



# Bulletin of the Kenton County Historical Society

Website: [www.kentoncountyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.kentoncountyhistoricalsociety.org) Email: [info@kentoncountyhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@kentoncountyhistoricalsociety.org)  
P.O. Box 641, Covington, Kentucky 41012-0641 (859) 491-4003

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Covington Protestant Children's Home  
(Children's Home of Northern Kentucky)

Kenton Hills: a Scenic Neighborhood

# **The Covington Protestant Children's Home (Children's Home of Northern Kentucky)**

Karl J. Lietzenmayer

## **Introduction**

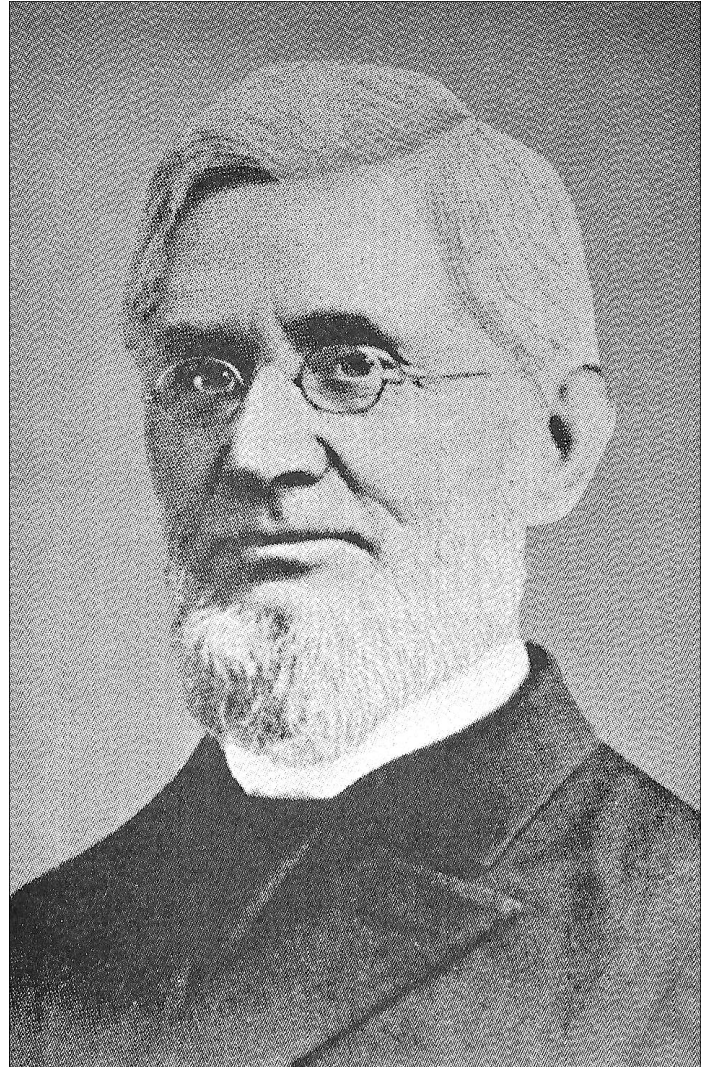
Until the first few decades of the 20th century, only about 25% of marriages lasted more than ten years. Unlike the present day, this was caused by the death of one or both of the partners. In our own time, dying before reaching old age has become a much rarer event; about three-quarters of all people die after their 65th birthday.<sup>1</sup> In 1850, only 2% of the population lived past 65. "We place dying in what we take to be its logical position," observes the social historian Ronald Blythe, "which is at the close of a long life, whereas our ancestors accepted the futility of placing it in any position at all. In the midst of life we are in death and they meant it. To them it was a fact; to us it is a metaphor."<sup>2</sup>

## **The Need**

This relentless and premature death rate left a significant number of children orphaned or in one-parent families. That one parent, particularly if poor, became hard pressed to attend to the basic needs of their children – shelter, food and clothing, thus creating the need for orphanages to be established throughout the land. Many existed here in Northern Kentucky. In its early years, even St. Elizabeth Hospital provided a foundling home after the Civil War.<sup>3</sup> The Catholic Diocese of Covington later established an orphanage for girls in 1848, later admitting boys.<sup>4</sup>

## **Amos Shinkle**

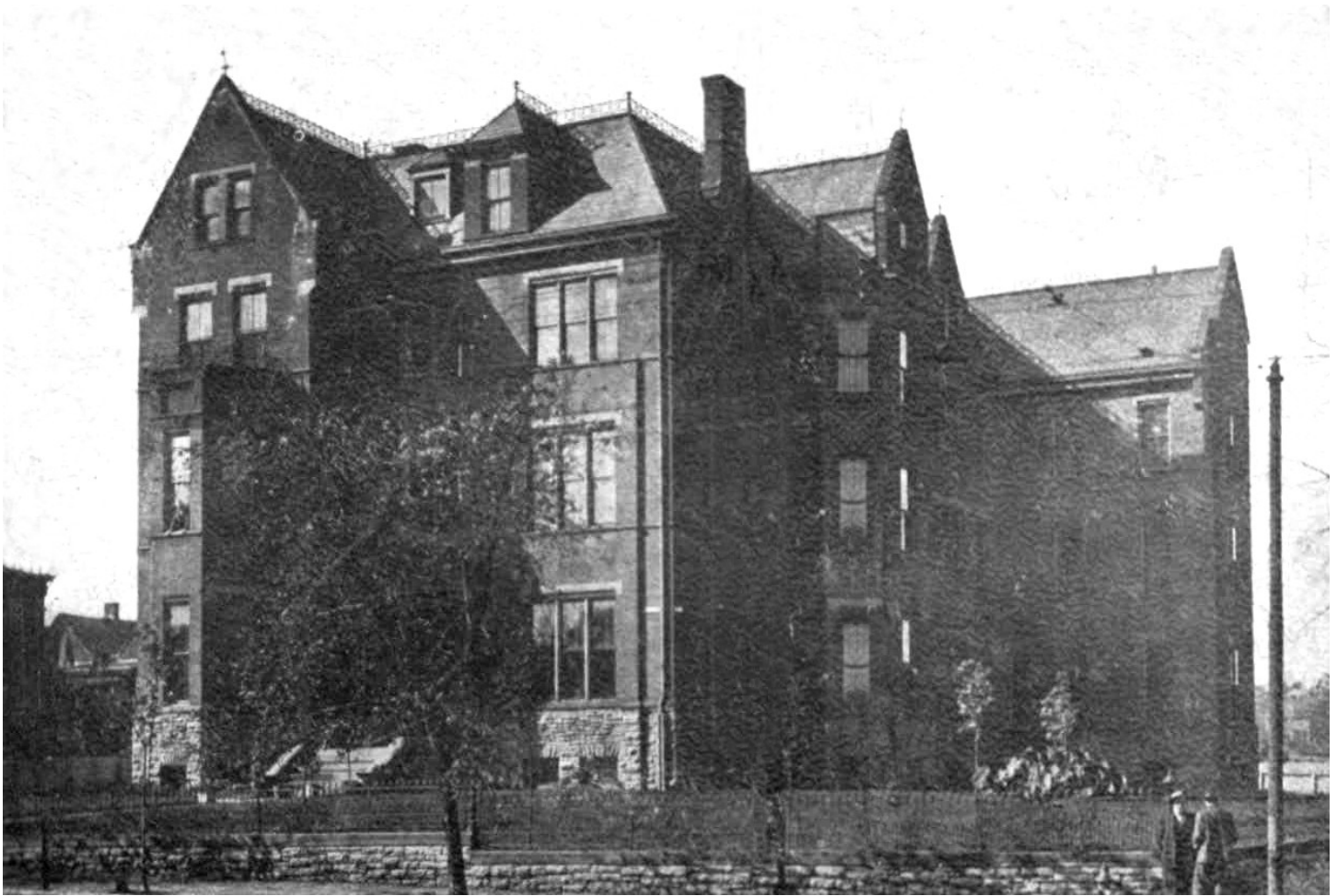
Protestant Covingtonians eventually banded together under the leadership of philanthropist Amos Shinkle, to provide for the growing number of orphans. Shinkle was born poor in 1808, became a river-boat captain, then a coal supplier, and later the owner of river boats. He became president of the Suspension Bridge Company after a disgraced Confederate sympathizer, Henry Bruce, engaged John Roebling before the Civil War. Shinkle became a wealthy man.



While supplying coal to steam boats, Amos Shinkle doubtless saw much poverty among families living in shanty boats on the river's shores. One story, found in the records, illustrates what might have been a common sight:

*On a shanty boat moored on the Covington shore of the Ohio River, four little children shivered in the winter rawness – alone. They were clad in ragged clothes, lack food, fuel, soap and water. They dared not run about for fear of falling into the sullenly rolling river just at arm's length away. The eldest, a girl of nine, watched anxiously*





Opposite page: Amos Shinkle (Courtesy: Kenton County Public Library)  
 Above: Covington Children's Home, 14th and Madison Avenue, c. 1905 (Courtesy: Kenton County Public Library)  
 On the Cover: Children's Home of Northern Kentucky in 2013 (Courtesy River City News)

over her little sister, four years old and her brothers seven and two years respectively. The mother, deserted by the father, was away all day at work, trying to earn a living to keep life in her little brood. Upon the "little mother," aged nine, devolved the task of keeping the others out of danger.<sup>5</sup>

Conceivably, the particular case which inspired Mr. Shinkle to establish a children's home was that of a man and wife, members of his Methodist church, who died suddenly, leaving four young children parentless. The plight of these four children roused him to do something about the problem of children in need.

Sometime in 1879, Mr. Shinkle took action, gathering twelve influential men from the community – among them ex-governor John W. Stevenson, who was asked to draw up the articles of incorporation.<sup>6</sup> Hence, the concept of the first Covington Protestant

Children's Home was initiated. Trinity Episcopal Church, Covington, became a significant supporter of the home nearly from the beginning.

On March 14, 1881, the board purchased property on Madison and 14<sup>th</sup> Street.<sup>7</sup> Architect Samuel Hannaford was engaged to construct a brick structure three and one-half stories high. The building was to have a set-back 40 feet from Madison Avenue and about 50 feet from 14<sup>th</sup> Street. The cellar would house the furnace room, laundry, coal bin and storage with the first floor encompassing a parlor and reception rooms, kitchen, spacious dining rooms, infirmary, and kindergarten. The second and third floors were dormitories for the children and above that were servant quarters. There was a 10-foot hallway extending the full depth of the building on each floor. The building was completed in a few months and was a Madison Avenue landmark for over fifty years.<sup>8</sup>

The first children arrived on December 20, 1882: three from the Hamling family (Edward, 10; Harry, 2 and Ada, 5) and William Dannell, aged one. Two days later, Willie and Georgia Jordan arrived. The secretary remarked that this place "was the beginning of what was to be an ever-increasing and changing family."<sup>9</sup>

By 1882 the home housed 65 children; one year later there were 94 children but 49 were withdrawn, 6 were placed in homes, and two had died. Thirty-seven children remained at the home. The cost per child was \$110.79 per annum. The burden of collecting enough funds was becoming increasingly burdensome. An endowment fund seemed essential so that the normal expenses of running the home could be supported by the interest from the fund. By 1887 such a fund was initiated.

### **Madison Avenue Change**

By the time of Amos Shinkle's death in 1892, the environment around the Madison Avenue location was changing. In 1882, when the home was opened, the location seemed ideal, with no industrial plants nearby, and ample play space with clean air. There was only a single railroad track some distance to the rear of the building and travel along Madison was not heavy.

However, by 1914, the railroad had built a large yard with many tracks closer to the home. A roundhouse hedged the home on two sides. Several industrial plants and business establishments had sprung up in the immediate vicinity. Travel on Madison presented a real hazard to the children. Noise, smoke, soot and danger were a constant menace to the health, welfare and safety of the children.<sup>10</sup> The home was also becoming too small to take in all the children who were in need.

### **Bird Property**

In February 1914, the board of trustees purchased a five-acre tract in Latonia known as the Bird property and a capital campaign was begun to construct a new facility. However, World War I interrupted these plans which lay fallow for the next ten years.<sup>11</sup> Monies collected is unknown but set aside for future plans.

At a Board of Managers meeting in February 1924, the matter of a new home again came up for discussion. One of the ladies had some photos of a new building recently completed in Poughkeepsie, New York. This so impressed the members that they immediately re-initiated a campaign for a new home. Several sites were considered including the Bird site, which the board had already purchased. Location of the Bird property is unknown at this writing.

### **Devou Property**

In November 1924, the Board of Trustees took an option on 20 acres adjoining Devou Park from the Helen Bryant estate and sold the Bird property in Latonia at a handsome profit. By 1925, the Home secured the deed for slightly over 26 acres from the Bryant estate.<sup>12</sup> High on a hill overlooking Cincinnati and the Ohio River, a more beautiful site could not have been imagined. Far away from noise, smoke and city dangers, it was idyllic. The firm of Samuel Hannaford was again engaged to design the new structure. The estimated construction cost was to be \$200,000 and the fund raising campaign was intensified. Support was encouraging with ex-governor Morrow attending the opening meeting.

At the victory dinner on May 26, 1925 at the Masonic Temple, a sum of \$225,439.02 had been raised. The entire process occurred in quick succession and by December 1926, the children were moved from the old Madison Avenue home into the new facility. By 1927, there were 83 children housed in the new home.

Also in 1925, a Junior Board was established to provide the "little extras and comforts" which were not usually found in an institutional setting. The Board continues but with expanded responsibilities, functioning as an auxiliary for the Home. The ladies on this board provide the Home with birthday and Christmas presents, cakes, holiday and seasonal parties, sports equipment, room furnishings, tutoring and financial support for a quarterly newsletter.<sup>13</sup>

In 1928, the Board of Trustees sold the property at 14<sup>th</sup> Street and Madison Avenue to the Jefferson Council #30, Junior Order of American Mechanics, a fraternal organization.<sup>14</sup> The building was razed

in 1941 and after a service station stood on the spot and later demolished, a medical clinic occupies the property today.

### Changing Times

Not only was it imperative to move the home to more spacious, safer and a more bucolic location, the needs of children were quickly morphing into complex and varied causes. Whereas in the 19th century the children at the Home had lost one or more of their parents, by mid-20th century they were decidedly in the minority.

It was no longer sufficient to simply provide a secure home, food and clothing for orphan children. Since at least from the early part of the 20th century onward, truly orphaned children became a distinct minority of Home residents. This was indeed a national trend. Today, approximately 85% of the children are in care because of some malfunction of the family; the remaining 15% are in care because of problems with the child. Less than 3% of all the dependent children are orphans today.<sup>15</sup>

Societal pressures such as the disappearance of extended family, urbanization, industrialization and the changes in society itself were all pressures morphing the traditional orphanage or almshouse. The devastating effect upon the child and family of enforced separation has been thoroughly documented. However, some children must be separated from their homes. If this decision is made (usually by the courts), all separated children do not require the same type of services. Identification of problems has become more sophisticated due to the development of not only the field of psychology but also new 20th century disciplines such as sociology.

Today's Home focuses on the ideal of repairing and restoring the children to their families. Whenever this is deemed inadvisable, institutionalizing at the Home is viewed as only one option. Foster parents and adoption - after children are evaluated by doctors and psychologists - are alternatives not known in the early days of the Children's Home.

Studies recommend every community have access to a range of programs such as:<sup>16</sup> 1. Crisis insti-

tution, where a child needs to be away from home due to a crisis. Placement in such a program would usually be sudden and temporary; 2. Short-term task oriented institution. This program would accept a specific, narrowly defined task, such as helping the child adjust to a specific reality. 3. Long-term group living. For children who have no other home. 4. Rehabilitation. Residential treatment centers, intensive programs for the severely mentally disturbed. 5. Institutions for the handicapped. 6. Post-institutional placement. Group homes or "halfway houses."

Awareness of children's needs and identification of mental and emotional dysfunction today has made the expansion of these services evident to most caregivers. Certainly, emotionally disturbed children existed all through history, but few conditions were identified or even imagined.

The first use of foster homes in the 1920s and '30s marked the beginning of what Plummer and Henley call the "de-institutionalization" of child care. In the 1960s, the federal government began to provide monies for the development of Community Mental Health Clinics.<sup>17</sup> Even with this increased awareness, no state reported acceptable quantity or distribution for emergency services. The trend, according to Dr. Alan Keith-Lucas, of increased need is likely to continue. He states:

*There was a time when institutions could be selective about the children they took. They could choose the most promising children from hundreds and thousands of orphans and desperately poor that existed in that society, children who, many of them, had been loved, had developed strength and character, but were now in need of care. Now the picture is very different. The children who are in need of care do not in general come from stable homes rudely interrupted by death, or even from those where financial resources are inadequate to their needs.... The majority of the children come now from homes that have broken down from mental illness, desertion, alcoholism, neglect or abuse.<sup>18</sup>*

Nationally, by 1975, 1% of dependent children in America were in a mental health facility and it was estimated that 2% of all American school-age children were emotionally disturbed but 50% of that number were not being cared for at all!<sup>19</sup> It seems

the estimates from that national study would certainly be applicable to Northern Kentucky. With recent budget cuts in social services offered by the Commonwealth of Kentucky, it is no surprise such services have been reduced.

The Children's Home of Northern Kentucky continues to provide diverse care for children with diverse problems. Their primary aim is to re-unite the children with their families whenever possible, but this goal is not available or even wise to pursue with some dysfunctional families. Even though continued residency for children is usually limited in duration, only a minority of child residents stay at the Home for their entire childhood.

### Endnotes

1. Arlene Skolnick, "Embattled Paradise: The American Family in an Age of Uncertainty," Basic Books Div of Harper/Collins Publishers, USA (1991) page 153. Today, c. 50% of American marriages end in divorce and c. 67% of **second** marriages also end in divorce.
2. Ronald Blythe, "The View in Winter," Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, New York (1979) page 4.
3. Patricia McMillen, "St. Elizabeth Hospital," Northern Kentucky Heritage, VI, #2, page 25.
4. Diocesan Catholic Children's Home web site.
5. J. A. Caywood, "History of Covington Protestant Children's Home," privately published, n.d., page 1 – 2.
6. See Caywood, page 3. The men included: J.D. Shutt, William Ernst, N.P. Stephens, John F. Fisk, James W. Walker, W.M.M. Lee, Thomas Reed, Henry Feltman, James M. Clarkson, W.W. Henderson, J.H. Buffington.
7. See Deed Book 46, Page 457.
8. Caywood, page 15-16. The building and the lot cost \$53,500 – all a gift from Amos Shinkle.
9. Caywood, page 21.
10. Caywood, page 26.
11. Caywood, page 26-7. Dr. Bird was a Latonia physician who owned considerable property in that community. His home/office was sold to Holy Cross Catholic parish and used as a convent until the present structure was built. He also built what is known as the Bird Building at Ritte's Corner, still standing.
12. The 26.05 acres was purchased for \$19,537.50. See: Kenton County Deed Book 210; Page 217.
13. "Children's Home of No. Kentucky" pamphlet in CHNK file, n. d.
14. Caywood, page 31. The Order of American Mechanics wielded considerable political influence in the city of Ludlow as late as the 1960s where they dictated who would be hired for the Ludlow School System, for example. A Xenophobic, anti-foreign, anti-Catholic group, the junior organization was authorized in 1853 and soon outgrew the parent organization. They were originally formed to prevent sectarian influences in the public school system, while encouraging bible reading in schools. Anti-Catholic sentiments may have stemmed partly because of Catholic insistence on the Vulgate translation. JUOAM membership in 1900 was 200,000 at its peak. One thousand lodges existed in 27 states in 1965; 8500 members in 1979. Subsequent history of the order is unclear.
15. Erwin H. Plummer & H. Carl Henley, PhD, "Report of Study of Covington Protestant Children's Home," Covington (1978) pp. 10 & 23.

16. Plummer & Hanley, pp. 16-17.
17. F. Redlich & S. R. Kellert, "Trends in American Mental Health," American Journal of Psychology, vol. 135; no. 1, pp. 25-6.
18. Alan Kieth-Lucas, "The Church Children's Home in a Changing World," Address delivered September 1969 at Georgia Baptist Children's Home.
19. Plummer & Hanley, p 25.

## Want to be Published?

The Kenton County Historical Society is always looking for new authors for article submissions to their two publications, the *Bulletin*, and *Northern Kentucky Heritage* magazine.

*Bulletin* articles should be about a Kenton County topic, 2-6 pages of typed text, and have at least two references. Magazine submissions should be at least 8 pages in length with footnotes, and should cover a topic within the 10-county region.

Submit Bulletin articles to:  
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## Letter to the Editor

"The BULLETIN is a first class publication with very interesting articles & pictures. Keep up the good work!"

*Cathy Berger, Lebanon, OH*

# Kenton Hills: a Scenic Neighborhood

John Boh

In 1924, civil engineer and developer, Jerome J. Weaver, became trustee for the estate of business partner William S. Ludlow, son of Israel Ludlow (1804-1846).<sup>1</sup> But following his partner's death in 1931, Weaver resigned after legal threats from Ludlow survivors.<sup>2</sup>

Nevertheless, on land acquired through his partner, Weaver filed plats for a new subdivision called "Kenton Hills" in 1925 and 1926. The new subdivision offered beautiful new "English architecture"; the Ohio Valley was the front and Devou Park the "back yard."<sup>3</sup> In 1926, Covington physician, Dr. Frank W. Fischer, purchased for \$17,500, a "colonial frame home" on Edge Hill Road.<sup>4</sup> The newspaper reported the same year that Weaver, "owner of the Kenton Hills Subdivision," sold a seven-room (plus solarium) Spanish style "mansion" which he had originally built for himself.<sup>5</sup>

Weaver advertised Kenton Hills as "the only available subdivision" with a "river view" of the "Ohio Valley."<sup>6</sup> Many homes were built in 1926 and soon housing starts would "probably double." Scenic lots measuring 50 X 100 feet were priced at \$1,800, \$2,000 and \$2,200. Remote from industrial contamination but close to Covington and Cincinnati, its amenities would include paved streets, sidewalks, water, gas, electric and sewage service, and a panoramic view all the way to the old Stone Tower in Ft. Thomas.

Weaver entertained potential buyers from Cincinnati. Kenton Hills was two miles - or eight to ten minutes - by streetcar to Fountain Square.<sup>7</sup> A continuation of Edge Hill road and completion of Wright Street in 1928 provided access to the streetcar line only five city blocks away. The "recent completion" of Dorge Road also provided a quick "four minute walk" to Ludlow streetcars.<sup>8</sup>



Typical view of the charm of Kenton Hills

*Courtesy: Kenton County Public Library*

## Down to Prisoners Lake

Later Weaver saw Kenton Hills extended down to Prisoners Lake in Devou Park. The Shakespearean actor Edwin Forrest in 1839 had acquired much property high above the western city limits of Covington overlooking the Ohio River Valley. It included a remnant still unincorporated.<sup>9</sup> In September 1929 the planning commission in Covington accepted a plat for a new Sunset Road section called "another J. J. Weaver project." First it was to be a second "new" subdivision, between Kenton Hills and Devou Park, but it soon was incorporated into the first development.<sup>10</sup>

The plat map shows "dam" and "to Main Street, West Covington," and the outline of present-day Wayne Road near Sunset laid out across the dam. Of two roads originally built through Devou Park one connected to "Main Street" - now called "Parkway." Thus the intersection at Prisoners Lake joins Kenton Hills to the Devou Park entrance and to the West Covington neighborhood.<sup>11</sup>

## The Developer

As a prelude to many achievements, Jerome J. Weaver became City Surveyor and City Engineer of the fourth class city of Ludlow. Born during the Civil War, Weaver moved to Northern Kentucky from

Davis, Illinois in the late 1880s.<sup>12</sup> Construction of the Cincinnati Southern Railroad through Ludlow transformed Ludlow and attracted newcomers.<sup>13</sup>

After the Highway Commission in 1893 authorized modern Highway Avenue, the streetcar company laid track westward from Covington on Highway Avenue and began service into Ludlow.<sup>14</sup> In 1894, Weaver, with the president of the Green Line Company and others, incorporated the Ludlow Lagoon Company and opened the Ludlow Lagoon Amusement Park. According to local history author Robert J. Wimberg, Jerome J. Weaver designed the 400 foot reinforced dam creating the lagoon lake at the bottom end of Pleasant Run Creek.

The Lagoon Amusement park provided enumerable amusements to families and partiers arriving by streetcar: a clubhouse with pool, and a long porch, a pavilion for dancing, a "200" seat amphitheater; a bandstand extending out into the water to entertain boaters, a beach with bathhouses, a boardwalk, a scenic railway. In time the new lake hosted all kinds of music, dancing, vaudeville comedy, thrill and scenic rides, contests, theater, circus, high wire, aero planes, hydrogen-filled aerial balloons, fireworks and picnics, and special civic and patriotic "days" and other events.<sup>15</sup>

Weaver became amusements coordinator of the Ludlow Lagoon in 1903, aided his partner William S. Ludlow in the Ludlow Realty Company. In the last year of Weaver's turn as amusement coordinator a motorcyclist on July 30<sup>th</sup> 1913 crashed through a guard barrier in the motordrome injuring almost 200 and resulting in the death of a good number of spectators. Legal action implicated the "Lagoon's amusement manager"- who was not Weaver - and the "Motordome managers." The Park survived tremendous tornado damage in 1915 and World War I restrictions, but the Lagoon Amusement Park closed after 1919.<sup>16</sup> Nevertheless a decade later in a minor legal matter Weaver was still proprietor of the Lagoon property.<sup>17</sup>

Weaver in 1914-15 operated the Ludlow Lagoon Park Amusement Company ("Lessees," at Pleasant Run, the end of the Cincinnati, Newport and

Covington Street Car Line); and the American Amusement Company providing "amusement devices." Weaver was: president of the Ideal Cement Brick Company (William S. Ludlow vice president, wife Violet Weaver secretary-treasurer); president of the Kentucky Improvement Company; and President of the Ludlow Realty (88 Elm Street, "Proprietors," the Ludlow Lagoon).<sup>18</sup>

Weaver's legacy includes residential blocks of Ludlow east of the lagoon and other residential development around Northern Kentucky. Ideal Supplies then called the Ideal Cement Brick Company in Ludlow was incorporated in 1908. In 1913 "Ideal Supplies Company" was organized by Weaver, William S. Ludlow and others to operate a gravel pit at the site of "the old race track." In 1931-32 Weaver was president of Ideal Supplies; of the Crescent Construction Company; and of Ludlow Realty.<sup>19</sup> In 1909, Weaver was one of the incorporators for an "interurban railway." It was a speculative idea that failed, but it would have connected Covington with Big Bone Lick in Boone County, expanding opportunities for recreational and other enterprises.<sup>20</sup>

### **Neighbors Surrounding Kenton Hills**

Israel Ludlow started the small town of "Economy" on his property between Ludlow and Covington. By 1850 the "frugal" population had grown to 600, by 1875 to over 1000. "Economy" was incorporated as "West Covington" in 1858. The court record described it as extending to the center of the Dry Creek Turnpike (that ran along the south bank of the Ohio River), to Ludlow, to the city limits of Covington and to the estate of Edwin Forrest. In 1869 some Edwin Forrest land was added by charter amendment. Then it was 1916 when the city of Covington after prolonged opposition was able to annex West Covington.<sup>21</sup>

The town of Ludlow to the west was incorporated in 1864, but a proposed annexation by Covington was rejected.<sup>22</sup> After the Devou family donated 576 acres for a public park in 1910, the parks board hired Jerome J. Weaver to survey the topography for infrastructure. One road would connect Western Avenue through the park to Sleepy Hollow road; another Amsterdam to Main Street in West Coving-



ton.<sup>23</sup> Pending the sale of bonds Covington authorized building stone steps from Western Avenue, a retaining wall at West Covington and the entrance roads. The city acquired a rock crusher, later a pavement roller.<sup>24</sup>

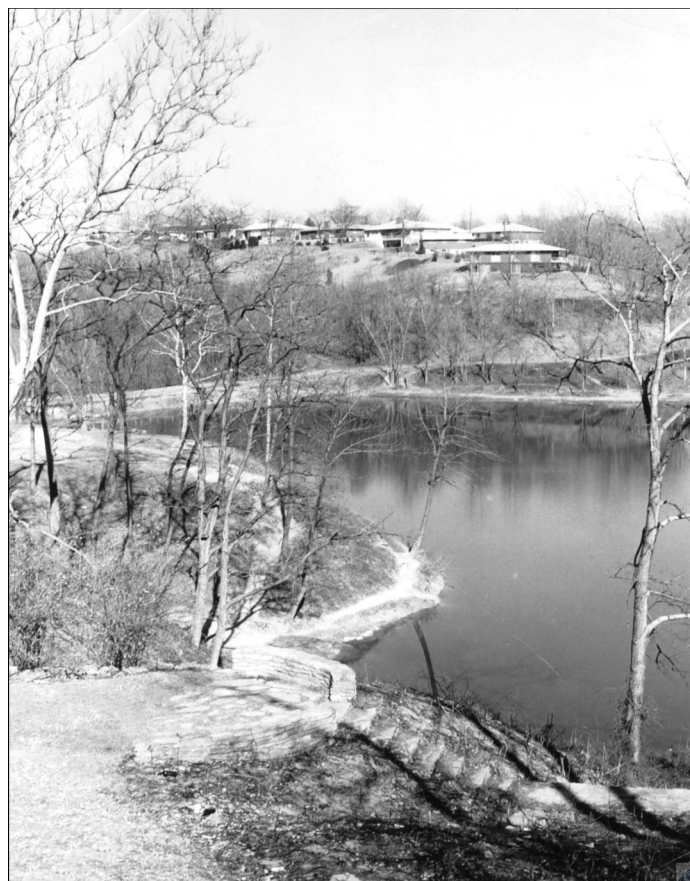
The City Commission in 1916 rejected the option of buying a quarrying site on Highland Avenue. Workhouse “prisoners” would quarry rocks “from the hillsides of Devou Park.” Rock debris would be piled for dam construction creating a lake. Overlooking West Covington, it became Prisoners Lake, a recreational haven for fishermen, ice skaters and others, a suspected site for drowning victims, and an occasional dump for suspects disposing of physical evidence.<sup>25</sup> The city of Park Hills, also adjoining Devou Park, was developed in the same time period as Kenton Hills. But dissimilar in scale, by 1940 Park Hills had 1,615 residents, Kenton Hills only 100.<sup>26</sup>

### Still Developing

Still a business owner in Ludlow, Weaver in 1931 got a Circuit Court judge to issue a temporary injunction prohibiting Ludlow from constructing a new incinerator at Sleepy Hollow Road. It would be a potential nuisance to the Protestant Children’s Home and to Weaver’s adjoining property. However a judge refused to make the injunction permanent. On property beyond its city limits at the time, Ludlow built a “\$30,000” incinerator.<sup>27</sup>

If a pending resolution were approved, Kenton Hills would have water service through 1100 feet of six-inch main on Wright Street from Second. But sometime later, Weaver the civil engineer urged Ludlow voters to reject a proposed bond issue for its own waterworks. It would, he said, increase current rates. Existing sewer outlets up river would contaminate the water. Influenced by Weaver in 1934 the superintendent of the Covington Water Works said he would recommend taking responsibility for water service to Kenton Hills and installing a booster pump for Devou Park. It would increase water pressure to West Covington and Ludlow.<sup>28</sup>

In 1938, an amended plat signed by Frank J. Kreinist, President, and Leon J. Lowenstein, Secretary, of “Kenton Hills Realty,” aimed to ensure that



Prisoner’s Lake, with Kenton Hills homes in the background

*Courtesy: Kenton County Public Library*

the newer portion of exclusively residential Kenton Hills would have minimum 35 foot setbacks. Later Kenton Hills Realty sold out to an investment company owned by Carl and Olga Wooten.<sup>29</sup>

Annexation by Covington became fact in 1965. Following passage of an annexation ordinance, Kenton Hills in 1962 retaliated by incorporating as a “city.” But Covington won the court battle for the 71 acres and 225 residences.<sup>30</sup>

For years now, the eyes of commuters crossing the River are drawn to hillside residences and to the Bluffs apartments (now condominiums) built in the 1960s facing the Ohio River from Kenton Hills. From expressway exits, residents of Kenton Hills drive through Devou Park. Typically from Park Lane just west of the Overlook and the Drees Pavilion they turn on to streets named Jerol and Jerome.

1. William Slacum Israel, bibliophile and historian, son of Israel L. (1804-1846) and Helen Adela Slacum Israel, grandson of Israel Ludlow (1765-1804), “founder” of Cincinnati, died age 90 in Cincinnati, survived by three nephews: Leo Ludlow,

# A Look Back at The Headlines

An on-going feature reliving local headlines.

This issue features:

The Kentucky Post – August 10, 1966.

## Local Headlines

Construction is well underway along both sides of West Fifth Street in Covington. On the southern side of the thoroughfare, two floors have been completed on a \$1.9 million senior citizen high rise apartment tower. That project is scheduled to be completed by September 1967. On the north side of the street, work continues on a \$4.5 million Internal Revenue Center data service center. That project, covering over 280,000 square-feet of space, it is said will employ 2,300 people at its peak.

A fire that began shortly after 5:00 in the morning trapped a woman and her two young daughters for a short time before firemen could free the trio from the burning building. The blaze was at 822 Scott Street and did extensive damage to the first floor. The three victims were checked at the scene but were not taken to the hospital.

## Advertisements

Both locations of Remke's Markets, at 2501 Dixie Highway and at 19th and Holman Streets, have chuck roast for 39 cents/lb, green beans – 2 lbs for 35 cents, and giant-size Ajax detergent for 65 cents.

The Marianne in Bellevue is one of many theaters showing *The Ten Commandments* starring Charlton Heston and Yul Brynner. All tickets are \$1.00. There is a double bill at both the Madison and the Florence. Elvis Presley stars in *Harum Scarum*, followed by Doris Day and Arthur Godfrey in the *Glass Bottom Boat*.

- Tulsa, OK. William Albert Ludlow, Pasadena, CA, Frederick Ludlow, Milwaukee, WI, a niece, Adela Ludlow, Madison, WI, and sister-in-law, Mrs. Margaret Ludlow, Wauwatosa, WI, *Cincinnati Historian Expires; Grandson of City's Founder*, *Cincinnati Enquirer*, July 31, 1931
2. *Ludlow Estate Trustee Quits*, *Kentucky Post*, December 13, 1933, page 6
3. Plat 393, September 12, 1925, Kenton County Courthouse, Covington; Plat 423, October, 1926; ad, "Come to Kenton Hills," *Kentucky Post*, June 19, 1926, page 3
4. "Physician Buys Home" (photo), *Kentucky Post*, July 16, 1926, page 9
5. *Buy Kenton Hills Mansion*, *Kentucky Post*, July 6, 1926, page 4
6. Ad, *Kentucky Post*, May 19, 1926, page 6
7. *Kenton Hills Anticipates Building Boom*, *Kentucky Post*, March 27, 1927, page 6; Kenton Hills Ad and article: *Kenton Hills is Fine Home Site*, *Kentucky Post*, April 3, 1927, page 2; *Cincinnatians Interested in Kentucky Property*, *Kentucky Post*, May 6, 1927, page 15; *For Fresh Air and Sunshine, Come to Kenton Hills*, (Sunday Ad) *Kentucky Post*, May 13, 1928, page 18
8. *New Street is Nearing Completion*, *Kentucky Post*, August 26, 1928, page 13; *Kenton Hills: New Road Places It Four Minutes From Street Car*, *Kentucky Post*, December 30, 1928, page 7
9. Jack Wessling, "Forrest, Edwin," *The Encyclopedia of Northern Kentucky*, edited by Paul A. Tencotte and James C. Claypool, Lexington, Kentucky, University Press of Kentucky, 2009, pages 357-358
10. *Plats Accepted by Planners*, *Kentucky Post*, September 17, 1929, page 1; *Prize Offered for Subdivision Name*, *Kentucky Post*, September 29, 1929, pg 25
11. Kenton Hills Subdivision Plat, September, 1925; October, 1926, Sunset Road Section, September 5, 1929
12. *Former Owner of Ludlow Lagoon Passes*, *Kentucky Times-Star*, August 14, 1939, page 1; *Jerome Weaver Services Set*, *Kentucky Post*, August 11, 1939, page 4; he died at his home, 312 Lake, Ludlow, 1939 (age 77) was buried in Xenia, Ohio
13. John M. Hunnicutt, *History of Ludlow*, sponsored by the Ludlow Volunteer Fire Department, 1935, pages 59-63; David E. Schroeder, "Ludlow," *The Encyclopedia of Northern Kentucky*, pages 567-568; Ludlow Street Directory
14. Terry W. Lehmann and Earl W. Clark, Jr., *The Green Line — The Cincinnati, Newport & Covington Railway*, Chicago, Central Electric Railfans' Association, 2000, pages 34-35
15. Robert J. Wimberg, *Amusement Parks of Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky*, Cincinnati, Ohio Bookstore, 2002
16. Robert J. Wimberg, *Amusement Parks*, 26 pages on the Ludlow Lagoon, black and white text and photos
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26. In 1926-27, Park Hills had a street directory; other population counts: Winston Park, 250; South Hills and Fort Wright, 600; Fort Mitchell, 602; Crescent Springs, 800; Bromley, 875; Park Hills, 1615; South Fort Mitchell, 2396; Erlanger, 2412, Elsmere, 2926; and Ludlow, 6186; 1940-41 street directory, Covington and Vicinity
27. *Restrain City*, *Kentucky Post*, August 15, 1931, page 1
28. *Bids on Traffic Lights to be Received*, *Kentucky Post*, April 29, 1928, page 1; *Ludlow Man Sees Bond Issue Evil*, *Kentucky Post*, November 2, 1931, page 3; *Ludlow Purchases Site for New Unit*, *Kentucky Post*, September 11, 1931, page 1; *New Water Supply Plan Under Study*, *Kentucky Post*, May 28, 1934, page 1
29. Amended Plat, July 1938, Kenton Hills Subdivision, February 16, 1950; deed book 292, page 405, July 31, 1941; deed book 308, page 344, October 2, 1943
30. "Kenton Hills," the *Encyclopedia of Northern Kentucky*, page 510; John Menzies, *Covington Wins Hilltop: Kenton Hills Disenchanted*, *Kentucky Enquirer*, July 8, 1965; Clarence Heitzman, *Kenton Hills Now Part of Covington*, *Kentucky Post*, September 24, 1965

## Then and Now



Here are two views of the western side of Dixie Highway at Orphanage Road in Ft. Mitchell. Left photo shows Frisch's Restaurant with a small bit of what is now the Greyhound Grill in the background.

Left photo courtesy Kenton County Public Library. Right photo courtesy Dr. Richard Cardosi.

## Mystery Photo

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



ANSWER:

Holmes Castle, c. 1900  
(now the campus of Holmes High School)

# Kenton County Historical Society

January/February 2014

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## I Bet You Didn't Know

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

January 4, 1815: The Kentucky Militia reached New Orleans with 2,500 men under the leadership of General John Thomas.

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

January 25, 1937: Network coverage of the "Great Flood" was created by a first-ever 3-way telephone hookup with WHAS talking to both the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) and the National Broadcasting Company (NBC) at the same time.

February 23, 1945: Pvt. Franklin Sousley of Ewing (Fleming County), Kentucky helped raise the American flag on Mt. Suribachi, Iwo Jima in World War II. Their picture became a symbol in American victory. Sousley was killed in action one month later.

*"On This Day In Kentucky" — Robert Powell*

## Programs and Notices

### Governor's Mansion Centennial

Next year will mark the 100th anniversary of the Governor's Mansion and the milestone will be recognized with a series of events to honor its architectural, social and political history. All Kentuckians are invited to take part in the activities, which will include both free and ticketed events. Plans include a centennial symposium, a reception marking the 50th anniversary of the Martin Luther King Jr. civil rights march in Frankfort, a Kentucky music entertainment weekend and special art exhibits.

A documentary, "Kentucky Governor's Mansion: A Century of Reflection," will have premieres at the Grand Theatre in Frankfort on January 15th and the Kentucky Theatre in Lexington on January 16th. It features interviews with former governors and members of their families, former and current mansion staff and notable Kentucky political figures. More details about the documentary, ticketing and other centennial will be released soon.

### Mark Your Calendars

The next Northern Kentucky Regional History Day is scheduled for March 22, 2014. Mark your calendars now to take part in one of the most important events of the year regarding local/regional history. Held at Northern Kentucky University, the day-long event will include numerous presentations on topics of local history, as well as a large display area with booths and tables manned by local history societies, book publishers, etc.

Speakers will present on popular subjects including Slavery and the Civil War, Indian and Pioneer history, genealogy and family history, as well as on some less common topics. Archeologist Jeannine Kreinbrink will do the opening presentation on local American Indian burial mounds. The scheduled workshop topics will include the Underground Railroad, preserving family papers, ghost houses of Covington, and the restoration of Linden Grove Cemetery.

Watch both our website: [www.kentoncountyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.kentoncountyhistoricalsociety.org), and the March/April Bulletin for additional information.