



# 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, KY 41012 (859)491-4003

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The Blakely family of Northern Kentucky:  
Stephens, Laurie, and John Blakely

# **The Blakely Family of Northern Kentucky: Stephens, Laurie, and John Blakely**

John Boh

In 1900, Stephens Blakely had joined the state militia and was stationed in Frankfort, following the shooting of gubernatorial candidate William Goebel from Kenton County in the midst of a hotly contested election. He witnessed two armed groups occupying the Capitol grounds in Frankfort.

After the Civil War, the Kentucky Democratic Party had been united in reaction to the Union victory, to the memory of abusive occupation by Union troops, the sudden end to slavery and the rights of freedmen. The political dominance by ex-Confederates, various rural interests and anti-Republicans had made electable in Kentucky mainly Democrats even in large cities.

Republican political forces much centered in the mountains of Eastern Kentucky had given regular opposition to the Democratic Party and finally won the governorship in 1895.<sup>1</sup> In 1899, however, votes won by an anti Goebel third party of Democrats had denied the much-hated Goebel a clear-cut victory over his Republican opponent. The vote totals were so close as to prolong the tension for weeks while Kentucky political forces and clans still held to their often-violent resentments.

## **The Democratic Party Split**

The old Democratic alliance had combined Civil War resentments with the financial interests of some aristocratic families, banks and corporations like that of the L&N Railroad. By the 1890s, however, a strong rural Populist protest movement had emerged giving advantages to Republicans. Another political movement called "Progressivism," with a more urban and national perspective, absorbed rural discontent against the prevailing order. Progressivism's targets included the corruption of politics by special interests like Big Business, business monopoly, the excesses of the wealthy, social injustice, and extreme poverty and income inequality.

Stephens Blakely in the 1950s read his research paper before members of the Christopher Gist Historical Society reflecting on a horrendous time in Kentucky Politics. A split had evolved in the Democratic party between the rural, Old South wing and the progressive and more urban wing. The latter was led by the strong-willed lawyer-politician, the often hated "boss" William Goebel, the son of German immigrants whose father served in the Union Army during the Civil War.<sup>2</sup>

In the gubernatorial election of 1899, after a close hotly-contested race, Goebel was declared the loser by an election commission, his opponent sworn in, but the final decision turned over to the Democratic controlled legislature which was naturally expected to chose Goebel. "Boss" Goebel was shot on January 30, 1900, immediately chosen by the legislature, and sworn in the next day (over two months after the voting) before dying from his wound.

Blakely gave his recollection of the Capitol grounds during legislative deliberation as Blakely interpreted it: 1200 members of the Commonwealth's military force faced the forces of William Goebel while the winner of the contested Governor's race was to be announced. Some historians nevertheless see it differently. After the Republican candidate (William S. Taylor) had been declared the winner by an election commission recount, the expectation was that the Democratic Party majority in the legislature would overturn that decision in favor of Goebel. The armed citizens facing the militia were Republican allies mainly from the Appalachian Mountains who turned out to pressure the legislature.<sup>3</sup>

Ever since Kentucky's unfortunate neutrality in the beginning of the war between the states, Democrats had been a very dominant party. Then, however, Democrats advocating populist free silver led by William Jennings Bryan and a populist progressivism led by Goebel clashed with a strong faction of gold-only

Democrats. This allowed the Republicans to make the Governor's race a close call.

Blakely recalled the killing in Covington by Goebel of his arch enemy John Sandford in April 1895. Both had drawn guns; the perpetrator was undetermined and Goebel went free. Kentucky Bourbon Democrats generally favored the currency policies of outgoing president Grover Cleveland and U. S. Secretary of the Treasury John G. Carlisle while opposing populist free silver advocacy of the moralistic 1896 Democratic Party nominee William Jennings Bryant. Defending his gold-only policy in Covington's Odd Fellow Hall in 1896, Carlisle, a native of Kenton County, was driven from the stage (eggs thrown) by silver advocates. Many were Goebel supporters, Blakely claimed.<sup>4</sup>



John Sandford

Seventeen years after the Goebel assassination, Stephens Blakely became involved in the persecution of local citizens alleged to be "pro-German." To the resentment of the Union army's abuses in Kentucky and then to the successful back-door power politics of the German bred "boss" Goebel were added a self-righteousness resentment that became persecution of innocent fellow citizens.

### Citizens Patriotic League (CPL)

During World War I, anti-German hysteria emerged in American civic life. From 1917 to 1919, nearly 2000 were indicted under the Federal Espionage Act. According to a lengthy article in *Northern Kentucky Heritage*, in June 1917, about 25 Kenton County residents formed a Citizens Patriotic League with Commonwealth Attorney and States-Rights Democrat Stephens Blakely a major player.<sup>5</sup> Being at the same time prosecuting Commonwealth Attorney and head of the Citizens Patriotic League should have been condemned as a conflict of interest for Stephens Blakely.

Locally and elsewhere the anti German campaign became a matter of banning the teaching of the German language in schools; the Covington Public Library removing its substantial collection of books in German; of Federal law requiring German aliens to register as such with Federal authorities; the removing and replacing of German names of streets, banks and other institutions; and banning sales of German newspapers. The civic mood became such that people anglicized their German names and Sauerkraut became "Liberty Cabbage."<sup>6</sup>

The local Citizens Patriotic League in March 1918 passed a resolution asking Congress to authorize more severe punishment. On May 20<sup>th</sup> the League sponsored the largest patriotic rally ever to take place in Kenton County at the Latonia Race Track. The League spread word about German atrocities committed in Belgium. The League requested that the Bureau of Public Information send instructions regarding patriotic duties to all rural residents through all fourth-class postmasters.

Seen elsewhere around the country, in Kenton County Stephens Blakely and fellow lawyers Harvey Myers and John O'Neal lead local vigilantes. The article in *Northern Kentucky Heritage* named a number of county residents visited. Much is described in the words of the plaintiffs or victims in later court action. Stephens L. Blakely and mobs of fellow leaguers on June 5<sup>th</sup> and June 24, 1918 visited without warning a number of homes and business places.

A threatening gang of men showed up unannounced. An inquisition involved Blakely, Myers or others asking suspect individuals about "pro-German" attitudes while addressing them as SOBs and German-related epithets. Then their answers were shouted down. The treatment of victims included jabbing, shoving, slapping, and maybe clothes torn or clothing removed followed (in a couple instances) by horse-whipping. After face to face confrontation, parting words from the mob included more name calling and occasional threats to be hanged.<sup>7</sup>

One farmer and feed store owner on Madison Pike up in his pasture, first saw the crowd from a distance. His sisters living with him were crying. Stephens Blakely and fellow lawyer Harvey Myers met

and grabbed him. John O'Neal read a paper saying the farmer's assessment was \$88,000 and demanded that he sign a paper pledging \$1000. They dragged him, made him walk through mud and one member climbed a tree dangled one of the farmer's calf ropes threatening to hang him repeatedly. Again, he was asked to sign the paper but he refused. They tore off his clothes including underclothing and in the end, several individuals whipped him with the farmer's own horsewhip.

Finally thinking that he might be killed, the farmer signed the paper. Still another individual accused him, calling him an SOB and striking him. He was threatened that the mob could return and if not behaving with respect they might kill him. The \$1000 was for War Savings Stamps. The men had driven up in 75 to 100 cars, the victim believed. He saw men trying to go through his house.

Another victim, age 24, living with his parents on their farm across Madison Pike was approached. His father was accused of "insulting the Red Cross." The son got into a physical confrontation and struck Blakely. The son was held from behind and struck repeatedly. Clothes were removed and he was horse-whipped as was his father. When his mother tried to intervene, she argued with John O'Neal while another man with a gun threatened her.

In town, vigilantes arrived suddenly at the residence of the pastor of St. John's Church on Pike Street. He was pulled from inside on to his front porch. The group tore the cleric's shirt off. In the darkness, a flashlight shining in his eyes blinded him from identifying perpetrators. The cleric later defended himself, claiming that he, in fact, had not refused to let the American Flag fly during a funeral. He told them that a Ladies Red Cross group of 40-50 members had met weekly in his church. He had provided them with necessary furniture and encouragement. He preached support for the Red Cross for which a Red Cross worker with a German name thanked him. Additionally, he had purchased for himself and his church both Liberty Bonds and many War Savings Stamps.

Vigilantes targeted a saloon, using intimidating language, threatening to hang one victim who had

two sons who served during the war, and shouting "let's lynch him." They threw him out of the saloon. A saloon owner elsewhere who had a son in the Army Cavalry and a couple of customers were abused. He was shouted down when trying to answer an accusation. One customer also had two sons serving in the U.S. Army but was shouted at and slapped a couple times. In another saloon the owner was intimidated and accused of looking like the German Kaiser.

Sued later were Blakely, Myers and John B. O'Neal (prominent lawyers), J. Robert Kelley, President of the Kelley-Koett Manufacturing Co. (whose business partner was the German-born Albert B. Koett), Stanley Ashbrook and A. S. Hartley. A plaintiff won his case but the unfriendly Judge in the hostile public atmosphere made one-cent due compensation and punishment. Other prominent lawyers like Maurice Galvin defended Blakely and others and had argued for the final "one cent fine" if convicted. The *Kentucky Post* backed the League and public sentiment seemed to favor the defendants.

Another notorious case in Kenton County was a long tragic one. The case against the defendants for being pro-German emerged after the planting of a hidden listening device in a shoe shop where a group of men of German background regularly met. The original enquiry was held before Kenton County Judge John B. Read. From the listening device, superficial testimony was given. The court action involved shoddy legal process and trial judge decisions, which lead to the conviction by jury (after quick deliberation) and the imprisonment of three rather prominent businessmen and a substantial fine imposed on one of the three who was quite wealthy. The original arrest had involved seven persons, the others less well known. It was a long story of conviction, failed appeals, and a refusal of the Supreme Court to hear the defendants' case. Evidence indicated that the three had purchased war bonds (\$45,000 by one). After about six months in prison, President Harding finally commuted the sentences of all three.

The *Kentucky Post*, the American Legion, and various other influential parties supported Blakely and co-defendants during court actions. According to his diary in October 1919 Blakely, representing the League, was honored locally by the King and Queen

of Belgium at Music Hall for fighting Germans in America while Belgium was fighting Germans in Europe. Belgium of course had seen the much-publicized German atrocities. However, the article in *Northern Kentucky Heritage* quotes President Wilson's opposition, at least to mob violence, as being undemocratic when he issued his Mob Law Proclamation on July 25, 1918. Sedition clauses in the Espionage act of 1917 were repealed by Congress on March 3<sup>rd</sup> 1921.<sup>8</sup> Today it would be a gross violation of freedom of speech and other standards to use detective notes taken from a listening device for a conviction.<sup>9</sup>

### Stephens Blakely's Family Background

Stephens Blakely was a fourth generation American. The family matriarch and four Blakely children a century earlier had most probably emigrated from the cotton textile manufacturing area of England which came to rely on the raw cotton supplied by the Southern slave states. Sarah Haughton Blakely (1779-1854) was born "somewhere in England." Family stories indicate that Sarah and four children came from the Manchester area of Lancashire with nearby towns named Haughton, Blackley (pronounced Blakely) and Aston-Under-Lyne.<sup>10</sup>

Sarah and her children arrived in America forty years before the Civil War. Identification with the Lost Cause may have been incidental, but the slave states became the main supplier of the cotton mills in the Manchester area of England. The great majority of cotton spinning took place in the towns of south Lancashire and north Cheshire, and Manchester was for a time the most productive center of cotton processing. In 1830, the Liverpool and Manchester Railway gave the two cities England's first intercity rail link. The coastal port area of Liverpool was a center for the cotton and slave trade. The historian Sven Beckert called Liverpool during the American Civil War "the most pro-Confederate place in the world outside the Confederacy itself."<sup>11</sup>

Rapid demographic change in the Manchester area may have made the option of immigration attractive. It began expanding at an astonishing rate in decades around 1800 as people from Scotland, Wales, Ireland and other areas of England were drawn there

during the Industrial Revolution. By 1835, Manchester was without challenge the first and greatest industrial city in the world.<sup>12</sup>

Amazingly a family genealogy dated 2003 had not located any trace of Sarah's husband, even his first name. Sarah and her four children arrived in America in 1819. According to genealogist Laura Woodrough Seneck, Sarah might have known parties in Pittsburgh where she settled. An Anabaptist, Sarah in 1832 was baptized a Roman Catholic in St. Paul's Church, Pittsburgh. Her oldest son James, an Episcopalian, had converted earlier than she, due to his marrying into a Catholic family.

In 1830, Sarah was living in Bayardstown near Pittsburgh. In 1840 she was living with her son James and his family; and in 1850 with daughter Alice and husband Calvin Dodge both locations within expanding Pittsburgh city limits. Business and civic activities by her children would establish connections beyond Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Kentucky. In 1854, Sarah died at age 75, and was buried in East Liverpool, Ohio.

### James B. Blakely

The Blakelys of Northern Kentucky were descended from Sarah's eldest son James B. Blakely (1804-1882) and spouse Susanna Smyth. Susanna was the daughter of John Edward and Anna Margaret Ruffner Smyth. The Ruffners were from a very old line of Catholic families in Pennsylvania. Most certainly a necessary prelude to the marriage, James' conversion to Catholicism probably inspired other members, including his mother Sarah, later to join the Catholic Church. James B. and Suzanna Smyth Blakely had ten known children.

Pottery and textiles were trademarks of industrial England. In America, James invested in the Woodward and Blakely Pottery Works and became an agent from his office in Pittsburgh. However, the "Blakely" listed in the company's title was that of his brother John Simpson. James, then prosperous and generous, sold land at a nominal fee for a cemetery in East Liverpool, Ohio. He donated \$400 to build a church there and helped raise money to build Mercy Hospital for the Sisters of Charity opened in 1847.

## Laurie John Blakely of Northern Kentucky

James B. was a very successful businessman before going broke. He invested in land in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Kansas and Nebraska, and the pottery business in East Liverpool. He was a travel agent for travelers via the ports of London, Liverpool, Dublin and Belfast and an agent for Tapscots Celebrated Line of Liverpool and New York Packet Ships, leaving each city every five days. His other occupations included real estate broker and auctioneer. He also became a Pittsburgh town alderman. He built a large home overlooking the Allegheny River in the Lawrenceville area just outside of Pittsburgh.<sup>13</sup>

Local financial decline and the panic of 1857 ruined all of these investment efforts, however. James B. had to declare bankruptcy losing thousands of acres and business interests and two homes leaving him with merely household goods. In 1860 he still lived in Pittsburgh with a personal estate listed at only \$600.

At age 56, he relocated to St. Marys, Pennsylvania<sup>13</sup> where his daughter Sarah Ann had entered the convent and another daughter, Lavinia, was living with her husband, Sebastian Wimmer. James B. opened a bookstore and became involved in politics. He was elected superintendent of the common schools of Elk County. After the Civil War, he was appointed postmaster of the borough of St. Marys in an order signed by the President of the United States. While keeping his book store (books, stationery and religious articles) he held the position of postmaster the remainder of his life. In 1882, he was buried from the German church. His son, Joseph Miriam, known as Father Aloysius, presided over the requiem mass.

James and Suzanna Smyth Blakely's ten children included: William, who probably died newly born; Sarah Ann, a Benedictine named Sr. Beatrice; Lavinia Harvey [sic] who married Sebastian Wimmer; Mary Louisa, who married John Becan Ryan (and soon after moved to Cincinnati); Susanna Xavier, a linguist and published poet never married; William James, a surgeon for a section of the Philadelphia & Erie Railway who married Josephine Luhr and as a widower Mary Gensheimer; Alice Theresa; Joseph Miriam (Father Aloysius); and Virginian Rose.

Laurie John (1843-1917), Stephens Blakely's father, was the seventh child of James B. and Suzanna Smyth Blakely, born in Pittsburgh and baptized at St. Paul's Cathedral.<sup>14</sup> In 1862 after his father's bankruptcy and move to St Marys, Laurie in 1862 traveled to Cincinnati taking up work as a notary and phonographer. During the War his whereabouts were not always known in the public record.

Genealogist Margot Woodrough had access to both Laurie Blakely's diaries and to research by author Scott A. Merriman ("The Bug was in the Clock..."). She stated that he had served in the Confederate army.<sup>15</sup> In 1864 during the war between the states Laurie's name appeared nine times in the diaries of his brother-in-law Sebastian. Sebastian Wimmer was an accomplished Civil Engineer traveling on assignment from place to place. In 1863 Sebastian and Lavinia Blakely Wimmer settled in St. Marys, near where Wimmer took charge of the contract to complete a 143-mile section of the Philadelphia & Erie Railroad.

Later, according to genealogist Laura Woodrough Steneck, Sebastian Wimmer supervised railroad construction for the Emperor Maximilian, a European nobleman installed in Mexico through France's Napoleon III and supported militarily for a short time by European powers. (During the Civil War Texas producers sold cotton through Mexico.)<sup>16</sup> Maximilian's stay was tenuous from 1864 until 1867 when he was executed. The United States of course supported the opposing Republican military forces.<sup>17</sup>

In 1870 Laurie Blakely was living with his parents in Elk County, his occupation a lawyer. As told by Laura Woodrough Steneck he soon headed to Louisville and became acquainted with some well-know gentlemen. Influenced by a good friend he left Louisville for Covington. At the time that Major Richardson was Registrar, Blakely was appointed Clerk of Bankruptcy. Richardson and Blakely belonged to the famous Curb Stone Club. Members included Judge James O'Hara, a native of New Liberty, Kentucky who was imprisoned during the Civil War for supporting the South,<sup>18</sup> William Arthur, also a Democrat, Lee Baker and John G. Carlisle.<sup>19</sup> An-

other member soon was the gifted Theodore Hallam, a Confederate veteran, politician and lawyer.<sup>20</sup>

At age 34 Laurie Blakely married Lilly Hudson Landrum, daughter of John Buckner and Elizabeth Hudson Rudd Landrum. Her father was Covington City Clerk. They were married at her parents' home on Scott Street in Covington presided over by Father Tom Major, once a member of Morgan's Raiders, and assisted by Mr. W. H. Felix a Baptist minister. In footnotes the genealogist stated that a family story says that Major joined the Confederacy but she had no evidence. A later source said that he did and that after the war was ordained a Catholic priest in 1875.<sup>21</sup> Because it was a mixed marriage the ceremony was not allowed in a Catholic Church in those days.

### Journalism Professor

Trained to be a lawyer, Laurie oddly enough soon devoted himself to another profession.<sup>22</sup> After the Civil War he became editor of the *Newport Journal* and a journalism professor. He was gifted in prose and poetry and was acquainted with Mark Twain, according to Laura Woodrough Steneck. In 1912 he became Dean of the new School of Journalism at Xavier College (now University). While the Journalism Dean, he was an editor of the *Commercial Tribune*. Father Francis Finn, S. J. recalled that Blakely's distinguished presence in any assembly always attracted attention. He "was every inch a gentleman, a Southerner and what concerns us most, ever inch a Catholic." Laurie and Elizabeth Landrum Blakely's children were Paul, who became a Catholic Priest, Susan and Elizabeth who became nuns, Laurie, Jr., Mary Louise and Stephens Laurie Blakely.

### Stephens Laurie Blakely

Stephens Laurie Blakely (1878-1959), Laurie and Lilly's first child, was baptized in St. Mary's Cathedral by the Bishop of Covington. His godfather was the Very Reverend E. H. Brandt;<sup>23</sup> his godmother his aunt Effie Virginia Ryan. His name Stephens honored "an old friend" [of his father?] Napoleon B. Stephens (1814-1887) [?], Clerk of the Kenton County Circuit Court.<sup>24</sup> Stephens attended LaSalette Academy and St. Xavier High School and Xavier Col-

lege. The son of a journalist, he was a fine writer of stories and essays. As a lawyer he claimed a strong interest in the Constitution as a guarantee of freedom and liberty. Upon graduating from college in 1898 he took a job in the law office of a Mr. Finnell. In the last days in college Stephens started writing daily journal entries which he did throughout his life.

### Personal and Professional

Blakely passed the bar requirements in 1901, and finally quit the militia in 1903 [see above] to return to his law practice. He completed law studies in 1905 at the old McDonald Institute later called Chase Law School. Stephens "Steve" L. Blakely was Covington Solicitor from 1910 to 1916, and then Commonwealth Attorney. Blakely married Jane DeValcourt Stamps Piatt the daughter of Edward Courtney and Sallie Scott Richardson Piatt at St. Mary's Cathedral in 1906. The Piatts were pioneers in both Boone County and Cincinnati and were, according to Margaret J. Blakely, also Catholic. His wife Jane died in 1928 after twenty-two years of marriage. He soon married in 1929 Margaret James Piatt widow of his former best friend Wykoff Piatt and mother of three children: Margaret, Page and Wykoff.<sup>25</sup>

Stephens' son John Ruffner Blakely (1911-1999) was born in their residence, a little cottage at the time, in Ft. Mitchell which six days later was destroyed by fire. Stephens Blakely by then financially successful purchased adjoining land giving the family five acres. On a knoll overlooking Pleasant Run Creek, he built a beautiful, two story Southern colonial, called "Beechwood" with a large front porch and four huge oak-barrel columns that extended both stories to the roof high above at 116 Beechwood Road. In 1913 they moved in: Stephens, his wife Jane, children Stephens Buckner Cuthbert (1907), Edward Courtney Piatt (1908), Jane Ashton (1909) and John Ruffner Blakely.

During these turbulent months of War and the Citizens Patriotic League in January 1917 Stephens' father Laurie John died. His son Courtney, age seven, died of pneumonia in April 1918. Two decades later in 1938 his oldest son (named Stephens also), just married and very shortly after passing the

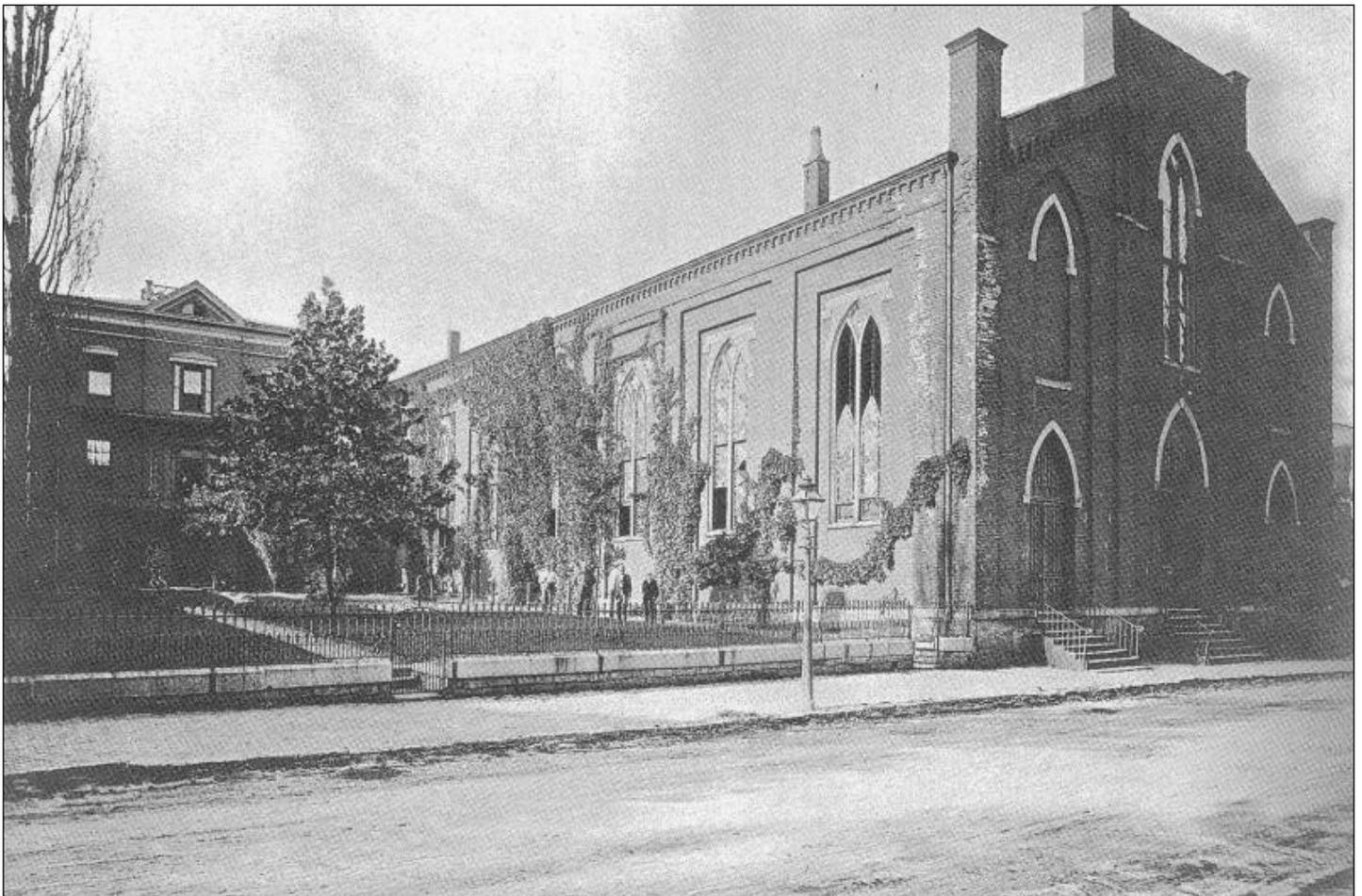


bar examination, tragically died in an accident at the Ashland Oil Refinery in Latonia.

Stephens Blakely allied himself with many organizations: The Knights of St. Johns, Citizens Patriotic League, Ft. Mitchell County Club (charter member), Civil War Roundtable, Kentucky Historical Society, Kenton and Kentucky Bar associations and Norman Bates Post American Legion. As a lawyer, Blakely helped establish the Dixie Traction Co.<sup>26</sup> He represented the Union Light Heat & Power Co. and the Green Line Co.<sup>27</sup> He was a founding member and first president of the Christopher Gist Historical Society.<sup>28</sup> Stephens Blakely was a charter member of the Twin Oakes Golf Course.<sup>29</sup>

### **John Ruffner Blakely**

In the words of John Blakely when his father Stephens moved to Ft. Mitchell, it was still country along the macadamized Lexington Pike. To get to his law office in Covington, Stephens would walk down Beechwood Road to a little railroad station called



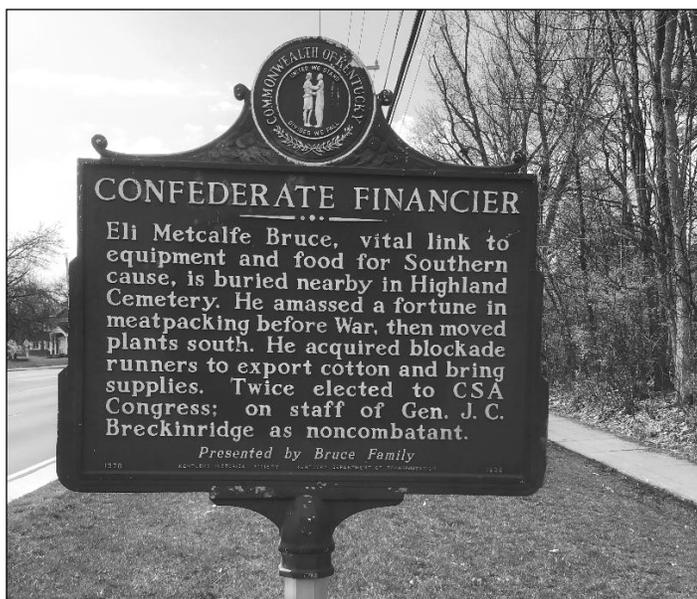
Highland Station, take the train to Ludlow, then take a horse and carriage to Covington. When Stephens Blakely sought the Democratic nomination for Lieutenant Governor and lost to Happy Chandler it was due to a broken promise from Maurice Galvin (once a powerful Republican, maybe also a nominal Democrat),<sup>30</sup> Frank Tracy and Polk Laffoon. They ran the Democratic Party in those days.<sup>31</sup>

From family stories, John Blakely recalled the Sandfords, descendants of an old Confederate family. Union soldiers quartered their horses in the Sandford house and with no good reason vandalized the Sandford household. The vicinity that became Ft. Mitchell had been a farming community with slave holders including Alexander P. Sandford, the Kennedy family and the Leathers family.<sup>32</sup> In the late 1800s John L. Sandford built a summer home at 25 Beechwood Road. John Blakely said that he managed John Bayne Breckenridge's (1913-1979) run for Attorney General and Congress successfully in the 1960s.<sup>33</sup>

John R. Blakely, like his father a practicing lawyer, was active in politics and wrote local history sometimes expressing the views of the Old South wing of the Democratic party. He once represented the local area in the Kentucky Historical Society's statewide Historic Highway Markers program. In the old rail bed for the Ft. Mitchell streetcar, just east of Beechwood Road, has stood for years a cast metal marker honoring Eli Bruce a financier for the Confederate Army.<sup>34</sup> Its location might seem questionable but it indirectly honors Confederate families (Sandford, Leathers, Kennedy), who once owned farms in the area and the sentiments of the late Stephens Blakely and late son John.

## Endnotes

1. Between the end of the Civil War into 1900 the intensity and complexity of violence and feuds gave the border state of Kentucky a reputation. Confederate guerilla raiding and mayhem had continued after the Civil War. Some Union army deserters and others had also become marauders. Some destitute freed blacks had resorted to thievery. Innocent freedmen were dragged, whipped and hanged by mobs. Democratic politicians were prone to tolerate the violent intimidation like that of the Ku Klux Klan. Nor were Union loyalists and Republicans always unsympathetic to lawless revenge. As the years wore on violence against blacks continued. --Hambleton Tapp and James C. Klotter, *Kentucky: Decades of Discord, 1865-1900*, Frankfort, Kentucky: The Kentucky Historical Society, 1977
2. James C. Klotter, "Goebel, William," *The Encyclopedia of Northern Kentucky*, edited by Paul A. Tenkotte and James C. Claypool, Lexington, Kentucky: The University Press of Kentucky, 2009, pp. 405-407
3. James C. Klotter, "Goebel, William," cited above
4. Stephens Blakely, "Subject - A Kentucky Tragedy," *Christopher Gist Papers*, bound Vol. 2, pp. 52-62
5. Lisa Gillham (with Bethany Richter Pollitt), "J. H. Kruse, War & the Terrible Threateners, Anti-German Hysteria in World War I Covington" *Northern Kentucky Heritage*, Vol XV, No. 1, Fall-Winter 2007
6. Don Heinrich Tolzmann, "German Americans," *Encyclopedia of Northern Kentucky*, pp. 394, 395
7. Lisa Gillham (with Bethany Richter Pollitt) cited above
8. Espionage Act of 1917 - Wikipedia
9. Lisa Gillham (with Bethany Richter Pollitt) cited above; see Scott Merriman, "Anti-German Hysteria, 1917-1920," *The Encyclopedia of Northern Kentucky*, p. 30



Opposite page, top: John and Jane Blakely;  
Bottom: St. Mary's Cathedral, East Eighth Street;  
Above: both sides of the historical marker located at the corner of  
Beechwood Road and Dixie highway, Ft. Mitchell.  
On the cover: the Blakely Mansion, 116 Beechwood Road

# Kentucky Trivia

A new, ongoing feature from Michael Crisp's

"The Best Kentucky Trivia Book Ever," available at  
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This issue features

## History

## Questions

1. In 1792, Kentucky became the 15th state to do what?
2. Kentucky was originally part of this state before it joined the Union.
3. Name all seven states that border Kentucky.
4. The name Kentucky is derived from the Wyandot Indian name for this type of land.
5. Kentucky is one of four states that officially use this term to describe itself.
6. Kentucky became the first state west of this mountain range.
7. What famous frontiersman was an early explorer of Kentucky, primarily known for the trails he blazed through the Cumberland Gap?
8. Over half of all Americans killed in action during this war were from Kentucky.
9. In what Kentucky city was Abraham Lincoln born?
10. While taking their oath of office, a Kentucky governor must swear that he or she has never taken part in this type of activity.

## Answers

1. Join the United States
2. Virginia
3. West Virginia, Virginia, Tennessee, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio. (Only Missouri and Tennessee border more states... both with eight)
4. "Plain"
5. Commonwealth
6. Appalachian Mountains
7. Daniel Boone
8. The War of 1812, even though there were no battles fought in Kentucky during this war
9. Hodgenville
10. A duel with deadly weapons

10. Laura Woodrough Steneck, "A Blakely Family, A History of Sarah Haughton Blakely and Her Children," all rights reserved by Laura Woodrough Steneck, 2003
11. "Liverpool," Wikipedia
12. "Manchester," Wikipedia
13. Lawrenceville is the birthplace of Stephen C. Foster
14. "Originally a small town inhabited by mostly Bavarian Roman Catholics, it [St. Marys] was founded on December 8, 1842. It is home to the Straub Brewery and the first Benedictine convent in the United States." - Wikipedia
15. Baptismal records from St. Paul's Cathedral of the Diocese of Pittsburgh indicate that Laurie John was baptized under the name John Laurence Blakely - Laura Woodrough Steneck, cited above
16. Lisa Gillham (with Bethany Richter Pollitt), footnote 48, Scott Merriman, "The Bug was in the Clock..." and Blakely's diary. 1909-1922, made available through Margo Woodrough
17. Website: Jack Becker and Matthew K. Hamilton, "Wartime Cotton Trade," Texas State Historical Society
18. Laura Woodrough Steneck cited above; "Maximilian I of Mexico" - Wikipedia
19. "O'Hara, James J.," *The Encyclopedia of Northern Kentucky* p. 685
20. "Carlisle, John G.," *The Encyclopedia of Northern Kentucky*, p. 154
21. Hallam, Theodore F. (1844-1905), fought in the Confederate First Kentucky Infantry; married the daughter of Dr. John Stevenson of Erlanger; elected to state House of Representatives, Covington city councilman; state senator; a local politician noted for his wit - Jim Reis, K. P., 12-18-1989; "Hallam, Theodore Frelinghuysen," *The Encyclopedia of Northern Kentucky*, p. 429
22. See *The Encyclopedia of Northern Kentucky*, Paul A. Tenkotte "Cleveland, Henrietta Esther Scott," p. 199; "Major, Thomas Smith," pp. 577, 778; James A. Ramage and Matthew E. Becher, "Morgan, John Hunt," p. 626
23. "Blakely, Stephens L.," *The Encyclopedia of Northern Kentucky*, pp. 92, 93
24. Brandt was administrator of the diocese after the death of Bishop Toebe - Paul E. Ryan, *History of the Diocese of Covington, Kentucky*, Covington, Kentucky: The Diocese of Covington, 1954
25. Napoleon B. Stephens (1814-1887) was the son of Leonard, Kenton County's first Sheriff - Richard H. Collins, *History of Kentucky*
26. "Blakely, Stephens L.," *The Encyclopedia of Northern Kentucky*, pp. 92, 93
27. Terry W. Lehmann, "Dixie Traction Company," *The Encyclopedia of Northern Kentucky*, p. 276
28. "Blakely, Stephens L.," *The Encyclopedia of Northern Kentucky*, cited above
29. Alice Kennelly Roberts, "Christopher Gist Historical Society," *The Encyclopedia of Northern Kentucky*, pp. 177, 178
30. "Twin Oaks Golf Course," *The Encyclopedia of Northern Kentucky*, p. 897
31. Galvin's ambitious hard work made for bipartisanship - Roger Auge II, "Galvin, Maurice L.," *The Encyclopedia of Northern Kentucky*, p. 384
32. David Wecker, "John Blakely: 'The People Up Here Are Different,'" K. P., July 6, 1982
33. *A Home of Our Own, the Suburb of Fort Mitchell, Kentucky, 1910-2010*. Paul Tenkotte and C. Adam Hartke, Cincinnati, Ohio: Black Tie Press, 2012
34. John Bayne Breckenridge was one of the "Breckinridges of Kentucky." John Cabell Breckenridge had served in the Kentucky House of Representatives, in Congress as a states rights Democrat, as Vice president under President James Buchanan and in the U. S. Senate. Representing southern Democrats, he was one of the losers in the election of Abraham Lincoln in 1860. He became a Confederate General and later Confederate Secretary of War. - James C. Klotter, "Breckenridge, John Bayne"; James C Klotter, "Breckenridge, John Cabell," *The Kentucky Encyclopedia*, Lexington, Kentucky: University Press of Kentucky, 1992, pp. 117,118
35. Stephen T. McMurtry, "Bruce, Eli Metcalf," *The Encyclopedia of Northern Kentucky*, p. 125

## Then and Now



Two views of the 600 block of Covington's Garrard Street.  
Kenton County Public Library

## Mystery Photo

Can you identify the Mystery Photo? The answer is found below.



Answer:

Camp George W. Hill in Morning View, Kentucky,  
official Scout reservation of the Northern Kentucky Council, Boy Scouts of America

# Kenton County Historical Society

July/August 2020

ARTICLES FROM BACK ISSUES ARE INDEXED ON OUR WEBSITE!

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**The Kenton County Historical Society**  
Yearly membership, including the Bulletin, \$20.00

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Ex-officio

## I Bet You Didn't Know

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

July 1, 1948: The Kentucky State Police was established by the Legislature to replace the KY Highway patrol, organized in 1936.

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

July 5, 1950: Five Kentuckians were killed near Osan, in the first American action of the Korean War.

July 10, 1852: Henry Clay was buried in the Lexington cemetery. There were more than 30,000 in attendance.

July 23, 1966: Cumberland National Forest was renamed in honor of Daniel Boone.

From: *On This Day In Kentucky*, by Robert Powell

## Programs and Notices

### Kenton County Historical Society

If approved by officials, a cemetery tour of the Mary E. Smith Cemetery, 1120 Plateau St. in Elsmere, conducted by the Kenton County Public Library local history staff, will be scheduled for Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup> from 9 to 11 a.m.

The annual KCHS membership meeting, including the election of officers and directors, is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, September 26 (immediately following the cemetery tour).

Dr. David Moore will speak on the 1862 Cincinnati Riots and the Civil War defenses of Northern Kentucky, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 a.m.

Charles Bogart on the topic "Covington & Lexington Railroad – a Pawn Fought over by the L&N and C&O," on October 10<sup>th</sup>. The location is yet to be determined.

### Behringer Crawford Museum

Northern Kentucky History Hour, a new program started recently, is presented weekly at 6:30 on Wednesday evenings. Its an invitation to learn local and state history through ZOOM video conferencing media, which provides for some interactivity between the audience and the speaker.

Previous speakers have included David Schroeder on the Ludlow Lagoon; Paul Tenkotte on Women's Suffrage; Scott Clark, Newport Preservation Officer, on the Southgate Colored School, now a Newport history museum; and Behringer Crawford Collections Curator, Jason French, on interesting artifacts in the Museum collection. Programs are foreseen going into November.

You are invited to register for NKY History Hour; then join the program by clicking the link at about 6:30 on Wednesdays:  
Register: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcsdeGtpjMiEtFOHWP1OI4tooShmMxzS0oY>

Northern Kentucky History Hour programs are free at this time. But these programs on local history also constitute an effort to attract new members to the Behringer Crawford Museum. If you are not already a museum member, please take a moment today to become a member through the link below:  
<http://www.bcmuseum.org/support-us/join/membership-levels-and-benefits>.

Virtual education programming: In response to the Coronavirus, the museum of course is closed. In the meantime, museum staff has been working hard developing more virtual education programming for youngsters and family. These programs take place through social media whether the museum is closed or not. See the museum website for details. Note that June 28 is, at the moment, a tentative museum re-opening date.