



Bulletin of the Kenton County Historical Society

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The Kentucky Longrifle
and Kentucky's Corps of Longriflemen

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The Kentucky Longrifle and Kentucky's Corps of Longriflemen

Robert D. Webster

When this country's early settlers raised their heavy flintlock rifles and pulled the triggers, they rarely missed whatever it was they were aiming at. They passed this incredible talent down to their children – and to their children's children. In the 1700s, it was certainly more a matter of necessity than sport. After all, how well a man could handle his muzzleloader determined how well his family ate that day and, more importantly, whether or not he would live or die.

By definition, a muzzleloader is any weapon in which the projectile, and usually the propellant charge as well, is loaded from the muzzle end. A rifle is a firearm in which the barrel has a helical groove or pattern of grooves "rifling" cut into the barrel walls. The raised areas of the rifling are called "lands," which make contact with the projectile (for small arms usage, called a bullet), imparting spin around an axis corresponding to the orientation of the weapon. As the projectile leaves the barrel, the spin averages out curve from imperfections, improving accuracy and preventing tumbling – which improves range. The word "rifle" originally referred to the grooving, and a rifle was originally called a "rifled gun." The first documented appearance of "rifling" a barrel was in Germany around 1460. The Flintlock was developed in the early 1600s. By the late 1600s, gunsmiths were experimenting with longer barrels, but it would take the opening of a new continent to bring out what was the very best rifle.

Around 1725, the basic long rifle was introduced in Pennsylvania, designed and built there by German emigrants. A typical longrifle is .50 caliber, made of curly maple, full stock, and supports a 42 to 46-inch barrel. A crescent-shaped butt plate, patch box and cheek piece are also common and are very helpful in identifying a longrifle. There has never been a time since its invention that the American

muzzle-loading longrifle has not been produced; yet when regarded simply as a shooting apparatus, it fell out of favor soon after the close of the Civil War and the development of the metallic cartridge. However, during the past 50 years or so, thousands have once again become interested in the uniquely-American weapon.

Many native Kentuckians hold a fierce fondness for the long rifle, and claim it as their own. They do so because of the gun's heavy influence on the area's early settlers, hunters, trappers and explorers. In fact, the weapon is now commonly referred to as the Kentucky Longrifle, but exactly how that came to be will be explained a little later. Daniel Boone and his company, Dr. Thomas Walker and his followers, and most of the pioneers who came across the Cumberland Gap and down the mighty Ohio carried the longrifle for hunting and for protection. The Kentucky Longrifle was a prime factor in several revolutionary-era battles, especially in the West. The rifle was vital to the stunning American victory in the Battle of New Orleans on January 8, 1815. The *Hunters of Kentucky*, a ballad written by Samuel Woodworth in 1826, celebrated the feats of accuracy by Kentucky frontiersmen and the rifle they used so skillfully following the lead of Andrew "Old Hickory" Jackson. The song popularized the name Kentucky Longrifle, not because the guns were made in Kentucky, but because they were used by the men of Kentucky. The name, through long association, conjures up a unique mental image of this grand American icon. Perhaps due to this heritage, Kentuckians were known as sharpshooters from the Revolutionary War through World War II, and as late as Vietnam. Say, Kentucky Longrifle anywhere in the world and many know exactly what you are talking about.

Ah, but Pennsylvania claims the rifle too, and that claim is not without substance. After all, the

longrifle was made in Pennsylvania well before it was made in Kentucky... indeed, even before Kentucky was granted statehood in 1792. That may be so, Kentuckians admit, but it was in Kentucky, on the shoulders of hunters, early settlers and Indian fighters, that this flintlock gained lasting fame. The Kentucky (or Pennsylvania) Longrifle remained the most accurate long-range weapon for many decades.

During the 1950s, new interest in building the Kentucky Longrifle emerged, alongside the study and collecting of this incredible firearm. In 1960, the great Kentucky Longrifle collector, Joe Kindig, published his *Thoughts on the Kentucky Rifle in its Golden Age*, and later that same year, Henry J. Kauffman made his statement with *The Pennsylvania-Kentucky Rifle*. Two decades later, Dr. George Shumway followed with his two-volume *Rifles of Colonial America*. Finally, in 1980, Robert Weil authored *Contemporary Makers of Muzzle Loading Firearms*, the first comprehensive work on the many new artisans of the old traditional firearms. Weil's book expanded the level of appreciation for this important art form, stimulating interest in contemporary builders and collectors.

A tremendous amount of research and thought is required to build an historically-accurate early-American flintlock rifle. As an art form, it's a complex sculpture of three-dimensional art featuring two dimensional details. A barrel, trigger, lock, and decorative mounts of iron, brass, or silver are inlaid into a stock of wood, usually curly maple or walnut according to the builder's artistic expression. There is no doubt, some of the finer long rifles being made today will be collected and preserved for their esthetic aspects alone and never be used for shooting. Yet, the Kentucky Longrifle is full of life, and to be fully appreciated needs to be loaded, shot and cleaned, as well as being caressed, cherished, and studied.

The Pennsylvania - Kentucky controversy never got much attention until 1963, when Pennsylvania Governor William Scranton (for reasons known only to him and a few public-relations people) challenged Kentucky to a longrifle flintlock shootout. The premise being, whichever state won the shooting match also won the right to call the longrifle its own. Scranton sent eight Pennsylvanians 900 miles on



Above: Kentucky Flintlock Longrifles
On the Cover: Kentucky's Corps of Longriflemen posing for a portrait in Frankfort, Kentucky.

Photos courtesy Kentucky 's Corps of Longriflemen

horseback, from Harrisburg to Frankfort, to issue the challenge. Just 100 yards from the steps of the Capitol Building, the eight men were taken prisoner by a group of Kentucky riflemen and escorted to see Governor Bert T. Combs. The official document read:

TAKE NOTICE

WHEREAS

the revered frontiersman Daniel Boone was born on the soils of the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and

WHEREAS

the frontier weapon he helped make famous, the often-miscalled Kentucky Rifle and more properly The Pennsylvania Rifle, first was produced by Pennsylvania gunsmiths, and

WHEREAS

there is doubt concerning the fabled reputation of Kentuckians as marksmen, especially as compared with Pennsylvania marksmen,

NOW THEREFORE

as Governor of the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I challenge the Honorable Bert Combs, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, to send Kentucky's finest marksmen to vie against Pennsylvania riflemen at the Daniel Boone Homestead, near Reading Pennsylvania, subject to the following conditions:

THAT

the weapon of competition be the aforementioned rifle, and

THAT

match rules be drawn by a joint committee representing each Commonwealth. Given under the hand of,

Bill Scranton, June 1963 A.D.

It didn't take Kentucky's governor long to respond. He immediately dispatched Colonel George Chinn of the Kentucky Historical Society to accept the challenge. Chinn met the Pennsylvanians on the steps of the Capitol, and with all due Kentucky modesty, instructed them, "Ya'all notify yer next of kin." Governor Combs issued the following acceptance to Governor Scranton:

LET IT BE KNOWN TO ALL

WHEREAS

the revered frontiersman Daniel Boone, born on the soils of the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, risked his life and fortunes to make a home in the great Commonwealth of Kentucky, and

WHEREAS

the frontier weapon made famous by this great man AND made in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania was aptly named the Kentucky Longrifle, and

WHEREAS

there is little doubt concerning the fabled reputation of Kentuckians as marksmen, matched against any others,

SO THEREFORE

as Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, I accept your challenge to prove the true name of the aforementioned weapon, agreeable to the terms and conditions set forth in your challenge. Given under the hand of, Bert T. Combs, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky

Shortly after the proceedings, riflemen from both states were participating in elimination matches to determine each team. The Pennsylvania men squared-off at a range near the Boone Homestead. In Kentucky, eliminations were held at the George Rogers Clark range near Bardstown. Meanwhile, the terms of the challenge provided there would be two matches, one in each state, over a two month period.

On September 28, 1963, at the Daniel Boone Homestead near Reading, Pennsylvania, ten good men from Kentucky and ten from Pennsylvania squared off with their flintlock longrifles. Kentucky was represented by: Albert Leaf, Louisville; Ben Hancock, Columbia; Ronnie Fuller, Louisville; Norton Gatz, Louisville; Rex Maxey, West Liberty; Bob Smith, Louisville; Waldo Lacey, Grassy Creek; Cook Cundiff, Lexington; J.M. VanDivier, Elizabethtown; W.T. Ellington, Morehead. The team's coach was C.D. "Doc" Haddaway of Louisville. The entire area was set in Daniel Boone times, including a replica Indian village and old town. In fact, dozens were dressed in period garb. When the smoke cleared, the Kentuckians had won!

On October 11, 1963, the city of Barbourville, Kentucky was invaded by the group from Pennsylvania. The event was part of the annual Daniel Boone Festival, and the town had so many events it would be impossible to mention them all. Highlights included a program on Daniel Boone by Dr. Thomas Clark of the University of Kentucky, and a re-signing of the Cane Treaty with the Cherokee Indians. The following morning, another three rounds of stiff competition took place at nearby Lay Field, Knox County High School's athletic field. Once again, after the smoke cleared, the Kentuckians had won, securing forever the name Kentucky Longrifle in the history books.

There were three more shooting matches in the subsequent years, and in each battle, Kentucky's marksmen came out on top. Kentucky then opened the competition to any certified flintlock team representing any state, and it has held the flintlock shooting contest each year since. In the majority of those years Kentucky has kept the title, but had to relinquish it a few times to other states... and yes... even to Pennsylvania a few times. Each year since, Kentucky's Corps of Longriflemen holds two qualifying shoots, generally open to anyone who fires a flintlock rifle. The 20 riflemen whose average scores are the highest in the two shoots are decided – ten make up the Longrifle Corps First Team, and the second ten make up what is known as the Renegades of Kentucky.

In 2010, the Spring Rendezvous will be held in May, just outside Morehead, Kentucky. The Kentucky Cup Match is scheduled for July 16, also at Morehead. A Family Picnic (still open to anyone interested in flintlock rifles) will be August 13th at the Sparta Campground.

The big event of the season, however, is the Interstate Flintlock Match, held once again at Boonesboro, Kentucky from October 21 to 23, 2010. This will mark the 49th annual multi-state match. The best marksmen from Kentucky, Tennessee, Indiana, Pennsylvania, and many other states will once again compete in this incredible historic contest. In divisions such as longrifle shooting and round shooting, a first, second, and third-place finish is awarded. There are



Longriflemen in competition at a 2002 event

Photo courtesy Kentucky 's Corps of Longriflemen

also rounds of novelty shooting, as well as a special pioneer dress contest for the men, women, boys and girls. For further information on Kentucky's Corps of Longriflemen, visit their website at:
<http://corpsolongriflemen.homestead.com/corpspage.html>

Resources:

History of Kentucky Corps of Longriflemen, from the website: <http://corpsolongriflemen.homestead.com/corpspage.html>, retrieved on November 14, 2010

Hankla, Mel, *History of the Kentucky Long Rifle*, from the website: www.kentuckylongrifles.com, retrieved June 12, 2010

Kentucky Long rifle, Frontier Folk Website at: <http://frontierfolk.org/ky-lr.htm>, retrieved June 8, 2010

Greene, Carl Keith, *Long Rifles are Tradition at Daniel Boone Festival*, *Corbin (KY) Times-Tribune*, October 8, 2010, page 1

The Muzzleloader, Volume 1-Issue 7, September/October 1963

Six@Six Lecture Series Continues

Two lectures remain in the Six@Six series. Each event is at 6:00 pm and is \$6.00 at the door. For more information, phone: (859) 572-7847 or log onto <http://sixatsix.nku.edu>

March 31 -

Simple Gifts: Frontier Shakers in the Ohio River Valley

Carol Medlicott, assistant professor, Dept. of History and Geography
 Behringer-Crawford Museum, Devou Park, Covington

April 13 -

Marriage of Music & Word: Rodgers & Hammerstein's Carousel

Mark Hardy, associate professor, Dept. of Theater and Dance
 The Carnegie Visual and Performing Arts Center, 1028 Scott, Covington

Maj. Gen. Alvin Charles Welling

Richard Cardosi, MD

Alvin Charles Welling was born October 18, 1910, at 815 Greer Street in Covington, to Theresa Marie (Trau) and Alvin Welling. The family home, still standing in 2011, was located just behind where his father was employed – the Louis Fritz Mineral Water Company. Located at 254 Pike Street, the company made sodas like ginger ale and champagne cider, and later on Gateway brand sodas.¹ Alvin Sr. served as vice president.

In 1920, at age ten, the family moved to 18 Highland Avenue in Fort Mitchell. That home still stands as well, located next to the dried up lake basin that used to be known as Welling's field. Numerous lads passed the time in Ft. Mitchell in the 1930s and '40s, playing football and baseball in the field directly across from Oak Street at Highland Avenue. The Beechwood football team would even practice there from time to time.

Alvin Graduated from Covington's Holmes High School in the class of 1927½, where among his favorite activities was reciting in English class.² He spent a year at the University of Kentucky where he was later bestowed distinguished alumnus status before receiving an appointment to West Point. The unnamed democratic congressman who gave him the appointment later quipped, "the reason I did so was to remove the only republican in Kenton County out of district," but revealed the real reason was all his former appointments resigned before matriculation.

Alvin graduated from West Point in 1933 and took a commission as an Engineer,³ but continued his schooling receiving a Masters in Engineering Degree from MIT in 1938.⁴ That degree would define the rest of his career, as he became an expert in building roads and airfields. His first job for the military was on the Ohio River, supervising the Civilian Works Administration projects. Short stints in Hawaii and Oregon followed when war broke out at Pearl Harbor. Alvin supervised construction of the



southern portion of the Alcan Highway through the toughest regions in the high Rockies in 1942-43. For his exceptionally meritorious conduct, the Army awarded him the "Legion of Merit." An Oak Leaf Cluster followed for his work in Burma in 1944 on the Ledo Road and Hump Airfields, as well as the airfields built for the first land-based bombing of Japan. He also constructed pipelines for oil. Amazingly, he never suffered any serious health woes from these far-flung appointments.

After the war, the Army realized the strategic importance of Africa and sent Alvin on a one-year assignment to survey the continent. In the 1960s, he helped build silos for nuclear weapons, then moved on to construct a massive vehicle assembly building

Continued on page 10

Beginning at the Point

Some Reminiscences of Early Life at the Mouth of the Licking

Karl Lietzenmayer

When we travel the Ohio River today, we seldom get disoriented or wonder where we are. Cities like Cincinnati or Louisville are instantly recognizable as soon as we approach them. Even small towns such as Maysville, Carrollton or Warsaw have their own identifying structures.

Transport yourselves back in time to 1780. What would the Ohio River look like? Nothing but endless forest growing up to the water's edge. It all looked somewhat alike. Oh there are significant bends in the river but most of these begin to look similar as we travel on. And, of course without a dam system, the river was at times very shallow.

In August of that year, the Virginia House of Burgesses in Williamsburg requested George Rogers Clark¹ to lead an expedition of Virginians from Kentucky County² to defend the settlers coming into the Ohio Valley by attacking the Shawnee villages in Ohio – such as Piqua and Chillicothe. Organizing and assembling 1,000 Kentucky riflemen was no easy task in those days of slow communication. There was no postal service in the Kentucky wilderness. Riders had to be dispatched to all small settlements – such as Harrodsburg, Lexington and Danville – calling for men at arms to muster. But where? The entire Ohio Valley looked the same! The attacks were to be in Ohio Country – so what better place to meet than at “The Point”! All pioneers could find The Point – at the mouth of the Licking River! This and the Kentucky River at Port William [Carrollton] were the only rivers of any consequence which flowed north into the Ohio River.³ All the men had to do was find that river at the northernmost point of the Ohio River. Several musters were organized against Indians in that time period – almost always meeting at The Point – 1779, 1780, 1782. Clark and his lieutenants even built blockhouses across the Ohio River at Losantiville.⁴ This fortified stockade was called Ft. Washington.⁵

By 1800, it was clear that Cincinnati neither needed nor wanted a military installation. The land on which Ft. Washington sat was becoming much too valuable. Fort Washington was located at approximately the intersection of Broadway and Third Streets. When Western & Southern Life built their garage, a wooden piece of the fort was uncovered and is now preserved at the Cincinnati Historical Society.

James Taylor (founder of Newport) carried on a lively correspondence with his family,⁶ the army and government. Permission was given to purchase 6+ acres with a boat landing on the Licking River but high enough to protect from flooding – even if it meant locating a mile up river. This was not heeded – what a different village Newport would have been if that would have happened! The Village of Newport grew around the arsenal called Newport Barracks. Although the Barracks brought with it rowdy soldiers, camp followers and prostitutes, Taylor was glad to have it since it also brought money into his town.

Covington at that time was known as Kennedy's Ferry and never reached 600 residents until 1825. Lafayette came through in late spring of that year on his way to see the city named for his beloved Revolutionary Society of the Cincinnati. He and his entourage marched right past Covington and were rowed across the Ohio by troops from the Barracks.

By 1803, Fort Washington was closed and the fledgling American army moved to Newport Barracks, just in time to witness Meriweather Lewis sailing down the Ohio with Kentucky volunteers to meet William Clark at Louisville to explore the newly purchased Louisiana Territory. In 1811, Nicholas Roosevelt⁷ steamed by in his new contraption – a steam-powered keelboat – on his way to New Orleans. On this trip, Roosevelt's boat weathered the massive 1811 earthquake at New Madrid, Missouri. Surely the troops at Newport Barracks felt the tremors as well.⁸

The main assignment for Newport Barracks early on was to supply munitions for Indian warfare. When the War of 1812 broke out, activity at the barracks increased including being the holding stockade for c. 400 British prisoners captured at Moravian Town by General William Henry Harrison. The prisoners included drummer boys as young as 10 and several soldiers as old as 57. The barracks served as a temporary military prison during the Civil War as well.⁹

Because the barracks sat so close to the mouth of the Licking, it flooded frequently and probably smelled moldy. It was not considered a great assignment and by 1895 was abandoned in favor of the new Fort Thomas in the hills. One would have thought some record of a closing ceremony would have been left behind – some speeches in the newspapers, a photograph of the troops taking down the stars and stripes for the last time. Nothing has yet been uncovered by this author.

The best photograph of the installation dates from c. 1867 when a photographer named H. Rohrer climbed to the top of the newly erected Suspension Bridge tower on the Covington side to take a panoramic photo of Cincinnati. One can imagine him carrying his tripod with his glass emulsion photographic plates up to the top of the tower. Rohrer pieced together a very valuable view of the entire city and even aimed it at Newport – hence the accidental view of Newport Barracks. His vantage point was such that the camera peered down inside the Barrack's walls. The print is clear enough to make out soldiers on guard outside the officers' headquarters.

Unfortunately he did not turn his camera toward Covington either because he was too close to our town or the sun was in his eyes. For all of our Society's searching over the years, no comparable view of Covington has ever been found. Our giant neighbor in Ohio has been blessed with such photographers as far back as 1848 – long before there was a Suspension Bridge.

1. Older brother of William of the Lewis & Clark expedition of 1803
2. Remember, Virginia included Kentucky and West Virginia at that time – Kentucky was made a state in 1792?

3. Before the Glacial Age c. 10,000 year ago, the Licking River flowed almost to Michigan.
4. Losantiville = town across from the Licking, was soon changed to Cincinnati
5. Located at 3rd and Broadway.
6. His was a prominent family & related to the future President Zachary Taylor.
7. Yes, indeed, Nicholas was a distant cousin to Teddy and Franklin. All descendants of early Dutch settlers of New Amsterdam (New York).
8. This worst quake ever – much more powerful than 1906 San Francisco – rang church bells in Boston!
9. During the Civil War, the City of Newport announced the Hog Ordinance would be enforced. Owners with hogs found roaming the streets would be fined \$5.

Behringer-Crawford Museum

Experience the museum's newest exhibit, *Play Ball! Knothole Baseball in Northern Kentucky*, running March 18, 2011 – June 5, 2011. Explore the important history and impact knothole baseball has had on the residents of Northern Kentucky for the past 75 years and in particular, its legacy in shaping our area's youth into leaders.

The history of the four districts in Northern Kentucky, interviews with former and current players and pictorial displays of former knothole parks will engage you. Community events such as reunion days and special luncheons and presentations will excite you. Sponsored in part by Northern Kentucky Sports Hall of Fame, the Powell Crosley Kid Glove Foundation and the Cincinnati Reds, the exhibit will certainly entice you, perhaps even to Play Ball! For more information, please visit: www.bcmuseum.org.

Want to be Published?

To submit an article, send a paper copy by mail, or email it as a Word document attachment. Articles for the *Bulletin* should be no longer than 500 words and must have at least two references. Stories for Northern Kentucky Heritage Magazine should be at least 5,000 words and have endnotes.

nkyhist@zoomtown.com.

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General Thomas Sandford

Richard Cardosi, MD

Thomas Sandford (1762-1808), was a scion of early Northern Kentucky politics and land development. Born in Westmoreland County, Virginia, he served in the Continental Army as a lieutenant in the 1st Virginia Regiment. He obtained a land grant of 1,200 acres in Ludlow, Kentucky, and built a log cabin there. In 1792, he settled in Fort Mitchell, a highlands suburb of Covington. This home was in the area where Highlands Cemetery is today.

Sanford was described as six feet three inches tall who was bold and muscular and stood as straight as an arrow. Thomas served in the 2nd Kentucky Constitution Convention in 1799 and became a general of the Kentucky 4th brigade in the Kentucky State Militia.

General Thomas Sandford married Peggy Bell on November 10, 1805 and had one son. Sandford also had two children by a previous marriage.

Thomas was elected to Congress from the Campbell County, Kentucky, 4th District, which of course included what is now Kenton County (cleaved from Campbell Co. in 1840). The *Kentucky Gazette* contained the results of the elections: May 22, 1800 — elected Thomas Sandford, Senator from Campbell, Pendleton, and Boone Counties. August 13, 1802 — elected Thomas Sandford, Representative for Campbell, Pendleton and Boone. He was a member of the 8th and 9th Congress.

Sandford appeared to have a bright future in politics, but those dreams were dashed on Saturday, December 8, 1808. Sandford and two of his servants had gone to Cincinnati to sell some wheat they had grown on Sandford's farm. Sandford considered the amount he was offered too low, and decided to take it to a mill up the Little Miami River and have it ground into meal. The weather was very stormy and both the Ohio and Little Miami rivers were running high and quick.



A.P. Sandford estate, located where today's I-71/75 sits, just north of Dixie Highway on the property of Highland Cemetery

photo courtesy Ray Hardebeck

Sandford and his two servants battled against the current on the Ohio River and somehow managed to start their trip up the Little Miami. The wheat was very heavy, and with the weight of the three men, the boat was barely afloat. Seeing that it was impossible to continue, Sandford turned around with the intention of selling the wheat for the originally offered price back in Cincinnati. Unable to find the merchant, however, he pushed off again at near sunset.

The boat hit the Kentucky shore with great impact and forced the steering oar against him, which knocked him into the water. Sandford had on a large coat and cape and he was upended with the coat covering his head. He could not swim and was drowned. As ice had formed along the shorelines, his body was not immediately found. He was found in the ice, face down, six weeks later by his family near where he had fallen overboard.

General Thomas Sandford was forty-six years old at the time of his death. He was very well respected by his colleagues, and at his death, a resolu-

A Look Back at The Headlines

An on-going feature reliving local headlines

This issue features:

The Kentucky Post – July 14, 1983.

Bridge Renamed

John A. Roebling is finally getting the recognition he deserves. The Kentucky State Transportation Cabinet this week officially named the 117-year-old span crossing the Ohio River and connecting Covington and Cincinnati the “John A. Roebling Bridge.”

The bridge, of course the forerunner of the now more famous Brooklyn Bridge in New York City, was completed in 1866. At that time, it was the longest span (between the north and south pillars) in the world at 1,057 feet.

For many decades, the bridge was privately owned and a toll was collected. The bridge was later purchased by the state and the toll was removed.

In the early years, the bridge was simply known as the Ohio River Bridge. In 1976, it was officially named the Suspension Bridge.

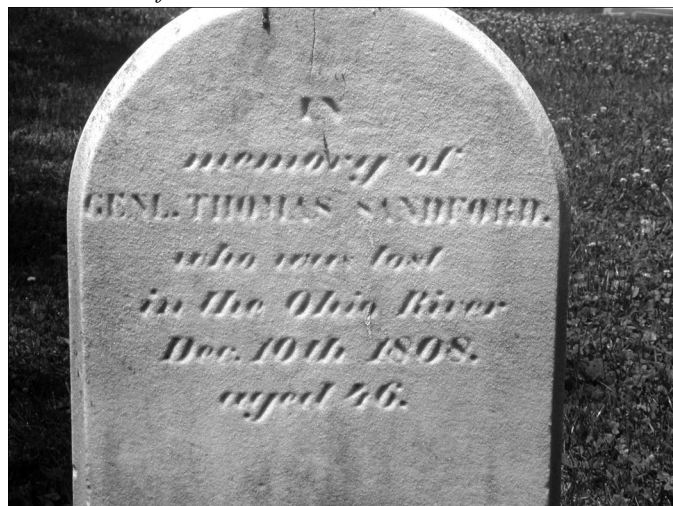
Downtown Covington Sidewalk Sale

Many merchants are advertising this weekend’s great Downtown Covington Sidewalk Sale.

Those businesses include:

Motch Jewelers, Covington Paint and Hardware, Hills Seed Company, Tillman Furniture, Ideal Shoes, The Parisian, J.C. Penney’s, The Point, Puff-n-Stuff, and Egelston-Maynard Sporting Goods.

Thomas Sandford — Continued



Sandford’s marker in the Leathers Plot at Highland Cemetery
photo courtesy Richard Cardosi

tion was passed asking members of the Kentucky General Assembly and their officers to wear black armbands for 30 days in remembrance. Sandford was buried at Highland Cemetery in Fort Mitchell.

General James Taylor’s *Reminiscences*

Tenkotte, Paul A. and Claypool, James C., *The Encyclopedia of Northern Kentucky*, page 803

Biographical Director of the United States Congress, 1774-1989, Washington, D.C., 1985

Welling — Continued

at Cape Canaveral in Florida for the space program. This structure remains the fourth largest useable space building in the world.⁵ When he retired from the military in 1965, he had risen to the rank of Two Star or Major General in the United States Army, and was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal in 1965 by President Lyndon B. Johnson for his work on the missile defense program. In the late 1960s, Alvin worked for Wyandotte Chemicals in South Detroit, which was subsequently acquired by BASF. In that position, he constructed new plants. In 1971 he moved to Washington D.C. to serve as Vice President of Governmental Relations. Alvin died December 4, 2008, aged 98, at his home in Falls Church Virginia.

1. Tenkotte, Paul, and Claypool, James, *The Encyclopedia of Northern Kentucky*, pg.373

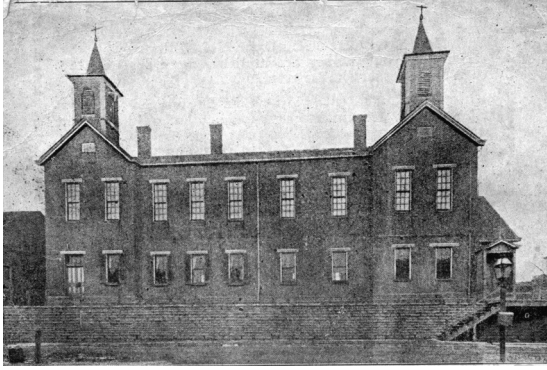
2. Holmes High School’s *The Student*, January, 1927

3. *Kentucky Post*, June 19, 1933

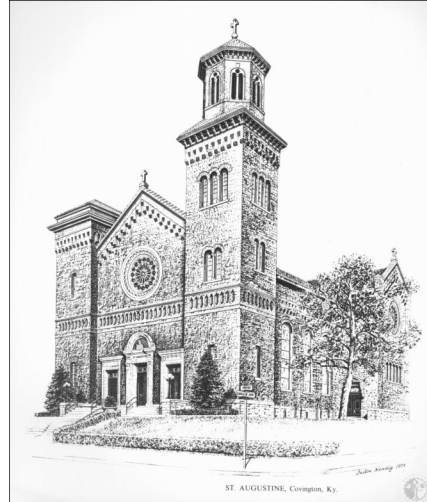
4. Cemetery Records at: <http://www.arlingtoncemetery.net/acwelling.htm>

5. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vehicle_Assembly_Building)

Then and Now



Above: The original St. Augustine Church (late 1800s), located in the 2000 block of Russell Street in Covington. Right: Justin Kindig's 1974 sketch of the new church, still standing, at the corner of 19th and Euclid. photos courtesy the Kenton County Public Library



Mystery Photo

Can you identify the mystery photo below? The answer can be found at the bottom of the page.



ANSWER:

Portion of the old Fifth District School, 18th and Homan, Covington.

photo courtesy the Kenton County Public Library

Kenton County Historical Society

March/April - 2011

ARTICLES FROM BACK ISSUES ARE INDEXED ON OUR WEBSITE!

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I Bet You Didn't Know

*Tidbits from Kentucky's heritage
for every day of the calendar year*

March 14, 1888: State treasurer James "Honest Dick" Tate disappeared with two sacks of gold and silver, and a large roll of bills. Total take: \$250,000.

March 26, 1918: A state flag for Kentucky was authorized by state legislature.

March 29, 1923: Sr. Mary Settles, Kentucky's last known Shaker, died at Pleasant Hill.

April 3, 1974: Kentucky's most devastating tornado to date ripped through Louisville & Brandenburg, causing millions in damages and 36 deaths.

April 5, 1775: Daniel Boone and his men began construction of a fort on the Kentucky River for the Transylvania Company.

"On This Day In Kentucky" — Robert Powell

Programs and Notices

18th Annual Northern Kentucky Regional History Day

It's time once again for Regional History Day, the highlight of the year for anyone interested in local history! Held at Northern Kentucky University, this event features more than a dozen separate lectures and presentations, as well as displays from historical societies and heritage groups from our 13 Northern Kentucky counties. Cost is only \$6.00 in advance, \$8.00 at the door. Contact John Boh for further information: 859-491-0490. This year's schedule is as follows:

8:00 – 10:00: Registration and Display Area Open *Student Union – 1st Floor*
Visit various tables with information and interesting artifacts from historical organizations, museums, and publishers. Refreshments are also provided.

10:00 – 11:00: Opening Presentation *Otto Budig Theater, University Center*
"German-Americans in the Civil War from Cincinnati & Northern Kentucky"
Presented by Don Heinrich Tolzmann, President of the German-American Citizens League and Curator of the German Heritage Museum.

11:15 – 12:00: Morning Sessions *Student Union – Choose from the following*
a) The Churches of Northern Kentucky and Slavery, by Jim Duvall
b) The Power of Public Rituals, by Michael Washington
c) A Brief Tour of the "Northern Kentucky Views" Website, by Bernie Spencer
d) Genealogy – Unraveling the Mystery of Your Family History, by Jan Mueller
e) The History of Ft. Mitchell, by Paul Tenkotte and Adam Hartke
f) Teaching the Underground Railroad in Classrooms, by Denise Dallmer

12:15 – 1:00: Afternoon Sessions *Student Union – Choose from the following*
A) Migration Routes into Kentucky, by Don Rightmyer
B) St. Elizabeth Hospital at 150, by Brian Hackett, Kaira Simmons, & Cierra Earl
C) 200 Years of Steamboating, by Charles Parrish
D) The Beard Family: Artists, Writers, and Activists, by Marc F. Hult
E) Researching Local Underground Railroad Sites and People, by Eric R. Jackson
F) Best Practices for No. Ky. Social Studies Advisory Council, by Burke Miller

1:00 – 2:00: Displays Open and Door Prize Winners Announced *Student Union*

*History Day is sponsored by Northern Kentucky University's
Department of History and Geography,
as well as the various historical societies and heritage groups.*