

# Bulletin of the Kenton County Historical Society

March/April

2006

## Survey Results

*Many of you took our survey a few months ago, providing us with a tremendous amount of information. We learned that the majority of our membership is more interested in our publications than a monthly meeting. You would rather read about local history in our bi-monthly bulletins, special publications and Northern Kentucky Heritage magazine than sit through a monthly lecture. Most preferred to meet only two or three times a year, when an extremely interesting topic or historic tour is involved. We will begin meeting those requests right away!*

## Special Program

### “Northern Kentucky Fires”

**Saturday March 18, 2006 3:00 PM**

**Kenton County Public Library—5th and Scott, Covington  
2nd Floor Conference Room**

*First on our new agenda is a wonderful presentation and book signing you will not want to miss! Northern Kentucky Fires, a summary of the most memorable fires of the region, is a new book written by Robert Webster, local historian and author, Bob will give a talk on the top ten incidents from the book, leading to the area's worst blaze, the Beverly Hills Supper Club tragedy which killed 165 people.*

*Wayne Dammert, author of the book Inside The Beverly Hills Supper Club Fire, will also speak at the event. Wayne was a banquet captain and will tell the story of the tragedy from inside the inferno.*

*Copies of both books will be on sale and both authors will gladly sign purchased copies.*

Published bi-monthly by

**The Kenton County Historical Society**

P.O. Box 641, Covington, Kentucky 41012-0641

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## Covington Book Project Update

### Topic List

The official list of topics has recently been updated and now includes due dates, as well as the word count required.

The list can be seen on the Society website:

[www.kenton.lib.ky.us/~histsoc](http://www.kenton.lib.ky.us/~histsoc)  
(click on "Covington Book Project")

The special committee working on the book continues to make steady progress and is still accepting volunteers. Those interested should contact the committee via email:

[covingtonhistorybook@fuse.net](mailto:covingtonhistorybook@fuse.net)

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# Episcopalians and Methodists in Milldale (Latonia) And Some of Their Strong Adherents

## Introduction

*Shortly after the Civil War, Milldale, which began as the crossroads of two toll roads, was fast becoming a railroad town.<sup>1</sup> The Covington & Lexington Railroad was operating by Christmas 1854.<sup>2</sup> Milldale was probably named for Charles Mills who operated a distillery close to the railroad. There is also the possibility the name is derived from an early gristmill established on the Banklick Creek. All trace of this mill had long disappeared by 1850 and little is known of its history.*

*Although the community numbered less than 300 persons, it was destined to grow rapidly. Many German-speaking immigrants began settling the area, mostly Roman Catholics and Methodists.<sup>3</sup> The English-speakers were generally Baptists and Episcopalians.*

## Episcopal Mission Established

In 1867, Trinity Episcopal Church, downtown Covington, established a mission in Milldale (Latonia), and a wooden chapel was opened at the southwest corner of Southern Avenue and Church Streets. Services began the following year on February 13. It was generally staffed by the rectors of Trinity Church, Covington.<sup>4</sup> The establishment in 1883 of one of the finest courses in America, Latonia Race Track had brought vigorous commerce to the area during the spring and fall meets. The mission flourished for a time, providing an Episcopal presence in the town, but in 1890 it was sold to the Meth-



*Interior view of the original Episcopal Church in Milldale.*

odists. It is not clear why the Episcopal Church decided to leave Latonia just when the population was exploding. In 1894, the center of the community known as Milldale was incorporated as the town of "South Covington" but everyone simply called the area "Latonia," taking its name from the track. It was in the town's growing stage that a larger chapel in a new location was needed.

Meanwhile, the original wooden structure was used by the Methodists. Because the five miles to Trinity Episcopal at 4<sup>th</sup> and Madison was often a daunting venture with horse and buggy, some of the more prominent Episcopalians simply began attending the same church as the Methodists. Latonia Episcopal families such as George Mason (see sidebar story on page 6) and John R. Coppin are found as members of the Methodist Church.<sup>5</sup>

## Henry Feltman – Methodist Mentor

For some time prior to 1890, Henry Feltman (see sidebar story on next page), a Covington bank president, conducted a Sunday school for Milldale Methodists.<sup>6</sup> In the summer of 1890, Feltman largely funded the purchase of the wooden chapel from the Episcopalians.<sup>7</sup> At the first meeting of the church trustees, it was decided the name "Trinity" should be retained. The formal opening of the new Trinity Methodist Church was September 21, 1890. The service included an address in German. [Holy Cross Catholic Church was founded in the same block that year and also preached in German for a short time]. By October, the first permanent pastor, Rev. F. W. Harrop, was appointed.



*Original wooden-structure Episcopal Church in Milldale (Latonia).  
In 1890 it was sold to the Methodists.*

By 1899, there were 46 church school members and an old bulletin lists the Sunday school attendance for August 20<sup>th</sup> at 109! By 1910, it was evident the old frame building had been outgrown and plans to build a new structure were discussed. By 1911, in a very unusual transaction, the church sold the old wooden chapel for use as a movie theater in the days of silent films. The structure was moved to a spot near 40<sup>th</sup> and Decoursey until it was replaced by a larger theater building, which still stands, no longer used as a movie theatre.

Henry Feltman spearheaded the funding of the new structure, giving \$5,000 as a base for the building fund.<sup>8</sup> Church records show Mr. Feltman initially gave twice that amount. He also pledged matching funds for all other donations to the project. The total cost of the new edifice was \$25,000. The new church was dedicated April 9, 1911.



*New church replaced original wooden structure.*

It was during the lean years of the Depression that the courageous people of Trinity Methodist built the Recreation Hall. The house immediately to the south of the church on Southern Avenue was also purchased and used as a new parsonage, allowing the new gym to be built on the site of the old parsonage on Church Street. With this facility, the church was able to greatly enlarge its program.

*Continued on page 4*

## Henry Feltman

Henry Feltman was obviously a wealthy citizen of German extraction, but the anti-German atmosphere generated by reaction to World War I turned Feltman's vast fortunes to a nightmare. The complete story of local anti German attacks has been well documented and continues to be studied.

Anti-German feeling escalated as the war waged on. German atrocities, such as the willful destruction of Louvain, fed the fury against the "Hun." Soon a vigilante group known as the "Patriotic League" was formed to ferret out disloyalty. This watchdog group even secretly recorded private conversations.

The most infamous incident was the wire recording of barbershop conversations in a Latonia shop. Ultimately, five German-Americans were indicted for "sedition." Henry Feltman was joined by J. Henry Kruse, Mat Felton, C. H. Shoberg and J. C. Masten, who were all accused of making anti-American statements. They went to trial for sedition in late summer 1918. Feltman, along with Kruse and Shoberg were found guilty and remanded to federal prison at Moundville in December 1920.<sup>1</sup>

Feltman willed his property, in present Taylor Mill, to be used "in perpetuity" for use of the Masonic Order. Recently, the property was being developed as a retirement community primarily for elderly Masons. The manager decided that it was more economical to raze the historic Winston-Feltman House and erect a new structure than to restore the mansion for a community center. Thus the lasting legacy of the Feltman family is no longer his estate but rather Trinity United Methodist Church.



*Winston-Feltman House in Taylor Mill, razed under much controversy recently. A complete article is underway for an upcoming issue of Northern Kentucky Heritage.*

On August 11, 1963, a proposal was presented and accepted to tear down the parsonage south of the church, purchase a new one elsewhere, and build an education building on the site of the former parsonage. In April 1964, an education building costing almost \$50,000 was erected. The new parsonage, at 6 Lake Street, Fort Wright, was purchased in 1963 and later sold in 1984.

### **Episcopalians Return**

Latonia languished without an Episcopal presence from 1890 to 1907. In that year, St. Stephen's Church was founded in Latonia by the Rev. Custis Fletcher, priest-in-charge of the newly formed St. Andrew's, Ft. Thomas. Father Fletcher was stationed at St. Andrew at its founding in that same year until 1912.

A triangular lot at Thirty-ninth, Decoursey and Lincoln Avenues was purchased for twenty-five dollars, and a Norman-style brick structure was erected, resting on a stone foundation. It was completed and dedicated in 1911.<sup>9</sup> Designed by local Covington architect and parish member Lyman Walker, its dominant visual element is a rectangular two-story crenellated Norman tower centered on the front of a gabled, story-and-a-half nave. The main entrance is to the side of the tower.



*St. Stephen Episcopal Church, Latonia (now vacant)*

### **St. Stephen Struggles Through the Depression**

For forty years the mission was under the care of Northern Kentucky clergy on part-time assignment from other churches and by lay readers. Rectors of Trinity, Covington; St. John, Covington (now closed); St. Paul,

Newport; St. John, Bellevue (now Anglo-Catholic); and St. Andrew, Fort Thomas, were in charge of St. Stephen Mission from time to time.

In spite of hard economic conditions during and following the Great Depression, progress was made under the direction of several rectors of St. Andrew, Fort Thomas, including Rev. J. Wilson Hunter, who placed special emphasis on youth work, bringing many young people into the mission, and the Rev. Allen Person, who encouraged lay participation, forming strong men's and women's groups.

On one occasion, parishioners had worked long and hard to refurbish the church building in preparation for a special visit by Bishop Abbott. When Abbott entered the church, the bishop was overjoyed and exclaimed, "And to think I had been advised to close this place!"

The Rev. Morris W. Derr, a native of Allentown, Pennsylvania, who had completed thirty-one years in the ministry before coming to Latonia, became vicar in 1956. A Bible scholar and translator, this dedicated clergyman remained at St. Stephen's for nearly ten years. During his incumbency, the congregation celebrated its golden jubilee in March 1958, and two months later attained parish status.<sup>10</sup>

Upon Rev. Derr's retirement in 1965, there followed a succession of seminary graduates who served from one to three years as vicars. One of them, the Rev. Robert Horine, served as vicar for three years (1969-72). He introduced a ministry of healing, along with efforts to aid poor families in the community and to support the institutional work in the area.

During the rectorate of the Rev. Robert Hufford, two celebrations of the Holy Eucharist on Sunday became the norm, and there were several mid-week celebrations as well. During Lent, services such as the Stations of the Cross, the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, and a Maundy Thursday foot washing were observed. Lectors, lay readers and chalice bearers were added, giving laymen a chance to serve in various capacities. Father Hufford was resigned in 1992 to become chaplain to the Sisters of the Transfiguration in Glendale, Ohio. The Rev. Sarah Morningstar Stanton became rector of St. Stephen's in 1993 until 2002. She was the first female rector in the Lexington Episcopal Diocese. She maintained much of the parish's achievements and introduced several innovative practices – the adolescent liturgy and the Amos Project among them.

With Mother Sarah approaching retirement age, she desired to be stationed nearer her aging parents and resigned her rectorship. Her replacement was Rev. Cynthia Webstock – an Anglican priest from South Africa. This African Diocese is a “sister Diocese” to Lexington. Rev. Webstock fell in love with Kentucky on her first visit and indicated to Bishop Sahls that she would like to transfer to a parish in the Lexington Diocese at the first appropriate time and place. Mother Sarah’s leaving presented that opportunity. Webstock was appointed priest-in-charge for a three-year trial. With the closing of St. Stephen’s, Rev. Webstock returned to South Africa.

Churches are established, grow, change and sometimes close or re-locate. The advent of easy auto travel among other cultural changes affect the fate of church growth along with every other facet of life.

### Appendix I: Clergy Serving St. Stephen’s

The Rev. Custis Fletcher, Jr.	1907-1910
The Rev. James Mitchell Magruder	1912-1913
The Rev. William Heilman	1914
The Rev. Joseph Edmund Thompson	1915-1916
The Rev. Peter Langendorff	1917
The Rev. Joseph Howard Gibbons	1918-1921
The Rev. Lorenzo Davenport Vaughn	1924-1925
The Rev. Frank Earl Cooley	1926-1929
The Ven. James Davis Gibson	1930
The Rev. J. Wilson Hunter	1933-1938
The Rev. William Gibson Pendleton	1939
The Rev. Allen Person	1944-1946
The Rev. Francis W. Kephart, Jr.	1953-1955
The Rev. Morris W. Derr	1956-1965
The Rev. Robert W. Planck	1967
The Rev. Robert B. Horine	1969-1972
The Rev. James L. White	1973-1975
The Rev. William E. Stark	1975-1976
The Rev. Christopher D. F. Bryce	1978
The Rev. James Gerhart	1979-1982
The Rev. Robert A. Hufford	1983-1992
The Rev. Sarah Morningstar Stanton	1993-2002
The Rev. Cynthia Webstock	2003-2005

### Appendix II: Clergy of Trinity Methodist Church

Rev. F. W. Harrop	1890-1894
Rev. J. A. College	1894-1896
Rev. L. P. Hans	1896-1898
Rev. J. M. Ackman	1898-1902
Rev. G. R. Frenger	1902-1903
Rev. J. G. Dover	1903-1906
Rev. Grant Perkins	1906-1909
Rev. F. T. Kelly	1909-1911
Rev. D. H. Onstott	1911-1912
Rev. W. H. Childers	1912-six months
Rev. F. W. Harrop	1912-1915
Rev. E. P. Hall	1915-1917

*Continued on page 6*

### The Mason Family

The George Mason family returned to the Episcopal Church with the founding of St. Stephen’s. Both churches have a commemoration to the Mason family. Even today there is a stained-glass window in the education building of Trinity Methodist Church donated by the Mason family. The large window in back of the altar at St. Stephen’s was also given by George and Mrs. Mason.<sup>1</sup>

Their daughter Lucy married Dudley Glenn. Lucy was the organist at St. Stephen’s for many years. Dudley Glenn’s father, Jeremiah “Jerry” Glenn (sometimes spelled Glinn) was the son of James K. and Nancy (Cox) Glenn and was born in Scott County, Kentucky in 1818. Jerry and his bride Louisa Ann Yelton moved to Boone County in 1856 where they took up farming. Within two years Jerry was hired as the inn-keeper of the famous Gaines House, a Walton stagecoach stop.<sup>2</sup>

Jeremiah and Louisa’s fifth child, Dudley studied at Transylvania College and Lebanon Law School, Tennessee. After being admitted to the bar, he moved to Covington to establish a practice. By 1884, he had moved his residence to Latonia at the corner of Myrtle and Windsor (Park Place) upon marriage to Lucy Mason.

In 1879, his father-in-law, George Mason leased 11.5 acres in Milldale (Latonia) with option to purchase in 5 years. He eventually developed the property as the Dinmore Park subdivision. Dudley A. (the “A” stood for nothing) Glenn rose to some prominence in political circles – a delegate to the 1890 Kentucky Constitutional Convention, Legislator and Commonwealth Attorney. He was a member of the town’s first board of trustees in 1894. He and Lucy had nine children [Mable (1883); Olivia “Miss Ollie” (1884); Lucy Martha (1886); Mary (1890); George Dudley (1892); Edwin “Ted” (1895); Elizabeth “Bessie” (1897); and Helen Catherine (1901)].

A family tragedy occurred in January 1913, while daughter Lucy was visiting her sister Mable’s home. Lucy developed a very severe headache and Mable administered what she thought was headache powder but in reality was oxalic acid – a deadly poison. Lucy died in her sister’s home within a few hours, age 27.<sup>3</sup>

In November 1905, the Glenn home at Myrtle and Windsor (Park) burned and many family mementos were lost. The Glenns moved two blocks to the northeast corner of East Southern and Glenn Avenue. Dudley was an investor in Latonia real estate as well as a town trustee which resulted in Glenn Avenue being named for him, since he was an early property owner on that street.<sup>4</sup>



Rev. Thomas Grenfell	1917-1918
Rev. J. A. Bretz	1918-1919
Rev. H. E. Trent	1919-1926
Rev. W. E. Cissna	1926-1928
Rev. W. C. Stewart	1928-1932
Rev. L. D. Rounds	1932-1937
Rev. W. S. Peters	1937-1941
Rev. W. A. Wells	1941-1944
Rev. G. D. Prentiss	1944-1947
Rev. W. B. Garriot	1947-1948
Rev. K. O. Potts	1948-1953 (died 26 Dec)
Rev. I. S. Pineur	1954-1960
Rev. G. H. Bierley	1960-1965
Rev. Paul H. Royster	1965-1969
Rev. Raymond W. Gibson, Jr.	1970-1974
Rev. Ronald J. Masters	1974-1979
Rev. Milton H. Lewis III	1979-1983
Rev. Eugene Strange	1983-1985
Rev. Owen Dolin	1985-1989
Rev. Farley E. Stuart III	1989-1992
Rev. Steve Pearson	1992-1993
Rev. Mark Shepherd	1993-1996
Rev. Kenneth Jett	1996-2001
Rev. Alan Jackson	2001-2002
Rev. Ted Shipp	2002-2005 (died 18 Sep)
Rev. Scott Stiph	2005-present

#### References

Frances Keller Swinford & Rebecca Smith Lee, "The Great Elm Tree – Heritage of The Episcopal Diocese of Lexington," Faith House Press, Lexington (1969).

Frances Keller Barr, "Ripe to the Harvest – History of the Episcopal Diocese of Lexington 1895-1995," Diocese of Lexington (1995).

"Trinity United Methodist Church," Centennial Book (1990).

#### Main Story:

1. Decoursey Pike (to a Licking River ferry) and Taylor Mill Road (to a small gristmill on Banklick Creek) cross at present Ritte's Corner, Latonia.
2. The C&L Railroad became the Kentucky Central RR and eventually the Chesapeake & Ohio [presently CSX]. See "The Making of the Kentucky Central Railroad," by Joseph Gastright, Collected Papers, Kenton County Historical Society (1983).
3. Even Holy Cross Roman Catholic Parish, established in 1890, began preaching in German for a short time.
4. Episcopal Bishop Cummins, and later Bishop Dudley visited it several times.
5. There are memorial stained glass windows to the George Mason family in both St. Stephen Episcopal and Trinity United Methodist Churches, for example.
6. Henry Feltman (1852-1937) was president of Citizens National Bank, Covington and for a time was on the board of the German National Bank, Covington. His wife Anna was a devout Roman Catholic and attended Holy Cross, while her husband worshipped at Trinity Methodist.
7. First trustees were: Henry Feltman, George Mason and W. B. Meyer.
8. Kentucky Post, "Gives \$5,000 For New M.E. Church," 10 Feb 1910, p. 8.
9. The parish used local brick made from the Latonia firm of Busse Brick Company.
10. Attaining parish status meant the church was self-sufficient enough to support it own clergy and no longer needed to depend on a mentor parish & clergy.

#### Feltman Sidebar:

1. Kentucky Time-Star, 7 Aug 1918, p.2; 6 Sept 1918, p.14; 14 Sept 1918; 11 Dec 1920.

#### Mason Sidebar:

1. George's son Charles (later Covington solicitor) established a home at the end of Summit Drive and married successively two sisters whose memorial windows appear in St. Stephen's tower.
2. Built by Abner Gaines about 1810 [The Gaines family became infamous as the owners of runaway Margaret Garner – the slave who slit her young daughter's throat rather than have her recaptured.]
3. Kentucky Post, "Lucy A. Glenn Poison Victim," 15 Jan 1913, p. 1.
4. For Glenn home photo, see Then & Now from KCHS Bulletin, Jan/Feb 2006.

## ON SALE NOW

The Kenton County Historical Society proudly presents:

### ***Northern Kentucky Fires,***

*a summary of the most memorable fires of the region.*

The book, written by Robert Webster, details more than 130 fires, including the Klaene Foundry, Duro Bag, Covington's Odd Fellows Hall, Airport Terminal, Avenue Nite Club, Dayton High School, White Horse, Lincoln Elementary, Highlands Junior High School, Tropicana/Glenn Hotel, Sherburne Covered Bridge, St. Aloysius Church, Lookout House, Town & Country, Simon Kenton High School and of course, the Beverly Hills Supper Club.

115 photographs are featured, including 35 images from the Beverly Hills tragedy, many never before published!

Eleven counties are represented:

Boone, Bracken, Campbell, Carroll, Fleming, Gallatin, Grant, Kenton, Mason, Owen and Pendleton.

Also included is a section on the region's 12 firefighters who have died in the line of duty.

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## Special Announcements

- Dr. Jonathan Reynolds, assistant professor of history at Northern Kentucky University, will give a free public address on "**Africa in World History**". The event is scheduled for Saturday, April 1, at 1:00 and will be held in Holbrook Student Center on the Thomas More College campus. Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society and the college's History Club are sponsoring the event.
- The 20th Annual **Old Time Radio & Nostalgia Convention** will take place on April 21 and 22 at Ramada Plaza, 11911 Sheraton Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio, 45246. A wonderful array of historic radio recordings and memorabilia will be on display. Several special guests are scheduled for the weekend, including Bob Hastings (Archie Andrews, McHale's Navy), Fred Foy (Lone Ranger), and Will Hutchins (Blondie, Sugarfoot). For additional information, contact: Bob Burchett at: 1-888-477-9112.

# Independence



*Above: the Oxley House, Right: the Metcalfe-Stephens House, both located in the 5200 block of Madison Pike, Independence.*



Farmer John McCollum donated five acres in the center of the newly formed Kenton County (1840) to serve as the County Seat. The town was named Independence, to celebrate the hard-fought independence from Campbell County and was incorporated February 24, 1842. By 1859, Independence had grown to about 165 acres and included 55 buildings, including the courthouse, clerk's office, jail, school, several homes and businesses.

The courthouse was the center of almost all community activity: concerts, plays and funerals. It even housed a small public library for a time. In its early days, Independence boasted three physicians, a boarding house, a tobacco warehouse, general store, brick hotel, dry goods store, several taverns, and a two-room public elementary school.

In 1911, construction began on the Independence Graded and High School, located at the corner of Independence Station Road and Madison Pike. It closed in 1953. By 1898, Independence had telephone service. The First Deposit Bank was built in 1902 and was relocated in 1920 to the building presently occupied by US Bank. Electric service began in 1925 and a water system was installed by 1961. The present population is over 17,000 and encompasses over 26 square miles, making Independence one of the largest cities in area in the Commonwealth. Today, Independence boasts over half a dozen schools and five city parks as well as two county parks and a golf course.

## **Oxley House**

The Oxley was built about 1847 by the Oxley family of Louisiana. The Oxleys owned a barrel factory in Cincinnati. The home is a New Orleans/Federal style brick and frame structure with second story balconies. Twenty-four inside doors are made of solid black walnut, one front door holds a beautiful frosted, etched glass window. The box-gutters are hewn cypress logs lined with tin. Each room is fully decorated in period furnishings. There are six original fireplaces with ornate cast-iron covers. The museum houses an extensive collection of china, children's toys and farm implements. The home was purchased in 1990 by former Independence Mayor Marion Schadler and his wife Rosella. It has been restored to period as much as possible and has no electricity, central heat or inside plumbing. The house is not registered as a National Historic Site but is certainly eligible.

## **Metcalfe-Stephens House**

This structure is located at 5241 Madison Pike and was constructed in 1887. According to the Kentucky Heritage Council, the house represents "the best example in old Independence of Queen Anne style and is the finest High Victorian residence in the vicinity." The Metcalfe-Stephens House was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1998. Despite the age of the home, there have been relatively few owners over the years. The home was originally constructed by Dr. T. T. Metcalfe, a local physician and Kenton County Treasurer. The Roman Catholic Diocese of Covington pur-

*Continued on page 9*

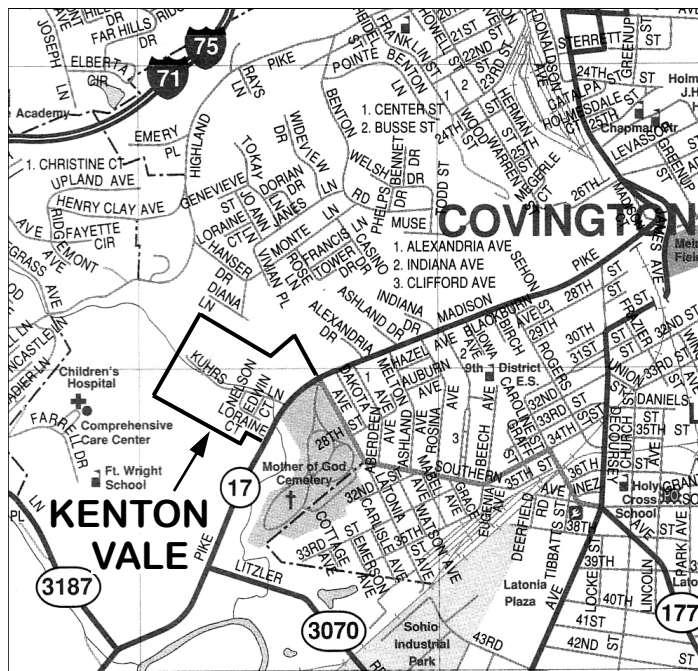
# Kenton Vale

## Kenton County's Smallest City



Above: Quite possibly Kenton Vale's most familiar landmark, Jackson Florist, located at 3124 Madison Pike.

Right: Map showing the exact location of the tiny area, Kenton County's smallest incorporated town.



the approximate location of Ft. Wright's new city building.

Kenton Vale is a tiny city located in north-central Kenton County. It is sandwiched between Covington, Latonia, and Fort Wright. Though thousands of people pass through the small village every day, it is a good bet that most are not aware. The town was an unincorporated part of the county until 1949, when residents there chose to incorporate in order to stop the planned annexation by the city of Covington.

Kenton Vale consists of a small business district, located on the western side of Madison Pike, and approximately 30 homes, most of which sit off Kuhrs Lane. Much of the minuscule village is nestled on a hillside, overlooking beautiful Mother of God Cemetery, which lies on the opposite side of Madison Pike. Certainly the most familiar landmark in the city is its oldest business, Jackson Florists, located at 3124 Madison Pike.

In the mid 1800s, there was a rock quarry located on Kuhrs Lane. Rock from there was used to help build Covington's Mother of God Church. Now a dead-end road, Kuhrs Lane once continued to the top of the hill, eventually connecting with Kyle's Lane at

The city has tried twice in recent years to merge with the neighboring city of Fort Wright. In 1981, talks ceased after a conflict over the exact boundary lines of the tiny city. It seems that many residents who thought they lived in Covington actually lived in Kenton Vale. In 1983, the boundary dispute was finally settled and the planned merger was placed on the ballot in both cities. Kenton Vale residents passed the new annexation plan by a vote of 48 to 10. In Fort Wright, however, voters turned down the merger 1,008 to 953. For now, at least, Kenton Vale will remain one of the smallest incorporated cities in the state.

### References:

- "Sesqui-Centennial Program", *City of Covington, Kentucky*, 1965
- "Tiny Towns, Pieces of the Past", Jim Reis, *Kentucky Post*, 30 June, 1986, 4K
- "Spurned Twice, Tiny City to Continue Merger Effort," *The Kentucky Enquirer*, 3 September, 1982, page C3
- "Kenton Vale Dismisses Offer," *The Kentucky Post*, 19 November, 1987, 9K



## Then and Now



*Two views of Amsterdam Road, looking southwest from the intersection of Montague Road. This area was known as "Amsterdam" on many old maps, including the 1883 county atlas. Shown in the "before" photo are the Schilling sisters, who delivered produce to many neighborhoods from the local farms and markets.*

## Mystery Photo

*Last year's survey also told us how much you enjoy the "Then and Now" and Mystery Photo" features of the bulletin.*

*This year's topic, "Grand Entrances to History" continues with the photo on the right.*

### Independence— Continued from page 7

chased the house from the Metcalfes in 1908. From 1908 to 1914, the house was used as the rectory for neighboring St. Cecilia Church. The original church was located on the approximate site of present Swindler & Currin Funeral Home. The church was subsequently destroyed by fire and the house was then sold to Howard and Besse Stephens in 1914. Howard Stephens was president of the Bank of Independence, served also as Kenton County Treasurer, as well as Mayor and Police Judge of Independence. The house was purchased from the Stephens estate by the current owners, Chris and Jeanette Reinersman in December 2001. Although the house was well maintained by the Stephens family, the interior finishes and amenities were generally very dated. As a result, a substantial renovation was begun in 2002.

Source: Booklet, "Ninth Annual Downtown Independence Christmas Walk" Dec, 2005



### ANSWER:

Entrance to the Behringer-Crawford Museum, located in Devou Park, Covington.

Kenton County Historical Society  
P.O. Box 641  
Covington, Kentucky 41012-0641  
Web: [www.kenton.lib.ky.us/~histsoc](http://www.kenton.lib.ky.us/~histsoc)  
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# KENTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

March/April 2006



## INSIDE:

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And Some of Their Strong Adherents**

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