



Bulletin of the Kenton County Historical Society

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January/February

2011



Daniel Henry Holmes Hall
Ratcliff College - Cambridge, Massachusetts

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Daniel Henry Holmes Hall

Radcliffe College - Cambridge, Massachusetts

Carol A. Hudson

Upon graduating from Holmes High School, I thought I knew a little history about Daniel Henry Holmes. As students, we learned he had been the wealthy proprietor of D. H. Holmes Department Store in New Orleans, a local landowner, and patriarch of an immensely successful family. Holmesdale, his estate in the south of Covington, was purchased in 1915 by the Covington School Board.¹ The newly acquired thirty-two room mansion, “the Castle,” was used as the local high school until 1936. Much more was learned over the years, but only recently was the story of Daniel Henry Holmes Hall discovered.

So how did Radcliffe College, and later Harvard University, become part of the story? Radcliffe was founded in 1879 as an institution devoted solely to educating young women. At first, the school was known as Harvard Annex but the name was changed to Radcliffe College in 1898. Merging of Radcliffe and Harvard started in 1963 with the conferring of joint diplomas. Both schools signed a formal merger agreement in 1977, but not until 1999 did the two fully integrate. With that agreement, Daniel Henry Holmes Hall became part of the Harvard University residential system.² Through the guidance of both schools, Radcliffe College became Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study.³

Radcliffe College, one of the Seven Sister colleges, enjoyed great success as a women’s liberal arts college, but during the 1940s, a shortage of dormitory space presented a serious problem for future students.⁴ The cost of a new dormitory building was estimated at \$730,000. About that time, however, the school received a bequest of \$530,000, which would nearly pay for the dormitory. That bequest came from Mrs. Georgine Holmes Thomas, eldest daughter of Daniel Henry Holmes. With the monetary gift came the request that the new residence hall be named for her father.^{5/6}



Georgine Holmes, circa 1860
courtesy Kenton County Public Library

On March 8, 1950, *The Harvard Crimson* published the following description of Holmes Hall. “Designed especially to advance music facilities in the quadrangle, Holmes Hall will include additional practice rooms, and a living room in which small concerts can be given. The Annex’s musical collection, now located in the Yard library, will be moved to the new dorm. Holmes Hall will house 100 to 120 students in modern doubles. With the addition of this dormitory, all local students who wish to live at Radcliffe may do so, which will enlarge the number of students in residence at the college to 85% of the total enrollment.”⁷

The Boston firm of Maginnis and Walsh was chosen to design the new dormitory. It would closely resemble nearby Moors Hall, a four story, red brick

structure with a finished lower level. Double rooms were planned throughout the building. There would be a dining room, but residents would have to share the kitchen in Moors Hall. Another feature was a living room large enough to permit concerts and dances. Holmes Hall would be an undergraduate music dormitory and center for musical activities.⁸ The final cost of the building totaled \$750,000.⁹

Construction of Holmes Hall began in 1951 in a campus area known as Radcliffe Quadrangle. If you stood directly in front of Moors Hall on the Linnaean Street side, Holmes Hall was planned to the right of Moors Hall and would face Garden Street.¹⁰ Radcliffe alumnae and friends raised an additional \$225,000 to furnish the dormitory.¹¹ A concert grand piano was planned for the living room. Daniel Henry Holmes Hall was officially opened in 1952.¹²

The Radcliffe House system was introduced in 1961. Moors Hall, Holmes Hall, and Comstock Hall were assigned to North House.¹³ The appearance of each Hall was altered during renovations in the 1980s with the addition of wings to provide residents an indoor passage when traveling from building to building.¹⁴ In 1995, Harvard University changed the name of North House to Pforzheimer House to honor long time benefactors Carl and Lily Pforzheimer.¹⁵

Radcliffe College had been the recipient of the generosity of Mrs. Georgine Holmes Thomas as early as 1938, when she donated a large music collection.¹⁶ Music had been important in her life since childhood. Two references to a Georgine Holmes Thomas Fellowship have been located. The first concerned a trust, bequest and fellowship.¹⁷ The second indicated it was awarded to Roslyn Brogue, who had earned an M.A. from Radcliffe in 1943.¹⁸ *The Harvard Crimson*, dated April 16, 1959, reported a gift of \$657,133 had been received from the estate of the late Georgine Holmes Thomas. Correspondence between Radcliffe President W. K. Jordan and Stewart Mitchell referred to a portrait of her father.¹⁹ Whether or not it was a donation isn't indicated. Incidentally, during the early 1920s, Louisiana State Museum in New Orleans received the gift of an oil painting of Daniel Henry Holmes from Fred Evans of New Orleans.²⁰



Georgine Holmes Thomas, 1932

A Side Note

No doubt Stewart Mitchell fulfilled last wishes of his aunt Georgine Holmes Thomas. Throughout the years, the two had shared a close relationship. She and husband, Dr. Charles Henry Thomas, did not have children, so Stewart must have filled a void in her life. Her younger sister, Mary Eliza Holmes, married Charles Lucius Mitchell in 1879. She died in 1883 shortly after the birth of their only child. Charles Mitchell remarried in 1887 to May Suter of Cincinnati. Their fourth child was Robert Stewart Mitchell. In adulthood he was known as Stewart, not Robert. This is the same Stewart Mitchell who wrote a little book memorializing Georgine after her death in 1940.²¹

Stewart Mitchell was born and raised in Cincinnati. His father died in 1898 when Stewart was only

four years old. It is within reason to think Georgine played a part in providing the best education for Stewart. He was educated at Harvard, graduating *cum laude* in 1915. Two of his close friends and classmates were future writers, E. E. Cummings and John Dos Passos. Their friendships lasted a lifetime. In 1925, Stewart returned to Harvard University to pursue his doctorate in history. He went on to become editor of the *Dial*, managing editor of the *New England Quarterly*, and editor of the Massachusetts Historical Society. In 1947, he returned to the Historical Society as Director of the Society and Editor of Publications.²²

Endnotes

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We Need Your Help!

It is truly wonderful to be able to share such interesting stories about Northern Kentucky with our members. We know our hard work is greatly appreciated by the number of emails and letters we receive after each issue. However, membership dues and subscription income is not enough to cover our costs. Would you please consider a tax-deductible donation to the Kenton County Historical Society? Any amount would be greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Would You Like To Be Published?

The Kenton County Historical Society is always looking for stories for the *Bulletin* as well as *Northern Kentucky Heritage Magazine*.

To submit an article, send a paper copy by mail, or email it as a Word document attachment. Articles for the *Bulletin* should be no longer than 500 words and must have at least two references. Stories for the magazine should be at least 5,000 words and have endnotes. Related photos would help greatly.

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How Well Do You Know Your Neighbor?

The Story of Henry Hill

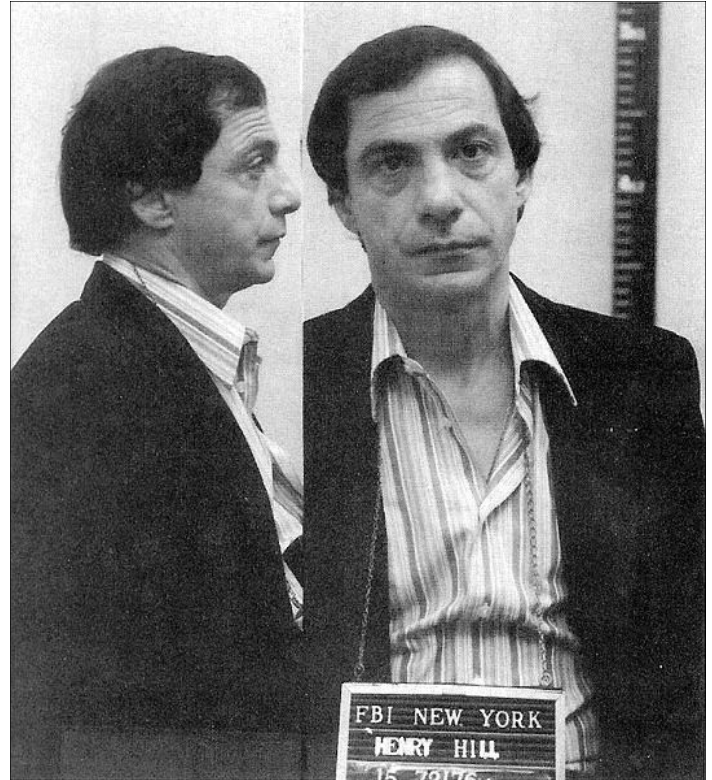
Robert D. Webster

The federal government's witness protection program was established under the Organized Crime Control Act of 1970. It offers protection for threatened witnesses before, during, and after a trial. If someone, an ex-mafia killer for instance, has information that can help the FBI or some other law enforcement agency, the program provides them with new legal documentation, such as a birth certificate and driver's license, as well as a monthly stipend – just until they get back on their feet in some secret location where they can start a whole new life.

But, what if you're an innocent, law-abiding citizen living in a nice, quiet subdivision with well-manicured lawns – and suddenly a new and unusually secretive neighbor moves in next door. You might start to wonder, "Are there mobsters among us?" It's not that crazy of a thought – as these people can and have been relocated everywhere!

This is the story of Henry Hill. You might not recognize the name, but you most likely know him. Henry Hill is considered the most famous mob "rat" of them all. He was immortalized in the book *Wiseguy*, written by crime reporter Nicholas Pileggi, as well as in the 1990 Martin Scorsese movie *Goodfellas*, in which Hill is portrayed by Ray Liotta. Critic Roger Ebert called the film, "...the best mob movie ever."

Henry Hill was born June 11, 1943. His father, Henry Hill, Sr., was an Irish-American electrician, and his mother, Carmella, was a Sicilian-American. Henry, his parents, and his seven siblings were considered a poor working class family, living in East New York, Brooklyn. From an early age, Henry admits admiring local mobsters, especially those that socialized across the street from his home, who included Paul Vario, a capo in the infamous Lucchese crime family. In his early teens, Hill began running errands at Vario's cabstand, shoeshine stand, and piz-



Henry Hill during his 1980 arrest in New York City

zeria. Hill's first real experience with gang life began with parking cars and doing other odd jobs for the Lucchese Syndicate. His first arrest came when he attempted to use a stolen credit card to buy tires at a Texaco gas station. Refusing to say anything to the police, he earned the respect of Lucchese crime family associate, James "Jimmy the Gent" Burke, who saw great potential in young Henry.

In 1963, Hill returned to New York after a three-year stint with the United States Army, and began the most notorious phase of his criminal career. Hill, along with Burke, Tommy DeSimone, and several others in Burke's gang, had great success with hijacking trucks, selling stolen goods, importing and selling untaxed cigarettes, and engaging in loan sharking and bookmaking. Besides committing numerous

mob-related murders, the group also planned several airport robberies, including the Air France Robbery in 1967 and the huge Lufthansa heist in 1978. Jimmy Conway, another character in *Goodfellas*, is based on Jimmy Burke and was played by actor Robert De Niro, while Joe Pesci's role as Tommy DeVito is based on DeSimone. While many films based on real lives and events are filled with fabricated stories and fiction, *Goodfellas* is widely known as being true to the facts.

Henry Hill married Karen Friedman in 1965, and after the birth of their two children, Gregg and Gina, the family settled in an apartment in Island Park, New York. Both Burke and Hill served time in prison in the mid 1970s for extortion, having severely pistol-whipped Gaspar Ciacco, a Tampa, Florida gambler who owed union friends of theirs a large gambling debt. Both were paroled around 1978.

Mob boss Paul Vario soon learned that Hill had been dealing drugs while in prison, which was not allowed as a member of the Lucchese gang. Vario had set the "no drugs" rule because prison sentences for drug dealers were so long that many mobsters who were arrested would turn and become informants in an attempt to lighten their jail time. Nonetheless, Hill developed a massive interstate drug ring within months of his release, along with Paul Mazzei, whom he had met in prison. Soon, Hill and Mazzei were wholesaling marijuana, heroin, cocaine, and Quaaludes, and were reaping enormous amounts of money – without the knowledge of the Vario gang, and without giving Vario his required cut. The duo also organized a point-shaving scheme with members of Boston College's basketball team, which would later evolve into a major scandal.

Meanwhile, Jimmy Burke masterminded the Lufthansa heist, the theft of more than \$6 million in cash and jewels from the Lufthansa cargo terminal at John F. Kennedy Airport in December of 1978. It was the largest robbery in the United States at the time. Since the control of the airport was split between the Lucchese crime family and the Gambino family, special permission had to be asked for and received from the Gambino capo that controlled the airport: John Gotti. Burke hired nearly a dozen ac-

complices and the robbery was pulled off without much difficulty. Immediately following the job, however, Burke became increasingly paranoid. It seems he greatly underestimated the amount of the take – only expecting a few hundred thousand – and when he realized the payout was more than \$6 million, he knew there would be problems. Assuming someone in his gang would eventually talk, he simply began killing them all – then he started killing anyone who may have had any information about the heist.

Although not a participant, Henry Hill was well aware of the robbery, as well as exactly who was involved. After the murders of several of his closest friends, Hill was certain his name was also on Burke's long list. On April 27, 1980, Hill was arrested on various narcotics charges, bonded out of jail, and shortly afterwards, was arrested as a material witness in the Lufthansa robbery. He was, by this time, convinced that two of his former partners planned to have him killed: Paul Vario, for dealing drugs and bringing the good Lucchese family name into the narcotics world; and Jimmy Burke, to prevent Hill from implicating him in the Lufthansa heist. This was confirmed by surveillance tape played to Hill by federal investigators, in which Burke tells Vario they need to have Hill "whacked."

Hill was offered a deal and chose to become an informant to avoid possible execution by the mafia, and to avoid prison time for his own crimes. His later testimony led to more than 50 convictions, including those of Burke and Vario. The four-member Hill family was taken into a federal courthouse in New York for a short meeting, and then was whisked back to their home in the company of six federal agents. The family was given several large black garbage bags and was told they had just one hour to fill them with whatever they wanted to keep. None of them knew where they were going and none of them had ever heard of the Witness Protection Program. They spent several weeks in a variety of hotels before being placed in a "quaint little cottage somewhere in the Hamptons." Each day, Henry was escorted back to New York for interviews and to testify. His wife, Karen, recalls asking the agents how long they would have to stay away, "...three or four months?" The reply, "You're never coming back. This is forever."

In less than one month, the feds had received information that their secret was already in jeopardy and the decision was made to move the family again. It wasn't until they were on their way to the airport that the actual destination was disclosed – Omaha, Nebraska. The decision was also made to change the family's names. Karen and young Gina tried to make a game of it, finally choosing the surname Haymes. Henry Hill became Peter Haymes, while the rest of the family kept their first names.

Son Gregg, then thirteen, remembers one of their first nights in Nebraska, dining out at, ironically, Godfather's Pizza – a restaurant chain not found anywhere near New York. Daughter Gina, then eleven, recalls that they didn't fit in very well at all in Nebraska – not with her father's horrific cursing and the entire family's strong New York accent. The family moved from motel to motel, but the kids tried to make friends and carry on a normal life. Gina took skating and horse-riding lessons, while Gregg involved himself heavily in tennis, even finding some success in local tournaments.

Gina was the first to have to explain her family's unusual situation to an outsider. At one of the motels, she became friends with a girl about her own age. The girl explained that her family had just moved to Omaha because her dad was transferred there with his job. Gina explained that her dad had been transferred too. When asked about her dad's job, Gina explained, "He works for the government." As Gina recalls, "It wasn't as if I could say, 'He testifies against mobsters who are trying to kill him.'" Gregg remembers, "There is nothing more frightening than knowing someone is trying to kill you... except for knowing that they are more than capable of actually doing it."

Peter (Henry) continued his trips to New York to help federal prosecutors. He spent his time in Omaha, however, selling drugs and doing very little hiding. He failed miserably at keeping the family secret. Gina still remembers a conversation between marshals and her father one afternoon in the early summer of 1980, "There's been a breach. They know you're here." The family was gone by daybreak. It was later learned that at the time, the price on Hill's

head was a half-million dollars, and that several private detectives, as well as two distant relatives, were on the hunt.

The family would be uprooted a couple more times after Omaha, finally finding some peace and quiet in Redmond, Washington. However, it seems Henry just could not stay out of trouble or keep his big mouth shut, so the feds eventually kicked the whole family out of the Witness Protection Program in August of 1984. Today, the two children are grown and out on their own. Going back to their real names, Gregg and Gina Hill co-authored the book *On the Run: a Mafia Childhood*, which offers a wonderful look inside the turmoil they experienced growing up with a mafia-man as a father. Henry and a second wife now live in Malibu, California.

You may be wondering what all of this has to do with Northern Kentucky history – after all, this publication is suppose to deal only with stories pertaining to Kenton County. Surely you don't think this author would let you down.

The summer of 1980

When the Hill family (then the Haymes family) left Omaha, Nebraska, in the summer of 1980, they boarded a plane in just as much of a rush as they had done when leaving New York. Gregg recalled the humor of having agents whisk them through security checkpoints at the airport using fake names. "I just thought it was hilarious that I suddenly had a fake – fake name." In a few short hours, they were in Lexington, Kentucky. Peter (Henry), however, was furious. There was a federal prison near Lexington and he was sure he would be spotted if he stayed in Central Kentucky. At a phone booth in the airport, he called his assigned contacts in Washington and demanded a change. Within two hours, the agents who had accompanied the family from Nebraska had received new orders. The family and their escorts were in a passenger van headed north along I-75.

Although the exact name of the hotel was not named, by the two children's detailed description of the facility, their first few weeks in Northern Kentucky were spent in the comfort of the Drawbridge Inn in Fort Mitchell. By the time the family arrived,

their new identities were already in place. Peter (Henry) became Martin Todd Scott. Son Gregg flipped his first and middle names and was Matthew Gregg Scott, while his sister, Gina, and mother, Karen, kept their first names.

Matthew (Gregg) was not at all excited about living in Kentucky. He states in the book, "I knew Kentucky – dirt roads, hillbillies, people talking funny and chewing tobacco. I'd seen *Deliverance*." Gina, however, was just the opposite. She looked forward to what she hoped would be their last move. "Horses and lots of land... people with farms and stables, cowboy hats and funny accents... I was ready." She actually studied people at the hotel – how they acted and talked – she wanted to be able to fit in better in Kentucky than they did in Nebraska.

The family soon found a wonderful townhouse, situated in a cul-de-sac on the outskirts of Independence, Kentucky. "There were a bunch of these homes, all English Tudor-style, and all clumped together on the same street," Gina recalled. The same old, "my dad got transferred" story continued as the official lie told to neighbors and the kids' new friends.

In September 1980, Matthew, then fifteen years old, started freshman classes at Simon Kenton High School. Gina, then twelve, attended Twenhofle Middle School. Matthew remembers well the big yellow school bus with "Kenton County Schools" on the side, and the unpleasant fact that he was suddenly a "Pioneer" which was the school's mascot. He was embarrassed to be in what he termed "Daniel Boone country" and was equally upset to be teased by fellow classmates for not liking country music. Matthew also recalled an early incident at Simon Kenton, when his teacher called out, "Matthew...Matthew.." as many as six or seven times before he realized, "Hey, that's me!" Other memories etched firmly in his mind were that all the students wore blue jeans and flannel shirts, and that many wore blue suede jackets with the letters FFA (Future Farmers of America) embroidered on them – "...a sort of letterman jacket for kids who wanted to grow up to be farmers. You wouldn't find that in Queens!" Gina remembers having several good friends in the neighborhood, but her

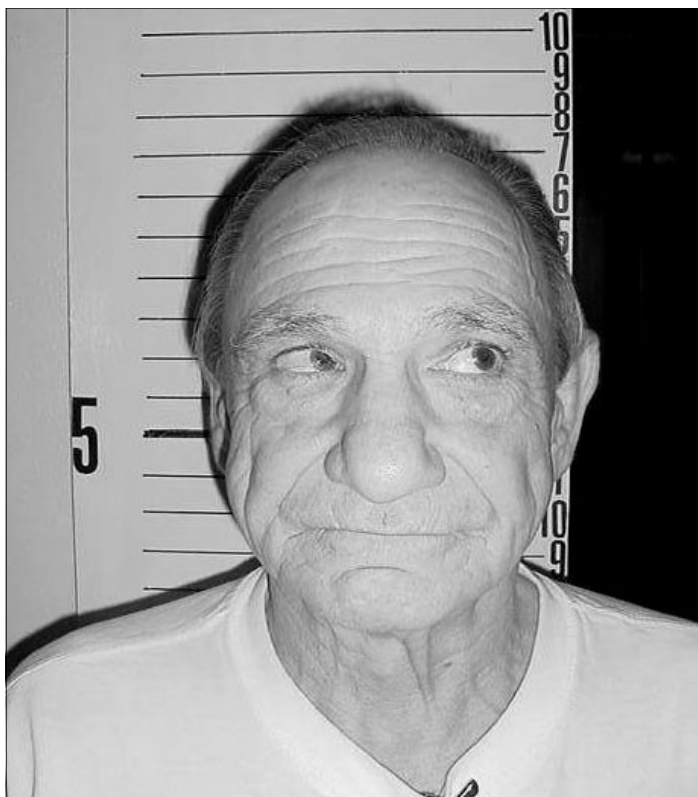
best memory is when her father fulfilled her dream of owning a horse. Bananas, as she named him, would become her closest friend.

Just like in Nebraska, Martin (Henry) couldn't keep quiet. His first mistake in Independence came in January 1981. Just before the Boston College ordeal came up in the federal courts, to which he would testify, he sold his story to *Sports Illustrated* magazine – it ran on February 16, 1981. The feds went ballistic! How does a man who is suppose to be hiding give interviews to a national magazine? Agents knew that if the reporter knew how to get in touch with Henry Hill – so did the mob!

Henry's second mistake was going into business for himself. He purchased an old trolley car in Cincinnati, rented space in the basement of Union Terminal, and purchased two rare Belgian draft horses. Soon, the Queen City Trolley was being pulled up and down the streets of town taking people on tours of the city. Things were going fine until PM Magazine called. This was a television program that stations all over the country contributed to, filming short features that were usually shown regionally. If the feature was interesting enough, however, it would be shown all across the country! When they asked to film Martin Scott (Henry Hill)... he simply said, "OK!" Gina recalls that her dad's interview was done with the help of mom's home perm and fake mustache, but it was still obvious he was Henry Hill. Luckily, the feature never ran. The trolley business closed within weeks.

Henry Hill just didn't understand the Witness Protection Program. He (Martin) was arrested in April of 1981, after being found drunk with a "lady friend." Three months later, the arrest was for writing bad checks. Possibly the last straw: he didn't really purchase the Belgian horses for his trolley sight-seeing business – he had stolen them.

Not long after the 1981 school year started for Gina and Matthew (Gregg), their lives were once again turned topsy-turvy. Gina remembers the day she stepped off the school bus, only to find federal marshals on her front porch. Local police, ready to arrest Martin Scott on a variety of charges, had



Henry Hill after an arrest in 1994

learned of his true identity and had notified federal agents. The family was gone within hours, on their way to Redmond, Washington. Most of the kids' new-found friends, as well as those in the neighborhood, still have no idea where they went so quickly.

It's been thirty years since the family of one of this nation's most notorious mobsters secretly lived in Kenton County. It appears that no one questioned the family's background while they were here. Gregg and Gina both later admitted that they had revealed their secret to just one friend each, though it seems those friends kept quiet, since this remarkable story is not widely known in the region. The real question, however, remains, "How well do you know *your* neighbor?"

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A Look Back at The Headlines

An on-going feature reliving local headlines

This issue features:

The Kentucky Post and Times-Star – June 20, 1969.

Holmes Band Wins National Title

The Holmes High School band forged a thrilling combination of flawless marching and concert shows to walk away with the top spot in the Virginia Beach (Virginia) Music Festival. The 84 bandsmen bested 21 other bands from 10 states for the National Championship.

The Bulldog band, bedecked in brilliant red, white and blue uniforms, so awed the judges of the contest that it received the top rating from each in all three categories.

Over 2,500 other band members tried to out-march, outplay, and out dress the Holmesmen, but director James Copenhaver's intense practice style and the band's ability to perform flawlessly under pressure were simply unbeatable qualities. Copenhaver received a large trophy, a gold medal for each of his band members, and a check for \$1,500 to help defray the cost for the band to return next year as the nation's Honor Band.

Richard Williams, school principal, said a victory celebration is planned for the band's return at 7 p.m. tomorrow at the fieldhouse and the public is welcome. Williams said he was, "thrilled and extremely proud of the band's success" and that the band members were "...a credit to their parents, the school, and the city."

Advertisements

Madison Theater, Covington: Peter Pan

Robertson's Restaurant, Expressway Plaza:

Chicken take-out special for \$3.65
includes 12 pieces, slaw, fries and hush puppies

Ronnin Einhaus - A Tribute

Karl Lietzenmayer

"There is no limit to the good a man can do if he doesn't care who gets the credit," - *Judson Branch*

It is with sad heart that we report the loss of a dear friend and colleague. On December 2, our board chairman, Ronnin Einhaus, suddenly passed away. All of us at the Kenton County Historical Society are speechless, devastated and casting about for direction on how to replace this fine man. His organizing skills, inclusiveness and capability of moving people into action were truly amazing.

Born in Cincinnati to Henry and Mary Einhaus on November 12, 1946, he was one of five children. Retiring from the U.S. Postal Service, he literally thrust his energy into service for his community. Ron Einhaus came to the board of the Kenton County Historical Society in April 2003. His gentle take-charge style was immediately refreshing and over the years of his leadership, the Kenton Historical Society developed into one of the most competent in the Commonwealth.

When the Society monthly programs became stale and ill-attended, he networked and developed a new series of monthly presentations offered by Baker-Hunt foundation which have proven enormously popular. These presentations are so successful they are filmed by the telecommunications board and broadcast on public access channels of Insight and archived at the public library.

His love and expertise of photography found his creations on line each week called "Midweek Photo Break" where Ron would choose interesting subject matter to expose us a little more thoroughly to our environment. His photography assisted many organizations such as Friends of Covington Awards

There is hardly a community service organization which hasn't been touched by Ron Einhaus. When Covington began to consider celebrating their Bicentennial for 2015, Ron organized a committee of city leaders to assist the Commission and City Manager

Larry Klein in organizing the events. He was also active in assisting Behringer-Crawford programs, having great enjoyment running the Holiday Trains.

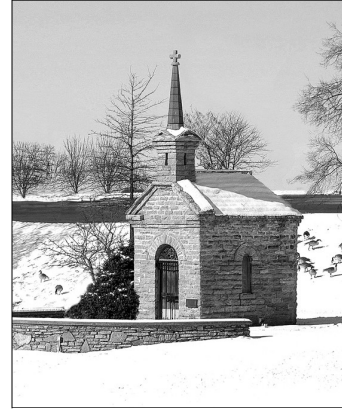


Ronnin Einhaus (1946-2010)

Ron was active with the Suspension Bridge fundraising and Roebling Fest. A resident of Botany Hills neighborhood of West Covington, he wrote a history of this neighborhood and remained active in their organization. He and his son Chris had just finished the story of his wife Christine's family, the Pappas, and the former Lily's Candy of Covington. This story appeared in the most recent issue of *Northern Kentucky Heritage*. It is sad that Ron did not see this story in print.

A dedicated member of St. John's Congregational Church, he produced the weekly bulletin for the congregation. Our sincerest condolences go out to his wife Christine, children Ronnin, Jr., Greta, Christopher, Dustin, and Melissa, as well as his ten grandchildren.

Then and Now



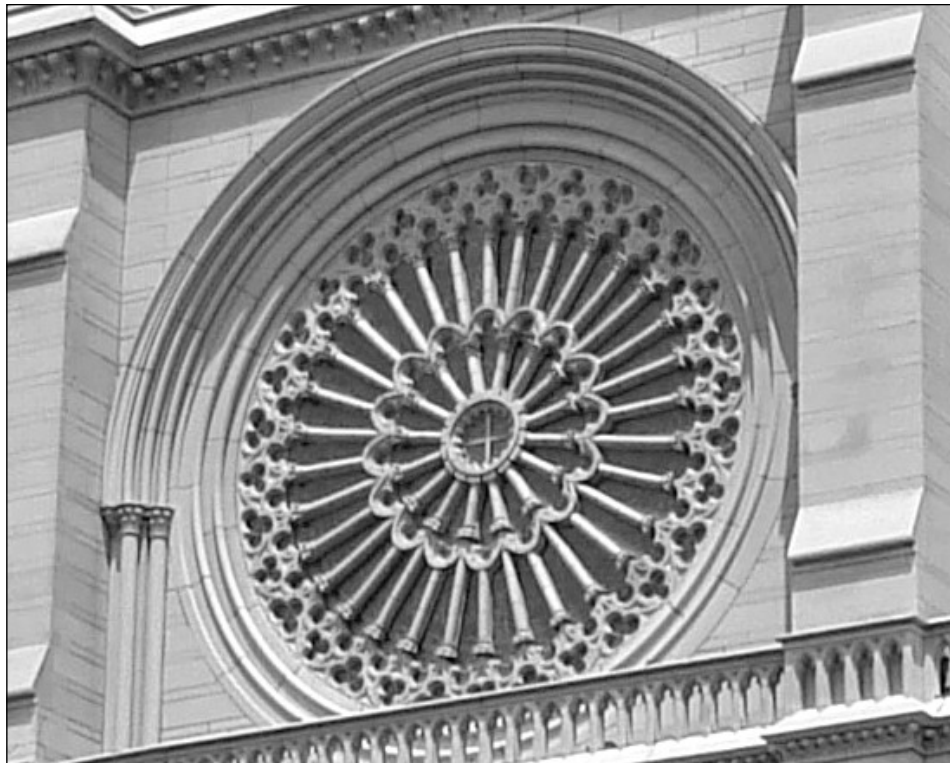
Left: Monte Casino Chapel, abandoned by monks on the South Covington hillside.

Right: Refurbished chapel relocated to the campus of Thomas More College.

Left photo courtesy the Kenton County Public Library. Right photo courtesy Bob Webster

Mystery Photo

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



ANSWER:

Front of St. Mary's Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington.

Kenton County Historical Society

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ARTICLES FROM BACK ISSUES ARE INDEXED ON OUR WEBSITE!

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\$20.00 per year

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Dr. Richard Cardosi, George Gressle,
Richard Johannemann,
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Robert Webster (Editor), and
Ex officio - Karl Lietzenmayer

I Bet You Didn't Know

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

September 2, 1862: General E. Kirby Smith moved 11,000 Confederate troops into Lexington after his victory at Richmond.

September 8, 1775: Daniel Boone arrived at Boonesborough with his family beginning the settlement for Kentucky. On the same date, the first female residents of Kentucky arrived at Harrodsburg.

September 22, 1902: The first KY State Fair opened at Louisville's Churchill Downs.

October 1, 1794: The state's first post offices were opened at Lexington, Louisville, Bardstown and Frankfort.

October 8, 1829: While drilling for water near Burkesville, Martin Beatty discovered oil. Incredibly, this was the world's first oil well.

"On This Day In Kentucky" — Robert Powell

Programs and Notices

2011 History Day — March 19th

History Day will be here before you know it, and its never too early to mark your calendar! NKU will once again host the event, the highlight of the year for local history buffs.

A few of the topics for this years presentations include: German Americans in the Civil War, Migration Routes into Kentucky, Slavery in Northern Kentucky Churches, The Beard Family, Researching the Underground Railroad, and Fort Mitchell's Anniversary. Dozens of historical organizations will also be present with table displays. Call John Boh at (859) 491-0490 for tickets and further information.

Six@Six Lecture Series Continues

Two lectures remain in the Six@Six series, sponsored by NKU's Scripps Howard Center for Civic Engagement. Each event is at 6:00 p.m. and is \$6.00 at the door. For more information, phone: (859) 572-7847 or log onto <http://sixatsix.nku.edu>

March 31 - Simple Gifts: Frontier Shakers in the Ohio River Valley

Presenter: Carol Medlicott, assistant professor, Dept. of History and Geography
Location: Behringer-Crawford Museum, Devou Park, Covington

April 13 - The Marriage of Music and Word: Rodgers & Hammerstein's Carousel

Presenter: Mark Hardy, associate professor, Dept. of Theater and Dance
Location: The Carnegie Visual and Performing Arts Center, 1028 Scott, Covington

Behringer-Crawford Museum

Upcoming events at this wonderful museum in Devou Park include:

- * 19th Annual Holiday Train Display (only a few days left).
- * Here's to Your Health: The Development of Healthcare in Northern Kentucky — a fascinating look over the past 150 years ('til mid January).
- * Play Ball! Knothole Baseball in Northern Kentucky (March 18th to June 5th). This exhibit explores the important history and impact that knothole baseball has had on the residents of Northern Kentucky over the past 75 years. The exhibit is sponsored in part by the Northern Kentucky Sports Hall of Fame, the Powell Crosley Kid Glove Foundation, and the Cincinnati Reds Community Fund.

For more information, contact the museum at (859) 491-4003
or online at www.bcmuseum.org