

# KENTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**Bulletin**

**March 1997**



## **INSIDE:**

- ☞ **Architecture of Lewisburg**
- ☞ **Information on workshop of interest to historic preservationists**

**CINCINNATI'S  
11th ANNUAL**

Registration Form  
on back page

# **OLD TIME RADIO & NOSTALGIA CONVENTION**

**APRIL 18-19, 1997 MARRIOTT INN**

HOURS: FRIDAY 12PM-9PM • SATURDAY 9AM-4PM

**FRED FOY  
ANNOUNCER ON  
THE LONE  
RANGER  
SHOW**

**PARLEY BAER  
GUNSMOKE'S CHESTER  
MAYOR OF MAHBERRY**

## **SPECIAL GUESTS**

**PEG LYNCH  
ETHEL & ALBERT**

**BARNEY BECK  
SOUND EFFECTS ARTIST  
THE SHADOW • SUPERMAN  
BOB & RAY • NICK CARTER**

**JOHN RAYBURN  
A FUN-FILLED RETURN TO  
THE GOLDEN AGE OF RADIO**

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# KENTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Publisher of award-winning  
Northern Kentucky Heritage Magazine

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## Northern Kentucky Regional History Day

The Fourth Annual Regional History Day will be Saturday, March 1, 1997, at Northern Kentucky University. Registration fee is \$4 at the door or \$3 in advance. Registration and information brochures will be mailed out to the local NKHS membership. Last year's attendance was over 250 persons.

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## Architecture of Lewisburg: Italianate

by Susan Cabot

The Italianate architectural style, as seen in the United States, was loosely patterned after rambling, highly detailed farmhouses and city mansions in Italy. The style was popular in America from about 1855 to 1885, although in this area it reached its peak between 1870 and 1885.

The Italianate style, as seen in urban designs, features a tall rectangular form that was perfect for Covington's narrow, deep city lots.

The basic identifying features, in addition to the shape, are brackets at the cornice (or top of the wall) line, elaborate window hood molds (above the windows) made of cast iron, or often stone in Lewisburg, and double hung sash windows with two panes over two panes of glass (two over two).

In our neighborhood, and throughout Covington, another common feature is small windows at the cornice line.

A wide variety of Italian-influenced features can be seen in Lewisburg, and many have been adapted by local material and skills. Almost all examples have brackets of some kind, but many buildings are only one or one-and-a-half stories tall.



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Instead of fancy projecting hood molds, a number of Lewisburg homes have flat, finely carved stone lintels above windows, reflecting both skilled German craftsmanship and the local availability of stone. Cornice windows vary from small rectangular openings to miniature versions of full-sized windows.

Although most Lewisburg homes are fairly modest, a few elaborate examples are also present. An example of this is found at 716 Lewis Street, built in c. 1865. (See drawing.) Once the home of Charles Long, owner of the Lewisburg Brewery (originally located on Baker Street where Papas Candy is today), this Italianate building features an unusually large size, intricate cast iron hood molds, a recessed entrance, cornice brackets on all sides, and two over two windows. This building represents a transition from Greek Revival style to Italianate.

A more typical example can be seen at the c. 1875 house located at 610 West 12th Street. This charming one-and-a-half story home has cornice brackets, elongated cornice windows, and flat, incised lintels.

Also popular in Lewisburg is a building form known as the Covington townhouse. In addition to its Italianate features, the house at 912 Baker Street, built in c. 1892 has two windows on the front, a side entrance, most likely leading into a stair hall, and two rooms on the first floor (without a rear addition).

*Borrowed from The Lewisburg Ledger*

**Where is Lewisburg Anyway?** Working from north to south, here's the list of streets located in Lewisburg (Entire length of street, unless otherwise noted).

Wright St., Western Ave., Crescent Ave., W. 9th St. (West of I-75),  
Baker St., Laurel Ave., Lewis St., Worth St., Cherry St., Quarry St.,  
Leonard St., Montague (from Pike to Devou Park),  
Pike (I-75 to just south of big bend) Bullock St., W. 11th (Bullock to  
Hermes), W. 12th (Bullock to Pike) Watkins (Bullock to Hermes),  
Hermes Ave., Hinde Av e. Southgate St.

## **EDEN OF THE WEST:**

### **The Development of Upper South Culture in Kentucky and Tennessee, 1750-1850**

Between 1750 and 1850 the dynamics of social, cultural, economic, and political exchange among diverse peoples created a distinctive Upper South culture. In 1750, the central basins of Kentucky and Tennessee and their connecting highlands were inhabited by many tribes of Native Americans. Beginning in the 1770s, land speculators privately purchased huge tracts to be sold to settlers. In the next few decades many came into the area as homesteaders, clearing and farming lands to which they had no legal claim.

The western frontier was not so distant from its mother states as to break completely with seaboard cultures. However, the natural barriers of mountains and forests, the economic, political, and cultural demands of the frontier, and the sometimes hostile relations with the Native Americans fostered a separation from the European cultures. This process of cultural change and continuity experienced by white settlers, Native Americans, and Africans is the focus of *Eden of the West*. This concept will be explored through the topics of land and its use, peoples and their migration, politics, and traditions and culture.

### **Land and Its Use**

The desire for land and wealth prompted many frontiersmen to travel to the west, blaze trails, and establish settlements. The rich and accessible lands of the Nashville and Bluegrass basins would soon become a major producer of cattle, hogs, sheep, and later tobacco, cotton, and horse breeding.

### **Peoples and Their Migration**

Prompted by glowing reports of land and opportunity, many white settlers migrated to the west bringing their families and black slaves. In the twenty years following the start of the American Revolution, over half a million people had moved to the Upper South frontier.

### **Politics**

The area produced many influential national politicians such as Henry Clay, Andrew Jackson, James K. Polk, John Bell, Zachary Taylor, and John C. Breckinridge. These men in many ways symbolized the frontier that produced them.

### **Traditions and Culture**

The folk cultures and traditions of the basins and highlands were a synthesis of the many peoples who populated this area. These distinctive Upper South traditions are evident in the foodways, architecture, clothing, furniture, arts and crafts, religion, and entertainment.

## The Project

*Eden of the West* is a series of adult reading and discussion groups sponsored in Florence by the Filson Club Historical Society, Louisville, and the Boone County Public Library with funds provided in part by the Kentucky Humanities Council.

The series will be held in six communities in Kentucky. At each series of meetings, historians, folklorists, and archaeologists from area universities will lead discussions.

## The Meetings

The program consists of five meetings: an introduction followed by sessions on the land and its use, peoples and their migration, politics, and traditions and culture. After a short lecture, participants will discuss these topics with other members of the group. These discussions will be based on pre-assigned readings.

## The Readings

Letters, diaries, maps, and other primary documents from the collections of the Filson Club and other research libraries have been specially selected for use in this program and compiled in a spiral-bound reader based on the five topics. The reader, *Eden of the West: Documents from Early Upper South History*, will be distributed at the first meeting. These readings will supplement the scholar-led discussion by providing specific examples to illustrate the four topics.

## Schedule

*Eden of the West* will be held at the Boone County Public Library between March 6 and May 1, 1997. All meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m. and last no more than two hours.

March 6	Introduction
March 20	Land and Its Use
April 3	Peoples and Their Migration
April 17	Politics
May 1	Traditions and Culture

BOONE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
7425 U.S. 42  
Florence, KY 41042  
371-6222

## Registration

This program is free to the public but seating is limited. In order to reserve your space, sign up at the Boone County Public Library as soon as possible. Registrants are expected to attend all five meetings in the series.

For more information about the program or for dates at other nearby sites, please contact Cindy Brown, Boone County Public Library, at 371-6222 or Judy Miller, The Filson Club Historical Society, at (502) 635-5083.

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## NOTICES

### Volunteers Needed

**Computer Skills** KCHS has had some response to the call for someone to enter data onto computer disk, but the handwritten research projects which we would like to publish are voluminous. We still need more people who can enter this data onto computer disk so that we can transfer them to publishing form. If you have the time and no computer, the Society's computer is available.

**Do you have an interest in old photos?** The Society wants to collect, label, preserve, and keep old photos, which may have historical significance, in our files for possible use in the magazine or other historical display events. We need someone who has ideas on how to publicize the need for old photos; someone to collect, label and file the photos.

**Could you stock Northern Kentucky Heritage Magazine in a store near you?** The Magazine can now be purchased at bookstores and gift shops in the area. Several people have volunteered to restock and collect money from the sales each month in several stores, but we need a few more volunteers. N. K. Heritage Magazine is being sold at the following stores:

**Barnes & Noble, Florence  
Madison Stationary, Cov.**

**For Love of Books, Latonia**

**Blue Lick State Park in Robertson County, near Mt. Olivet, Ky.**

**Ohio Bookstore, Main St., Cincinnati**

**Visitor's Center, Philadelphia St., Cov.**

**Beringer Crawford Museum Gift Shop**

Suggestions for additional locations will be welcome.

If you have the skill or the interest for any of these of these projects, please call Karl Lietzenmayer, 261-2807 or John Boh, 491-0490 (H), or 292-2124.

### FOR SALE

✓George Roth History of Trinity Church, Covington- hardbound, 300 pages, indexed, 20 pages of black and white and color pictures and illustrations. Cost \$10 plus \$2 postage.

✓7 X 7 Color 1947 Photo of the Kentucky Parlor Streetcar.

Kenton Officers From 1776 To 1888---- In 1884, in the Daily Commonwealth newspaper, O. J. Wiggins listed over 100 names of court officers and legislators primarily from Kenton County but also Campbell County before 1840 when the region was one county. Recently John Boh compiled brief, biographical "abstracts" of each and arranged them alphabetically. It could be a wonderful help for your research. Cost: \$2.00, including mailing.

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**THE FUR TRADE ON THE  
AMERICAN FRONTIER**

**A Presentation by Dr. Frederick Fausz,  
Professor at the  
University of Missouri-St. Louis**

**7:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 22,  
in the Science Lecture Hall  
at Thomas More College**



*Sponsored by Lambda Sigma Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta History Honorary*

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## **Economic Impact of Historic Preservation in Kentucky**

Workshop in Covington, Thursday April 24, 10:00 to 12:00 noon  
Covington City Hall

To make your job easier when seeking financial and general support for your local historic preservation projects, the Commonwealth Preservation Advocates has teamed up with the Kentucky Heritage Council to present a report that clearly demonstrates historic preservation to be a key component of Kentucky's economy.

Together in partnership they are completing a study on the economic impact of historic preservation across the Commonwealth of Kentucky. This study will show that investment in preservation produces positive effects on jobs, business and the overall economic health of communities throughout the state.

Copies of the study will be printed and available in May 1997. These will be distributed to increase general understanding of the value of investing in historic preservation, and also to build support for particular preservation projects of concern to each of us.

An official media announcement will be made in May 1997 to highlight the positive results of this study and the availability of the report. You may participate in presenting this information to your community by attending one of the training sessions being presented throughout the state. You will receive a preview copy of the report.

To sign up for the training session to be offered on April 24 in Covington City Hall, please call 1-502-564-7005 or write to

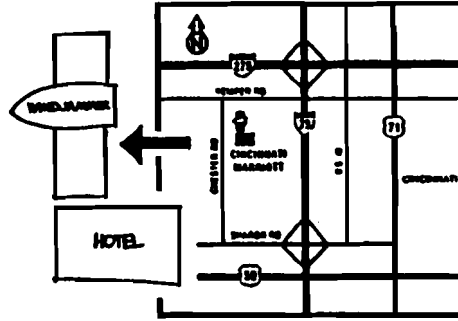
Economic Impact Report  
c/o KY Heritage Council  
300 Washington Street  
Frankfort, KY 40601

*Commonwealth Preservation Advocates is the statewide advocacy organization concerned with the conservation of Kentucky's historic resources.*

*Kentucky Heritage Council is the state agency in the Education, Arts, and Humanities Cabinet serving as Kentucky's historic preservation office.*

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