



Bulletin of the Kenton County Historical Society

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May/June

2009

I Bet You Didn't Know

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

May 5, 1900: USS Kentucky, an 11,520 ton battleship, was commissioned for service. It was scrapped in 1924.

May 28, 1977: The Beverly Hills Supper Club in Southgate burns to the ground. 165 people are killed.

June 19, 1919: Man O' War, born near Lexington in 1917, made his debut race at Belmont Park. He won that race and went on to become what many consider the most famous Thoroughbred race horse of all time. He would end his long career with 20 wins and only 1 loss. Many locals are unaware, however, that Man O' War never raced in Kentucky.

"On This Day In Kentucky" — Robert Powell

Programs and Notices

2009 Northern Kentucky History, Art & Culture Lecture Series continues

Five lectures remain in this very popular series, sponsored by the Friends of Baker Hunt Art and Cultural Center and the Kenton County Historical Society. Held at Baker Hunt, 620 Greenup Street in Covington, each lecture begins at 2:00pm. Price: \$7 at the door. For more information, phone (859) 431-0020. Remaining lectures:

May 17 - *A Century of Historic Architecture in Covington 1814-1914*
Walter E. Langsam, architectural historian and historic-preservation consultant

June 14 - *The Green Line - Cincinnati, Newport & Covington Railway*
Terry Lehmann, author

September 13 - *The Balcony Is Closed - A History of Northern Kentucky's Long-Forgotten Neighborhood Movie Theaters*
Bob Webster, local historian and author

October 11 - *River Stories and Some Fun with Captain Alan Bernstein*
Capt. Alan Bernstein, owner of BB Riverboats and Covington's Mike Fink

November 8 - *John A. Roebling and his Suspension Bridge on the Ohio*
Dr. Don Heinrich Tolzmann, Historian,
Covington-Cincinnati Suspension Bridge Committee

Books Available

Anyone interested in the notorious mafia connections Northern Kentucky experienced, peaking from the 1930s to the early 1970s, will be happy to know new editions of Hank Messick's *Syndicate Wife* are now available in the local history section at Borders Books — Crestview Town Center. Another Messick classic on the subject, *Razzle Dazzle*, as well as a new release titled *Wicked Newport* is also available. Also, just released in late February and now available at a variety of stores is: *Newport: The Sin City Years*, written by Robin Caraway.

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ARTICLES FROM BACK ISSUES ARE INDEXED ON OUR WEBSITE!

Simon Kenton and the Licking River Valley

John Boh

The 350-mile Licking River flows northwestwardly through the Upper and Lower Blue Licks, toward the Ohio River. The South Fork joins the main river at Falmouth. Its North Fork flows westward south of Maysville.¹

Kentucky state geologist Willard Rouse Jillson recalled that bison regularly crossed from the Great Miami River in Ohio to the present Petersburg site, then on to Big Bone Lick. From the Little Miami River, herds crossed at the mouth of the Licking and proceeded southwestwardly to the salt licks.² Sections of these Buffalo paths interconnecting Ohio, Big Bone, and the Blue Licks became pioneer roads.

Simon Kenton was born during the French and Indian War (1754-63). Kenton (1755-1836) was twenty years younger than Daniel Boone (1734-1820), slightly younger than George Rogers Clark (1752-1818), and older than Tecumseh (1768-1813). By age 16, Kenton had displayed a dislike for farm labor and book learning. He grew to over six feet, was muscular and given to occasional rage. Thinking that he had beaten a love rival to death, he ran away from home.

Having heard stories about fertile Kentucky lands, he wanted to explore there. Running away from prosecution for murder as “Simon Butler,” he learned to hide, to track and to shoot. A gifted marksman, his survival skills and ability to remember landmarks also became legendary. These were useful as British victory in the war resulted in more incursions into the hunting grounds of resentful Indians.³

In 1771 George Strader and John Yeager sought out Kenton. Indians had captured Yeager himself. Having survived and lived with other natives for a number of years, he further instructed Kenton in Indian ways and described Cain-tuckee first hand.

In November 1771 Yeager, Strader and Kenton proceeded down as far as the Kentucky River before returning, again past the mouth of the Licking



River. Up the Great Kanawha River they made camp to hunt and trap for the winter.

In the summer of 1772 they explored between the Great Kanawha and the Big Sandy River. For the winter they returned to their camp to hunt and trap. In March 1773 they suddenly were surrounded by a Shawnee war party. Yeager was killed; Kenton and Strader got away minimally dressed, unarmed and without food.

Rescued on the Ohio River, Kenton after returning to Fort Pitt found himself aiding surveying parties retreating from Indian ambushes.

Early Settlements (1763-75)

A royal proclamation in 1763 forbade settling Indian lands. Soon, however, the “Six Nations”

tribes “sold” a large expanse of Cain-tuckee to the British in the Treaty of Ft. Stanwix (1768). This encouraged settlement. British opposition was joined by savage Indian reprisals. For the Shawnee to the north and other tribes, Kentucky was still their hunting grounds.

In the Lord Dunmore War, Daniel Boone served as a militia captain and Kenton as a military scout. The Treaty of Camp Charlotte temporarily ended the open hostilities of the Dunmore War, but this “peace” again encouraged white settlement and stirred up Indian attacks. Seeing settlers chopping down trees and slaughtering Buffalo enraged Indians. Colonists were also seeing signs of British willingness to make temporary concessions and alliances with Indians in return for help in opposing local ambitions.⁴

Despite British opposition, settlers established Harrodsburg by 1775 and other outposts and Boone set up Boonsboro. In another effort to take Kentucky, Richard Henderson’s private Transylvania Company signed a treaty with Indians at Sycamore Shoals “acquiring” a substantial portion of Kentucky lands. Henderson called representatives from the forts together to form a government.

Seeing danger, George Rogers Clark, warned the settlers and they made him the local delegate to the Virginia capitol. Clark proposed forming a county of “Kentucky” under military protection. Declaring Transylvania illegal, Virginia in 1776 formed Kentucky County.

Revolutionary War (1775-1781)

Near Limestone Creek, Kenton and a companion cleared a small plot and planted corn. Entering the interior of Licking River Valley in March 1775, Kenton first saw the Blue Licks, the herds of game at the salt licks, and the long sought cane lands. Kenton thereafter made the region from the Ohio River at Limestone south a base for hunting, scouting and land acquisition activities. From the Big Sandy to the Kentucky River, Kenton came to know the landscape better than almost anyone else. Kenton would help newcomers arriving at Limestone settle

the Licking Valley, Bryans Station, the Kentucky River area and beyond.⁵

By late 1775 Kenton was fighting for the westward settlements, as Indian dangers were becoming most threatening. Nervous families returned east or moved into the larger forts. Harrodsburg and Boonsboro had small contingents of fighting men. At night Simon Kenton hunted to provide food for Harrodsburg. During an attack on Boonsboro in April 24, 1777 Kenton saved Boone’s life. With some families having returned to Logan’s Station south of Harrodsburg, Kenton, in the winter of 1777-78 scouted and hunted to feed the fort. He endured long lonely nights over his hidden campfire.

The Momentous Year

“The most momentous year in Kenton’s life” was 1778. Back in Virginia, George Rogers Clark, military commander of Kentucky County, met with Governor Patrick Henry, trying to arrange for an army of Tennessee and Kentucky volunteers. In February 1778 Kenton waited at Limestone to join Clark’s flotilla. From the Falls of the Ohio, Clark’s small force captured Kaskasia.⁶

Revengeful after the murder of Chief Cornstalk, Indians captured Daniel Boone and 26 others making salt at the Blue Licks. Kenton followed their trail into Ohio, and then reported back to Boonsboro. Boone was “adopted” into Shawnee society, but after pretending loyalty escaped to warn the Kentucky settlements. Boone and Kenton soon lead a raid across the river to re-take stolen horses. Again seeing signs of attack Boone retreated to Boonsboro. Kenton and a companion stayed to capture more horses. A siege of Boonsboro occurred in September.⁷

Soon Kenton and a companion spying for Colonel Bowman tried again. On September 13, 1778 Kenton was captured trying to get back across the Ohio River with more horses; a companion was killed trying to save him. His captivity was long, hard and gruesome. He once was lashed backward on a wild horse and let loose in the dense woods. On entering various Shawnee strongholds, Kenton was forced to run gauntlets. He suffered a fractured skull

and broken collarbone and would carry scars for the rest of his life.

Finally, his friend Simon Girty helped rescue him from burning. He was “adopted” but later, Indians returning from a raid again for revenge wanted Kenton’s execution. After unforeseen delays in execution, the British persuaded the Indians with bribes and intimidation to turn him over. In confinement, he took the opportunity to spy for Clark and finally escaped in June. In July 1779, Kenton reported on the condition of Detroit to Clark after Clark’s victory at Vincennes”

Among white provocations, the vicious murders of relatives of the peaceful-minded Chief Logan in 1774 had helped to instigate Dunmore’s War. In October 1777 Chief Cornstalk had come to Fort Randolph under a flag of truce but shortly he and his companions were murdered or executed. In 1779, 300 Kentuckians camped on the Banklick Creek before proceeding across the Ohio River for a raid on Chillicothe under Colonel Bowman. The force ransacked Indian camps, mostly absent of warriors, and wounded Chief Black Fish who soon died. Returning Kentuckians divided the plunder, and then disbanded.⁸

Commander Bird, with a combined force of British soldiers and Indian warriors with artillery in January, forced the surrender of Ruddell’s Station, but the Indians massacred many captives. Soon Bird’s forces captured Martin’s Station. Bryan’s Station and Kenton’s camp at Limestone were also in danger.

In the aftermath of the fall on Ruddell’s and Martin’s stations, Kentuckians camped near the mouth of the Licking River in July 1780, waiting for Clark to join them from Fort Jefferson at Louisville. Kenton had scouted for Clark’s companies on their way from central Kentucky. For the campaign he was in charge of spying and scouting. Over 900 men with cannon burned Indian towns and crops and attacked a fortification. Due to betrayal rather than surprise the Indians had time to scatter. Elsewhere in March 1782, colonial soldiers massacred nearly 100 baptized Delaware Christians. In a subsequent attack on Indians, William Crawford led a force which was ambushed. Crawford was captured, horribly tortured

and burned in a prolonged, vicious execution witnessed by a fellow captive.⁹ Then Redcoats and Indians in August 1782 on a calculated “retreat” from Bryan’s Station ambushed pursuing American militia at Blue Licks. Daniel Boone survived it. In the aftermath of Blue Licks, Boone, Kenton, and Kentucky militia totaling over 1,000 in November 1782 met at the mouth of the Licking to counterattack Indian settlements.¹⁰

Kenton’s Family settles Kentucky

In 1780 Kenton had suddenly encountered his older brother John. In June 1783 after a dozen years he returned to the cabin of his youth to see again his aging parents. With “tomahawk claims” to thousands of acres in the Licking River Valley and elsewhere he persuaded family members to resettle in Kentucky, but conditions led him to choose the safer Quick Run tributary of the Salt River west of the Kentucky River, not Limestone.¹¹

Ten years earlier, in 1775, Kenton and a companion had cleared a small field and planted corn. Between 1775 and 1798, married for the first time, Kenton finally established a household near Limestone. In 1785 Kenton and family and fellow settlers started building Kenton’s Station on 1000 acres. Rather than isolated cabins, he built dwellings attached in a barracks style, from where he also welcomed many newcomers to Kentucky. He led Kenton’s Boys, a volunteer body of frontier fighters ready to respond to any emergency. The Boys fought off raiding warriors, patrolled the Ohio and engaged in many forays across the river into Shawnee lands.¹²

Kenton sold off occasional parcels of his 1,000 acres. By 1785 settlers had erected 20 cabins near the Station, and 30,000 people had entered Kentucky. Limestone was emerging into a small town. After losing their land at Boone’s Station, Daniel Boone and his wife also relocated and operated a tavern at Limestone. Lee’s Station and Clark’s Station sprung up, as did the town of Washington on land sold “by Simon.”

Before statehood (1781-1792)

After victory in the American Revolution the U. S. was gaining control of Ohio lands. Congress established the Northwest Territory by 1787, with

Fort Washington opposite the mouth of the Licking River becoming the major military outpost in the later phase of the Indian Wars for Kentucky and Ohio. In 1786 Kenton and his “Boys” joined some of the county lieutenants in a campaign mounted at Limestone against Indians. Warnings beforehand had alerted the warriors. However, the hot head Hugh McGary from Mercer County murdered an elderly Shawnee Chief Moluntha, who had been friendly to whites.¹³

Newly married at Kenton’s Station in 1787 the slave-owning Kenton was soon baking mud for a brick house, built “near” his station. His brother John moved onto adjacent land and their mother joined him.¹⁴

In 1787 another raid into Ohio involved Kenton, “his Boys” and Daniel Boone. Settlers built more blockhouses. Kenton’s Station, Limestone and Washington, Kentucky, cooperated as “one unit.” On the river at Limestone, Boone, Kenton and other leaders once ceremoniously exchanged prisoners captured from previous raids with Indians. When the Virginia Legislature established Maysville (formerly Washington), Kenton, Daniel and Jacob Boone were appointed trustees and in 1789 it was named the Mason County seat of government.

The steady traffic in flatboats in 1788 brought rapidly increased numbers of settlers. Between February and June 1788, 4,500 arrived; most headed along the Limestone-Lexington Road for the interior of Kentucky. In 1790, 70,000 settlers resided in Kentucky, many having passed through at Kenton’s Station. Then Danville hosted a convention for statehood.

In March 1790 Kenton and his boys joined Colonel Charles Scott’s mounted rifleman. General Harmer took troops from Fort Washington to Limestone in preparation to attack. In 1790 Kenton and his Boys were still needed to follow up on numerous Indians outrages on the river and on land. Along the Limestone-Lexington Road, Indians stopped a freight crew from Fort Washington, killed two and took a seventeen-year-old captive. Chasing the Indians across the river Kenton and his Boys rescued the

youth. In October 1790 Kentucky Militia crossed at the mouth of the Licking for an attack on the Indians in the Northwest, but Indians overran the Kentucky militia and the other troops from Fort Washington.

In 1791 some Kentucky troops joined General St. Clair for another campaign from Fort Washington. Kenton, however, chose not to serve. Despite bravery later displayed in battle, Kenton saw St. Clair as unqualified to fight Indian-style. In 1792 from the mouth of the Kentucky River General Scott led an expedition against Eel River Indians. The militia returned at the mouth of the Licking and followed the Dry Ridge back to central Kentucky. In 1794 General Wayne and combat-ready troops defeated the Indians at the Battle of Fallen Timbers. Kenton had led an advanced scouting party, but was away recuperating from a sickness. In the Treaty of Greenville, Indians had to cede more than half the Ohio Territory. Anticipating the opening of the Northwest Territory for settlers, Kenton and other speculators began plans to acquire Ohio land.

Kentucky was filling up with new settlers while earlier arrivals were being evicted because of defective land contracts. Recently married, Kenton and his wife sold their property including most of their slaves before moving away. Choosing Ohio over Missouri, in 1798 they moved along with other family and friends to the Mad River.¹⁵

In the midst of the War of 1812 General Harrison called for help. Governor Shelby asked for 2,000 to assemble in the vicinity of the Newport Barracks, but the final count was closer to 4,000. They would assemble in Covington and make some use of the Kennedy Ferry, a combination of skiffs and flats. Joining with Kentucky troops at Urbana, Ohio, Kenton participated in the Battle at the Thames River but played no major role. There the gifted, charismatic Tecumseh was killed.¹⁶

Returning to Kentucky in 1820, Kenton was arrested for debt. Kentucky then repealed the “debtors’ law” before the venerable Kenton was released. Kenton also lost claims to Ohio land due to careless paperwork. First buried “near the headwa-

Endnotes to this article can be found on page 10

The Ohio Scroll and Lumber Company

John Boh

A recent obituary reported that retired psychiatrist Dr. Charles D. Feuse, Jr. died Christmas Eve, 2008, at age 87. He had served as superintendent of the old Longview State Hospital from 1957 to 1962. He had a private practice in Cincinnati from 1973 to 1979 and once practiced in Covington. A native of Covington, he graduated from Beechwood High School. The obituary, however, did not mention the Ohio Scroll and Lumber Company.¹

The Ohio Scroll and Lumber Company by the mid 1880s was located in Covington between the Covington High School and the railroad tracks at the north side of Twelfth Street. In 1886-87 the street directory listed F. W. Phares as president, John P. Ernst as treasurer, “dealers in hardwood lumber and manufacturer of chair stock and all kinds of dimension lumber stock and fancy moldings.” In 1895 John P. Ernst was president and C. D. Ferguson secretary. The firm manufactured “carved hardwood moldings.”²

Sixteen years after it's founding in Williamsburg, Ohio the Feuss family acquired interest in the struggling company in 1895. In 1902 fire destroyed the company. Then located in a rear building rented from the Phoenix Manufacturing Company (furniture maker), Ohio Scroll and Lumber rebuilt and was doing quite well by 1913. The 1909 Sanborn Insurance map shows it located between Third and Fourth streets, and Russell and Madison, along Stewart alley. In 1927 the company purchased the rear as well as the large front building with four floors and a basement, where the Phoenix Manufacturing Company had been making “hall and library furniture.”³

Originally in the bakery business, the family's patriarch was William D. Feuss. In 1895 his son Edward took control of Ohio Scroll and Lumber and sold his interest in the family bakery to his brother Charles. After the fire in 1902, however, Ed invited

his brother Charles Herman Feuss into a partnership. As a traveling salesman Charles H. helped the company become “the largest of its kind in the country.”⁴

A rich supply of hardwood lumber from the virgin forests of Eastern Kentucky provided opportunity and Charles H. Feuss became a savvy purchasing agent. Lumber coming out of the Big Sandy area included oak, hickory, ash, walnut, cherry and poplar. The company was also purchasing mahogany and gum (kiln dried) shipped from the South by railroad and hauled in large trucks to a lumberyard near the office and factory. Appalachian people worked the yard, but Ohio Scroll attracted and hired German-speaking craftsmen. Nevertheless, at the time “the real money was in the lumber itself.”⁵

By 1900 pressed-on, machine-cut surface “carvings” and moldings were becoming more common. Saws, shapers and planers speeded production. In the 1920s Ohio Scroll began using electric motors. The new Arts and Crafts style made dark oak more popular. Another style, Colonial Revival, used dark walnut and mahogany. Machines tried to replicate integral woodcarving.⁶

In 1911, responding with all of its equipment, the Covington Fire Department confined a blaze to one room, which “was filled with valuable patterns and carvings.” Probably started by spontaneous combustion or faulty wiring, the fire totally destroyed the contents in the room including expensive machinery. The estimated damage was between \$8,000-10,000. The worth of company assets was quoted at \$150,000.⁷

Serving Customers

The company's emblematic work might have been carvings adorning the John Robinson private railroad cars. Based mostly in Cincinnati, the circus



*Car from John Robinson's Circus showing detail carvings made by Covington's Ohio Scroll and Lumber Company
Courtesy - circushistory.org*

in the 1920s marched in parades and frequently presented shows in Northern Kentucky.⁸

The February 1913 issue of the "Furniture Worker," said that the company was doing \$15-20,000 worth of business per month. The company had done carvings for the exterior of the John Robinson Circus railroad cars, the interior decorations in the saloon of the Island Queen, and carved the eagles, festoons, coat of arms and other ornaments for Huey Long's new Louisiana Statehouse. Rumor had it that one shipment to Hollywood included carving for actress Mae West's bed. From "fine imported wood" the company carved interior decor for the elevator in the Rockefeller Center, "eloquent spindles" for Spindletop Farm near Lexington and elaborate pieces for the Indian Hill home of the owner of the Albers grocery store chain.

Before World War I, Charles H. Feuss learned from a company in New Albany, Indiana the process of veneer "rolls" from which Ohio Scroll made "thousands" of columns and many miles of embossed molding used on furniture. Large quantities of woodcarving were shipped to Europe.⁹

In 1915 Charles H. Feuss assured officials that after operating "over 30 years" in Covington the company had no plans to move. Still, "the railroad yards in Covington are not large enough, and in a

busy time it is very hard to get cars set for us...." Yet Covington was close to raw materials. "Several cities had offered flattering inducements." The company was still considering relocation, but had no other site in mind. Employing "150 to 200," it was making and shipping unfinished furniture pieces and decorations in large amounts" to out-of-town customers.¹⁰

1920s through World War II

The 1924-25 Covington Street directory listed C. W. Carr, "furniture ornaments" at 111 Madison Avenue the probable earlier factory site of Ohio Scroll and Lumber. The business section of the directory listed C. W. Carr under "wood carvers" and Ohio Scroll under "furniture ornament manufacturers." As for "furniture" manufacturers, the Ballman Cabinet Company operated briefly in the former Phoenix Manufacturing Company building, and the Covington Furniture Manufacturing Company at 1340 Hermes were listed.

In the 1920s leading up to the Depression, Ohio Scroll and Lumber grew substantially. The company installed a blower system for carrying away sawdust. More often company mechanics tinkered and retrofitted to make specialized cutting and turning machines. In such a business the company received constant special orders. Furthermore, a block away the Anthe Machine Works, which as of 2008 has operated in Covington for over a century, was tooling cutters.

Ohio Scroll kept up with changing furniture styles producing table legs, chair legs, posts for china closets, buffets and posts for bedroom furniture. Secretary-Treasurer Catherine Cohen, who started with the company in the 1920s, recalled an assembly-line production of whisky bottle tops supplied to Schenley Distillers by another company after inserting cork.

During World War II, the shortage of metals helped business. The company fabricated wood pieces for aiming bombs, parts for bomb detectors, bomb casings and airplane engine casings of balsa, cut on spindle carving machines, and wood rollers for conveyors and fruit separators. After the war it made wood parts for tools, rods for "macaroni makers," fishing bobs, and still manufactured small and large

turnings with carved and twisted designs. In 1945 the company was a “wood products manufacturer.”¹¹

“Urban renewal” proceedings resulted in sale of the site for \$239,260. The IRS built in this old industrial section protected now by a new floodwall embankment. The Ohio Scroll and Lumber closed at the end of 1962. Vice president Harry Rivard (married to Mary Jane Feuss) said that the company had manufactured in Covington for “67 years.”¹²

Long time owner Edward C. Feuss died in 1942. Charles H., who passed away in 1962 at the age of 90, had also operated the Covington Mutual Insurance Company “est. 1874” and the General Building, Savings and Loan Association as did his son Charles D. His grandson Dr. Charles D. Feuss Jr., once an executive vice president, in 1967 was president of the Covington Mutual Insurance Company.¹³

City Directory History

1876: W. D. Feuss Bakery, 501 Main Street
1888-89: Charles R. Feuss Bakery, 1327 Banklick
1888-89: W. D. Feuss Bakery, swc 5th and Main
1900-01: Charles H. Feuss Bakery, swc 5th and Main
1904-05: Phoenix Manufacturing Company, 314 Russell, manufacturer of china closets, inlaid and plain mahogany and oak tables, Fred Schlueter, president, G. H. Schlueter, secretary-treasurer
1923-24: Ballman Cabinet Company, 314 Russell Street, Herman Knuepfer, president-treasurer, Annie Knuepfer, vice president, Henry Voelker, secretary
1923-24: Covington Furniture Manufacturing Company, 1340 Hermes, Louis Nutini and Leo Nutini

1923-24: C. W. Carr Furniture Ornaments, 111 Madison
1904-05: Anthe Machine Works, nec Russell Street and Stewart Alley, Frank D. Anthe proprietor
1945: Anthe Machine Works, 407 Madison Avenue; manufacturer of woodworking cutters, Frank J. Anthe, president-general manager
1961: Covington Mutual Insurance Company, Mutual Insurance Building, Pike and Madison, Charles H. Feuss, chair of board, C. D. Feuss, president, Dr. C. D. Feuss, Jr., executive vice-president, Wm. J. Bechtold, secretary, M. A. Rivard, treasurer
1961: General Building Savings & Loan, 629 Madison, 4501 Dixie Highway, Charles D. Feuss, president, Charles H. Feuss, treasurer
1983: Anthe Machine Works, 407 Madison Avenue, manufacturer of woodworking cutters, Don H. Anthe, president, Frank J. Anthe, secretary-treasurer
2008: Anthe Machine Works (woodcutters), 407 Madison

1. Rebecca Goodman, “Dr. Charles Feuss Jr., Psychiatrist-Covington Native Led Series of Hospitals,” *Kentucky Enquirer*, January 4, 2009, page B6
2. 1886 Sanborn map; street directories 1886-87, 1895
3. Sanborn maps, 1894, 1909; “Ohio Scroll Carves Out History,” *Kentucky Post and Times Star*, July 13, 1962, page 16 K
4. Covington Centennial, Program Booklet, 1914; *Pictorial and Industrial Review of Northern Kentucky, Kenton and Campbell Counties*, published by the Northern Kentucky Review, Newport, Kentucky: the Fennell Building, 1923
5. W. A. Bladen, “Eastern Coal Field,” *The Kentucky Encyclopedia*, John E. Kleber, Editor in Chief, Lexington, Kentucky: The University Press of Kentucky, 1992; phone interviews, Mary Jane Feuss Rivard & Dr. Charles D. Feuss Jr., 1990
6. Website: furniture styles
7. “Dangerous Blaze in Scroll Plant Draws Big Crowd,” *Kentucky Post*, August 10, 1911, page 2
8. Jim Reis, “Greatest Show on Earth,” *Kentucky Post*, April 27, 1998, page 4K
9. “Ohio Scroll Carves Out History”
10. “Railroads May Cause Factory to Move,” *Kentucky Post*, January 27, 1915, page 1
11. “Ohio Scroll Carves Out History”; 1945 street directory
12. “Ohio Scroll and Lumber Co. Leaving Covington by Dec. 1,” *Kentucky Post Times-Star*, November 21, 1962, pages 4, 5
13. “Ohio Scroll Carves Out History”; 1967 street directory

Would You Like To Be Published?

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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 the magazine should be at least 5,000 words and have endnotes. Related photos would help greatly.

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Feel free to contact us with any questions you may have about submitting an article.

The Town of Hibernia — Capt. James Riddle's Dream

Robert D. Webster

It was around 1815 — when the borders of the small town of Covington were the Ohio River to the north, the Licking River to the east, Sixth Street to the south and Madison Avenue to the west. At the same time, another small village was taking shape in the northern part of the region, just to the west of Covington.

Captain James Riddle was born in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania in 1769 and had settled in Cincinnati by 1800. By 1803 he was extensively engaged in business there and on December 22, 1808 he married Lydia Chamberlain. By 1814, the couple had two children, John, born around 1809 and Harriet, born in 1814. John would later join in the family business. Harriet died in her early teens.

Around 1815, James purchased a large farm in what is now the northwestern part of Covington, Kentucky, sold by the United States Bank to satisfy a mortgage. The same year, the town of Covington was incorporated. Riddle built a substantial homestead on the land, near present-day Main Street and near the Ohio River.

In this same time frame, Riddle's businesses prospered greatly. He ran one of the area's first ferry boats — from Cincinnati to what is now the north end of Covington's Main Street. Among his many endeavors, he ran a steamboat between Cincinnati and New Orleans for many years and was owner of the packetboat *Kentucky*, — probably the first boat propelled by steam in commercial operation on the Ohio. He later became operator of the steamer "Scioto Valley"; was part-owner of an importing firm in Cincinnati; was president of the Miami Exporting Company; owned barges and keel-boats, and valuable real estate in Cincinnati.

Around the same time as his second marriage, to Ester Daniels, Captain Riddle had the idea that

the best place for a large city in the region was along the Ohio River and west of Covington. Consequently, along with several business associates, extensive lands were purchased there and by 1820, Riddle proposed that the town of Hibernia be incorporated. The new town's boundaries would be Covington's western border (today's railroad lines near Russell Street) to the east, Willow Creek (today's Interstate highway) to the west, Pike Street to the south, and the Ohio River to the north. The town was laid out, roads were built, buildings were erected, and for a short time — the project looked to be successful. A major bank scare, however, among other problems caused a sudden deterioration in property values and the whole undertaking proved disastrous to Riddle and the other owners.

In 1832, tiny Hibernia was made part of the city of Covington in its first major expansion. Though the Main Street area continued to develop over time, Riddle's original property was primarily used for ball fields and campgrounds for when the circus was in town. Much of his land later became Goebel Park and Interstate 71-75.

Captain Riddle carried on business in Cincinnati up to 1829, when he and his family moved to Caledonia (near Rockford), Boone County, Illinois. James had five children with a second wife, Ester Daniels: Mary (1820), James (1822), Henry (1824), Hester (1826), and Margaret (1832). Mary later married Rev. E. B. Ormstead, James married Elizabeth Moore, Henry married Minerva Musselman, and Hester married Henry Hughes. Margaret died at age two. Captain James Riddle died in 1832, leaving hundreds of acres of land in both Kenton and Boone counties.

References:
Gideon Tibbetts Ridlon, *History of the Ancient Ryedales and Their Descendants*, 1884, page 339.
Unknown author, *Kenton County Historical Society Bulletin*, September 1980, page 1.

A Look Back at The Headlines

An on-going feature reliving local headlines

This issue features:

The Ticket – December 10, 1877.

Advertisement

Chas. Asmann, 604 Madison, has made extensive preparation for the approaching holidays. His stock of watches, chains, jewelry and silverware is the largest in the city. It will pay his friends and customers desiring to purchase wedding and holiday presents to call on him before going anywhere else. Every article is sold with a warranty and no deception is practiced.

Update of Case of Phil Watson

It is rumored that Sheriff Lowe will rent the Star Base Ball Grounds for the execution of Phil Watson and charge twenty-five cents admission. {Editor's note: It was later reported that a decision was made that students at Covington's First District School on Scott Street would be dismissed from classes in order to witness the convicted murderer's hanging}

Walton

A difficulty occurred at Walton last Friday eve at a dance. One young man went to interfere to take the part of one of his friends. To which he thought it necessary to pull out his revolver which in these times seems to be a necessary adjunct to every Kentucky youth. In doing this he shot himself in the leg. It is thought that amputation below the knee joint will be needed. The name of the youth is Holder.

News From Morning View

Master Charley Lambert has his sled ready to try on the first snow. Another family has moved to town. Miss Mollie Moss arrived on a visit to Mrs. Threlkeld. Messrs. Ewan and Simrall are back from a visit to Covington. Mrs. Louis Daniel has recovered sufficiently to make a visit to Mrs. Hume of Independence. Mr. Thomas' Mill sawed fourteen large logs one day last week.

Magazine Wins Another Award

We are proud to report that *Northern Kentucky Heritage Magazine* has received still another award, this time the Certificate of Merit for Regional Journal from the Kentucky Historical Society. In March, Karl Lietzenmayer accepted the prize during an awards dinner held at the Kentucky History Museum in Frankfort. Several board members joined Karl on the trip to the state capitol.

Northern Kentucky Heritage is the only magazine dedicated to this region's history. Each issue contains several articles of local interest, and continues to be free from any advertisements! Published twice a year by the Kenton County Historical Society, the magazine is a must for anyone interested in Northern Kentucky history.

For information on becoming a subscriber, please contact the Society at:

Email – nkyheritage.kchs@juno.com
or call Karl Lietzenmayer at: 859-261-2807

ter" of the Mad River, in 1884, Kenton's remains were moved to Oakdale Cemetery, Urbana.¹⁷

ENDNOTES TO SIMON KENTON ARTICLE

1. "Licking River," *The Kentucky Encyclopedia*, John E. Kleber, Editor in Chief, Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1992, pages 554, 555
2. Willard Rouse Jilson, *Pioneer Kentucky, An Outline of Its Exploration and Settlement*, Frankfort, KY: The State Journal Company, 1934, pages 46-50
3. Patricia Jahns, *The Violent Years. Simon Kenton and the Ohio-Kentucky Frontier*, New York: Hastings House, 1962, pages 1-5, 14, 15, 28-30
4. Jahns, pages 31-40, 42-45, 50; Allen Webb Smith, *Beginning at "the Point," a Documented History of Northern Kentucky and Environs, the Town of Covington in Particular, 1751-1834*, page 135; John Mack Faragher, *Daniel Boone, The Life and Legend of An American Pioneer*, New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1992, page 100
5. Jahns, pages 63, 64; Jean W. Calvert, "Washington," *The Kentucky Encyclopedia*, page 934
6. Faragher, page 148; Jahns, pages 83-99
7. Faragher, pages 156-166
8. Jahns, pages 45-47, 80, 102-138; Smith, page 1
9. Jahns, pages 150-154, 160-162; Smith, page 2
10. Faragher, pages 216-223; Jahns, pages 166-170; Smith pages 1, 2
11. Jahns, pages 171-180
12. Smith, page 135
13. Jahns, pages 183-195; Smith, page 11
14. Jahns, page 199; Jean W. Calvert, "Simon Kenton," *The Kentucky Encyclopedia*, page 488

Then and Now



Left: photo of the main offices of the Bavarian Brewery, circa 1900. The building is located near Pike Street and Main Street in Covington. Right: photo of the same structure today, housing Glier's Meats, world's largest supplier of the regional favorite — goetta.

Mystery Photo

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



ANSWER:

This is the old Kruempelman homestead that was thankfully saved when developers built a new subdivision behind. It is located on Dixie Highway in Ft. Mitchell

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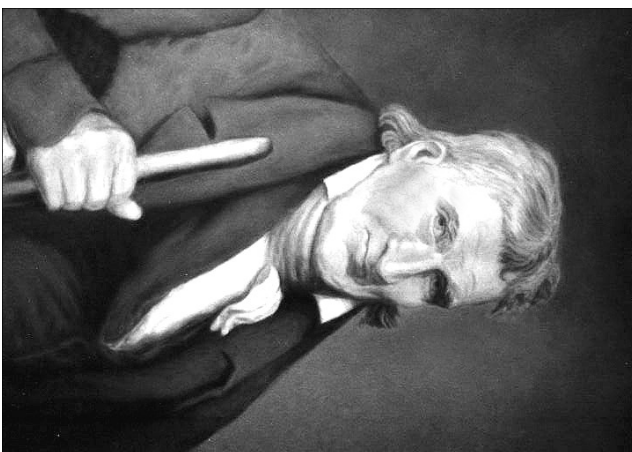
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KENTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

May/June 2009



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The Town of Hibernia — Captain James Riddle's Dream
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