

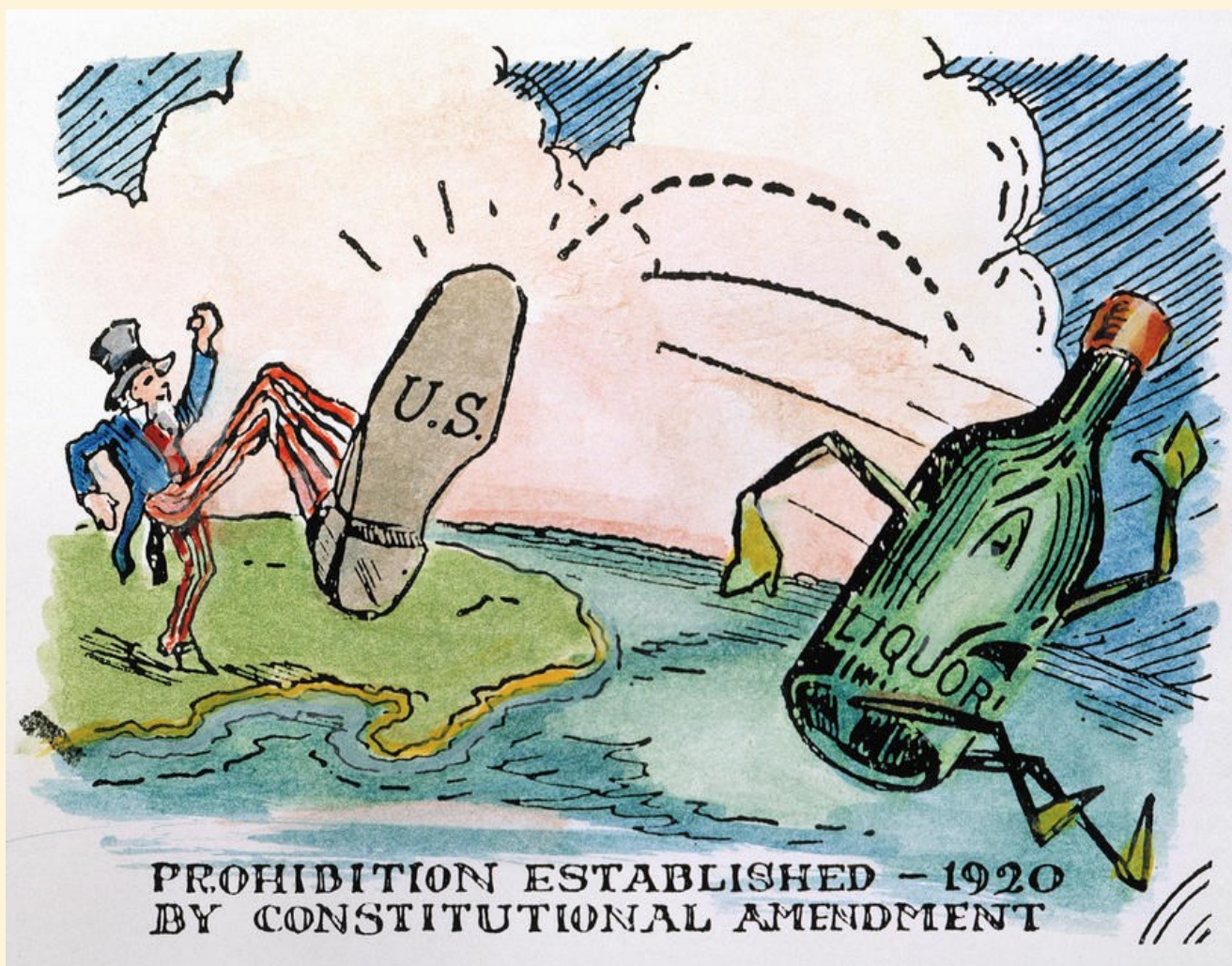


# Bulletin of the Kenton County Historical Society

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March/April

2018



George Remus and Prohibition

Ludlow Historical Society Launches First  
“Bricks and Mortar” Project

# George Remus and Prohibition

John Boh

Cincinnati bootlegger George Remus was an unbelievable phenomenon. When the new law prohibiting the manufacture and sale of alcohol diminished their market value, he acquired 14 distilleries. He purchased millions of gallons of bonded whisky already in storage when Prohibition began and was soon on his way to what many competitors might have felt to be a whisky “monopoly.”

Gaugers watched the inventory and were charged with measuring amounts withdrawn for specified purposes acceptable in the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment’s Volstead Act. But bribery encouraged illicit signatures by officials on withdrawal certificates for the gallons requested by the “medical wholesalers” operated by Remus. Once on the road in his own trucks to a “medical” destination he might “hijack” his own liquor diverting it into the bootleg market.

According to one author, Remus, in one year, deposited \$2.8 million (the equivalent in 2018 of more than \$40 million) into one of his many bank accounts. He employed hundreds of drivers, guards, salesmen, office personnel and warehouse workers and lawyers. In back rooms, he bribed politicians, Prohibition agents and city councilmen in both parties. He tried also to corner the market in graft, Remus later reflected, but there was not enough money to satisfy the demand of all the public officials.

*Last Call – The Rise and Fall of Prohibition*, Daniel Okrent’s history of Prohibition, is very comprehensive and very dense with stories (17 pages of bibliography). He devotes, however, only a page and half to Remus’ story: “the most successful entrepreneur in the early stages of the medicinal liquor business.” He cites Remus’ name once elsewhere. He also shows images of two signed doctor’s prescriptions allowing liquor-for-medical purposes from a Covington, Kentucky pharmacy.



Above: George Remus portrait  
*Photo courtesy George Remus Mansion Website*

On the cover: Prohibition cartoon  
*Photo courtesy Prohibition Images Website*

Okrent reviews the long struggle of the temperance movement. A solid core of Americans favored temperance, but drinking was also widespread in the population, in very large volumes. Violators of the Volstead Act included respectable citizens everywhere, law enforcement, and of course the underworld throughout the country. General disrespect for law enforcement permeated society. Yet, honest and devoted people tried hard to uphold Prohibition in a lost cause. Now there is recognition by historians of the long term negative impact Prohibition has had on the course of American History.

Okrent's book covers Prohibition and bootlegging from across the Canadian border to California Vineyards, to Caribbean and Atlantic off-shore bootlegging and to the people and places in-between. To the reader, he seems not to miss any aspect in 380 pages of text and acknowledgements.<sup>1</sup>

### **Progressivism**

In the last quarter of the nineteenth century, the Gilded Age and thereafter, reforms were thought to be urgently needed to strengthen American Middle Class ideals by curbing selfishness and vices associated with self-interested "individualism."<sup>2</sup> The Federal income tax allowed by the 16<sup>th</sup> Amendment in 1913, and antitrust legislation in 1890 and 1914 were meant to curb big business monopoly, ameliorate income inequalities and fund social and civic progress. Women voted the first time in the 1920 presidential election - after ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment.

Reform efforts occurred locally in 1914 when the city of Covington attempted to eliminate the corruption of special interests that ward-level electioneering seemed to generate. Rather than representing wards, all commissioners would campaign for city-wide votes. Another reform effort was the adoption of the City Manager form of government in 1930, meant to provide efficient "professional" management of municipal services that would be shielded from improper special pressures.<sup>3</sup>

### **Pleasure and Prosperity**

Yet, people after World War I wanted to unwind. The automobile and good roads would provide opportunities for touring, driving to romantic destinations, places of "escape," even to places of vice. Household gadgetry, the radio, movies, new clothing styles, and avant guard in the arts evoked visions of more freedoms - an easier, more fulfilling life.

Big Business however was still dominant. Behavior on Wall Street would lead to the big market crash in 1929 and the Great Depression. But the 1920s are also remembered for how destructive Prohibition was to the cause of law and order and middle class ideals.

### **National Temperance and Prohibition**

When women in Covington started a temperance organization in April 1874, they inspired similar efforts in Newport, Bellevue and Ludlow. Prayers in church were part of the local women's determined effort. The Union Methodist and Scott Street Methodist Churches were centers of activity. Organizers and first officers were Mrs. W. C. Hamilton, wife of a tobacco dealer, Mrs. Jesse Bright, wife of a business man and state legislator, and Mrs. William Ernst, wife of a former president of the Northern Bank of Kentucky. That same year in November, local organizations held the first Women's Christian Temperance Union national convention in Cleveland.

Years later, on March 29, 1901, there was an excited but erroneous sighting of the hatchet-wielding Carrie Nation which caused a stir on Northern Kentucky streets. Later, with passage of Prohibition, one party optimistically dreamed that since most crime was associated with alcohol, Prohibition might allow a virtual elimination of Newport's police force!<sup>4</sup>

Outlawing the manufacture and sale of alcohol began officially on January 16, 1920 with the ratification of the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment. The Volstead Act, passed on October 10, 1920, detailed perimeters of enforcement. Lasting only 13 years, it was not acceptable to a large segments of society. Big cities like New York, Chicago and Cincinnati were hotbeds of corruption. Newport and Covington had many speakeasies including one at 219 Riverside Drive with necessary amenities for drinking and betting on horse races. Bootlegging was a short step for gangsters and others to longer lasting illegal activities in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, like gambling, prostitution and illegal drugs.<sup>5</sup>

A large portion of the United States was already "dry" at state and local levels when the United States entered World War I in 1917. The war did not hurt the cause. Grain used in brewing beer was badly needed for bread. Congress placed a temporary ban on brewing and distilling in the summer of 1917 which seemed to meld with the start of Prohibition. Anti-German hysteria turned Pabst, Schlitz, Blatz and Miller seemingly into German enemies at home.<sup>6</sup>



Top: Women's Temperance Opposite page: George Remus Mansion in Cincinnati  
 Top photo courtesy Prohibition Images Website; Opposite page photo courtesy George Remus Mansion Website

At the time of ratification of the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment, U. S. District Court Judge for Eastern Kentucky, A. M. J. Cochran, imposed fines totaling \$32,624 on 100 Northern Kentuckians who pleaded guilty for violation of what the newspaper called the "war time prohibition law." Of café proprietors to be fined \$750, Judge Cochran would postpone final decisions until the April session only if they produced a written statement that they were going out of business and they filed a \$1000 bond.<sup>7</sup>

### George Remus, King of the Bootleggers<sup>8</sup>

In *Prohibition, 13 Years that Changed America*, Edward Behr centers his story of Prohibition on Remus. Although much shorter than Okrent's, his book is also detailed about temperance, Prohibition around the country and of course Remus. His many examples and numbers indicate the absolute hopelessness of the Prohibition cause from the outset.

Remus was another story of an immigrant who quickly made his mark. He arrived at age 4 from Germany with his family who eventually settled in

Milwaukee. After a move to Chicago, he had to quit school to help support his family. At age 14, he started working in his uncle's Chicago pharmacy. Though under-aged, he passed a pharmacy exam and managed to acquire his uncle's business by age 19.<sup>9</sup> After 18 months studying, Remus passed the bar exam and became a very successful, flamboyant, defense lawyer. Once, to persuade the jury that his client accused of murder by poisoning was innocent, the ex-pharmacist drank from a bottle of poison, the jury not knowing that beforehand Remus had taken an antidote.<sup>10</sup>

Remus was making a lot of money as a lawyer. Nevertheless, defending well-to-do gangsters gave Remus visions of greater wealth and of personal prestige for himself. Studying the 78 paragraphs of the Volstead Act, George Remus found three loopholes: the most useful one allowed the use of alcohol for medicinal purposes, the basis for his empire.

Chicago had gone dry in 1918, before Prohibition was ratified, and before the Volstead Act. By 1920, gangsters had claimed portions of the city for themselves. Remus nevertheless started acquiring





small inventories of whisky at rock bottom prices. On May 12, 1920, he was raided by agents in Chicago but did not serve time. He claimed that this early attempt and the many blank liquor withdrawal permits found on his premises, were about “medical” needs. Discouraged, however, he sold his law practice and left Chicago.

### **Remus Moves to Cincinnati**

By the time he moved to Cincinnati, his first wife, Lillian Klauff, with whom he had a daughter, had divorced him due to his romance with Imogene Holmes, a legal secretary. He married Holmes in Newport.

Remus gained a great advantage after his move from Chicago. Of all bonded whisky, 80% was available within 300 miles of Cincinnati. Remus began his empire by acquiring distilleries cheaply as Pro-

hibition had sharply decreased their market values. Remus became the largest owner of distilleries in America, of brand names including Fleischmann, Old Lexington Club, Rugby, Greendale and Squibb. Fleischmann which had 3,100 barrels of Rye whisky, cost him \$197,000.

To distribute in large quantities under the pretense of medicinal purpose, he used bribery and deception. Officially, Prohibition enforcement authorities had to sign the withdrawal certificates. As authorities closed in, Remus would replace one medicinal wholesale company, purportedly supplying pharmacies, with another under a new name.

George Remus shot to the top as “king of the bootleggers” and became a local phenomenon who made Cincinnati a center of distribution and had ties in Northern Kentucky. With his incredible success, he soon bought a beer baron’s mansion and 10 acres

overlooking Cincinnati at 8th and Hermosa. He installed very fancy and garish furnishings and a \$100,000 swimming pool. In the midst of unheard-of prosperity, he gave fancy parties for officials, business and society people and handed out extremely expensive gifts. He hoped to be accepted by Cincinnati's "society" people and jealous moguls, but was much snubbed as an unwelcome immigrant newcomer.

### Death Valley

Another real estate investment was a farm in the rural Cincinnati suburb of Westwood, purchased for \$700,000, the equivalent for several million dollars today, which came to be called "Death Valley." After necessary improvements, he used it to repackage and bottle whisky from barrels and drums. He acquired his own fleet of trucks purchasing 20 or more and also cars, armored as needed. He directed bootlegging operations to and from Death Valley, obscured by topography and defended by armed guards. He paid 65 cents to \$4.00 to the government for withdrawal while his illicit customers paid \$80 or more per case.

Demand from other bootleggers and "private customers" out-paced the speed of withdrawal from his warehouses. Remus's associates made contact with bootleggers who could not get enough. Eventually, he was depositing tens of thousands of dollars a day into various bank accounts in his own name and under aliases. According to Behr, in a few short years his total property and funds were once estimated to be an unbelievable \$40 million, about \$400 million today. Twenty million dollars was spent on bribery.<sup>11</sup>

According to Okrent, Remus, acquired a "pharmacy in Covington, Kentucky, re-named it the Kentucky Drug Company, and began withdrawing the whisky he owned in thousand-case lots, for distribution in the medicinal market."

Okrent displays photo images of two prescriptions both from Clifford Krause's pharmacy at the northeast corner of Tenth Street and Madison Avenue in Covington, one in 1924, the other in 1926, with names of patient and physician. After a short doctors' office visit, the typical prescription read: "Whisky - tablespoon three times a day."<sup>12</sup>



NE corner 10th and Madison, Covington  
*Photo courtesy John Boh*

All levels of government were legally bound to enforce the Volstead Act. From Washington, Mabel Walker Willebrandt, deputy attorney general from 1921 to 1929, in an administration not favorable to Prohibition, would help bring down Remus. For the Harding administration, she became the "face" of Prohibition enforcement.

From humble beginnings, she had been a teacher and a social worker and was a recent law school graduate. She was smart, a strong personality, well connected and well qualified to hold the highest position by a woman at the time. Hired in the aftermath of women's recent enfranchisement, her limited successes came, despite much indifference all around her.<sup>13</sup>

On October 1920 U.S. Treasury agents bugged Remus' telephone and hotel suite. Forty-four men were said to have attended one meeting including politicians, prohibition agents and even Federal marshals to arrange routes for transporting from Remus' warehouses to illegal outlets. The 44 were said to have been paid an average of \$1000 each.<sup>14</sup>

In August 1921, Remus had made big arrangements with Jess Smith, the assistant to new Attorney General Harry Daugherty in the Harding administration. Remus established political connec-

tions with Federal officials to enable the granting of withdrawal permits for a very modest fee, for removing liquor from his own warehouses. These political connections would also help prevent, or slow, successful prosecution.

In 1924, Jess Smith burned his papers and committed suicide after being given the ultimatum by Attorney General Harry Daugherty to take the heat for wrongdoing. But the Senate nevertheless investigated Attorney General Daugherty himself. Remus testified before the investigative committee. Remus told the former Anti Saloon League legal advisor, and by then prominent Prohibition Senator, Wayne Wheeler, that Smith promised to issue withdrawal permits per case. Remus said he paid Smith \$50,000 on the first occasion. He paid Smith an overall \$250 to 300,000, and for each withdrawal, smaller fees.

After Remus was indicted, Smith told him there would never be any possible prosecution, no conviction, no penitentiary. Even if a conviction were upheld by the court of appeals, Smith would get him out of it. He employed 3000, a large portion of which were policemen. Between June and August 1921, Remus, using forged withdrawal permits, transported 3,300 barrels and 18,000 gallons of liquor for his medicinal wholesale companies. It ended up at his Death Valley farm. A U.S. attorney in Cincinnati contacted Federal officials.

In August 1921, Federal agents finally raided Death Valley and found 13 barrels of whisky, 500 gallons of gin, and 112 quarts of Champaign valued around \$40,000, equivalent to almost \$500,000 in today's dollars. Remus and 13 others were arrested.

In May 1922, Remus and his cronies went on trial and were found guilty. His sentence was a \$1000 fine and two years in prison. After all the appeals of his conviction, Remus finally went to Jail in Atlanta beginning in January 1924. There, corrupt prison officials treated him royally with residential comforts and office connections until an alerted federal official put an end to it. According to Behr, another reason for Remus' downfall was the ingenious Prohibition directors of Kentucky and Indiana - among those who could not be bribed.<sup>15</sup>

While free during appeal, a syndicate that Remus was part of acquired the huge Jack Daniels Distillery in St Louis. When Remus was finally jailed, the syndicate betrayed him. By trickery, it emptied the 30,000 gallons of whisky in one act and refilled the barrels with water and wood alcohol. On top of that, they watered down the whisky to such an extent that customers wanted their money back, exposing the criminals to prosecution. Remus' policy, however, was never to treat his customers like that.

When Remus was released from Atlanta Prison in November 2, 1925, an official handed him divorce papers. In addition, by July 7, 1926, after more appeals, Remus was again in jail in Troy Ohio, for his Death Valley Farm being operated as a "menace."

### **Betrayal, Revenge**

On April 6, 1927, Remus returned to his mansion to find it boarded up and stripped of furnishings. While in prison, his wife Imogene, to whom he had granted power of attorney, cheated on him and conspired with her lover, Franklin Dodge, to dispossess him. She had dismantled the mansion of its lavish furnishings. Large portions of his fortune seemed to have disappeared.

Eventually the enraged Remus and his driver chased down Imogene. Remus shot her in Eden Park, Cincinnati, on October 6, 1927. In a sensational trial, he was acquitted based on his infamous "plea of insanity." On December 30, 1927, in Hamilton County Probate Court, Remus was declared so and sent to the Lima State Hospital for the Criminally Insane. On February 1, Remus filed a writ of habeas corpus in appeals court claiming unlawful restraint; two months later the Court of Appeals declared Remus sane.<sup>16</sup>

Mark Plageman, who grew up in Price Hill and became acquainted with Remus' property, surmised in a presentation at the Behringer Crawford Museum on April 7, 2013 that where all the money went is really not answerable. Imogene wasted some of his fortune and Remus owed a lot in back taxes. According to notes from the lecture he said that "Las Vegas was started with Remus money." Five of Re-

mus' henchmen became prominent local gangsters in Newport and elsewhere, eventually with ties to Las Vegas.

After his downfall, Remus filed suits trying to retrieve any of his former property. George lived out his life at 1810 Greenup Street in Covington, Kentucky. It was said that he sold "patent medicine" containing alcohol. His third wife, Blanche Watson, was a shrewd business woman. He had a real estate office, developed some real estate selling some of his Price Hill bootlegging property.

In 1950 Remus had a stroke and soon died. He is buried in Falmouth, Kentucky on his wife's family plot.<sup>17</sup>

### Local Crime and Enforcement

When the Kentucky Federal District Court in 1901 was divided into Western and Eastern, Judge A. M. J. Cochran, a native of Maysville, became the first judge in the new Eastern District. He would preside there until his death in 1934.<sup>18</sup>

In October, 1927, Judge Cochran prosecuted a man despite a defective search warrant setting a precedent, it was thought. He would accept that the search warrant was defective but based prosecution on what agents had smelled and learned. Evidence should be permissible from smelling and watching the comings and goings to stop this business of turning a residence into a distillery. Every house under suspicion should be watched. Listed for readers of the newspaper was one defendant given six months; about ten fined \$500; one \$200; and about seven given 90 days.<sup>19</sup>

In May, 1928, after investigations by four undercover agents in Northern Kentucky, about 20 prohibition agents from Louisville raided more than 50 places, some of them roadhouses on the Dixie Highway and elsewhere, finding and citing around 70 persons. If beer or liquor were not found during the raid, proprietors were cited due to an undercover agent having recently made a purchase in those places. The *Kentucky Post* printed a very long list of people cited.<sup>20</sup>



Top: 1810 Greenup Street, Covington — *courtesy John Boh*

Bottom: George Remus Gravesite — *Remus Mansion Website*

Opposite page: Wagon with celebration sign

Cochran in 1929 commented about Prohibition: he still saw hope that Prohibition would be successful "in two or three years."<sup>21</sup>

Less than a year later, from the Federal Courthouse at Third and Scott streets in Covington, Cochran, nevertheless, sentenced 116 persons (names



listed in the *Kentucky Post*): 68 to the penitentiary, 34 mostly from Covington and Kenton County for five years. They included one from West Seventh Street, Covington, considered by U. S. attorney Sawyer Smith as one of the largest bootleggers in Kentucky. Ten others got three year sentences for violation of the liquor law, two from Lexington, one from Union in Boone County, three from Newport, and four more from Covington. A dozen were fined or given jail sentences for “selling, possession or transporting liquor.”

Cochran also stated that he was surprised at the number of soft drink stands. “I thought I had imposed large enough sentences to put a stop to this sort of law violations (sic). Now, I see they are bringing Canadian Whisky here and selling it at these stands.”<sup>22</sup> In the 1928-29 Covington business directory about 45 soft drink stores were listed, some presumably selling liquor referred to by Cochran.

### Prohibition Ends

When the state convention in the 36<sup>th</sup> state, Utah, voted in favor of the 21<sup>st</sup> Amendment on December 5, 1933, it went into effect voiding the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment and the Volstead Act and returning the decision of “dry” or “wet” to the states and local jurisdictions. It was the only constitutional amendment to void an earlier amendment and the first and only to be ratified by balloting in state conventions, not by state legislatures. Kentucky was the thirty-third to vote for repeal of Prohibition.<sup>23</sup>

### Endnotes

1. Daniel Okrent, *Last Call – The Rise and Fall of Prohibition*, New York: Scribner, a Division of Simon & Schuster, Inc. 2010; pp. 198-199 with footnote about Remus serving time in the penitentiary; see photo images after pp. 214 showing prescriptions from Covington, Kentucky pharmacy
2. Michael McGerr, *A Fierce Discontent, the Rise and Fall of the Progressive Movement in American, 1870-1920*, New York: Oxford Press, 2005
3. *Gateway City, Covington Kentucky 1815-2015*, Paul A. Tenkotte, James C. Claypool and David E. Schroeder, editors, Covington, Kentucky: Clerisy Press, 2015, pp. 326-328; see also: NKH, XXV, #1
4. Jim Reis, “Temperance Issue Proved Divisive,” *K. P.*, Sept. 11 1989; Wikipedia
5. “Prohibition,” *Encyclopedia of Northern Kentucky*, Paul A. Tenkotte, James C. Claypool, editors, Lexington: the University Press of Kentucky, 2009, p. 738
6. McGerr, p. 294



7. *K. P.*, Jan. 19, 22 and 23, 1920, p. 1
8. Remus facetiously called himself “king of the bootleggers.”
9. Edward Behr, *Prohibition, Thirteen Years that Changed America*, New York: Arcadia Press, 1996, pp. 91-104. 201
10. Audio visual presentation by Mark Plageman, April 7, 2013, Behringer Crawford Museum, Covington, Kentucky
11. Behr, pp. 91-104
12. Okrent, pp. 198-199
13. Okrent, pp. 137-41
14. Website: Immigrant Entrepreneurship, George Remus, 1876-1952
15. Behr, pp. 121-124
16. Behr, p. 195-207; website: Immigrant Entrepreneurship, George Remus, 1876-1952
17. Mark Plageman, audio visual presentation, April 7, 2013, Behringer Crawford Museum, Covington, Kentucky Website: Immigrant Entrepreneurship, George Remus, 1876-1952
18. Wikipedia, “Judge Andrew McConnell January Cochran”; “United States District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky”
19. “Home ‘Distillers’ Hit By Cochran,” *K. P.*, Oct. 19, 1927, p. 1
20. “Roadhouses Raided,” *K. P.*, May 11, 1928, p. 1
21. “Still Hopeful, Cochran Sees End of Liquor Traffic in Few Years,” *K. P.*, June 20, 1929, p. 1
22. “Judge Cochran Sends 68 to Prison,” *K. P.*, April 17, 1930, p. 1; the 21st amendment repealing national prohibition returned the Temperance question to the individual states and local jurisdictions as of Dec. 5 1933.
23. Wikipedia, “Twenty-First Amendment to the United States Constitution”

### Want to be Published?

We are always looking for material for the Bulletin, as well as Northern Kentucky Heritage magazine

To submit an article, send a paper copy by mail, or email it as a Word document attachment.

Bulletin articles should be no longer than 500 words and should have at least two references. Magazine articles should have several references and endnotes, as well as images or graphics.

Email us if you have any questions.

nkyhist@zoomtown.com.

P.O. Box 641, Covington, KY 41012

## A Look Back at the Headlines

*An on-going feature reliving local headlines.*

*This issue features:*

*The Kentucky Post – August 15, 1931*

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### Legion Outing

A good time is promised for all when the annual outing of the Edward W. Boers Post, American Legion, of Bellevue and Dayton, is held Sunday at Fahrenholts's Grove.

The ladies' Auxiliary of the post will conduct lotto games on the grounds and will serve a plate lunch. Athletic programs and a true story of the World War are promised for the youngsters.

The regular Cold Spring bus will leave the end of the Ft. Thomas car line every hour beginning at 7:30 a.m.

### Plan Campaign

Plans for a campaign against speeders in Park Hills were made Friday night at a meeting of the Park Hills Board of Trustees.

Mayor Walter L. Hurley announced the police department will be enlarged and several deputy marshals appointed in the campaign to curb speeding in the town. The action was taken after numerous complaints had been received. Speeders and parking violators will be cited to appear before Judge G.O. Bane in Park Hills Police Court, it was announced.

### Injunction Against City of Ludlow

An injunction restraining the city of Ludlow from erecting an incinerator in Sleepy Hollow, south-east of Ludlow, was issued Saturday by Judge Leslie G. Applegate in an opinion handed down in Kenton County Circuit Court in the case of J. J. Weaver against the city of Ludlow and Ludlow city officials.

In his suit, Weaver charged erection of the incinerator would be a nuisance in the community and would damage property owned by him and adjoining the site where it was planned, he said.

## Ludlow Society Launches "Bricks and Mortar" Project

The Ludlow Historical Society, founded in 2010 to preserve the architectural character of the city, has received a grant from the Josephine Ardery Foundation to purchase a home at 232 Elm Street. Renovation will begin immediately with a loan received from the Catalytic Development Corporation of Northern Kentucky, which provides financing assistance for developers of residential and commercial real estate projects in Northern Kentucky cities.

The Latta Block on Elm Street is a five unit row of small Victorian houses built in 1884-85 by Luella Latta, daughter of A.B. Latta, an early nineteenth century engineer-inventor who owned acreage in central Ludlow. Over the years, remodeling took place on the east end unit where an addition was constructed for a street-front office. Another unit at one time became a commercial live bait shop with refreshments and a taxi stand location. The unit purchased by the Historic Society had an enclosed front porch attached which will be removed in keeping with the original appearance of the row houses.

Andy Corn and Patrick Snadon, Society board members and architects, worked with five University of Cincinnati students enrolled in an historic preservation class in the School of Architecture and Interior Design; they did background research and drawings of the Latta Block from its original construction to changes in design and usage over the years. Their work was incorporated as part of the funding request made to the Catalytic Fund. The renovated row house will be sold at market rate, giving the Ludlow Historic Society the opportunity to purchase other properties for restoration.

The Ludlow Historical Society has become known for showcasing the city's historic homes and neighborhoods. In October it commemorated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Ludlow Lagoon Amusement Park which thrived at the turn of the 20th century. The organization currently has 50 members led by a nine member board. For additional information, contact Brenda Boone, President- 859-992-0223

## Then and Now



Two views of the northeast corner of Covington's Sixth and Madison

Courtesy the Kenton County Public Library

## Mystery Photo

Can you identify the Mystery Photo? The answer can be found at the bottom of the page.



Answer:

Fifth Street entrance to Covington's Odd Fellows Hall.

# Kenton County Historical Society

March/April 2018

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 Averbeck  
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*

March 3, 1783: The District of Kentucky was formed by the Virginia General Assembly with three counties: Fayette, Lincoln, and Jefferson.

March 4, 1861: Abraham Lincoln was inaugurated as the 16th President.

March 13, 1851 – Explorer Christopher Gist entered the future state of Kentucky opposite today's Portsmouth, Ohio.

March 20, 1944: Blue Licks Battlefield State Park property was conveyed to the United States government for a national shrine.

April 22, 1836: The Kentucky Historical Society was formed, with John Rowan elected as first president.

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

## Programs and Notices

### Kenton County Historical Society

Northern Kentucky History Day is Saturday, March 3rd, at the Boone County Library, Burlington. **[See Attached Flyer]**

As a reminder, "Enhanced" Society members' admission to this event is included in their membership fee.

**Saturday, March 31, 2018** – Andy Corn will give a 3D presentation on the Ludlow Lagoon Amusement Park. This event is free and open to the public and begins at 10:30 at the Erlanger Branch of the Kenton County Library.

**Saturday, May 12, 2018** – Arnold Taylor will offer a presentation on the history of public water supply in Covington. This event begins at 10:30 a.m. and is free. Location: Erlanger Branch of the Kenton County Public Library

**Saturday, July, 21, 2018** – Photo Scanning at the Durr Branch of the Kenton County Public Library

### Behringer Crawford Museum

The opening of "**Storied Threads**," a celebration of the contributions of quilters and other textile artists, will be February 10th, from 10 am to 5 pm. Activities will feature Kentucky Heritage Quilt Society chapter president Larry McKenney, who will share how traveling throughout the world with his camera allowed him to capture images that he can translate with fabric. Local artist Cedric Cox will debut a layered mural and invite museum visitors to be a part of an interactive art demonstration. Opening day admission is free as part of ArtsWave Days.

Among the very deserving award winners at the Behringer Crawford Museum's annual **Two Headed Calf Awards Gala** dinner will be KCHS Vice-president Karl J. Lietzenmayer. He is described as a "historian whose prolific work preserves the stories of Northern Kentucky." The Museum will present the awards on Thursday, March 22, 6:00 pm, at NKU. The evening will include cocktails, live music, a silent auction, raffles, gala dinner and the ceremony. Award winners are Kenneth F. Harper and Eileen Harper, a *Special Recognition* award: Judith G. Clabes and Gene A. Clabes, publisher and senior editor, respectively, of KYForward.com and the Northern Kentucky Tribune: a *Service to the Community: Generosity and Vision*; M. Patricia Fox, president of Friends of Big Bone - *Service to Learning: Academic Excellence*; and Karl J. Lietzenmayer, senior editor of Northern Kentucky Heritage magazine - *Service to History: Scholarship and Public Service*. Reservations, call 859-491-4003 or email Executive Director Laurie Risch at [lrishc@bcmuseum.org](mailto:lrishc@bcmuseum.org) by March 10; tickets \$100 per person or \$800 for a table of eight. Free valet service and parking will be available.