr., “Jake”, Margaret Wolfzorn, a widow and the oldest of Phil’s children, along with Phil’s youngest son, James “Skip” Mueller remained at the business. Jake died in 1963 and is buried at Mother of God Cemetery.

As the years rolled on, the use of coal for home heating declined dramatically in preference for



*Top: Trucks take on a load of coal to be delivered to local residents.
Bottom: A view of the Latonia facility looking to the east.*

cleaner fuels such as natural gas and electric. Around 1965, the family sold the property where the icehouse and coal yard were located to the Green Trucking Company. By this time, the family had started a new business named Gravely Tractors which was located across the street from the icehouse, in the former truck garage. From this business they sold and serviced both Gravely tractors and Toro lawn equipment. Although they no longer manufactured their



Trucks are parked outside the company's icehouse.

own ice, they continued to sell ice from a vending unit located next to the garage for a few years. The 1965 Covington City Directory lists two companies at the 3312 Eugenia Avenue address: Latonia Ice and Fuel and Gravely Tractors. In the 1966 edition, Green Trucking has moved into 3312 and Latonia Ice and Tractor is listed at the 3315 Eugenia Avenue location.⁸

On August 27, 1966, a three-alarm fire destroyed two of three buildings occupied by the Green Trucking Company. Firefighters reported that flames were shooting high into the air when they arrived around 1:25AM. Three pumpers and two aerial trucks were needed in fighting the blaze, as well as 20 off-duty firemen. Fire investigators told reporters, "Walls were between two and four feet wide and were filled with sawdust as insulation for the ice manufacturing business once occupying the structure." Helen Green, wife of William Green the owner, told reporters she estimated damage to the business at over \$20,000 in the early morning blaze.⁹ Suddenly, most of any evidence of the original Latonia Ice and Fuel Company was gone forever.

After more than sixty years, the company officially closed in 1968. Margaret simply retired. Skip went to work for the Post Office and later worked as a maintenance mechanic for the 580 Building in Cin-

cinnati. No one else in the family wanted to take over the operation, so the family business closed their doors forever. Margaret died in 1984 and was buried at Mother of God. Skip passed in 1988 and was buried at Floral Hills Memorial Gardens, Taylor Mill.

Today, as you pass the large TANK bus garage or drive down Eugenia Avenue and see the remainder of the icehouse building that is now used as a maintenance garage for yellow school buses parked in the Latonia lot, you might still imagine the Mueller family harvesting ice and loading it into their many wagons (one pictured on the front of this issue) for delivery to your ancestors in the Northern Kentucky area.

1. Atlas of Kenton, Boone, and Campbell Counties, 1883.
2. Dr. Joseph Gastright, *Northern Kentucky Heritage magazine*, Volume IX, Volume 1.
3. *Kentucky Post*, August 26, 1908, p. 1.
4. Robert Webster, *Kenton Vale--Kenton County's Smallest City*, *Bulletin of the Kenton County Historical Society*, 2005
5. Jim Reis, *Kentucky Post*, *Night Spots around NKY Offered Good Food*, *Popular Entertainment For Young and Old*, January 25, 1993, p. 4k.
6. *Kentucky Post*, May 31, 1930, p. 1.
7. *Kentucky Post*, November 13, 1931, p. 1.
8. Covington city directories show both the Latonia Ice and Fuel Company and Gravely Tractors at 3312 Eugenia Avenue in Latonia up to and including the 1965 edition. The Latonia Ice and Fuel Company garage was shown at 3313 through 3315 Eugenia during the same time period. In the 1966 and 1967 editions, Green Trucking is shown at the 3312 address, while Latonia Ice and Tractor is shown at 3315 and the Latonia Ice and Tractor garage is shown at 3313. The business is gone by the 1968 edition.
9. *Kentucky Post*, August 27, 1966, p. 1.



Fire destroys the former Latonia Ice and Fuel Company in 1966.

Skeeter Davis

By: Robert D. Webster

Skeeter Davis, just a stage name, was actually Mary Frances Penick. Born in a two-room cabin near Folsom, Kentucky, on December 30, 1931. Mary was the first of William and Sarah “Punzie” (Roberts) Penick’s seven children. Her grandfather, who said she was always so active as a child she buzzed around like a mosquito, gave Mary the nickname Skeeter at a very young age. According to a 1991 article in the *Kentucky Post*, Skeeter’s childhood chores, such as milking cows, were typical of other Grant County youngsters.

In 1947, the family moved from their quaint, Grant County setting and Mary enrolled at Dixie Heights High School. There she met Betty Jack Davis and the two formed a singing group, at first just in an attempt to win the Dixie Follies Talent Show held each year at the high school. Searching for the perfect name for the new group, they chose to call themselves the Davis Sisters, though they were not related at all.

The Davis Sisters appeared on radio in Lexington, Kentucky, in 1949 and met with mild success, especially in Central Kentucky. After an appearance on Detroit’s WJR *Barnyard Frolics* in 1951, the duo became regionally popular in Cincinnati, Detroit and Wheeling, West Virginia. Their big break came after an appearance on Cincinnati television station WLW’s *Midwestern Hayride*. Nashville talent scouts caught their act and immediately called for them to travel to the country music capitol of the world. The Davis Sisters signed a recording contract with RCA Victor, and in 1953 the 21-year-olds from Northern Kentucky had a number-one hit with *I Forgot More Than You’ll Ever Know*. Their quick rise to stardom, however, ended tragically in August of the same year. An automobile crash with another car killed Betty Jack Davis and critically injured Skeeter Davis, as she was known officially at the time. Injuries to Skeeter were so severe that she spent several weeks in the hospital and was not fully recovered for over a year. Betty Jack Davis was buried in Highland Cemetery, Fort Mitchell.



The Davis Sisters—Skeeter Davis (aka Mary Frances Penick) top, and Betty Jack Davis, bottom.

Skeeter continued with RCA records, for a while with Betty’s sister, Georgia Davis. She began her solo career in 1955 and by mid-1957 was one of the label’s top talents, touring with Elvis Presley in late 1958. She was particularly know for doing her own harmony vocals through overdubbing, a rarity in those days.

Skeeter realized a big dream when she became a member of the Grand Ole Opry in 1959, the same year she was nominated for a Grammy Award for the song *Set Him Free*. In 1960, she married Nashville radio personality Ralph Emery but the couple divorced in 1964.³ An earlier marriage, to Kenneth Depew, lasted an even shorter duration.

During the early 1960s, Skeeter experienced her greatest success of all. She charted 41 country hits, 13 of which crossed over to, and had equal success on, the pop charts. She teamed with producer Chet Adkins and scored her first solo hit with *Lost To A Geisha Girl* and followed that hit with *I Can’t Help You—I’m Falling Too*, an answer to Hank Locklin’s *Please Help Me I’m Falling*.

In 1963, Skeeter Davis recorded what would become her biggest and most familiar hit of all time. *The End Of The World* peaked at number two on the famed Billboard Top 100 music charts in both the country and pop/rock categories. It also crossed over to both the blues category and the easy-listening chart. Though Linda Ronstadt and Barbara Streisand have had songs on all four charts at the same time, with a song in the “top ten” on two or three of the charts, Skeeter Davis remains the only woman to



Skeeter Davis in 1959

have had a song in the “top ten” on all four Billboard charts at the same time with, *The End Of The World*. After its release, little Skeeter Davis became the warm-up act for the Rolling Stones on their first American tour.

Other hits in the 1960s included, *My Last Date With You*, *Am I That Easy To Forget*, *I Can't Stay Mad At You*, *Gonna Get Along Without You Now*, *What Does It Take*, and *I Can't Believe That It's All Over*. In the decade, Skeeter received a total of five Grammy Award nominations.

In 1973, the Grand Ole Opry suspended Davis for dedicating a song during an Opry performance to recently arrested Christians witnessing at a public mall. Opry officials deemed her remarks too political. Skeeter was reinstated in 1975 and continued to perform on the Opry stage until 2001. In the late 1970s, Skeeter regularly toured in foreign countries including Barbados, Singapore, and Sweden where she was among the most popular entertainers on the tour. In 1976, she signed with Mercury Records. Her long string of hits came to an end, but she continued to be a very successful live act. In 1987, Skeeter married musician Joey Spampinato, bassist for the famous bar band, NRBQ, with whom she had collaborated on an acclaimed 1985 album titled, *She Sings, They Play*.

Skeeter Davis was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1988. The country singer battled the illness for some time and seemed to have beat it until a recurrence struck the star in 1996, not long after she and Joey Spampinato divorced. At one time during her illness, Skeeter lived with her longtime friends June Carter and Johnny Cash. Ironically, she would outlive them both.

Skeeter Davis, AKA Mary Frances Penick, died in a Nashville, Tennessee, hospice center on September 19, 2004. She was 72. At a tribute ceremony on September 22, 2004, Ricky Skaggs, Vince Gill, and Amy Grant sang *Go Rest High On That Mountain* to a capacity crowd at Nashville's Ryman Auditorium. A recording of her *End Of The World* was played at the conclusion of the service, as her casket was carried out of the auditorium. Skeeter has one daughter, Sarah, who took the last name Penick.

Skeeter's *The End Of The World* has been covered by such artists as Karen Carpenter of the Carpenters, Johnny Mathis, John Cougar Mellencamp, Dottie West, Julie London, Anne Murray, and Agnetha Fältskog of ABBA fame. During her long career, she had recorded duets with Porter Wagoner, Bobby Bare, the Bee Gees, and George Hamilton. Her autobiography, *Bus Fare To Kentucky*, was published in 1993. Near the end of her book she stated, “Without the valleys, I could not have enjoyed the mountains.”



References:

- The Cincinnati Enquirer*, Wm Weathers, September 20, 2004, Page B4.
- The Sunday Challenger*, September 26, 2004, Page 8A.
- The Kentucky Post*, June 12, 1991, Page 7KK.
- The Kentucky Post*, March 19, 1998, Page 3K.
- The Kentucky Post*, September 20, 2004, Pages 1K and 5K.
- The Cincinnati Enquirer*, June 15, 2004, Page G9.

Edwin Forrest

By: Karl Lietzenmayer and Robert Webster

Edwin Forrest is known by historians of the theater as the first great native-born American actor.¹ He was born in 1806, the fifth of seven children of a struggling Philadelphia couple, William and Rebecca Lauman Forrest. His father died of tuberculosis when Edwin was thirteen. Although Edwin was considered to be sickly as a child, he developed into a normal, healthy and muscular teen.

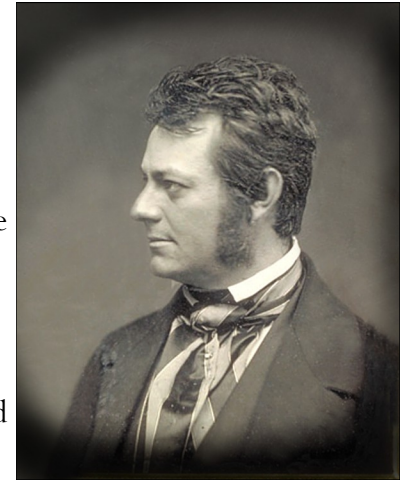
Edwin took an interest to acting at an early age and by 1820, at the age of fourteen, had made his stage debut. He joined a traveling troupe, Collins and Jones, which held shows in Pittsburgh and other cities throughout the Ohio River valley. In 1823, they performed in Lebanon, Ohio, and after the show the group disbanded. Stranded and penniless, the seventeen-year-old walked the forty miles to Newport, Kentucky, to the home of Rachel Riddle, a friend he knew from the Prune Street Theater in Philadelphia. She allowed him to stay in her home until he found another acting job.

At this low point in his early career, Forrest rowed across the Licking River in 1824 and climbed a hillside west of Covington, where he gained new resolution and heart from the beautiful surroundings. According to a *Kentucky Post* article about his life, dated December 25, 1900, "One day while in a destitute condition, Forrest climbed the hill and in a most despondent mood, saw a grapevine whose tendrils had been torn from an oak tree, but scorning further support had taken root in the earth and was growing bravely in sturdy independence of the parent tree. This moral lesson appealed to Forrest, who took new heart to become famous."

During his stay in Newport, Edwin Forrest met another actor, James Taylor III, the son of James Taylor, Jr., who was the founder of Newport. Once when Taylor was performing at the Newport Barracks, another actor got drunk and was unable to perform. Taylor asked Forrest to play the part. From that time on, James Taylor III and Edwin Forrest

were great friends.

The two spent many hours together at the Taylor home in Newport and were known to have sailed along the Ohio River on many occasions, rehearsing lines and discussing their acting careers. The two men remained in contact for the rest of their lives.



Edwin Forrest

After residing in Newport, Edwin left for Lexington, Kentucky, accompanied by Riddle's daughter, Sallie, who also aspired to be an actor. From there came Albany, New York, and more success. Historians remark that Edwin had developed a style similar to English actor, Edmund Kean, for whom he had great admiration.

Earlier in his career, Edwin played possibly the first ever "blackface" character in *Tailor in Distress* while in Cincinnati. He gained much fame for portraying that caricature of African Americans. Constance Rourke, author of *American Humor; A Study of National Character*, wrote, "...his impression was so believable he often mingled in the streets with African Americans unnoticed". He allegedly fooled one old black woman into taking him for a friend then convinced her to join him in his stage performance that night.²

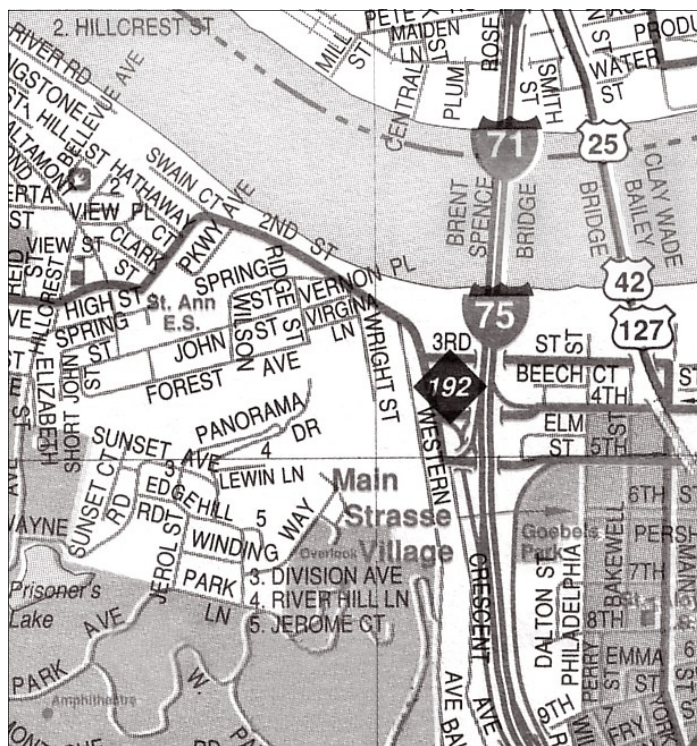
In 1826, Edwin Forrest had great success in New York as Othello. He played in the *Gladiator* in 1836, but the English audience hissed his *Macbeth* in 1843. As much as he is remembered today for his outstanding acting, he was noted for his twenty-year rivalry with actor William Charles Macready. This jealousy turned tragic during competing productions of *Macbeth* in 1849, resulting in what is known as the Astor Place riot where twenty-two people were killed.

In 1836, Edwin met and married an eighteen-year-old English girl, Catherine Sinclair. They had only one child, a son, who died a few days after his birth in 1838. In 1839, not long after this tragedy, Edwin's heart brought the couple back to Northern Kentucky. Edwin had fallen in love with the beautiful hillside and wonderful river view of the land on which he sat and pondered his life back in 1824.

According to one source, "Forrest returned to the area in 1839 and purchased three lots – over 45 acres – on this exact hillside, then part of Mr. Israel Ludlow's subdivision, for \$7,366.⁴

According to several other sources, the land was never actually purchased from Israel Ludlow, but was acquired by other means. The true account on how the land was acquired was detailed in three separate newspaper articles: "On return trips to Newport, Edwin Forrest became acquainted with Israel Ludlow, who owned nearly all the property upon which the present city of Ludlow is built, including Forrest Hill. Forrest and Ludlow became warm personal friends and Forrest told Ludlow how his hill had put new strength into him and how it had done much toward making him what he was."⁵ The two men enjoyed games of poker from time to time and on one occasion the stakes of the game grew to astronomical proportions. Over the course of the game, Forrest's luck outlasted Ludlow's and he was able to amass a rather large pile of winnings. "With a laugh, Forrest swept his winnings into his pocket, pushed back his chair, and arose to his feet. Ludlow, however, insisted on continuing play. Out of cash, Ludlow bet the hillside – all 48 acres – and lost it.⁶ The exact location of this card game differs slightly, but the fact the game took place is documented in three separate newspaper articles. One account places it in a room at Cincinnati's old Broadway Hotel while Forrest was playing at the National Theater on Sycamore Street. The others, upon a paddlewheel during a trip the two men took to Louisville. Either way, Edwin Forrest became the new owner of a large parcel of land and one of the most picturesque views of the entire Covington-Cincinnati riverfront.

Forrest wasted little time improving upon the parcel. He hired Covington contractor and builder I.



W. Livsey the following day and working as his own architect, built a two-story Swiss cottage by the end of the following summer, using wood from trees gathered from the same hillside.⁷ Forrest hired a French gardener and the grounds, including a large vineyard, were beautifully laid out. The house itself was quite large, with eleven rooms finished in natural woods including cherry, oak, pine, and walnut. The porch was supported by walnut pillars with an oak floor. A ten-foot-deep cellar was constructed beneath the home. By late 1844, the neighborhood of "Forrest Hill" was being transformed, under the "tasteful direction of [a] Mr. Whitley," into a hillside of vineyards and country homes.⁸ Initially known as "Botany Hill"⁹ after Forrest left the area, the hillside became part of the community of "Economy" which later became the town of West Covington before eventually being incorporated into the City of Covington. Forrest stayed at this Covington address whenever he played Cincinnati area engagements. At the pinnacle of Edwin's popularity, he owned, in addition to Forrest Hill, a castle on the Hudson River, a brownstone mansion in Philadelphia, and a hundred-acre country estate.

One evening, while playing in Cincinnati, Edwin returned to his hotel room unexpectedly to find his wife in the arms of another actor, George W.

continued on page 10

A Look Back at The Headlines

*An on-going feature reliving local headlines
from the Covington Journal.
September 7, 1849*

"Subscriptions and renewals to the Covington Journal are now available, still only \$2.00 per year."

Covington Star Bakery (Advertisement)

"Thomas Blackburn begs leave to make known to the good people that live in this town, that he constantly keeps an abundant supply of excellent bread, made of corn, wheat and rye, which he offers on terms very pleasing—nay more. He will, if requested, bring it home to your door."

Building Lots

"Sixteen building known as the Montgomery Property are being sold by Mr. Brashears of this city. Lots went up for sale at an average of \$31. The lots front on Montgomery, Fifth, and Russell Streets."

Advertisement

"Those of our readers who make clothing purchases in Cincinnati are referred to the John Shillito and Company who have a splendid assortment in their line."

New Appointment

Mr. William Ernst has been appointed Cashier of the Covington Branch of the Northern Bank of Kentucky, in the place of P. S. Bush, resigned. Mr. Ernst has for some years been teller in the bank, and is well qualified to fill the office to which he has been appointed."

Drownings

Four of seven Negroes, one from the Covington vicinity, drowned in their attempt to cross the Ohio near Washington, Kentucky, Sunday last. Most of the men belonged to Edward S. Perry and Captain William Bickly.

Be Published In The Bulletin!

Email your article or story idea to:
nkyheritage.kchs@juno.com.

or send a printed copy by mail to:
P.O. Box 641, Covington, KY 41012-0641
Articles should have two references.

Edwin Forrest — continued from page 9

Jamieson. After twelve years of a seemingly happy marriage, Edwin insisted on a separation, and then filed for divorce. A very public legal battle ensued, with salacious accounts of the break-up appearing in newspapers across the country. After the divorce in 1852, Edwin's demeanor changed markedly. Many of his friends and fans abandoned him, but he continued to act. Most of the plays of the period were by European writers, but Forrest longed to perform an American work. Finding none, he ran a newspaper ad offering \$500 for the best new play by an American writer. The winning entry was by John Augustus Stone, called *Metamora*. The play was about an Indian chief of the Wampanoag tribe, who worried about the white man forcing the Indian from his land. In the play's final scene, Forrest, as Wampanoag, stabbed his wife to death, so she would not have to face life under white domination. The performance was so moving and realistic, that some Indians in the audience wept and did a chant, in honor of the beloved chief.

Edwin Forrest died in 1872 while in his home town of Philadelphia. He was sixty-six years old. He was buried at Philadelphia's St. Paul's Episcopal Churchyard. A reminder of Edwin Forrest's Covington land ownership remains today with the name of Forrest Avenue, though one "r" over time has been dropped officially. His original tract of land is shown on the 1883 Atlas of Kenton County as the Forrest Subdivision, outlined by what is now the approximate boundaries of Spring Street on the north, Wright Street on the east, Elizabeth Street on the west, and Panorama Drive to the south.¹⁰

History of Covington Book

It's not too late to be a part of this important project! There are many topics still unassigned and in need of authors. If you are interested in submitting articles or if you have any questions, please contact the committee as soon as possible.

Email: covingtonhistorybook@fuse.net

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(859) 363-0204

Then and Now



Before and after views of the intersection of 15th and Holman in Covington, looking to the northwest.

Old photo: courtesy the Kenton County Public Library. New photo: courtesy Bob Webster

2007 Northern Kentucky History, Art and Culture Lecture Series

Nine lectures to be held at the Baker-Hunt Art and Culture Center, 620 Greenup Street, Covington.

The museum will open for tours at 1:00 each Sunday with programs beginning at 2:00.

Cost: \$30 for nine lectures, \$15 for students, \$5 for individual lectures.

Light refreshments will be served.

— Programs —

January 14th — History of Bluegrass Music

February 11th — Old Latonia

March 11th — Northern Kentucky Artists & Murals

April 15th — Northern Kentucky Churches

May 20th — Roebling and other No. KY Bridges

June 10th — Murals on the River

September 9th — The Encyclopedia of No. KY

Oct. 14 — John Hunt Morgan/Morgan's Raiders

November 11th — Museums and Historical Societies of Northern Kentucky

To register or for additional information, visit
www.nkyhistory.com

Mystery Photo

Can you identify the mystery photo below? The answer can be found at the bottom of the page. Topic of this year's photos will be *windows of our history*.



ANSWER:

This is one of the windows in the new and nearly completed addition at the Behringer-Crawford Museum located in Covington's Devou Park.

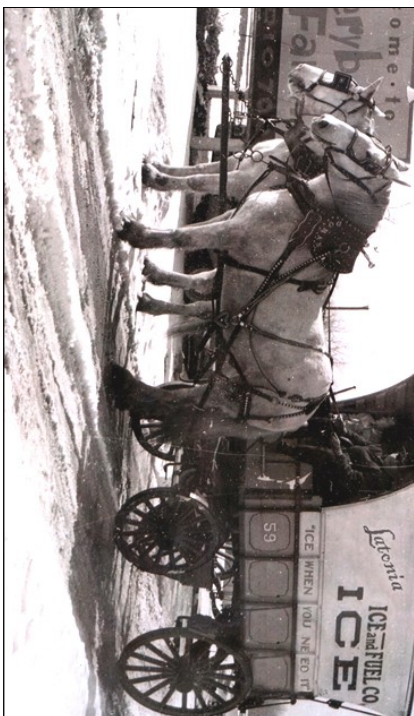
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KENTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

January / February 2007



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Edwin Forrest
First Great Native-born American Actor