

KENTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Bulletin

July 1996



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Site of 109 Year Old Tradition**

NOTICES

Kenton Officers From 1776 TO 1888

In 1884, in the Daily Commonwealth newspaper, O. J. Wiggins listed over 100 names of court officers and legislators primarily from Kenton County but also Campbell County before 1840 when the region was one county. Recently John Boh compiled brief, biographical "abstracts" of each and arranged them alphabetically.

It could be a wonderful help for your research.

Cost: \$2.00, including mailing.

Needed: Volunteers

Computer Skills KCHS has numerous handwritten research projects which we would like to publish. We need someone who can enter this data onto computer disk so that we can transfer them to publishing form. If you have the time and no computer, the Society's computer is available.

Do you have an interest in old photos? The Society wants to collect, label, preserve, and keep old photos, which may have historical significance, in our files for possible use in the magazine or other historical display events. We need someone who has ideas on how to publicize the need for old photos; someone to collect, label and file the photos.

If you have the skill or the interest for either of these projects, please call Karl Lietzenmayer, 261-2807 or John Boh, 491-0490 (H), or 292-2124.

FOR SALE

✓Kenton County 1860 Index — Reduced from \$15 to \$10

✓George Roth History of Trinity Church, Covington- hardbound, 300 pages, indexed, 20 pages of black and white and color pictures and illustrations. Cost \$10 plus \$2 postage.

✓7 X 7 Color 1947 Photo of the Kentucky Parlor Streetcar.

KENTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Northern Kentucky Heritage Magazine

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Kenton County Historical Society membership dues are \$10 per year; \$5 for students and Senior Citizens.

Subscriptions to Northern Kentucky Heritage Magazine, a semi-annual magazine of regional history covering ten counties, are \$12 a year for members; \$15 a year for non-members

To subscribe to the magazine or become a member of KCHS, please mail check to KCHS, P. O. Box 641, Covington, KY 41012

Editor of KCHS bulletin: Jo Ann Brown

History of St. Ann's Roman Catholic Church

On July 18 of this year, St. Ann's Roman Catholic Church begins the 109th year of its novena to St. Ann. The church is famous for this 9-day event which is reported to be a shrine where miraculous healings have taken place. The faithful come from all over to attend the last day's procession around the church in West Covington.

When St. Ann's Parish was first organized in 1860, the little community of West Covington, then known as Economy, had a mere 500 inhabitants.

Before 1860, catechism classes were taught by a Mr. Patrick Monahan because there was no church or resident priest. Economy's Catholics had to travel long distances to attend Mass. They went to St. Mary's Cathedral, then on 8th Street in Covington, or took the ferry to St. Patrick's Church in Cincinnati.

The first Mass of record was offered in Economy by The Reverend Thomas R. Butler, pastor of the Cathedral. In answer to a sick call, Father Butler brought the requisites for offering Mass with him. He said Mass in the Callahan home next door to the sick person on Short John Street.

From then until the completion of the first building of St. Ann's Church in 1862, Mass was said regularly in a little one-story frame cottage rented from the Burns family at the corner of Main (Parkway) and High Streets.

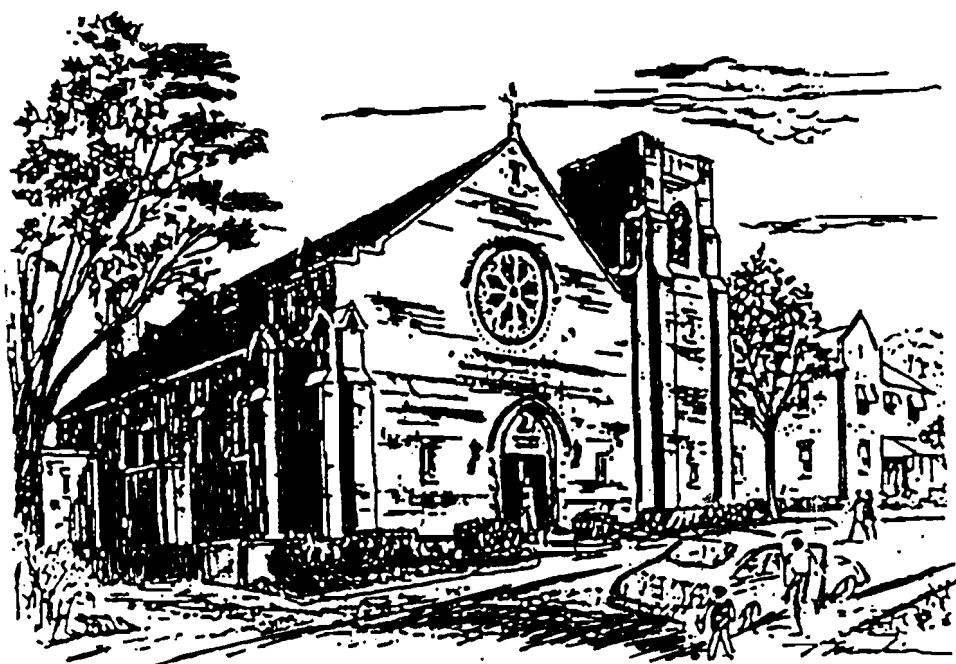
Bishop Carroll of the Diocese of Covington, hesitant about sanctioning a new church, had to be convinced by a committee of Catholics from Economy that a church was needed there.

On Sunday, June 3, 1860, in the presence of a large gathering of the faithful from Covington and Newport, Bishop Carroll laid the cornerstone for the new church. The men of the parish worked on the construction of the first little St. Ann's by lantern and moonlight after working 8 to 10 hours a day at their own jobs. The raging Civil War saw distressing poverty in the parish, and completion of the building had to be postponed.

In 1864, Bishop Carroll appointed The Reverend Adrian Egglemeers as first resident pastor. On his arrival he found few Catholics and an unfinished church. During his pastorate of 11 years, he saw the church completed as well as a rectory, Sisters' home, and a two-story school. When he left St. Ann's in 1875, there was a large congregation and the parish was thriving with 150 children in the school.

St. Ann's drew parishioners from the west end of Covington as well as Ludlow which eventually spawned St. Patrick's at 5th and Philadelphia and St. James Parish in Ludlow.

In 1888, a French Canadian priest, The Reverend Louis G. Clermont, arrived at St. Ann's. He established a shrine dedicated to St. Ann with a relic from Rome said to be from a rock of St. Ann's tomb from Jerusalem. This began a tradition of novenas to St. Ann which has continued to this day, 109 years. The 9-day



event begins on July 18, and on the last day, July 26, thousands of devotees of the Saint carry her statue and lighted candles through the streets of Covington.

During Father Clermont's tenure, the front wall of the school began to give way, causing much worry, concern, and expense over the years. After useless expenditures, the school was torn down to make way for a new structure dedicated in September 1908.

A new church building was erected by Father Thomas B. Ennis, its cornerstone laid on August 30, 1931, the original cornerstone from the old 1860 church. The structure was dedicated June 9, 1932.

A completely modern school was completed June 1, 1957, and dedicated the following October. The building presently houses a very fine day care facility.

St. Ann's has had 13 priests in its 136-year history. Now, since there is a shortage of Roman Catholic priests, Sister Berenice Janszen has taken on the duties of Pastoral Administrator of St. Ann's beginning this year.

Letters to the Editor

On The Baker-Hunt House (May)

My mother, Margaret Mae Fleming Carson (b. 1911) remembers visiting her father, Raleigh West Fleming (d. 1924) on the third floor of the Baker-Hunt house at 620 Greenup during a period when the home rented rooms to boarders [Margaret was living with a foster family after the disappearance of her mother in 1913]. She rode the streetcar from Latonia to visit and occasionally eat dinner with her father and the other boarders.

Her early memories place this time ca. 1918-1919. The landlady was my great aunt Miss Alice Fleming.

This memory coincides with an obvious gap in documented events during the period 1898-1922 at 620 Greenup as recorded in *Baker-Hunt Foundation* by Harry R. Stevens published in 1942.

Peggy Carson Lietzenmayer
Covington, Kentucky

A Reader from Pennsylvania Has Questions

Got 2 questions for you. (1) Where La Salle used to be in Covington, at one time, used to be a school in business education for women that was begun/started by Patience Allen Martin (b. 10 July 1774 d. 30 January 1875 Kenton County, Kentucky) What can you tell me about this place? Also, (2) where is White's Station in Kenton County and what was it?

Joyce M. Riedlin
Stewartstown, Pennsylvania

KCHS Notices on back page

**Kenton County Historical Society
P. O. Box 641
Covington, Kentucky 41012**

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