



Bulletin of the Kenton County Historical Society

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

July / August

2016



**Struggle for the Suburbs:
The Annexation Wars
of Covington, Kentucky**

Struggle for the Suburbs: The Annexation Wars of Covington, Kentucky

Paul James Kleier, III

Introduction

During the decades following World War II, suburbs came into vogue as alternatives to urban life and caused decline to begin in many cities across America, as the inhabitants who could afford to do so left metropolitan centers. To combat this decline, many cities turned to annexation as a way to recapture more affluent residents and their associated tax revenue. Annexation attempts became more than simply issues of funding, however. The process involved not only a shifting of borders and jurisdictions, but also contentious issues of citizenship and democratic values. This paper examines the causes, course, and consequences of annexation in a particular case: that of Covington, Kentucky. This city's annexation battles had their roots in the 1950s and by the 1970s involved a number of lawsuits, annexations enacted and undone, new state laws, and impassioned citizens. These conflicts are an integral part of Kenton County history and provide insight into the study of annexation in general. Although a court decision of the time described the annexation wars as "too complicated even to attempt to describe here," this essay seeks to interpret the causes, nature, and results of Covington's annexation wars.¹

Historical Background

Covington was founded in 1815 at the intersection of the Ohio and Licking Rivers in Northern Kentucky. The maiden city in Kenton County, Covington underwent growth, decline, and resurgence in the ensuing 140 years, as the growing population spread and founded smaller communities around Covington's official borders. A city in America until this time would typically increase in population and size until it ran against these neighboring, usually unincorporated, communities. In many cases these communities did not have the means to provide the services for themselves that were expected by this stage in their development and which the larger cities

could afford to offer. This gave small communities an incentive to accept annexation to the larger city in exchange for such benefits as police protection, fire protection, water provision, and road maintenance. The New Deal, however, saw an increase in government aid to smaller communities through the Works Progress Administration and Public Works Administration, enabling communities to develop and fund services that they would otherwise have been incapable of providing for themselves. In Kenton County, Covington, and its neighboring suburbs, took advantage of the opportunity to fund municipal improvements for streets, sewers, parks, waterworks, and even the building of schools.² This meant that the impetus for small Kenton County neighborhoods to accept annexation, in this case to Covington, no longer existed.

Seeing no clear benefit to the annexations, the inhabitants of the communities were inclined to fight the loss of their autonomy when Covington pursued annexation. While smaller towns no longer "needed" annexation as they might have before the New Deal, Covington stood to gain additional income, a much-needed image boost, and a population jump through various annexations. The annexation wars came after a difficult period for Covington. The city had endured a slew of leaders willing to permit perceived immoral pursuits such as gambling and who also cooperated with illegal interests such as the Cleveland Syndicate. Gambling was such a pervasive problem that one investigation of the entire state of Kentucky concluded that "...grand juries are in session for a total of about 27 days each year and the rest of the time gambling continues unhindered."³ Places like the Kenton Club, Press Club, Gold Horseshoe, and Turf Club were a just a few of the illegal operations in Covington, not to mention that "it was estimated that there were 1,500 slot machines in Kenton County."⁴ Through gambling and a disregard for Pro-

hibition, Covington [as well as neighboring Newport] isolated itself — ignored by the rest of conservative Kentucky and seen by Cincinnatians as a playground, where all types of vice were available.⁵

In 1950, Covington city leadership started an annexation campaign, setting up much of the county for a tumultuous “Thirty Years War,” which lasted until 1980. It ignited citizens’ passions, changed the political landscape of Kenton County, frustrated cartographers, and enveloped city and state politicians as well as workaday citizens into what some believed to be a fight for their independence.

Early Skirmishes

Because Covington was providing services to nearby communities for which it was not fairly compensated, the city commission offered its smaller neighbors a choice: pay a larger, more appropriate rate for the fire protection service that was being provided or accept annexation. Resistance to annexation was immediately encountered. Inhabitants of communities just south of Covington like Winston Park, Forest Hills, and Kenton Vale did not want to lose their community identity or succumb to what they perceived as the authoritarian behavior of Covington. Rejecting the option of annexation and accepting that they faced a loss of services, each community behaved differently to find a way around Covington’s ultimatum. Kenton Vale collected the money to pay for continued service from Covington while Forest Hills and Winston Park leaders contemplated merging together in order to have a greater chance of affording coverage. Regardless of how communities tried to ward off annexation, “they would go to any ends to avoid annexation to Covington.”⁶

The causes for rejecting annexation are as important as the causes for pursuing it. Although there were economic disparities between some communities, class differences were not found to be major factors in the proceedings. Instead, a key factor for suburbanites was avoiding higher taxes. In addition, many sought to avoid entanglement with Covington’s bad reputation and wanted to preserve their communities because they liked to “..live in their small towns where they can know officials personally, and where they can live their lives, as they see it, relatively free

from regulation.”⁷ Reasons that compelled resistance in places like Winston Park and Forest Hills are nearly identical to the ones that would spur other portions of Kenton County to action in coming decades.

Although little lasting action took place right away, the topic of annexation was a frequent one in the city of Covington and its neighbors. For over a decade, Covington city officials deliberated about decisions to annex many contiguous neighborhoods and communities including Winston Park, Forest Hills, Sunny Acres, Taylor Mill, Kenton Hills, Kenton Vale, Park Hills, and other patches of land that were not affiliated with a community. During this period, Covington’s attempts to annex small towns that were using its services were often met with fierce opposition. Suburbanites ultimately preferred to band together and combine their cities rather than join Covington. This resulted in Taylor Mill and Sunny Acres, both of which incorporated in 1956, merging in 1959. The resulting city later accepted Winston Park and Forest Hills into its fold, leaving Kenton Vale — where only 12.5% of the population favored annexation to Covington — as an independent incorporated city.⁸ Covington gained nothing in the area between Madison Pike and the Licking River, but minor growth was achieved during this early period. The Ann’s Road neighborhood along I-75, was annexed in 1951, as was a patch of land bordering Kyles Lane that now contains the St. Charles nursing community in 1963. Finally, Covington forcibly annexed the affluent community of Kenton Hills located within Devou Park. Although ninety-four percent of the 250 residents protested,⁹ state law at the time favored the annexing city and the Kenton Circuit Court approved the annexation in 1965.

Another Front Turns Dormant

The lack of significant change that had characterized most of the annexation discussions seemed to be at an end in 1962 when Covington passed two ambitious annexation ordinances. The first called for the annexation of 4,074 acres of unincorporated land in the region of what became Edgewood, Saint Pius Heights, and Summit Hills Heights. The second included land in Fort Henry (later a part of Lookout Heights) and swaths of adjacent unincorporated land that amounted to 1,423 acres. State law stipulated

that annexation ordinances were to be announced in local newspapers, and property owners in the desired territory had 30 days in which to file suit to halt an annexation proceeding. In the case of both annexation ordinances, proceedings were delayed and would remain dormant for over 10 years after suits were filed and never pursued. During that period most of the activity regarding the annexations was with suburbs that were incorporating or merging with each other. Ken Harper, State Representative for the 63rd District (1964-1968), was active in the state legislature at this time and supported the incorporation of many Northern Kentucky cities, in part to avoid annexation to Covington.

When the ordinances for annexation were passed, the territory desired by Covington was classified as unincorporated. During the interim period of veritable ceasefire these communities ignored their undecided fate, consolidating and incorporating either as defense against annexation or as a means of expediting city operations. Also possible is that some city leaders did not know that their young cities were claimed in part by Covington. For example, in the period after the filing of the annexation ordinance against Fort Wright, which incorporated in 1941, that city merged with South Hills in 1960, with Lookout Heights in 1968, and Lakeview in 1978. The merger with Lookout Heights in particular would lead to difficulties between Fort Wright and Covington because that region included part of the 1,423 acres in Covington's 1962 annexation ordinance. Edgewood grew as well during this interim period, becoming one city as a result of merging the originally smaller Edgewood with Saint Pius Heights and Summit Hills Heights. This meant that the 4,074-acre territory sought by Covington was now incorporated as well. State law of the time had not anticipated the complication of incorporation in the period between a suit filed to halt annexation and the resolution of the ensuing court case. This set the stage for the finale of the "Thirty Years War" that came about with the election of Bernard "Bernie" Moorman to the office of Mayor of Covington.

Renewal of Battle

Moorman, elected in 1979, was disposed toward a metropolitan form of government. This neces-

sitated the expansion of Covington's borders. Other motivations also pushed Covington toward expansion through annexation. Besides the increased population and revenue, Moorman saw the neglected litigation between Fort Wright and Edgewood as old business to be resolved and as a step toward metro government. He therefore brought the pending annexations to the fore of Kenton County politics. In doing so, he opened a Pandora's Box of dormant tensions and rivalries among community members and initiated the most traumatic times of the annexation wars.¹⁰ While litigation had progressed somewhat before the election of Moorman, the issue of annexation had faded from the collective memory of the community with the result that Tom Litzler was elected Mayor of Fort Wright for a 1979-1983 term without any knowledge that a significant portion of his city's residents and homes were claimed by Covington. During the ensuing legal battles, the court awarded the Fort Wright annexation area to Covington and was officially part of the latter city for about two years. However, other areas remained mired in disagreements because state law did not provide processes for annexations like the ones that were pending in Northern Kentucky. There, in the interval between when Covington filed the annexation ordinances in 1962 and when it finally addressed the issues again in 1979 and 1980, the areas had become incorporated as described above.

In an attempt to create a solution for areas targeted for annexation that had incorporated since an ordinance was filed for them and before annexations were completed, Senate Bill 173 passed the Kentucky General Assembly in 1978. It intended to allow cities that had been reclassified as second-through-fourth-class cities to hold a referendum on whether or not they approved annexation.¹¹ This was revoked as unconstitutional in 1979. Suddenly, thousands of suburbanites might be consigned to live in Covington rather than their respective cities without their say-so. They also realized they would be a minority of Covington's population; their problems would not be prioritized as they would be in a smaller governmental setting. Effectively, they feared becoming an afterthought. John Delaney, a Fort Wright volunteer firefighter and voter in the election, summed up a consistent feeling when he said, "The way I look at it, I

soon will be 33 years old and I think I'm old enough to make up my own mind as to where I want to live."¹² Generally of the opinion that big government, by definition, is bad government,¹³ the residents wanted a voice in their own fate. Determined that they should be heard, vocal residents formed the Concerned Citizens of Kenton County to hold meetings and voice their rancor.¹⁴ This group assembled residents, visited city council meetings, and tried to make their opinions clear to elected officials.

Lawsuits and Litigation

Besides grassroots movements, the hottest portion of the annexation wars was fought on two fronts: the court system and the Kentucky General Assembly. Depositions from *Lawrence Beck vs. City of Covington*, the fight of Beck and other property owners in the Edgewood Annexation Area to keep their homes in Edgewood, provide essential insight into why residents of Edgewood were so strongly opposed to annexation into Covington. The key arguments revolved around service provision and city image. In order to back up their claims that the annexations would in fact be beneficial for residents, the onus was on proponents of annexation to prove "that the residents of the disputed area 'will not be materially retarded' by the annexation."¹⁵ The depositions, which took place in late 1979, reveal that many residents of the territory in question lacked confidence that Covington could offer them anything worth accepting. While the city manager of Covington at the time, Walter Pagan, claimed that with a successful annexation Covington intended to improve fire protection with a new facility. Residents of the Edgewood Annexation Area feared that the promised improvements could not be delivered, or that they would come at an undesirable price. Citizens expressed satisfaction with their levels of service under Edgewood's jurisdiction — including police protection and road maintenance — and had confidence that annexation couldn't improve upon it.

The image of Covington was a greater sticking point for many. Pagan made the argument that annexation would not damage the image of the suburbs and could only serve to improve the tarnished image that Covington was trying to shed at this time. Most residents who gave depositions, however, did not

share Pagan's optimism. Daniel Keller, for example, a councilman of Edgewood at the time, praised the spirit of Edgewood while arguing that Covington "reeks with ugliness many times over and I think this is most unfortunate."¹⁶ While not always with the vitriolic fervor expressed by Keller, other witnesses expressed similar views and frustrations. Roger Berkmeier claimed his preference for smaller towns, the tarnished reputation¹⁷ of Covington, and higher taxes as reasons for opposing annexation while David Sogar also cited Covington's poor reputation as evidence of his anxiety and argued that "there's no way they could give us the services that we are provided right now."¹⁸ George Kreutzjans, a plaintiff in the 1979 *Lawrence Beck vs. City of Covington* case, argued that many suburban residents "...want freedom; they want to get into a little town."¹⁹ It was the opinion of many that the suburbs had prospered without Covington's help and there was no obligation for them to aid Covington. Accepting annexation may be beneficial to Covington, but the suburbs saw no evident benefits.

The Fight Moves to Frankfort

The second major arena of the annexation wars was Frankfort. There, Senator Clyde Middleton and Representative Louis DeFalaise, both representing parts of suburban Kenton County, were key members of the Kentucky General Assembly pushing for a revision of state laws regarding annexation. When the annexation petitions had been filed, residents of the disputed area had no say or influence over which city they became part of beyond their ability to file suit. This was because state law at the time gave cities much leeway. This was certainly the case with Covington, categorized as a 2nd class city, because such cities could annex without hindrance. Even legal actions were only delaying for the most part.²⁰ Recognizing this imbalance and responding to the calls of citizens who demanded a more democratic system that would recognize their right to choose their home, Middleton and DeFalaise worked to secure the passage of a change in state law that effectively provided residents with a referendum on the issue. Both men represented smaller suburbs in committees that were largely composed of representatives from more urban areas like Louisville who were opposed to making annexation more difficult. These representatives,

using the requirement that any bill must have a germane title and be approved by a committee, prevented any bills regarding annexation from leaving the Cities Committee and going to the floor of either chamber. DeFalaize, one of the better legal minds in the House,²¹ recognized that if he supported a bill in the Cities Committee that actually made annexation processes easier, he could move a bill from the Committee to the House floor. It could then be amended to reverse the original intent and DeFalaize and his allies could create a bill that protected suburban residents from aggressive urban cities.

House Bill 20, one of many pending annexation bills, began as one that would allow cities to annex adjacent territory, after developing a plan for serving the area to be annexed and holding two public hearings.²² In effect, this would make annexation easier and was therefore supported by urban representatives. DeFalaize worked to ensure that it was passed from the Committee and vowed to seek changes that would return referendum and tax limitation clauses to the bill on the House floor.²³ This strategy was successful for HB 20. It "...really put the kabosh on Covington"²⁴ and was a major step in the fight against annexation, because it succeeded. Middleton then ensured the passage of the bill in the Senate and the governor, John Brown, Jr., signed the bill into law with the end analysis being that "...the long and short was we cut a trade and got it done."²⁵ The new bill would allow citizens to vote on whether to approve or reject annexation proposals. It also, in conformance with DeFalaize's campaign promise, allowed citizens to de-annex themselves. This process of changing the state law, less publicized compared to the more emotional clashes in Northern Kentucky, was just as, if not more important, to the outcome of the wars because it gave residents the ability to fight the annexations in a more definitive manner than lawsuits. Previous to the passage of HB 20, citizens had no say in the outcome of annexations and their only recourse was filing suit, a situation called "disturbingly undemocratic."²⁶ Covington and other cities opposed to the measure argued that it was too stifling of their ability to annex and would result in the stagnation and decay of cities. In hindsight that has not been the case, but it has discouraged Covington from pursuing such ambitious annexation ordinances.

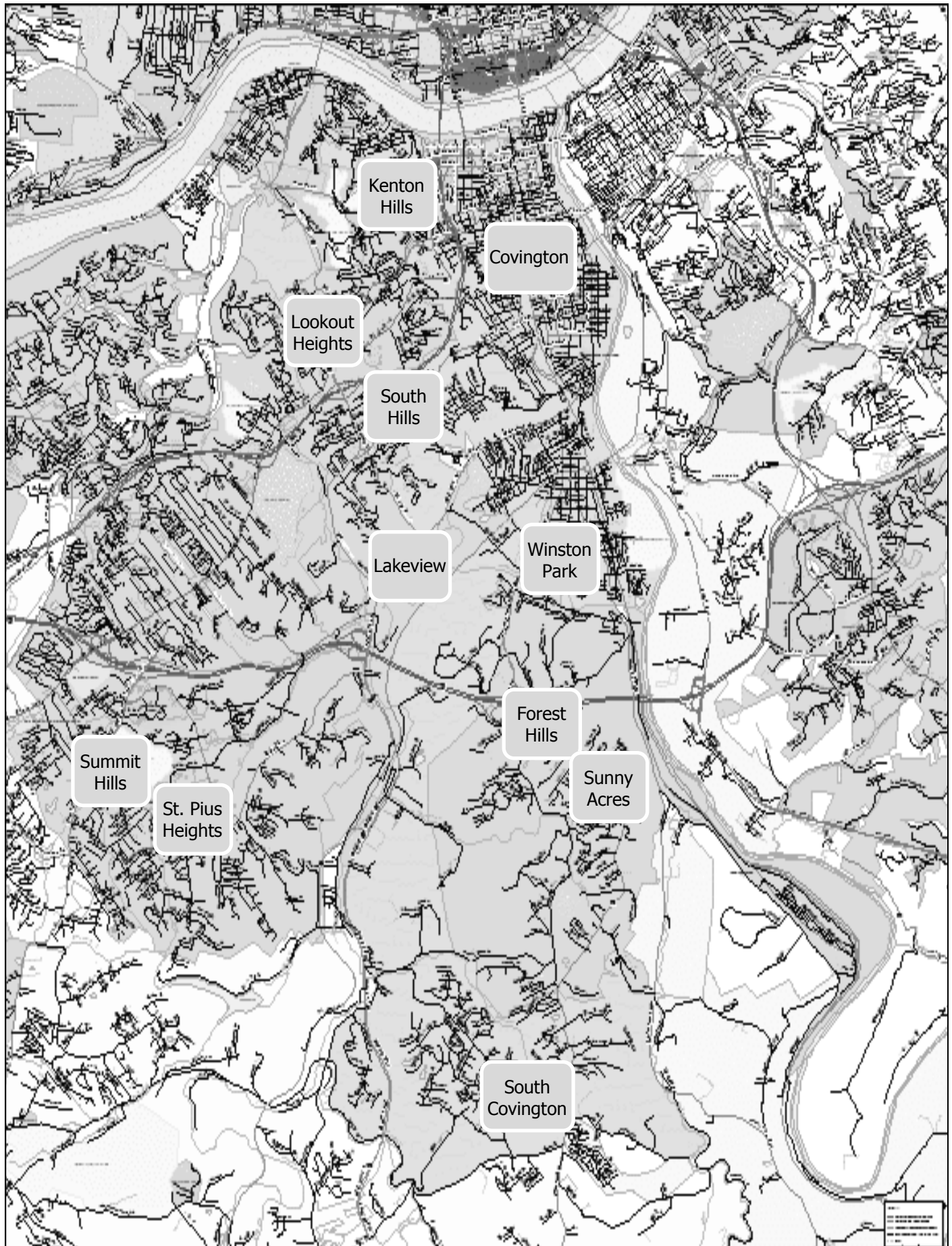
Suburbs Triumph

Early November 1980 was a tumultuous period in Kenton County. Cities that contained contested area had, in addition to the presidential election of that year, items on the ballot that asked whether voters supported being part of Covington. The weeks preceding the voting day were filled with rallies and circulation of petitions calling for citizens to vote to remain in their respective cities. On Election Day, voters came out in droves to vote against annexation.²⁷ An overwhelming number of voters, about 90%, elected to either remain in their home community or leave Covington and reclaim independence. Specifically, the vote was 998-33 in favor of leaving Covington in Fort Wright; 124-10 to leave in Country Squires (a small tract in Crescent Springs that had been annexed by Covington); and 3,571-39 to leave Covington in the Edgewood Annexation Area.²⁸ This resounding rejection of Covington residency, the first time that citizens could officially register their own opinions with a vote, effectively ended any hopes Covington had of continued pursuit of expansion through annexation.

Moorman, hoping to retain some gains from the ordeal, sued Fort Wright and Crescent Springs on the grounds that since the de-annexation of these territories would affect all of Covington, the entire city should have been allowed to vote on whether to approve the de-annexation. The US District Court ruled that the principles of federalism had not been infringed by voting procedures and that House Bill 20 was constitutional. Although it meant annexation opponents would need to work to marshal the manpower to pass the vote, it declared, an annexation can be voided by petition and referendum.²⁹

All Quiet on the Suburban Front

By the end of 1980, it was recognized that the "Thirty Years War" was at an end. Moorman declared that any designs Covington had for annexations were over and the suburbanites were relieved to be able to rest easy and securely in their small communities. Some difficulties remained, however, including the significant task of finding a financial settlement between Fort Wright and Covington. House Bill 20 also stipulated that the city losing territory must be compensated for any losses. These losses



were incurred because Covington had, in fact, succeeded in annexing the Fort Henry region but the referendum returned it to the jurisdiction of Fort Wright. In the interim, Covington had provided services to the residents that had cost Covington money, which Fort Wright was obligated to return. Before another year was finished, however, Litzler and Moorman were able to resolve the issue. It was agreed that Fort Wright would pay \$700,000 to Covington (reduced to \$450,000 after the taxes that Covington received were subtracted). The amount was paid off within the agreed upon seven years. Crescent Springs also arrived at a financial settlement.

Kenton County Today

The annexation wars have a mixed legacy of fragmentation and consolidation. Current maps of Kenton County show a jumble of cities and more jurisdictions than are present in either of its two neighboring counties. There were some pushes during this period for a united county government in the style of Fayette or Jefferson Counties that would alleviate the high number of jurisdictions, but all of these efforts failed. Previous to the “Thirty Years War,” there were approximately two dozen or more distinct communities or cities in the county while today there are 19. Although Covington initiated the conflicts, it saw relatively little change compared to its would-be additions. The city of Taylor Mill, as it is known today, is a composition of the original Taylor Mill, Sunny Acres, Winston Park, and Forest Hills. Fort Wright is a combination of the original city, South Hills, Lookout Heights, and Lakeview. A merger with Saint Pius Heights and Summit Hills Heights enlarged Edgewood. Fort Mitchell joined with its neighbor, South Fort Mitchell. Covington did, however, make some territorial enlargements in 1976, that being the annexation of what is today the neighborhood of South Covington. While other cities put up a stiff and successful fight against annexation, residents in this large area south of the Interstate 275 band failed to form any sort of resistance and were consequently annexed, giving Covington the long and thin appearance that it maintains today.

Besides lines on a map, the annexation wars intensified the mistrust between cities in local politics. After almost 30 years of what suburban residents

saw as land grabbing, Covington had alienated much of the county. In fact, it was not until around 2000 that cities began to fully cooperate once more. The region now operates its fire safety on a cooperative “move up” system where the nearest stations respond first, regardless of city boundaries. Further, the Judge Executive and Mayors of all Kenton County cities meet regularly, if unofficially, to discuss matters of regional importance. This is a significant step compared to 1980 when Moorman hinted at the possibility that Covington could withhold services from suburbs, saying “...it may come down to ordering the fire and police not to back up the suburban communities.”³⁰ Tom Litzler chaired a group that in 2013 produced a book, *Kenton County Together: A Call to Action*, advocating a new look at how city governments and special districts within Kenton County could consider additional collaboration and or consolidation. Among its suggestions is that greater regional cooperation could be of benefit to all of Kenton County. Doubts remain, though, about the likelihood of the region ever fully cooperating or reaching a position where mergers could be considered between Covington and the suburbs.

After so many years, these different areas have developed separately from each other and the culture of each would not necessarily encourage combination. This describes the opinion of Ken Harper who is skeptical that “...the suburbs and Covington will ever meld together.”³¹ The attitude among suburbanites is such that they are largely uninterested in Covington happenings and it is unclear whether that will change. Perhaps it will take a new generation of people who are distant from the annexation wars to grow into a region they believe could be more integrated or perhaps people will have to move to the area from places where the historical struggles are inconsequential. Whatever the future holds, it is clear that the stiff disagreements of the past have not continued to the present and the relationship between Kenton County cities is warmer today than it was in 1980.

Conclusion

There are many lessons to be learned from the Covington case study. First, the strength of a group with a common goal cannot be underestimated. Organizations like Concerned Citizens of Kenton

County formed spontaneously to cooperate in their resistance to annexation overtures from Covington and to protect their cities. Residents of Fort Henry and Country Squires fought for their right to live in the cities they wanted to, even when they were annexed into Covington. And, Edgewood voters organized to spur their neighbors and friends into taking action to protect their homes. Two hundred citizens from Kenton, Campbell, and Jefferson Counties even visited Frankfort in 1980 to call for a right to vote on annexation.³² The US District Court's verdict called them "a type of underground resistance movement" and recognized that they "regard themselves as freedom fighters of a sort."³³ Finally, the annexation wars showed how fragmentation hurts. During the annexation wars, "there was distrust; there was even hate; Covington was the hub, most of us came from that area. How good they do or how bad they do impacts us all. It benefits us all if Covington can be a thriving area."³⁴ The unspoken implication is that a failure for Covington is a failure for the county. Today there seems to be an understanding that Northern Kentucky is one community. Despite the plethora of incorporated cities and political boundaries, there are movements toward united action that can be seen in the Kenton County Government Study Group, Covington Bicentennial celebration, and Kenton County Mayors Group.

To some extent, Covington is still the hub of Kenton County, but the relationship is no longer as unbalanced as it was formerly. Central city and suburbs now have a more amicable relationship and are committed to bringing the entirety of Kenton County forward. While the annexation wars caused unprecedented hostility in parts of Northern Kentucky, they ultimately made the region stronger. They showed the power of people uniting under a common cause, demonstrated what keeping government officials accountable to their people looks like, and marked a turning point in the history of Kenton County.

About the Author

Paul Kleier is a 2016 graduate of Thomas More College with Bachelors Degrees in History and Political Science. He is currently pursuing a Masters Degree in Public Administration which he hopes to use in a career in local government serving the North-

ern Kentucky region. Paul grew up in Fort Wright, Kentucky and was introduced to the topic of annexation as a college sophomore. The involvement of his hometown and his great uncle, Bernie Moorman, along with the spirited debate on both sides of the issue contributed to his enthusiasm.

Bibliography

- Annexation #3. Kenton County Public Library. Vertical File.
- Annexation #6. Kenton County Public Library. Vertical File.
- "Annexation Bill Is not that Bad." *The State Journal*. 4 March, 1980.
- DeFalaize, Louis. Personal interview. 21 November 2015.
- Harper, Ken. Personal interview. 25 November 2015.
- Kenton Circuit Court. *Lawrence Beck vs. City of Covington*. Depositions. 1979-1980.
- Kenton County Government Study Group. *Kenton County Together: A Call to Action*. 2013.
- "Kentucky Senate District 24." *Kentucky Post*. 22 January 1980. 2.
- "Kentucky House District 63." *Kentucky Post*. 31 January 1980. 7.
- Kreutzjans, Jr., George. "History of Fort Wright." <<http://www.fortwright.com/?c=article&l=en&s=city-information&id=2>>.
- Litzler, Tom. Personal interview. 27 November 2013.
- Loftus, Tom. "4100 Acres at Stake as Annex Trial Opens." *Kentucky Post*. 14 January 1980. 1.
- Loftus, Tom. "Annex Foes Taking Fight to Ballot." *Kentucky Post*. 18 June 1980. 19.
- Middleton, Clyde. Personal interview. 26 November 2013.
- Reis, Jim. "Mayor in Exile Urges Suburbs to Open Minds on Annexation." *Kentucky Post*. 5 March 1980. 1.
- Reis, Jim. "Pieces of the Past: Familiar Places (1988)." <<http://www.fortwright.com/?c=article&l=en&s=city-information&id=2>>.
- Reis, Jim, Bill Straub, & Alan Tucker. "'Freedom' Call Spurs 90% Vote." *Kentucky Post*. 5 November 1980. 4K.
- Sandhage, Dough & Jim Reis. "Moorman Won't Accept Ft. Henry, Country Squire Vote." *Kentucky Post*. 6 November 1980. 3K.
- "Says Kenton Vale Fights Annexation." *Kentucky Post*. 13 May 1950. 1.
- Tenkotte, Paul. "The Roots of Municipal Fragmentation in Kenton County." *Kenton County Together* (2013): 38-59.
- Tenkotte, Paul, James Claypool, and David Schroeder, ed. *Gateway City: Covington Kentucky: 1815-2015*. Covington, KY: Clerisy Press, 2015.
- "Towns Act to Provide City Service." *Kentucky Post*. 2 May 1950. 1.
- United States District Court, E. D. Kentucky, Covington Division. *Moorman v. Wood*. Accessed November 2013. http://www.leagle.com/decision/1980971504FSupp467_1903.
- Wiegand, Rolf. "Annexation Foes Ask Legislature to Allow Vote." *Kentucky Enquirer*. Date and page unknown.
- Wiegand, Rolf. "Legislature Tackles Annexation Battle in Public Hearings." *Kentucky Enquirer*. 11 February 1980. Page unknown.

A Look Back at The Headlines

An on-going feature reliving local headlines.

This issue features:

The Covington Journal – August 14, 1869.

Local Headlines

The morning train from Louisville on the Short Line Railroad, made the run from that city to Covington on Tuesday last in four hours and ten minutes. Furthermore, twenty-seven passengers from the South were transferred from the depot in this city to the Little Miami depot in twenty-seven minutes.

Death of Thomas D. Kennedy

A brief paragraph in our last issue prepared our readers for the announcement of the death of Thos. D. Kennedy, Esq. This event occurred on Tuesday last, at the family residence on the Lexington Pike, near this city. Thus has passed away one of the oldest and best citizens of Kenton County.

Mr. Kennedy was born in Cincinnati in 1795. Cincinnati at that time was a mere village, and there was but one house on the site now occupied by the city of Covington. While the subject of this sketch was just an infant, the family moved to this side of the river. Here, Mr. Kennedy attained his majority; here he spent all the useful years of his long life; and here at a ripe age, he has been gathered to his fathers. He was, for seventy years, eye-witness of the wonderful transformation which has been going on, step-by-step and day-by-day on the banks of the Ohio River, in sight of the place of his birth.

Mr. Kennedy was noted for many excellent traits of character. A man of clear judgement and very decided convictions, he was zealous in whatever cause he espoused, and strongly attached to his friends. He served his country as a soldier in the War of 1812, and endured the hardships of a northern campaign. The wife of his youth preceded him by many years. His children are honored members of the same community in which he lived so long.

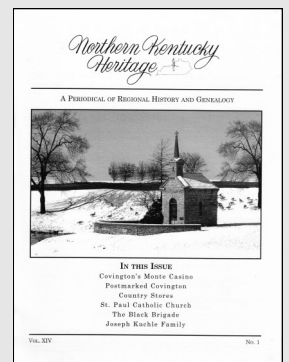
Wiegand, Rolf. "Annexation, Lottery Bills Due for Vote." *Kentucky Enquirer*. 3 March, 1980. Page unknown.

Endnotes

1. United States District Court, E. D. Kennedy, Covington Division, *Moorman v. Wood*, accessed November 2013. http://www.leagle.com/decision/1980971504FSupp467_1903. (1)
2. Tenkotte, Paul; James Claypool & David Schroeder, "Gateway City: Covington, Kentucky 1815-2015," Covington, Kentucky (2013) page 106.
3. "Gateway City," page 114.
4. *Ibid*, page 115.
5. *Ibid*, page 116.
6. *Kentucky Post*, 2 May 1950, page 1.
7. United States District Court, (2).
8. *Kentucky Post*, 13 May 1950, page 1.
9. Vertical File #6, Kenton County Public Library.
10. Tom Litzler personal interview, 27 November 2013.
11. Tenkotte, Paul, "The Roots of Municipal Fragmentation in Kenton County," *Kenton County Together* (2013) page 55.
12. *Kentucky Post*, 5 November 1980, page 1.
13. Tenkotte, "Roots," page 56.
14. Clyde Middleton personal interview, 26 November 2013.
15. *Kentucky Post*, 14 January 1980, page 1.
16. Keller deposition, page 16.
17. Berkmeier deposition, page 7.
18. Sogar deposition, page 8.
19. Plaintiff depositions, page 75.
20. Louis DeFalaize personal interview, 21 November 2015.
21. *Kentucky Post*, 31 January 1980, page 7.
22. Wiegand, Rolf, "Annexation Lottery Bills Due for Vote," *Kentucky Enquirer*, 3 March 1980, page unknown.
23. *Enquirer*, 3/3/1980
24. Ken Harper personal interview, 25 November 2015.
25. DeFalaize interview.
26. "Annexation Bill Is Not That Bad," *The State Journal*, 4 March 1980.
27. Harper interview.
28. *Kentucky Post*, 5 November 1980, page 4K.
29. *Kentucky Post*, 18 June 1980, page 19.
30. *Kentucky Post*, 6 November 1980, page 3K.
31. Harper interview.
32. Wiegand, Rolf, "Annexation Foes Ask Legislature to Allow Vote," *Kentucky Enquirer*, date & page unknown.
33. U. S. District Court, Kennedy, page 2.
34. Litzler interview.

Do you subscribe to

*Northern
Kentucky
Heritage
Magazine?*

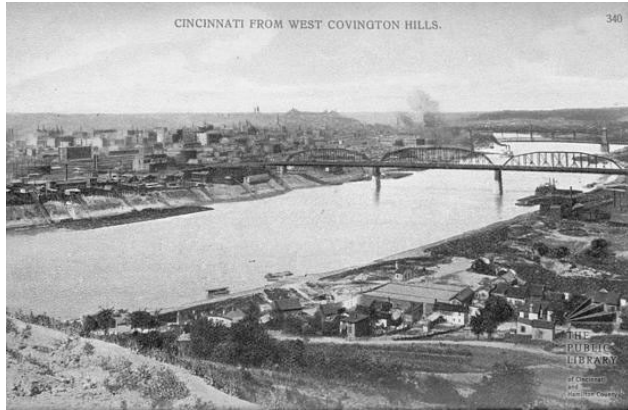


It's the only periodical devoted solely to
the history of Northern Kentucky!

And, still only \$20.00/yr
(two issues)

Go to: kentoncountyhistoricalsociety.org

Then and Now



Two views from Covington's Devou park looking toward Cincinnati, Ohio. Left image is circa 1950, right is 2016.

Left photo courtesy Kenton County Public Library, right courtesy Wikipedia.com

Mystery Photo

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



ANSWER:

Roof section view of the old Park Hotel, situated on the southeast corner of Covington's Sixth and Philadelphia streets.
The building is used as an office building today.

Kenton County Historical Society

July — August 2016

ARTICLES FROM BACK ISSUES ARE INDEXED ON OUR WEBSITE!

Published bi-monthly by
The Kenton County Historical Society
Membership, which includes the Bulletin,
\$20.00 per year

President..... Robert Webster
Vice-President..... Karl Lietzenmayer
Treasurer..... W. Terry Averbek
Secretary..... John H. Boh

Board Members:

Carl Gerrein, Dennis Harrell,
Dr. Eric Jackson, Elaine Kuhn,
Robert Rich, Iris Spoor, and
Dick Johanneman (Ex Officio)

I Bet You Didn't Know

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

July 4, 1794: The first Independence Day celebration in Kentucky was held at the plantation of Col. William Price, Jessamine County.

July 6, 1788: The 6th Kentucky Convention was held at Danville to secure independence from Virginia and establish Kentucky as a state.

July 8, 1919: John Fox, Jr. died. Born in Bourbon County, Fox chronicled life in the Cumberland Mountains. His novel *The Little Shepherd of Kingdom Come* (1903) was the first book in the United States to sell a million copies.

July 13, 1926: A&E-1 soft drink was introduced by G. L. Wainscott of Winchester, Kentucky. The beverage remains extremely popular today, especially within a 100-mile radius from the bottling plant.

"On This Day In Kentucky" — Robert Powell

Programs and Notices

Kenton County Fair

Monday, July 11 through Saturday July 16th - in the evening hours, the Kenton County Historical Society will have its own booth for displaying and promoting publications, maps, memberships, magazine subscriptions, public programs, and for connecting with fairgoers to answer questions and discuss local history.

Kenton County Historical Society Meetings and Public Programs

Saturday, August 6, 10:30 a. m., Kenton County Public Library, Erlanger branch - "**King Cholera in Covington, Kentucky, 1832-1873**," a power point presentation by attorney/historian Arnold Taylor. See insert in this issue of the KCHS Bulletin; and the KCHS website. See also the Kenton County Public Library website and Facebook.

Saturday, October 1, 11:00 a. m., Kenton County Public Library, Covington - the Kenton County Historical Society **annual membership meeting** for the election of officers and directors, for the yearly treasurer's report to the membership and for comments. Snacks will be provided. (This will be prior to the antiques fair.) All historical society members are encouraged to attend. See the "call for nominations" insert in this issue of the KCHS Bulletin.

Saturday, October 1, Noon to 3:00, Kenton County Public Library, Covington, a KCHS-KCPL joint program - an **antiques fair**. See the Kenton County Historical Society website. See the Kenton County Public Library "Calendar" booklet, its website and Facebook.

Battery Hooper Days

Saturday August 20, noon to 6:00, and Sunday August 21, noon to 5:00, James A. Ramage Civil War Museum, Ft. Wright - the Kenton County Historical Society will have its own booth along with the many other outside booths, programs and activities.