



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

2014



“Toto, We’re Not in Napa Valley Anymore”
The Viticulture Industry on Prospect Hill,
Covington, Kentucky

Charles Stolzenburg (1867-1903):
A Stonemason Carves His Name into History
on the Roebling Suspension Bridge

“Toto, We’re Not in Napa Valley Anymore”

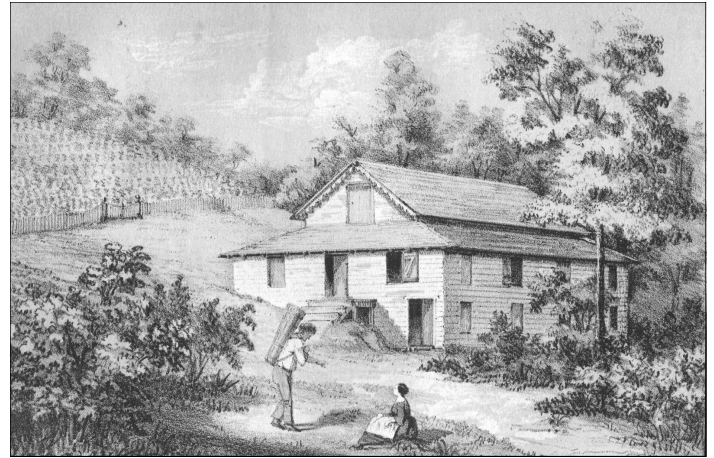
The Viticulture Industry on Prospect Hill, Covington, Kentucky

David Breetzke

Kentucky is most commonly associated with the horse industry. However, during the nineteenth century, Kentucky played an important role in the viticulture industry. This paper will explore the preliminary findings and research of a nineteenth century vineyard/winery and Civil War component in Covington, Kentucky. The vineyard on Prospect Hill, known as the Thompson’s Winery, was a well-known Northern Kentucky industry boasting of some 37,000 vines of at least nine different varieties of grapes. Although all that remains of the vineyard/winery are the stone terraces and stone-lined lateral drainages, these architectural monuments remind us of a forgotten history on Prospect Hill.

The history of the viticulture industry in Northern Kentucky began with local farmers of German heritage, who attempted to recreate the success of their Rhine Valley ancestors and build vineyards across Northern Kentucky, as early as 1825. In fact, by 1851 at least 300 vineyards existed within 20 miles of Cincinnati, totaling about 900 acres.¹ Of the 900 acres, about half were bearing fruit at that time. Wine growers had high hopes for the viticulture industry in the early 1850s because the tri-state area vineyards had produced a combined total of 120,000 gallons of wine.² By 1859, up to 2,000 local acres were in grapes, with an average yield of 200 gallons of wine per acre.³ This was the same as the average yield of wine for Germany and France at that same time.

The average cost of planting one acre of grapes was approximately \$200.00.⁴ The average local price of a gallon of wine in 1859 was \$1.00 to \$1.25 at the press, and as much as 25-50% more out of the wine cellars. Even a six acre tract of land could produce 1,200 gallons of wine with a gross worth of at least \$1,500.00.



View of wine house of Mr. Corneau, near Latonia, Kentucky
Photos courtesy: the author

There were set backs suffered by the viticulture industry. By 1859 downy mildew and black rot had begun to affect the vineyards in the area.⁵ Vineyard owners were not yet discouraged because the crop had at that time been more productive than other fruit crops.⁶ However, the mildew and rot that had begun to hit the local vineyards in the late 1850s increased during the 1860s, forcing many vineyards out of business. By the late 1860s, local horticulturists realized that this region was really not well suited to the viticulture industry and many turned to tobacco, which was a far more profitable crop.⁷

The Civil War also impacted the sale and transport of wine. Production in Kentucky dropped from a high of over 136,000 gallons in 1860 to just over 31,000 gallons in 1863. Production suffered another blow with the death in 1870 of Nicholas Longworth, a longtime proponent of viticulture in the area, and the closure of his bottling plant. Grape production continued as a viable crop for many in the region up to the time of Prohibition in 1920. After Prohibition however, the local wine industry stopped almost all commercial production.

Viticulture was not an industry for just anyone; it took a great deal of time, money and an understanding to not only find the right location and prepare the ground for the plants, but also to keep raccoons, deer, opossums and birds from destroying the harvest. Because it was such a delicate operation, most vintners planted small vineyards of only three acres or less. Moderate vineyards were considered three to five acres, and anything over this was considered a very large vineyard.⁸

The Catawba Grape was the earliest grape hardy enough for the Midwest's harsh winters and hot summers and was most often used in the area. The Catawba grape was believed to hold the most promise for the growers in the Ohio River Valley. Vintners were discouraged from introducing European grapes, which were believed to yield fewer grapes and were more susceptible to disease and rot. However, the Catawba Grape had its own problems and new grapes were eventually introduced that included the Virginia, Ives, Delaware, Concord, Creveling, Hartford Prolific, and the Diana grape, and each were doing satisfactorily well.

The history of the Hillside Vineyard started with Egbert Abiel Thompson. Thompson was born in Bethlehem, Connecticut, in 1814. He apparently came from a family of some substance, because he entered Yale Law School in 1839 at age 25. While attending Yale, he met and married Caroline A. Smith, the daughter of Judge Nathan Smith of New Haven, Connecticut. Upon completion of his training, the Thompsons moved to Quincy, Illinois, where he practiced law and edited a paper. In 1844, Thompson was appointed by the Governor of Connecticut as a Commissioner to take the acknowledgment and proof of Deeds and Instruments under seal and depositions in various states. In 1847, he moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, where he continued to practice law.⁹

It is unclear exactly when Thompson discontinued the practice of law and moved completely into the viticulture industry, but in 1858, while still a resident of Cincinnati, he purchased four lots (Lots 28 and 29, and Lots 2 and 3), an area totaling approximately 37½ acres, on Prospect Hill, south of Coving-

ton, Kentucky, for \$6,937.50. This was the start of his "Hillside Vineyard." While Thompson owned the land on Prospect Hill, he continued to reside in Cincinnati. According to the tax rolls, Thompson did not live on Prospect Hill until 1864. However, between 1858 and 1864, he began to improve his land in earnest. Clearly, Thompson constructed his home and hillside vineyard during that period. This assumption is made based on the tax rolls which show that the value of his land increased almost three-fold from 1863 to 1864.

Just as Thompson was beginning his viticulture business, threats of a Civil War complicated his endeavors. In August of 1862, a fear began to grow that Confederate troops were heading toward Cincinnati. On September 1, 1862, General Horatio G. Wright commanded General Lew Wallace to vacate Paris, Kentucky with all of his troops and assemble in Cincinnati to prepare a defense of Cincinnati, Covington and Newport. Wallace declared Martial Law in these three cities. Generals Lew Wallace, Ormsby



General Lew Wallace

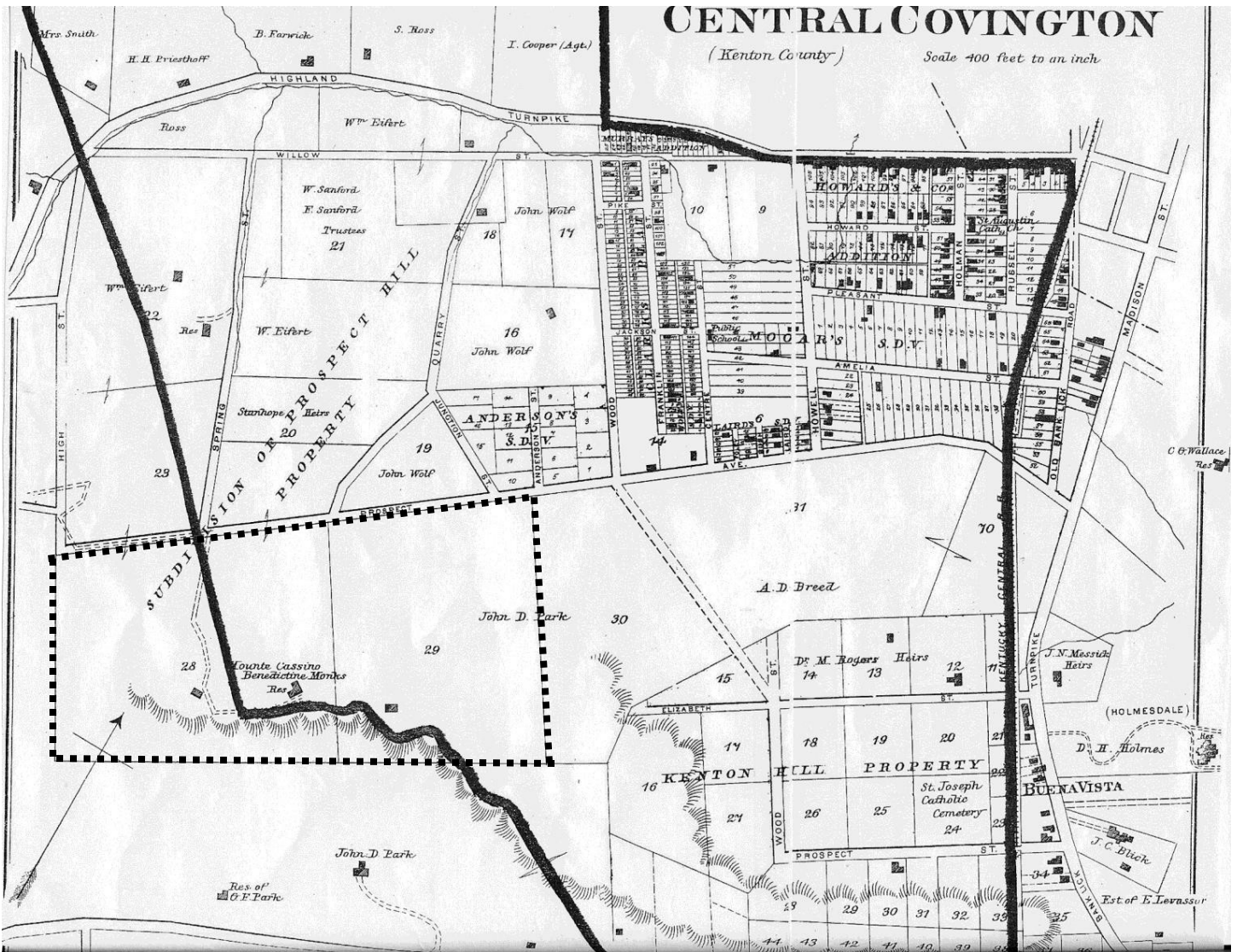
Photos courtesy: Kenton County Public Library

Mitchel, Horatio. G. Wright, and Colonel Charles Whittlesey were responsible for choosing the locations of the installations on the hills of Northern Kentucky and Cincinnati. The “call to arms” to protect Cincinnati, Covington and Newport was well received, with citizens coming from all over to dig entrenchments, cut and remove timber, and bring up artillery on the hills to defend their cities.¹⁰

Wallace took charge of defending the “Queen City” with his headquarters at Cincinnati’s fashionable Burnet House. On September 6, 1862 however, upon the arrival of General Wright, he moved his base to a building at the Thompson Winery, near the center of the fortification line on the Northern Kentucky hills.¹¹ There is no indication if this was

Thompson’s residence or one of his outbuildings, but most records indicate it was his home. Although no artillery position was established here, the headquarters building came to be called Fort Henry.¹²

Thompson later filed to the “Committee of Claims” that during the month of August of 1862, while Cincinnati was threatened by the Confederate forces of Kirby Smith, Thompson’s farm was utilized by several regiments (one regiment = 10 companies, one company = approximately 100 men) of Union troops, along with their horses and mules, who set up camp on his property. Thompson states that while the troops were stationed on his property, they burned his fences, destroyed his fruit trees and vineyard, and damaged other property to the amount of



1883 Atlas of Central Covington. Dashed lines show Lots 28 and 29, the Thompson Winery. As a reference in 2014, Quarry Street is now Benton Road and Prospect Avenue is now Monte Lane.

\$7,500. The “Committee” did not dispute the fact that Union troops were stationed on Thompson’s property, they did however, dispute his damage assessment costs.¹³

Thompson laid out the reason for his belief that his damage claim should be \$7,500, because he claimed that \$3,000 was for the destruction of 1,500 peach trees that were two years old, \$5.00 each for pear tree, five years old, and \$10.00 each for cherry tree, five years old, etc. The government claimed that furnishing and planting these trees likely cost only \$25.00 per 100 trees and the expense of cultivating the trees was in their mind, “but a trifle”. Therefore, the “Committee” believed that the claim was exorbitant. When Thompson made his initial claim, he also sent in affidavits from neighbors and colleagues explaining the costs of running a fruit farm and vineyard. However, when the “Committee” read these accounts, they felt that these testimonies were of little value because they were from “friendly neighbors whose judgments were biased towards the claimant”. Therefore, the “Committee” reduced the value down to \$2,450.¹⁴

While there was little reference to the damages to his vineyard beyond this claim, Thompson’s peach, pear and cherry enterprises were severely damaged. Although this must have set him back terribly, by 1867 there is reference to Thompson having about 40 acres of peach and pear trees that are at least two years old.

The preparation of land on the hills of Northern Kentucky must have been impressive. According to an article in the *Cincinnati Gazette* in 1867:

“Thompson had 40 acres of vineyard almost all on hillsides, too steep to be cultivated in any other way then by hand. The hillsides have been dug up to the depth of nearly a foot and a half or two feet, and the stone collected into serviceable terraces to prevent washing. Many of the stumps were dug out and a suitable number of terrace walls were built to serve the purpose for which they were constructed. All things being thus to readiness, the vines were planted. In three years, the vineyard has spread over 40 acres of ground, on which are 37,000...”

Improvements to his land took the form of the construction of his house, barn, and preparation of the land for growing grapes and fruit trees. It was understood in the viticulture business that grapes grew best on the southern exposure of hillsides. Thompson’s new farm had just that. It was also common knowledge that too much or too little water would prove detrimental to the plants. For this reason, Thompson needed to prepare the land by building a vast network of stone terraces to protect the grapes and a system of water transference to both water the plants and remove excess water from the hillside.

There is no shortage of limestone on the hills of Northern Kentucky. Therefore, Thompson had no trouble acquiring raw material to create his walls and lining his lateral drainages. As his hillsides were being cleared of stone, they were piled up to be used in constructing the terraces or the lateral drainages. However, there would likely have not been enough stone collected to create the massive terraces and drainages he had. Therefore, it was more likely that Thompson had stone transported to his farm. A possible location for acquiring the stone could have been from a limestone quarry located adjacent to the Thompson farm.

The construction of a dry-laid stone wall is a simple but time consuming process and Thompson needed a lot of terrace walls to create his vineyard. A dry-laid limestone retaining wall is one that is constructed without mortar and its construction depends upon the weight and friction of one stone on another for its stability. Therefore, walls over two feet high require a batter of two inches back for every one foot in height. When starting a dry wall, the first stones can be laid approximately six inches below grade. There is no elaborate footing required for a dry wall since the stones are not bonded together and will raise and lower with the frost. The rate of build depends largely on the height of the wall and the quality of work. A standard field wall in Kentucky, of around four feet in height, requires 12 tons of stone for ten yards of wall. A cubic yard of limestone is approximately 2.6 tons, or a little over two yards daily. This is a not unreasonable estimate of build in a day, although for a professional

wall builder, the rate should be somewhat higher... 3 or 3.25 yards a day - if the weather is not against him, (i.e. very hot and humid). This latter figure assumes that the foundation has been dug and the stone is either laid out for him or brought in on time as he builds. The rate is nearly always around one ton per man per day. Once you are above head height, rates per man drop. When you are on scaffolding, rates decline by half or more, although if there is access to the upper side for tipping stone, then a large retaining wall can be built from above, which restores the build rate to close to a standard wall.

An improvement in viticulture, at least in the Midwest, was the introduction of a lateral ditch. The intention of this ditch was for it to both catch the water as well as to channel it and to let it out at certain points such that it would not cause undo erosion to the surrounding hillside.¹⁵ This was not just any ditch cut into the side of the hill. An ordinary ditch would have washed out in the first good rain with the frangipane soils of Northern Kentucky. Thompson's lateral drainage was cut into the hillside and then

stones were laid vertically on end and perpendicular to the downward slope, thus slowing the flow of the water. In addition, a series of pools were created along the lateral drainage to catch water, as well as to slow the movement of the water. This not only reduced the velocity of the water, but also aided in the labor force getting water to the plants.

Sometime between 1864 and 1867, Thompson constructed a wine cellar near his house. By 1867, he already had the cellar well stocked with his own wines. In fact, Thompson had plans to build a second wine cellar when his vines matured. According to an editorial in the *Cincinnati Lancet and Observer*:

"...Mr. Thompson is experimenting with a new process by which the new wine is aerated as to do the work of a year's fermentation in a few weeks. This would not only save time, but produce a better article of wine."

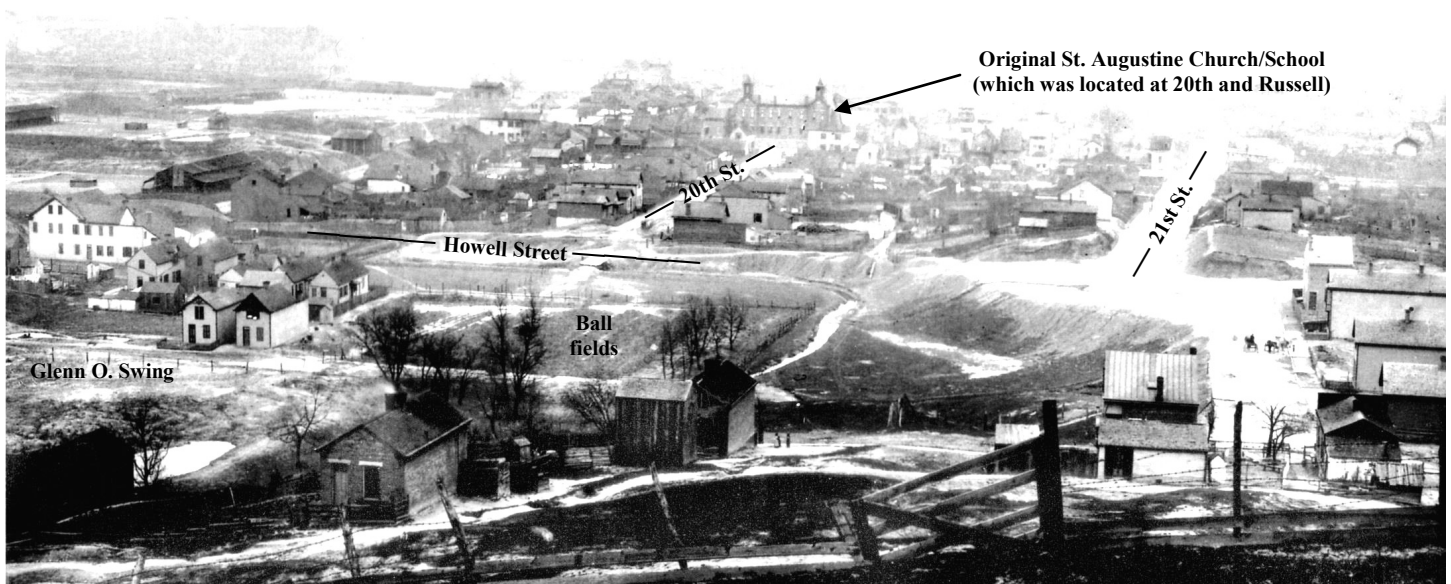
Wine was also used as a medicinal for a variety of ailments and physicians stated that the American wine could be purchased at a cheaper rate than



Top photo: portion of a terrace wall with steps built in;
Bottom photo: Thompson residence

Courtesy: the author

the vile compounds of whisky and logwood referred



View from the north-easternmost portion of the Thompson property, looking east into what was Central Covington or Peaselburg.

Courtesy: Kenton County Public Library

to as imported wines. Thompson continued to increase his vineyard. By 1868, he now had 60 acres of his hillside under cultivation. According to the *Cincinnati Chronicle* in 1868, Thompson's grape varieties included: The Norton's Virginia Seedling, Ives Seedling, Concord, Delaware, Creveling, Herbemont, Hartford Prolific, Iona, and Catawba. Horticulture as a whole was extremely important in and around Cincinnati. Many learned men wrote articles and more often read articles about the methods, procedures and problems associated with all forms of agriculture including viticulture. Thompson was among those men who were well versed in the practice of viticulture. So much so, Thompson became President of the American Wine Growers Association by 1869.

Although Thompson had a well-stocked wine cellar, he sold most of his wines at his store and wine depot on 76 West 3rd Street, near Vine Street, in Cincinnati. By 1872, Thompson was listed as President of the Cincinnati Wine Company, with an office at 44 W. Pearl Street, Cincinnati. A solid reference to the buildings on the Thompson property is well detailed, but was written many years after the winery was sold. In 1916, Father Modestus states: "there was a two-story brick house with slate roof, a brick barn with slate roof, a frame wagon shed with slate roof, a frame blacksmith shop with shingle roof, a frame carpenter shop with shingle roof, stone wine

cellar, the first part (28x67) has first and second story in the ground, the second part, (28x50) has first story in the ground."¹⁶ The winery continued to be used for its intended use for many years after it was sold. But to get an understanding of why the winery was sold to its next owners, it is important to understand certain events that led up to the sale of the land.

Thompson was a lawyer by trade and a shrewd business man. In 1871, he and his wife transferred two tracts of land in Kenton County to the Cincinnati Wine Company for \$90,000.¹⁷ Coincidentally, Thompson was president of the Cincinnati Wine Company at the time. Thompson continued to live in Kenton County until 1874. By 1875, he still owned the winery property, but he is no longer a resident of the county and he is listed as living in Kansas. In 1877, the house on the Hillside property burned to the ground, with all the belongings in the house destroyed.¹⁸ There is no record of the house being rebuilt, but it is possible that another structure was built because when the next owners of the property purchased the vineyard, there is mention of a house.

With a strong German Catholic presence in Northern Kentucky, the new owners of the vineyard are a group of monks. Abbot Boniface Wimmer, patriarch of Benedictinism in North America, seemed to have been a firm believer in the Benedictine princi-

ple of the monastery as a self-sustaining whole.¹⁹ When Abbot Boniface had trouble purchasing pure altar wine for St. Vincent's Monastery (the Benedictine monastery east of Pittsburgh), he decided to set up his own winery for the production of altar wine in Kentucky. That way he would be able to supply the St. Vincent Monastery with altar wine. In 1877, he found that a vineyard near Covington, Kentucky was for sale. The property consisted of 76 acres and had been the location of Fort Henry during the Civil War. The land for sale was known as the "Prospect Hill Property" or the "Thompson Winery" and was located on Buena Vista Hill, directly above Latonia and overlooking old Peaselsburg. Abbot Boniface bought the 76 acres from the American Life Insurance Company of Philadelphia, on December 22, 1877, for \$21,500. He named the property Monte Cassino after the first Benedictine monastery.²⁰ Apparently, Monte Cassino began to run into financial difficulties around 1916. Father Modestus, now in charge of the monastery, wrote about the condition of the land. He stated that out of the 76 acres the order owned, only 30 acres were under grape cultivation and a ten-acre field was only good for pasture, because it was so full of rock and could not be plowed. The hillside (where the vineyard was located) could not be cultivated with a plow, so men with hoes were responsible for preparing and fertilizing the vineyard. Father Modestus noted that the grape vines were so old that they should have been replaced years earlier. At the time the land was purchased, the property had an orchard. However, by 1916, there were only three apple trees and a few pear and peach trees remaining. Apparently, the orchard had been removed to keep thieves away, according to Father Modestus. From 1916 until the winery was sold in 1922, it suffered. The management of the winery, the taxes levied on the wine sold, not to mention Prohibition, all meant the end of wine production at Monte Cassino. But that is not the end of the wine making story for the property.

A local resident, Mark Schmidt, has revived a portion of the old vineyard. Mark has cleared a portion of his land on the western extreme edge of the old E. A. Thompson winery. He painstakingly cleared all the old debris from the terraces and has planted approximately 475 vines between two of the



Mark Schmidt's vineyard, using a portion of the old Thompson Winery.

Courtesy: the author

original terraces. He grows Dornfelder grapes, a German grape that has an extraordinary depth of color yet a fresh and fruity, almost Beaujolais-like, taste.

Endnotes

1. Cist, Charles, *Sketches and Statistics of Cincinnati in 1851*, Wm. Moore and Company, Cincinnati, 1851
2. Buchanan, Robert, *A Treatise on the Cultivation of the Grapes in Vineyards*, Wright, Ferris and CO., Cincinnati, 1850
3. Cist, Charles, *Sketches and Statistics of Cincinnati in 1859*, Wm. Moore and Company, Cincinnati, 1859
4. Buchanan, Robert, *A Treatise on the Cultivation of the Grapes in Vineyards*, Wright, Ferris and CO., Cincinnati, 1850
5. See: Cist, Charles, *Sketches and Statistics of Cincinnati in 1859*, Wm. Moore and Company, Cincinnati, 1859, and Clark, Donald A. "Viniculture," *The Encyclopedia of Northern Kentucky*, Tenkotte, Paul A., and Claypool, James C., editors, University Press of Kentucky, 2009
6. Cist, Charles, *Sketches and Statistics of Cincinnati in 1859*, Wm. Moore and Company, Cincinnati, 1859
7. Cangi, Ellen Corwin, *From Viticulture to American Culture: The History of the Ohio River Valley Meyers Estate*, Meyers Wine Company, 1893
8. Flagg, Melzer, *Remarks on the Culture of the Grape and the Manufacture of Wine in the Western United States*, Cincinnati Horticultural Society, Cincinnati, 1846
9. Hollister, John Clark, *Historical Record of the Class of 1840: Yale College*, Tuttle, Morehouse and Taylor Press, New Haven, 1897, pages 51 and 52
10. Geaslen, Chester F., *Our Moment of Glory in the Civil War: when Cincinnati was defended from the hills of Northern Kentucky*, Otto Printing, Newport, Kentucky, 1973, pages 14 and 15
11. Geaslen, Chester F., *Our Moment of Glory in the Civil War: when Cincinnati was defended from the hills of Northern Kentucky*, Otto Printing, Newport, Kentucky, 1973, page 48
12. Walden, Geoffrey R., *Remembering Kentucky's Confederates*, Arcadia Publishing, page 2
13. Hale, James Tracy, 38th Congress, 1st Session, House of Representatives, Report No. 115, Committee of Claims, to accompany H.R. Bill No. 531

Continued on page 10

Charles Stolzenburg (1867-1903)

A Stonemason Carves His Name into History on the Roebling Suspension Bridge

Don Heinrich Tolzmann

A frequent question received by the Covington-Cincinnati Suspension Bridge Committee is whether it has any information on who worked on the bridge. Such questions come from families who have heard stories about an ancestor who is said to have worked on the bridge and the question finds its way to me as the Historian for the Committee.¹ We definitely do know of one person who did work on the bridge, because he carved his name on top of the northern tower. Who was he and how did his name get there?

From 1895 to 1899, work was undertaken to reconstruct the bridge under the direction of Wilhelm Hildenbrand.² One of the stonemasons was Charles Stolzenburg. He was born in 1867 in Bellevue, Kentucky, the son of Frederick S. Stolzenburg (1841-1926) and Louise Mattes Stolzenburg (1845-79).³ Both parents were members of St. John's German Evangelical Church, now the St. John's United Church of Christ in Newport, and are buried at the Evergreen Cemetery in Southgate, Kentucky. According to church records, the father was German-born and the mother likely was also.⁴

An obituary for Charles Stolzenburg indicates that he died in 1903 at age 36 and that he left a widow and several children and that he was buried at Evergreen Cemetery.⁵ The cause of death was pulmonary tuberculosis. The 1898 city directory of Covington lists his occupation as that of a stonecutter.⁶ From this information, we can draw the conclusion that he was employed during the 1890s reconstruction of the bridge.

We can date him to the bridge reconstruction because his name is followed by the date it was carved. The depth of the carving reveals that this was the work of a stonemason, as the name is not scratched, but carefully chiseled into the stone by the tools only someone in that trade would have had.



Upper image, showing the chiseled name of Charles Stolzenburg, is three separate photos placed together.

Lower photo: close-up of the date carved on the tower.

*Photos courtesy: Nancy Wood, Public Information Officer,
Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, District 6*



The carving measures roughly 2.5 inches by 2.5 feet and spells out: "Chas. Stolzenburg May 28, 1898."

Since his name is on top of one of the towers, his carving is relatively unknown. We can only conjecture what may have caused him to carve his name there, but it most likely was the same reason that has motivated people to carve their names on stone going back to ancient Egypt when stonemasons inscribed the pyramids with their names: they wanted to carve their names into history. Charles Stolzenburg accomplished this, resulting in us now having the name of one of the many who worked on the bridge. It is a tiny footnote in the history of the Roebling Suspension Bridge, but a footnote nonetheless that sheds light on who worked on the bridge.⁷

Endnotes

1. Due to the frequent inquiries regarding people who worked on the bridge, the author is collecting a file on the topic. If you have information on someone who worked on it, please get in touch with him: dhtolzmann@yahoo.com

A Look Back at The Headlines

An on-going feature reliving local headlines.

This issue features:

The Daily Commonwealth – July 4, 1880.

In The City

Grass at the courthouse yard had at last been mowed.

A.L. Graves has reestablished the Burlington bus line.

Thirty of Robert Stickney's Circus Troupe, which shows here Monday next, stopped at the Clinton Hotel on Sunday.

Early Sunday morning, officers Cutler and Holtrup captured two men on Eleventh Street, each bearing away with him two fine game chickens. The culprits at first refused to carry their bounty to the courthouse but were compelled to do so by the arresting officers. They will be tried this afternoon.

Several accidents have occurred within the city incident to the popular mode of celebrating our Independence Day. The boys do not regard it as any sort of a Fourth of July unless there is an incessant bang of shotguns, pistols, and crackers, and a whiz of rockets, serpents, and many other ingenious and devilish arrangements of flashing material which endangers property, and life and limb. In the three days' celebration just passed, these displays were more universal, more incessant than ever before. The only wonder is that there were not more and worse accidents. We heard of no attempt whatsoever to check the nuisance. People who left the city to spend time in the country did well to do so.

Perhaps one of the most surprising facts in connection with the celebration of the Fourth of July was a picnic in Pattontown without a fight!

Stolzenburg — continued

2. Regarding the reconstruction of the bridge, see: Joseph F. Gastright, "Wilhelm Hildenbrand and the 1895 Reconstruction of the Roebling Suspension Bridge," *Northern Kentucky Heritage*, 8:1(2000): 1-14.

3. Biographical information on Stolzenburg and his parents can be found on the Internet at *Find A Grave*.

4. For the records of the church, see: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~kycampbe/united1859marriages.htm>

5. For the obituary of Stolzenburg, see: "Covington Deaths and Funerals," *Kentucky Post*, (December 11, 1903), p. 8, column 1-2. Thanks to Bill Stolz, Kentucky History Librarian at the Kenton County Public Library for finding this obituary.

6. Thanks also to Bill Stolz for this reference.

7. Descendants of another stonemason report that their ancestor, Herman Heinrich Meiners (1821-1904) also worked on the bridge. According to *Find A Grave*, he was born in Ankum, Germany, came to America in 1841 and was then apprenticed with a stonemason. Given his earlier dates, however, he would most likely have worked on the original construction of the bridge, rather than its later reconstruction. Meiners is buried at the cemetery of the Mutter Gottes Kirche/Mother of God church in Covington. Although this obituary indicates he worked on the bridge, there are no employment records extant to verify this. Nevertheless, the author will add information on him to the file he is collecting regarding people who worked on, or are said to have worked on the bridge.

Napa Valley — continued

14. *Ibid*

15. Thompson, Egbert A., *The Cultivator and the Country Gentleman: Devoted to the Practice and Science of Agriculture and Horticulture at Large and to all the Various Departments of Rural and Domestic Economy*, Vol. 31, 32, page 190, 1867 Luther Tucker and Son, Albany, New York

16. Harmeling, Deborah (sister) O.S.B., *The Story of Covington's Monte Casino, Thomas More College*, Crestview Hills, Kentucky

17. *Covington Journal*, 1871, page 3

18. *Newport Local*, 1877, page 2

19. Harmeling, Deborah (sister) O.S.B., *The Story of Covington's Monte Casino, Thomas More College*, Crestview Hills, Kentucky

20. *Ibid*

Additional Resources

DuBreuil, A., *Vineyard Culture Improved and Cheapened*, 1867, Robert Clarke and Company Publishers, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Culture of the Grape and Wine Making. Fifth Edition. Moore, 1861, Anderson and Company, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Chorlton, William, *The American Grape Growers Guide Intended Especially for the American Climate*, 1856, C.M. Saxton & Co., Agricultural Book Publishers, New York.

Editors Table: Cincinnati Wines. *The Cincinnati Lancet and Observer*. Volume 12, Page 635, 1869, E.B. Stevens, M.D., Cincinnati

Editors Table: Cincinnati Wines. *The Cincinnati Lancet and Observer*. Volume 31, Page 636, 1870, E.B. Stevens, M.D., Cincinnati

Williams Cincinnati Directory, 1871

To the Bulletin Editor:

Re: "From Pioneer days to the 1920s" (March/April Bulletin) Records indicate that the Hearne House at 5th Street on the east side of Garrard was built in the early 1870s. Regarding the old firehouse shown in the picture (now "Tickets" tavern), an earlier engine house at Pike & Washington preceded the location at 6th and Washington. According to John Burns ("History of Covington, Kentucky through 1865") in 1864 Covington acquired its first steam powered engine and established a full time, professional department. The city then built the firehouse at 6th & Washington in 1866. It was later rebuilt and remodeled to provide for newer amenities and equipment including fire trucks; it was a firehouse until the 1970s.

Then and Now



Left photo: Original Latonia Race Track

Right photo: Part of the Latonia Shopping Plaza, which stands on the grounds of the old track.

Left photo courtesy 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:

Railroad YMCA building, still standing, on Madison Avenue
just north of the railroad underpass at 17th Street.

Kenton County Historical Society

July/August 2014

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..... Donald Fowler
Vice-President..... Robert Webster
Treasurer..... W. Terry Averbeck
Secretary..... John H. Boh

Board Members:

Dr. Richard Cardosi, Dennis Harrell,
Mike Holliday, Richard Johanneman,
Mary Elise Regan, Darry Rhine,
Joseph Hinds (Ex Officio), and
Karl Lietzenmayer (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 in Jessamine County.

July 9, 1850: Zachary Taylor died and was buried at what is now the Zachary Taylor National Cemetery near Louisville. Taylor is the only US president buried in Kentucky.

July 13, 1926: Ale 8-1, known as "Kentucky's soft drink," was first introduced by G.L. Wainscott in Winchester.

August 8, 1801: The Great Revival at Cane Ridge was the largest of all the early camp meetings, and marked the beginning of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), founded by Rev. Barton Stone, minister of the Cane Ridge Presbyterian Church in Bourbon County.

"On This Day In Kentucky" — Robert Powell

Programs and Notices

Society Members Annual Election Meeting

Also open to the public. For details, see insert in this Bulletin

"Vietnam: Our Story," Behringer Crawford Museum

This exhibit (every day except Monday) is based on stories told by local veterans, about their military service and the medical and social after-effects as veterans returning to civilian life. It includes public attitudes seen and heard of back home. BCM curator Tiffany Hoppenjans interviewed dozens of veterans. On display are uniforms, communications apparatus, other artifacts, photos and memorabilia with local and personal-story connections. The Behringer Crawford Museum in Devou Park is open six days a week (closed on Monday).

Ramage Museum Lecture Series

On Sunday, July 13, learn about the namesake of Fort Wright, KY., Civil War General Horatio G. Wright. Living Historian and Ramage Museum volunteer, Thomas Kreidler will portray the General as part of this year's lecture series. The lecture will cover the General's nearly 50 years in uniform, his role in protecting Cincinnati from Confederate invasion, and of the culmination of his military career as Chief of the Corps of Engineers. Location: Fort Wright City Building, 409 Kyles Lane, Fort Wright, KY 41011. Cost per Lecture: \$5.00 general public; \$4.00 Museum members. Location: Fort Wright City Building, 409 Kyles Lane, Fort Wright, KY 41011

Gaines Tavern History Center, Walton Kentucky

Summer Schedule: Sunday, July 6, & Sunday, August 17, 1:00 to 4:00 p. m., open house; Saturday, July 19, open 12:00 to 4:00, an Abner Gaines Family & Friends Reunion (Gaines descendants admitted free), Sunday August 3, 1:00 to 4:00, Art on the Lawn & Ice Cream Social. Adults \$3.00; students, \$2.00; under five no fee.

Volunteers Needed

The Society is working on a massive project of re-publishing the historic Christopher Gist Papers. The originals are in 12 volumes, approximately 100 pages each. We need volunteers to type them into the computer so we can edit them and reprint them so more can enjoy them. If you would like to help, please contact Karl Lietzenmayer (859) 261-2807 as soon as possible.