

# BULLETIN

of the

## Kenton County Historical Society

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Publisher of the new regional magazine,  
Northern Kentucky Heritage



Inside See:

**History of Covington**  
**By O.J. Wiggins**  
**(2nd in a Series)**

March 1994

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

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**March 1994**

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### **PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT**

On Tuesday, March 8, 7:00 PM, at the Behringer-Crawford Museum, Devou Park, Covington, Mr. Bob Genheimer will speak on BOTTLES, BUTTONS & BONES, the findings from an archaeological investigation.

Mr. Genheimer recently completed excavations at a lot on East Eleventh Street in Covington. Materials from the excavation have been incorporated into an exhibit, which will be located from March 1st to May 1st at the Museum. Families by the name of Dugan, Worthington, White, Meehan, and Wander lived on the property. But the artifacts date to the Civil War years.

Mr. Genheimer holds an M.A. in Anthropology from the University of Cincinnati. From 1977 to 1986, Mr. Genheimer was a staff archaeologist for the Miami Purchase Association for Historic Preservation (now the Cincinnati Preservation Association). The program will be free and open to the public. TUESDAY EVENING, MARCH 8, BEHRINGER-CRAWFORD MUSEUM, DEVOU PARK, COVINGTON, KY.

### **NORTHERN KENTUCKY HERITAGE**

This new regional magazine covers (not exclusively) Boone, Campbell, Carroll, Gallatin, Grant, Kenton, Owen and Pendleton Counties. The first issue is out and the second issue is scheduled for this Spring. We ask for your support in this effort to promote and publish the history and genealogy of Northern Kentucky. We note that you might be able to buy a gift subscription for someone!

Subscription with membership in the Kenton County Historical Society -  
\$25.00

Senior citizen and student subscription with membership in KCSH - \$20.00

**HISTORY OF COVINGTON**  
**by O. J. Wiggins**  
**Daily Commonwealth, April 15, 1884**  
**(Second in series herein transcribed)**

Among the most prominent of the early pioneers of this section was General Thomas Sandford. He was born in Westmoreland County, Virginia in 1762, and settled in the neighborhood of the present town of Ludlow in 1792. He represented Campbell County in the second State Constitutional Convention August 1799; served several terms in the Legislature, and was a member of Congress from 1803 to 1807. He was drowned in the Ohio at the early age of forty six, on the 10th day of December, 1808 (1).

The writer will take this occasion to mention other prominent men of those times that the reader may be the more familiar with the names as they occur later.

Gen. Leonard Stephens was born in Orange County, Virginia, March 10, 1791, and came to Kenton County in 1807. He resided here sixty-two years, and then removed to Boone County, where he died March 8, 1878 (2).

James Grimsley Arnold was a son of Elisha Arnold, who removed in 1796 from Bourbon County, where James was born, to the neighborhood of North Bend, in Boone County. The following year, 1797, he traded his farm for a negro woman and her child and came to this county, where he bought a farm for a horse, on the Lexington Pike, about six miles back of Covington (3).

Mortimer Murray Benton was born January 21, 1807 at Benton, Ontario County, N.Y. In 1816 his father removed to Franklin County, Ind., and from there young Benton came to Cincinnati and completed law studies with the firm of Caswell and Starr. He removed to Covington in 1828, where he is still living, a respected and upright citizen (4).

Captain Perry spoken of in the advertisement of lots for sale, was Robert Perry, father of Mr. John S. Perry, of this city, R. Huston Perry, of this county, and a grandfather of Mrs. W. W. Mosher, of this city.

Captain Perry married Elizabeth Huston near Lexington, in 1797. He was a gallant soldier in the War of 1812, and at the time of general peace in 1815, moved with his family from near Versailles, Woodford County, to the farm of Thomas Kennedy, now Covington, being influenced to this step by his friends, the Ganos and Carneal, who had purchased the land surrounding. Capt. Perry occupied the stone house, and the first sale of lots for the new town was made at the door. He was a lineal descendent of Sir Richard

Steele, of Ireland, and the Randolphs of Roanoke, who were related to Pocahontas, and his descendents intermarried with the Rowans, the Lyles, the Mayos, the McAees, the Sandfords, and other noted families among them the Maurys of Virginia, and through that family the present generation is obviously related to President Arthur.

John Sandford Perry, who is the oldest living resident of Covington, was seven years and seven months old when his father moved to the Kennedy farm, March 1, 1815. Captain Perry had gone to the garrison in Newport, to be mustered out. After the war he became favorably impressed with the location, rented Kennedy's farm and ferries. He then removed to Woodford County, and selling his farm there, came back with his family to his new home. That year notwithstanding the sale of town lots, he cultivated them as a farm. The next year his farm was cut down, and the next year, having built the frame house farther north at the northwest corner of Garrard and Fourth Streets, he moved to it and continued to operate the ferries across the Ohio and also across the Licking until the latter part of 1818, when he removed to a farm on the Turkey Foot road, about seven miles from Covington (5).

John S. Perry was born on a farm in Franklin County, in 1807, but he came to Covington at such an early age that he looks upon it almost as the place of his nativity. He followed the river for a few years in early life, and has resided upon farms at various times, but he has always claimed Covington as his home. His recollection of the early days is very vivid, and the writer is indebted to him for many interesting facts that are unfamiliar to those who came here in later years. When Captain Perry moved here the Kennedy stone house, with its barn and milk house, were the only structures within the early boundary of Covington. Thos. Kennedy, after renting to Captain Perry, rented a house on the site now occupied by the residence of the late Isaac Cooper, and about the same time a Captain Jenkinson, who ran on the river, built a frame house on the Licking in the neighborhood of Third Street, [which] is now forgotten (6).

Thomas Kennedy, in selling his farm, had reserved a homestead, bounded by the present Fifth, Sixth, Scott and Greenup Street and this afterwards came into joint possession of John B. Casey and Isaac Cooper. When Mr. Cooper married, a division took place, and he selected the part on which the house stood, and where his family still lives (7).

Robert Kyle's house was located on his farm in the neighborhood of the present German National Bank building and a country lane extended as a public road past that point, cutting through about where the house lately occupied by Dr. Riffe on Fifth Street stands, [then] on irregularly through the present Greenup Street engine house to Garrard Street and the Ohio River. South of Robert Kyle's the road followed somewhat the direction of Pike

Street past a tavern on the site of the present Ashbrook house, thence out Banklick Street past a tavern at the old Drannon house, corner of Fourteenth and Banklick Street, thence straight across the lane south of the present Linden Grove Cemetery to the Lexington pike. In Willow Run just above where Phil Watson was hung, on the road stood a tavern called Black Rock, and kept by a man named Mackoy. This was a great thoroughfare to the settlements on the lakes, and Mr. Perry relates that so much danger and trouble was experienced in taking cattle across the Ohio in boats that the driver would frequently post men above and below the ferry in skiffs and starting from the neighborhood of Robert Kyle's, they would push the cattle rapidly until they became warmed up and would willingly take to the water when they would be goaded on to swim across. There was no imposing line of steamers anchored at the wharves in Cincinnati then. Indeed there were no wharves only mud banks covered with a growth of jimson weeds and underbrush (8).

When a lad, Mr. Perry attended a school taught by a man named Bonner, and afterwards by Thomas D. Kennedy, in a log house in the present village of Peaselburg, or Central Covington. That was the only school thereabouts, and was located nearest the greatest number of scholars. The road led through the unbroken forests, and took the direction of the K. C. R. R. track, going right up over the hill through the present cemetery at the tunnel. A man named Anderson had a blacksmith shop on this hill which was afterwards owned and operated by Jno. Galbreath. Jacob Fowler lived where John Spaun's house now stands on Banklick Street, and had a fine apple orchard in the neighborhood of the present west end of Eleventh Street. The school boys used to make this orchard suffer, no doubt, but Mr. Perry says the boys made friends with Paul, Mr. Fowler's colored man servant, and he never refused them an apple. Whenever Paul had occasion to visit the ferry, however, he would be sure to claim reciprocation in the form of a dram (9). The log house was afterwards moved to the public square, located about where the Court Avenue entrance to the courthouse now is, and continued in use as a schoolhouse until sold to a man named Fitzgerald who moved it to the corner of Ninth and Russell Streets, and converted it to a pottery. It is still standing, and is occupied by a colored family as a residence (10).

Patrick Leonard lived on a farm adjoining Mr. Bacon's in the neighborhood of what is still termed Bacon's Run, and the boys who went after the cows which had a habit of straying off down the way had great times with Leonard, who always wore an old regimental soldier coat and took on pompous airs (11).

In after years Mr. Perry owned the ground where Boone Block, on Scott Street, now stands, and operated a lumber and coal yard there. This was the first opened in Covington, although William W. Wade and other carpenters,

sold timber; but nobody previously sold coal. While engaged in this business a circumstance occurred that afterward enabled him to virtually decide an important case in favor of the city by his testimony (12).

It seems that in purchasing the Kennedy farm the Messrs. Gano and Carneal received title only as far north as the top of the bank of Front Street, but the town having no wharf privileges, Thomas D. Carneal, in behalf of the trustees, purchased a few years later from the top of the bank to the low water mark for \$1,600 from Samuel Kennedy, who operated the ferry and lived in the stone house about 1821, after Captain Perry moved away. Suit was afterwards brought by the Kennedy heirs against the town trustees to recover this wharf property, and the case was fought for twenty years in the Scott circuit court, to which this section belonged, the city being unable to prove that any person had ever held actual possession of the property under authority from it until Mr. Perry was called as a witness and related [then] that while in the lumber business the trustees had granted him the privilege of stacking his lumber on the wharf west of Scott Street. At that time the McNickle foundry was in operation, and the foreman, a Robert Semple, desiring to land his coal barges once when the river was high, ordered Mr. Perry's men to move the lumber. They refused, and Mr. Semple ordered the rope cut, when Mr. Perry, who had been warned, appeared on the scene with a posse he had gathered on his way and caused a cessation of hostilities by explaining his right of possession under consent of the trustees. Mr. Semple gave in, and Mr. Perry then created a space for the barges to land. The relation of this circumstance decided the case (13).

General Thomas Sandford, from whom Mr. Perry gets his middle name, owned the farm that in later years belonged to Israel Ludlow (14).

The first church in Covington was the Methodist chapel on the west side of Garrard Street, north of Third. It is still standing as a two story double brick dwelling, No. 333 and 335 having been converted from a church into a silk factory and then into a dwelling (15).

Among the early preachers was Father Light, a good old man but inveterate tobacco chewer, and when he became warmed up in his discourse he would expectorate tobacco juice so furiously as to make it quite uncomfortable for his congregation on the front benches. Many were the revivals held in this little chapel until the strong and vigorous shoot of Methodism grew to command more commodious quarters (16).

About 1834 James G. Arnold built a frame church for Christian or Campbellite denomination on Second Street on the southwest corner of the alley between Second and Greenup streets (17).

Josiah Herbert and his brother from Newport, and Philip Bush organized a "Free Will" Baptist Church in the second story of Greer's block, Lower Market and Scott Streets. Soon after the building was erected, and from there they built on the present site of the First Baptist Church on Fourth Street, their structure afterwards giving place to the present church building (18).

The Ironside Baptists worshiped in the second story of Merritt's tobacco shop, where the Odd Fellow Hall now stands (19).

The Masons held their meetings in the second story of a building belonging to John B. Casey and standing on the west side of Scott Street, at the northwest corner of the alley between Third and Fourth. This building was destroyed by fire. Many records were burned and the lodge gave up its charter in August, 1834. It was the Temple Lodge No. 64 and was chartered August 20, 1820. Thomas Buckner was the first Master (20).

The Baker House, which stood on Greenup Street, where the Jail and Workhouse now are, was built probably by Mr. Little and remodeled by Gastrom Fisher, who kept a tavern there before Baker who was preceded by Rob Moore (21).

James Adams kept a grocery next door, and the office of Phelps and Benton was in a little frame a few doors below. Milton lived in the house still standing on the east side of Greenup Street, next to the Kenton Tobacco Warehouse (22).

Joshua Leathers had a tobacco factory on the southeast corner of Second and Greenup (23).

Robert H. Ball kept a tavern where Wickermeier's grocery now is, at the northwest corner of Lower Market and Greenup Streets (24).

Alexander Connelly kept a tavern on the west side of Garrard Street just north of Second, and afterwards in the house at northwest corner of Second and Garrard, which he built and which has lately given place to Amos Shinkle's new row. The Post Office was kept in the bar room of this tavern, and Mr. Carneal was postmaster (25).

James W. Bryson kept a store about where Vincent Shinkle's dwelling now stands on the east side of Garrard Street, north of Third (26).

Dr. George [sic.] W. Wright built the house afterwards occupied by Francis Drake Cutter, on the north side of Third next to the Licking River (27).

Thomas D. Carneal built the house on the south side of Second Street, which was bought and occupied by Mr. McNickle (28).

The store of E. L. Gaines stood about where the Jesse Wilcox dwelling now is on the east side of Greenup, near Sixth Street, and Gen. James Gaines built and occupied the old John [sic.] W. Ball homestead, on the south side of Third Street, between Scott and Madison (29).

Carey Clemons lived on the site of the frame house on the east side of Greenup opposite the Court house. Mr. Clemons in partners with James Jenkins, operated a saw mill where the Hemingray Glass works now are (30).

Andrew Ross had a saddlery shop at the southwest corner of Fourth and Greenup (31).

David Scholds & Son occupied the brick next to the present engine house on Greenup Street, with carding machines (32).

The first jail was located right back of the present First District school house, on Scott Street, and the next building erected on that square was the brick house directly south of the present school building. It was built by W. W. Wade, father of William E. Wade (33).

Samuel Belew was one of the first jailers, and he had a dog named "Coaly," to which he was greatly attached. Mr. Belew experienced religion and ever after was noted for fervent and stentorian prayers. It is related that upon one occasion while engaged in prayer more earnestly than usual, somebody stepped on Coaly's tail, causing him to yelp, when his irascible master shouted "amen" and sprang to his feet with an emphatic oath, irreverently threatening dire vengeance on the luckless culprit (34).

The engine house first erected was torn down to give place to Court Avenue (35).

Mr. John Perry was at on time Chief Engineer of the old Volunteer Fire Company, and Alexander Jamison was President. It seems that the Engineer was supreme authority at all fires, and had the power of sending any private citizen to jail who refused to obey his orders. Upon one occasion Mr. Jamison presuming upon his position as President of the company ordered Mr. Perry to take a hand at pumping. Mr. Perry, jealous of his authority as chief engineer, turned the tables on Mr. Jamison and ordered him to pump or go to jail. Mr. Jamison saw the point, and jerking off his coat good naturedly went to work with a will, to the great merriment of the bystanders and his own satisfaction (36).



The first engine purchased by the trustees of the town was an old Washington hand engine, which was dubbed "The Coffee Mill." After Covington got able to buy a better one it was sent to Newport, and from there it was taken to Alexandria and used in extinguishing fires up to within a few years ago. -[?]-fire company were John Perry, Harrison Poor, Jillison Hambrick, Frederick, William and Christopher Gedge and Peleg Kidd.

Mr. Perry, who saw the New Orleans, the first steamboat, on the Ohio River, describes it as shaped like the present steamers except the cabins were on the lower deck and the pilot was perched on the top of the boat with no protection from the weather.

Mr. Perry is still using a set of six chairs and a rocker made for him over fifty years ago by Jacob Huffman, who lately departed this life at his home near Florence. They are in good condition and bid fair to last many years to come.

Henry M. Buckner kept the first dry goods store in Covington in a frame house in the yard in the Kennedy stone house. He afterward bought James W. Bryson's store. He was evidently Postmaster in 1816 as a list of letters remaining in the office was published in the paper Liberty Hall under the date January 1, 1817, and signed by him as Postmaster.

It was as follows:

#### A LIST OF LETTERS

remaining in the Postoffice at Covington, Ky., which if not taken out against the 1st day of April next will be sent to the General office as dead letters;

William Anderson,	James Bunch,
Henry W. Clark,	James W. Bryson,
Stephen Collins,	Sylvanus Jennison,
Samuel Dickson,	Jacob Krigley,
Starret G. Kenny,	Maj. Jos. Kennedy,
Maj. Bartlett Graves,	Lewis Kleet,
John Graham,	Robert Kile,
Thomas Harris,	John W. King,
Mrs. Mary Herndon,	Joshua Leathers,
John Loveless,	John B. Manole,
Joseph Newport,	O. R. Powell, Esq.,
Thomas Parker,	John Roberts
Frederick Ross,	Capt. Alfred Sandford,
James Sorrailes,	Mrs. Alesy Tippit

Henry M. Buckner, P. M.

In 1823 a man named Lucas painted a view of Cincinnati from Covington for the drop curtain of the Globe Theater, Cincinnati, and it was thought to be a wonderful piece of art.

The cotton mill stood where James Walsh's distillery now stands, at the foot of Scott Street, and was built in 1828. William Whitehead was manager until the time of his death by an accident at the factory, when he was succeeded by his son-in-law John T. Levis, who operated it until it ceased to be used as a factory (37).

The McNickle Rolling Mill was on the square now occupied by the Ice Manufactory's buildings and was set in operation in 1881 (38).

Benjamin Leathers owned the first bank in Covington. It was operated in connection with his store and located at the southwest corner of Third and Greenup Streets (39). The following taken from Collins' History of Kentucky, gives an idea of the primitive methods of those early days:

"The first bank in Covington was established in 1821. It was the reign of fractional currency, nearly fifty years before the exigencies of the civil war invented that handy designation. Instead of 3, 5, 10, 15, 25, and 50 cents currency, Mr. Leathers, like many others at the time, and a thousand imitators in 1837, issued his own "promises to pay," or shin plasters in the denomination of 6 1/4, 1 1/2, 20 and 50 cents, and perhaps of \$1 and \$2."

Having served to bridge over the hard times the day of redemption came around, and Mr. Leathers took them in promptly, like a true banker. It is said that as he redeemed them at his counter he aimed to clear away the rubbish by consigning them to the devouring flames in the broad fire place in his store; but unobserved by him the powerful draft carried many of them into the outer upper air and rained them in beautiful profusion upon the ground outside and upon the roof of his store. Before he had discovered that he had established such a bank of reissue, a sort of "fire in the rear" to consume his capital, he had redeemed many hands full brought in by the panic stricken citizens young and old. It was a run upon his bank not anticipated, and it worried him not a little when he discovered that he had been the victim of his own want of caution. An old bank was made the recipient of the after redeemed shinplaster and the surviving resident of the "Beech Woods Farm" four miles out the old road to Lexington will remember how patiently the ex-banker watched the actual destruction of his favorite notes, as he committed them slowly but surely to the fire. He thus closed the doors of his bank against a second redemption. To redeem once was honorable but twice was cruel. As long as he lived he was kept in lively remembrance of his balloon currency.

By an original deed filed in the Chancery Court in the case of Louisa Piatt et al. against the City of Covington, it is seen that Robert M. Ewing bought lot No. 75, fronting 47 1/2 feet on the east side of Garrard Street, at their auction sale, March 20, 1815, for the sum of \$275. This lot afterwards transferred to Daniel Gano and from him to Thomas Buckner, December 3, 1819,

a majority of the Trustees of the town signing the deed of conveyance. They were Joseph Kennedy, Benjamin W. Leathers and John Hudson. M.M. Benton in his testimony in the suit of Gano heirs against the City of Covington, to recover the old Craig street Burying ground property, testifies that in 1828 all of that part of the town west of and below Washington Street, as is shown in the plat of the city, was enclosed and mostly in woods (40).

The portion enclosed was estimated at and called the fifty acre tract as belonging to Nathan R. Ware. Soon afterwards T. D. Carneal purchased it and leased it out, one part to J. R. Arnold. He sold part of the tract to G. R. Stinger, of New Orleans, and part to Samuel Russell of Connecticut. Stinger got five acres next to Kyles' line, and next west of Washington Steet. He sold to S. H. Montgomery, who subdivided the same into lots and sold them. Russell and Johnson laid off Russell's portion in lots.

An old lady who lived in Covington since infancy tells about a preacher in the olden days names Ma[?]ett. He was a great exhorter, and so popular among his Methodist brethren, that upon his visit to Covington they spread carpets on the street for him to walk upon. Once in his sermon, noticing a number of wild young fellows in the congregation, he shouted, "Come up, come up! If we can't get fish we will take tadpoles." His wife is described [overweight?] and instructing her to have a light supper, once when their larder was not overly full, he went home to find the table set with nothing on it but half a dozen lighted candles.

#### ADDENDA

We were much gratified to obtain the following information and sincerely hope to receive many more communications of a like nature.

Editor Commonwealth:

Erlanger, Ky., April 7, 1884.-- In the History of Covington as published in the Commonwealth, a slight mistake is made in saying that Mr. Martin was the first person born in Covington. According to the record in the family bible of Samuel Kennedy (now in the possession of Miss Nancy Kennedy, corner of Second and Garrard streets, Covington, Ky.), Dinah and Betsy, children of Samuel and Jane Kennedy, were born Jan. 15, 1797, nearly fifteen months before Mr. Martin was. Betsy died in September of the same year. Dinah was married in April, 1829 to Thomas Fleming, of Butler County, Ohio, and died Feb. 8, 1847. She was born, married and died in the same house, which is still standing, and is now known as the old stone house, on Garrard Street below second. She left five children, three of whom are still living -- Mrs. Geo. M. Bedinger, of Erlanger, Ky., Thomas Kennedy Fleming, of Walton, Mrs. Reuben Conner, of Richwood, Mrs. Eleanor Fleming Southgate

of Walton, Ky., who died in 1871 -- leaving six children, and Samuel Porter, who died soon after his mother (41). Hoping that you will correct the item referred to, I remain respectfully yours,

S.E. Bedinger  
Erlanger, Ky.

## FOOTNOTES

[note: some street address numbers have changed over the years]

1. General Thomas Sandford (1762-1808); 1803-1807 member of Congress; 1792 established his farm where now is the city of Ludlow; 1799 delegate to second state convention; served terms in legislature; (Allen Webb Smith, *Beginning at the Point, a Documented History of Northern Kentucky and Environs, the City of Covington in Particular, 1751-1834*, printed locally, 1977).
2. General Leonard Stephens (1791-1873); 1840-1842 first sheriff of Kenton County; served in legislature and senate; lived in Kenton County until a few years before his death in Boone County (Smith).
3. James G. Arnold (1792-1876); teacher in the log building on public square; city and county official; 1842-1844 second Kenton County Sheriff; became wealthy in tobacco and real estate; Arnold subdivision on west side of Dalton street; married Margaret Strain Daulton, sister of a Mayor of Maysville; Arnold died at home of daughter, which he had built in 1872-1874 at the southeast corner of Sixth and Philadelphia which still stands as a hotel (obituary *The Ticket*, 11-17-1876).
4. Mortimer Murray Benton (1807-1885); 1830 first mayor of Covington; studied law in Cincinnati; in 1828 moved to Covington and practiced law with Phelps; 1849 leader in getting charter for Covington and Lexington railroad; 1863-65 served in state legislature; married Angelina Clemons, daughter of Carey Clemons (Smith).
5. Robert Perry was a veteran of War of 1812; John S. Perry was a supporter of the Whig party (John Burns, "History of Covington to 1865," unpublished).
6. Possibly the Joseph Jenkinson who along with Richard M. Gano, John S. Gano, Thomas Carneal, John C. Buckner, George Williamson, and Richard Oldham on February 27, 1815 posted bond at the Campbell County Courthouse under the penalty of \$50,000 for the purpose of establishing the Town of Covington (Smith).
7. Eventually survivors of Thomas Kennedy (1741-1821) sold his home located between Fifth and Sixth Street on Greenup; Kennedy had lived in the brick mansion at the northwest corner of Sixth and Greenup from 1816 until his death (Smith). John Casey (ca. 1800-1876), dry goods merchant and tobacco manufacturer, lived near the southwest corner of Fifth and Greenup Streets (1860 directory) and built the duplex which is still standing located just south of the United Methodist Church at Fifth and Greenup (Burns); Isaac Cooper (1808-1883) was the city's first assessor (obituary, *Daily Commonwealth*, 7-21-83); he was a merchant and prominent real estate broker (W. H. Perrin et al. *Kentucky, A History of the State*, 1887), and he lived in Kennedy's old house 1860 and 1886 and 1887 directories); then Judge Willing E. Arthur (1825-1897) occupied the house; after his death Arthur's family tore down the old Kennedy brick mansion, said by some to be the oldest, next to the old Kennedy family's stone house below Second Street, and erected the Arthur apartments (K. P., 5-7-04).
8. Dr. John W. Riffe, office and residence, 29 E. Fifth Street (1882-83 street directory). A Robert Kyle, came to Covington from Pennsylvania with the Kennedy family (Smith). Robert Kyle's home stood near the present northwest corner of Pike and Madison before development of the downtown when this country lane passed through and connected with Banklick Road, then south, and then turned west toward the southern boundary of the present Linden Grove Cemetery site, a route that the surviving the street name "Old Lexington Pike" there still recalls (Burns cites Wiggins here his "History of Covington to 1865," unpublished); "settlements on the lakes" refers to lakes located in

present day Park Hills and Ft. Wright (1888 county atlas); Linden Grove Cemetery was dedicated in 1843 (Daily Cincinnati Chronicle, 9-9-1843); the Ashbrook house is located at the northeast corner of Robbins and Russell (Covington Atlas, 1877); in 1810 in the outskirts lived William Mackoy and his three sons, John, William and Robert (Richard Collins, History of Kentucky).

9. Jacob Fowler farm; site once known as "Lincoln Place" (1840s Covington map) is located in vicinity of Eleventh and Banklick, for which the Federal style building at 103 Banklick serves as a landmark; recently obscured by new Church of God building on the same lot; a landmark even though probably not built by Fowler (Covington Preservation office file); it once was a Red Cross headquarters (1957 street directory). The Covington and Lexington Railroad, later known as the K.C.R.R., was built through in the early 1850s. Once Banklick Road was the primary road to downtown through present-day Latonia. There was a Catholic cemetery located near present-day Twenty-Sixth Street where a remnant still remains immediately west of Madison Avenue (signified by a street marker).

10. The story of the log building, or buildings, has several versions, especially about relocation, suggesting some hearsay; everyone agrees that a log structure was used on the public square by Covington inhabitants for a school, for lectures and public meetings including those of town trustees; the log house on West Ninth Street was torn down "shortly after World War I" (Burns).

11. Patrick Leonard fought first on the British side and then on the Colonists' side; his wife, Molly Pitcher was also a hero in the American Revolution (Irle R. Hicks, "Covingtona, Queen of the Licking," Christopher Gist Society Papers, and Burns).

12. William Wade, lumber merchant, Garrard Street opposite public square (1834 directory); A.D. Bullock of Cincinnati "completed" the Boone Block in 1872 and then had plans for similar project on the west side of Scott Street; the Block was already completely leased, with the Adams Express Office and Mr. Baker, merchant tailor, taking the first floor and L.B. Baker, Col. W. S. Rankin, H. P. Whittaker, Esq., Judge O'Hara, J.G. Carlisle and C.D. Foote, and W.G. Whittaker taking floors above, and the sheriff elect Percival also planning to occupy a space (C.J., 11-9-72); other notable attorneys who occupied Boone Block included Willing E. Arthur and William K. Goebel (street directories).

13. May 10, 1831, Thomas Carneal sells town lots to John K. McNickle of Pittsburg, to wit, from Madison Avenue east 290 feet to a north-south alley, north from Second Street to the low water mark of Ohio River; and from Second Street south to an east-west alley, from Madison to Scott Streets; thereafter McNickle started the Covington Rolling Mill (Smith).

14. About 1818 Thomas Sandford's sons transferred his farm to Thomas Carneal who built Elmwood Hall; in 1828 Carneal sold Elmwood Hall and surrounding property to an Englishman, William Bullock; in 1830 Bullock sold Elmwood Hall and surrounding property to Israel Ludlow (Smith).

15. The Methodist Chapel west of Garrard, 50 feet north of Third; built 1832 and considered by this source to be the "first church of any denomination to be erected in Covington"; 1843 this congregation built a new church on Scott Street near Sixth; in 1844 the Methodist church split on the issue of slavery and in 1846 this Scott Street congregation voted in favor of the M.E. South; dissenters such as Mortimer M. Benton withdrew and founded a second congregation which became eventually the Union Methodist Church at Fifth and Greenup, today's United Methodist Church; Benton eventually joined Trinity Episcopal (paper entitled, "Early Churches in Kenton County," Myron A. Bailey); in 1845 Jackson and Bennett began operating a Silk factory in Covington (Licking Valley Register, April 12, 1845, cited by Burns).

16. Father Light; John G. Light, shoemaker, Greenup between Third and Fourth (1834 directory); Greenup M.E. west side of Greenup between Fourth and Fifth, and Scott Street M.E. east side of Scott between Fifth and Sixth (1860 directory).

17. In 1837 a congregation was organized and met in a one story frame building on the south side of Second Street owned by Arnold the first Elder; in 1844 Arnold gave the church a lot on the southwest corner of Third Street and an alley between Scott and Madison; in 1865 the church purchased the present site from John G. Carlisle and constructed a church which was destroyed by fire in 1893, after which the present church was built (Bailey); Arnold's name is still honored on a bronze plaque at the parsonage entrance.

18. 1838 First Baptist congregation of Covington was organized; relocated from Alexander Greer's building to a building near Second and Greenup, before locating to present site (Bailey); Philip

Bush was cashier at the Northern Bank of Kentucky, Third and Scott (1839-40 directory).

19. The cornerstone for the Odd Fellows hall was laid in 1856; the new building was dedicated in 1857 (Covington Journal, 4-12-56; 10-24-57).

20. Casey's large frame building caught fire which also threatened the surrounding area; losses included the papers of "Covington's first masonic lodge, Temple Lodge No. 64" which had been meeting in the building since the lodge's founding in 1820; the fire, and also then anti-masonic political feelings at that time lead to disbandment (Burns).

21. Mrs. Mary Baker, west side of Greenup between Second and Third (1860 street directory); city buildings east of Court between Second and Third Streets wherein is office and residence of jailer (1884 street directory).

22. James Adams, born New Hampshire, grocery, Greenup between Second and Third (1849-40 directory)

23. Joshua Leathers, brother of John W. Leathers (1809-1873) prominent politician and real estate dealer, was himself a real estate dealer who died in 1819, but also had a son, Joshua, Jr. (Jim Reis, K. P. November 4, 1991); an old building at southeast corner of Second and Greenup Street was recently demolished (Photo, K. P. July 20, 1991).

24. Robert H. Ball was related to George W. Ball, possibly an older brother (census records). Casper Wickenmeyer's grocery, 315 Greenup (1876 and 1884-85 directory).

25. Alexander Connelly, innkeeper, corner of Garrard and Second (1834 directory).

26. Vincent Shinkle's house was located on the east side of Garrard; his brother Amos lived on the West side of Garrard between Second and Third Streets (1860 street directory).

27. Guy W. Wright house; today known as Daniel Carter Beard house; 1821 built by physician Dr. Guy W. Wright; 1826 purchased by Alexander and Frances Ann Denny Drake, actor and actress; after death of her first husband Frances Ann married George Washington Cutter, poet, and lawyer; 1861 James H. Beard, American artist, rented it and from there volunteered his services as noncombatant in the Civil War; Daniel Carter Beard (1850-1941) was one of six children of James and Mary Caroline Carter Beard ("Daniel Carter Beard Boyhood Home," recent unpublished research for present owner).

28. Carneal in 1831 transferred to John J. McNickle of Pittsburg town lots for the new Covington Rolling Mill, which would, it was said, contain almost 16,000 "feet" and would employ 300 "for rolling, splitting and manufacture of nails" (Smith).

29. In 1832 the town trustees met in the store room of A. L. Gaines, as recorded by M. M. Benton, City Clerk (Smith). George W. Ball owned a foundry between Third and Fourth and Main and Johnston Streets and was well known as a stove dealer in Cincinnati as well; Ball was from Pennsylvania and was related through marriage to John McNickle (street directories and deed records, census records); Jessie Wilcox ex-member of city council and current Vice-president of the Covington and Cincinnati Bridge company passed away at age 65 and left an estate of some \$200,000 (Covington Journal, 2-27-75).

30. Carey Clemons, lumber merchant Greenup north of Third (1834 directory). The Hemingray Glass company was located immediately west of Madison Avenue, at the river (1883 county atlas).

31. (1834 and 1839-40 street directory).

32. No. 2 Fire Co. on Greenup between Fourth and Fifth Streets (1884 directory).

33. First District school west side of Scott between Fifth and Sixth; William E. Wade home 630 Scott (1860, 1879, and 1884 directories).

34. Samuel Billew, Sexton and Jailer, residence south of Fifth (1839-40 directory).

35. First Engine house torn down to give way to Court Street which was an enlargement of an alley there in order to facilitate bridge traffic and other developments; in 1833 Carey Clemons constructed a frame engine house for the city's first publicly owned fire engine, which "stood on the public square and faced Third Street, midway between Greenup and present-day Court Street"; town trustees began regularly to hold their meetings on the second floor (Burns).

36. Alex. H. Jameson, born Virginia, clerk insurance office (1839-40 and 1860 street directories); Jno. S. Perry, lumber merchant (1839-40 directory).

37. James Walsh's Distillery was located at the river between Scott Street and the Roebling Suspension Bridge entrance (1877 Covington atlas)

38 The Champion Ice manufacturing company was established in the early 1880s (Daily Commonwealth, 3-13, 9-7-82). The McNickle Rolling Mill site between Madison and Scott Streets was

described as the "Est. of G.W. Ball" (1877 Covington atlas). The surviving Ice Company buildings

were demolished in the past decade for the new River Center complex (Covington Historic Preservation office).

39. The old Leathers bank building still stands at the northwest corner of Greenup and Park Place (Burns).

40. See Charles S. Adams, "Old Covington Cemeteries," Christopher Gist Papers).

41. In 1830 Dr. Benjamin Bedinger occupied one of the early brick houses, at the southeast corner of Garrard and present-day Riverside Drive, "just north of the stone house" (Smith and Burns).

Thomas and Dinah Kennedy had three children, Samuel, Joseph, and Hannah. In 1791 Thomas Kennedy (1741- 1821) built the stone house on the east side of Garrard between present-day Riverside Drive and Second Street which was torn down in 1909. After selling his farm Thomas moved to a new house at the northwest corner of Sixth and Greenup, which in 1904 was torn down by the Arthur family for the Arthur apartments (Smith). Samuel Kennedy operated the Covington ferry and lived in the stone house for a number of years (1834 and 1839-40 directory).

Nancy Kennedy (1811-1904), one of twelve children of Samuel and Jane Richardson Kennedy, grew up also in the stone house; in 1848 she moved into a new brick house at 124 Garrard Street "next door to the stone house." When "Aunt Nancy" Kennedy, died at age 93, she was living there alone, but had recently had Thanksgiving dinner as a guest of her grandniece, Dr. Louise Southgate. Nancy's surviving relatives included Dan Kennedy, Joseph Kennedy and Porter Kennedy of Hamilton, Ohio, who were nephews; Thomas Fleming of Boone County and Robert Krout of Crawfordsville, Indiana, nephews; Mrs. Mouiver Towsey of Covington, and Mrs. Jane F. Conner of Covington, nieces; Thomas Kennedy, recent Covington city engineer and Joseph Kennedy, cousins; other survivors included Sam Long, Mrs. Alice McGlasson, Dr. Louise Southgate, Mrs. Mary Brewster, Mrs. Elizabeth Davis of Coffeerville, Kansas, and Mrs. Hannah Bedinger of Bakersville, California (obituary. K. P. 12-13-04). Recently the Kennedy-Southgate house underwent renovation (Covington Historic Preservation office).

(Transcription and footnotes by John Boh)



Nancy Kennedy  
(1811-1904)

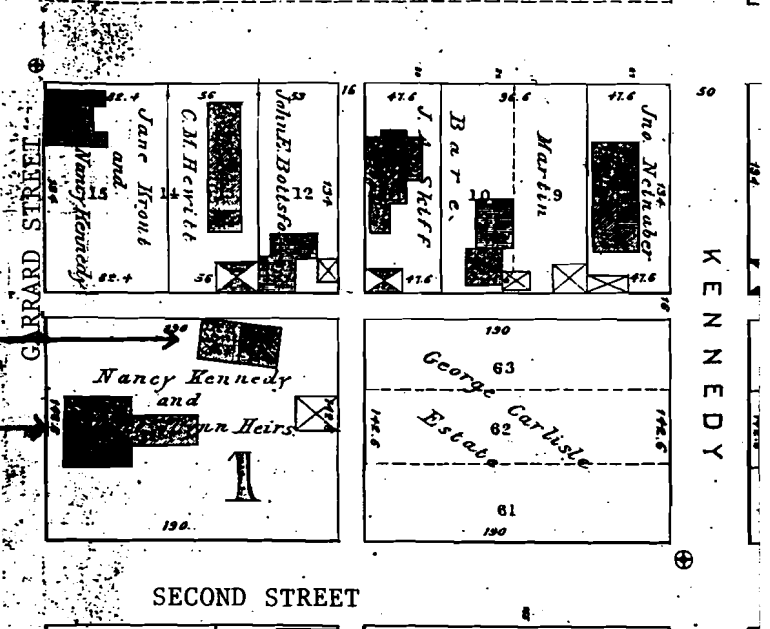




(1877 atlas)

S T E E P

river bank



Kennedy stone house  
(1791-1909)

Kennedy-Southgate house  
(built circa 1848)



Kennedy Stone house, 1895

Kenton County Historical Society  
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- 1810, 20, 30 Census Index (Campbell County) -- \$20 includ. mailing
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