



Bulletin of the Kenton County Historical Society

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May / June

2012



A Primitive Soul

The Silent Giant

Adkins and Pearce

Frederick Alexander Laidley

A Primitive Soul

Nicole Halloran McGinty

Artwork has the ability to make us feel things. It has the ability to alter moods, to represent emotion, to capture a moment in time, and in Mary Bruce Sharon's case, share memories. Her chosen style was what is known as "primitive" and is defined as being childlike in nature.¹ Also known as "naïve art," it is very simple in technique that is used to express it.² This style was fitting to represent the beloved childhood memories Sharon depicted in her artwork and children's book due to the fact it can look as if it has been pulled off the highest place of honor for children's artwork; the fridge. Primitive or naïve art was a highly criticized art form; some dismissing it as a "folk" art practiced by the untrained and uneducated. However, many supportive critics now point to the talent and emotional presence of many primitive artists, whether they were trained or not. Mary Bruce Sharon was not trained, but that did not hinder her.

Mary Bruce Sharon was born Mary Bruce Green on September 6, 1877 in Kansas City, Missouri, to Richard Lashbrook Green and Henrietta Bruce Green.³ After her father's death in 1878, just a year after she was born, Mary and her mother Henrietta moved into the St. James Hotel with her maternal grandfather, Henry Bruce, Jr., who operated it.⁴ Despite living in Kansas City, Henry Bruce, Jr., as well as the rest of the Bruce family, had strong ties to Northern Kentucky, specifically Covington. Mary and her mother Henrietta would later move back to Covington for several years, and it was this period that inspired her artwork. The Bruce family was well off, Henry Bruce, Jr. having been one of the founders of the Covington and Cincinnati Bridge Company, as well as its president. Mr. Bruce had been instrumental in hiring John Roebling to design the bridge that now bears his name, and served as the prototype to the Brooklyn Bridge.⁵ Mary and her mother traveled often, as did her grandfather. They were known to spend time in several cities including Covington, Kansas City, Boston, and New York. The lady



Mary Bruce Sharon

All photos courtesy the author

Bruces eventually landed back in Kansas City, the place of Mary's birth, and it was there she later met and married businessman Frederick Christy Sharon. The pair remained in Kansas City until 1939, when they relocated east and spent time living in New York City and Connecticut. When Frederick Sharon passed in 1949, Mary moved yet again, this time to live with her only daughter, Henrietta Bruce Sharon Aument. It would be her son-in-law, abstract painter Carroll Aument, who would be the greatest influence in encouraging her to paint after seeing the illustrations she had created for her children's book.⁶

Mary Bruce Sharon began painting when she was 71 years old. From 1948 to her death in 1961, she produced 150 unique pieces of artwork depicting



Mary Bruce Sharon's *Afternoon Refreshment*

scenes from her life and childhood in Northern Kentucky.⁷ These paintings of her cherished past gained wide recognition, enough so, for Mary Bruce Sharon to land her own spread in *LIFE* magazine. Even today, if one were to search her name on the internet, a list of her artworks would come to surface, along with references to her children's book entitled, *Scenes from a Childhood*.

This is the woman *LIFE* magazine called, "Grandma Sharon," her "primitive" style, and her age gained her attention, and it made her distinctive and interesting in her own right. Grandma Sharon, as her fans came to know her, did not have any grandchildren at the time of her success, so those that identified with her style became her surrogate grandchildren, and helped make her a Primitive icon.⁸

Her artwork would travel, much like Sharon had earlier in her life, and would take her along as an awed passenger. One of these travels was the far away and artistic Cannes, France. She would become representative of her distinct style, a privilege that had recently been held by fellow primitive artist, Anna Mary Robertson.⁹ Mrs. Robertson had been the most well know artist of the style, but had to share the spotlight when Mary Bruce Sharon's pieces began to gain recognition.

Called, "fresh and enchanting" by critics quoted in *LIFE* magazine, her artwork is a child's eye view of Covington, Kentucky in the late 19th century. Mary Bruce Sharon fondly remembers the city of her childhood. Through her art we get a timeless glimpse of a community through the innocent and happy gaze of a child. Those interested in seeing original Mary Bruce Sharon artworks can go to the Behringer-Crawford Museum, and visit www.bcmuseum.com for more details.

1. The Free Dictionary, "Primitive." Last modified 2011. Accessed October 21, 2011. <http://www.thefreedictionary.com/naive>.

2. *Ibid*

3. Northern Kentucky University, "Biography - Mary Bruce (Green) Sharon." Accessed October 21, 2011. http://archives.nku.edu/special_collections/collections/bruce/finding_aid.php.

4. Tenkotte, Paul A., and James C. Claypool, ed. The Encyclopedia of Northern Kentucky. The University Press of Kentucky, 2009. s.v. "Mary Bruce Sharon."

5. *Ibid*

6. *Ibid*

7. "Grandma Sharon." *Life*, July 21, 1952. [http://books.google.je/books?id=4FUEAAAAMBAJ&q=mary bruce Sharon](http://books.google.je/books?id=4FUEAAAAMBAJ&q=mary%20bruce%20sharon)

8. *Ibid*

9. *Ibid*

Mary Bruce Sharon

Mary Bruce Sharon was a Primitive artist with strong familial ties to Covington, Kentucky. Later in life, it would be her happy memories of her time spent in Northern Kentucky that would inspire her artwork that gained her national attention, and a spot among the greatest artists in her style. She was known as "Grandma Sharon" even though she had no grandchildren of her own when the nickname was given. Her grandfather, Henry Bruce, Jr. was a former Colonel, and confederate sympathizer. Her son-in-law, Carroll Aument, was an accomplished painter in his own right. Even though Kentucky held very fond memories for Mary Bruce Sharon, she lived in several other places including Missouri, Boston, and Connecticut. She began painting at the age of 71, and by her death had composed 150 individual works, including a children's book.

Nicole "Nicci" Halloran McGinty is a 24 year old Master of Arts in Public History student from Brookville, Indiana. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in History from Northern Kentucky University. In December of 2010, Nicci became a published author with her novella, *The Lost Lenore*. She is married to Robert "Bob" McGinty who is a Major in the United States Army. On the 27th of December 2011, Nicci and Bob left on a two year military assignment to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Highway Marker Proposed Donations Needed

Covington's Hemingray Glass Company was a prolific manufacturer of various glassware items and has been featured in previous publications of this society. The company is very important in glass-making history and their products have become quite collectable.

The site of the Hemingray factory and office complex is now a 317-room hotel directly across from the Northern Kentucky Convention Center.

National Insulator Association has proposed a state highway marker be erected in the small plaza directly in front of the hotel where thousands of people will pass each year. While they have already raised a good portion of the necessary funds, they are requesting donations to complete the project.

Anyone wishing to donate should make their check payable to National Insulator Association and send it to:

Robert Stahl
515 Main Street Unit 403
West Chicago, IL 60185

The Silent Giant

Atkins and Pearce

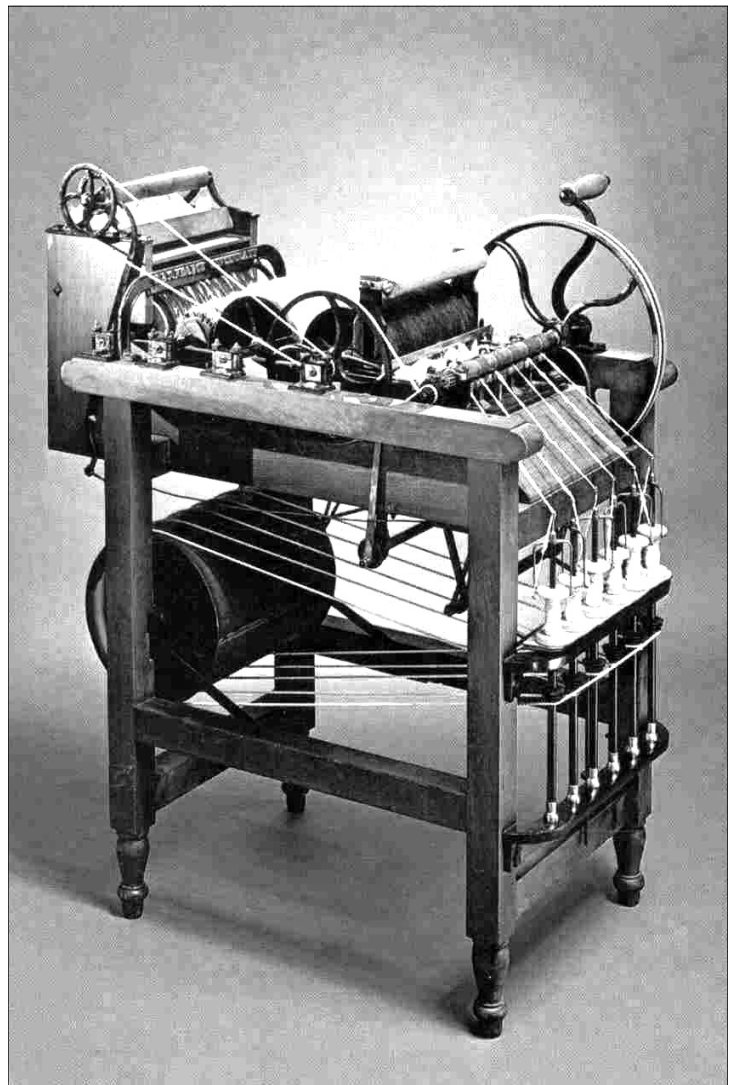
Betty Jetter

Shoelaces, candle wicks, the string tied on your animal cracker box, and fishing pole wire. These everyday items are just a few of the many products produced by the Atkins & Pearce Company, who have been innovators in braided textiles for nearly 200 years. Today, Atkins & Pearce is the silent giant of the Northern Kentucky/Cincinnati region; it is a world-leading producer of precision engineered textiles for customers around the world. Although this huge company may have come from small roots, one thing through the years has always been ingrained in this family owned business; its strong values.¹

The humble beginning of this company ties back to the early 19th century, when the company founders, John and Henry Pearce, first began their careers as portrait painters in the south. Originally from Cornwall, England, they came to the southern United States as painters and traveled from plantation to plantation to paint portraits. When money began getting tight, the plantation owners started giving the artists cotton as payment for these paintings. At this time, Eli Whitney had recently created the cotton gin and during their travels, John and Henry Pearce had noticed people using crude adaptations of this machinery. Being mechanically inclined and currently paid in cotton and with no ways of disposing of it, the two brothers used their creative imaginations and developed their own version of the cotton gin. In 1817, they decided to manufacture their own invention and started a company in Cincinnati, Ohio manufacturing cotton machinery.²

At this time, Cincinnati had already established itself as one of the top cities for commerce; connected as it was by the Ohio River to the Mississippi River and the cotton plantation system they served. The Pearce brothers established the first cotton mill west of the Alleghenies in a small shop on the corner of Seventh and Smith Street in Cincinnati.

As business progressed in the 1820s, the Pearce mill was moved to George Street and renamed John & Thomas Pearce. Not long after the move, a nephew, Henry Pearce, came to Cincinnati from England, bringing his knowledge and expertise in cotton spinning to the company. This allowed the business to convert raw cotton into cloth and introduce its first braided product, candle wicking, which changed the business forever.³



Columbian Spencer

Courtesy Auburn.edu website

The Pearce brothers transformed a cotton gin into equipment that spun and braided cotton at the same time. They named their invention the “Columbian Spinster” which was built and sold by John & Thomas Pearce to Southern plantations in 1840 before the Civil War. In 1841-42, the company moved to the corner of Fifth and Lock and changed its name to James Pearce and Brother, and then in 1847 to Gould, Pearce, and Company. The Civil War disrupted the sales of the Columbian Spinsters in the south and by the end of the Civil War in 1865, the company abandoned production of machines to sell and committed itself to the processing of cotton. The factory was then moved to the corner of Eggleston Avenue and Fifth Street, Cincinnati, where it would remain for the next 100 years.⁴

In 1880, H.T. Atkins married into the family and joined the company. Under the name Atkins & Pearce Manufacturing, the company became a booming success, which continued to spiral upwards for this braiding company from Cincinnati. In the upcoming years, the company would continue to show its ability to adapt and prosper in even the most difficult of times.⁵

In 1941, the United States entered World War II. The company helped in the war effort by manufacturing parachute cords and other cotton products, increasing the operations to 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Even during the tough times, the Atkins & Pearce Company always remained ahead of the competition while keeping the employees’ best interest in mind. The company provided work to women while the men were at war and allowed them to bring their children since the braiding process did not pose a dangerous environment.⁶

Joseph Head Jr., whose mother was an Atkins, joined the company in 1980 and help lead the company through its largest move in 1986. Due to insufficient space and an increase in business, expansion was needed. The company moved to its current location in Covington, which had a new 260,000 square foot facility with over 6,000 individual braiding machines. Since 1986, the company has expanded three times and continues to grow and innovate under its current leader, Jeb Head III.⁷

One of the oldest companies to begin life in Cincinnati, the Atkins & Pearce Company maintained its integrity, not only by earning the respect of the community but also the loyalty of its employees. Current CEO, Jeb Head, spoke on the values of the company as being a constant part of the business. “The values we have are not something we made up, or decided, it’s something that came up organically. It’s more of an observation on what this company is like, than it is saying ‘this is what we are going to be.’”

Even during the challenge of economic times, the company’s commitment to its employees remained strong. They made the decision to keep all employees and cross training opportunities were offered to help people develop new skills. As one employee has observed, “Atkins & Pearce has helped me raise my family and provided us a good living, we were always able to provide for our needs.”

The people of Atkins and Pearce are proud of their rich heritage and understand that it is not only just the way they do business. The mission statement expresses not only the company’s purpose, but also its heart. Current president, Mr. Head observes, “The ‘We Care’ statement is about how we care about each other, our customers, and our suppliers. By we care, we mean we subordinate our personal agenda to what’s right for the company. It’s not just a feel good emotion, but when people subordinate their personal agendas to do what’s right, a unique level of trust is available and you can approach people knowing they have the right intention. When you know people have the right intention, then communication becomes significantly easier and it helps the company become cohesive and understand its own mission.” The “We Care” statement is not just an expectation or personal philosophy of management, but of each employee of Atkins & Pearce. The statement is engrained in the culture and tradition of the company and goes as follows:

WE CARE

We are a community of associates who care about each other, our customers and our business partners. Caring means that we value loyalty and trust in our relationships, that we are committed to doing the right thing, and that we aspire to build something of value that will last beyond our-



The current Atkins and Pearce facility, located on Hwy 17 in South Covington

Courtesy Bob Webster

*selves. Above all we will have confidence and faith that our hard work, persistence in doing the right thing, and our commitment to each other will be rewarded with success.*⁸

Just as they are committed to keeping true to the values of the past, Atkins and Pearce continues to innovate and grow for future generations as Tonya Arrasmith shares: “We are very creative and innovative in making sure we are expanding our footprint so to speak, so while the history of the company is our legacy business; fishing line, candle wicking, cording...more important is what we are going to expand into. We partner with our customers to understand what we can do for them.”⁹

The company’s purpose is constantly changing to meet the needs of current times and customer demands but its principles are unwavering. From the very beginning they have built a reputation for themselves and was made evident in a quote in *The Cincinnati Centennial Review* in 1888, “The firm is one of large resources, and has the prestige of an

honorable record which is maintained by a steady adherence to correct business principles.”¹⁰

As time goes on, the Atkins and Pearce Company remains the mysterious supplier of the items we use every day, but never stop to consider, “where does this come from?” From its small beginnings in Cincinnati during 1817, it has grown into a trusted manufacturer of high quality products around the world. The company maintains its historical, entrepreneurial spirit by constantly developing new technologies and continually improving the approach to textile manufacturing. But, at its heart, it is a family business that has just the right cords to bind them all together.

Company Timeline*

1817: John and Henry Pearce devise an adaptation of the cotton gin and start their own company in Cincinnati, manufacturing cotton machinery.

1820s: John and Henry Pearce establish the first cotton mill west of the Alleghenies after receiving payments in cotton from companies in the South and having no means of disposing of it.

1830s: Henry Pearce comes over from England bringing his expertise in spinning and enabling the company to convert raw cotton into cloth. The company introduces its first braided product: candle wicking.

1840s: The "Columbian Spinster" was built by John and Thomas Pearce. An estimated 3,000 were purchased at \$130 each and used in the South on plantations before the Civil War.

1861: The Civil War halts all trade in the South. Henry's cotton expertise changes the direction of the company from the machine business to the processing of cotton at its factory on the corner of Eggleston Avenue and Fifth Street, Cincinnati.

1875: Over 10,000 spindles are in operation, processing a complete line of yarns.

1942: Atkins and Pearce manufacture parachute cords and other cotton goods used in the war effort, increasing operation to 24 hours a day; 7 days a week.

1950s: Atkins and Pearce pioneers the textile processing of glass fiber.

1965: Atkins & Pearce moves to the corner of Pearl and Pike Streets, Cincinnati.

1986: Atkins and Pearce moves to a new 260,000 square-foot facility in Covington with over 6,000 individual braiding machines and over 10,000 pieces of yarn processing and support equipment.

2000: Atkins and Pearce again expands to 470,000 square feet of modern manufacturing and office space.

2004: Atkins and Pearce opens a representative office in Shanghai, China.

2008: Atkins and Pearce expands for the third time adding 50,000 square feet bringing the total to 520,000 square feet.

About the Author

Ms. Jetter is currently a candidate for a Masters of Public History at Northern Kentucky University. Originally from Cincinnati, she moved to Northern Kentucky in 2007 to attend NKU and graduated in 2010 with a Bachelors in Public Relations. She is employed by Proctor and Gamble as a Human Resources Recruiting Specialist. She indicated her interest in the Atkins and Pearce Company was triggered by her observations of how the company was very committed to their employees. She saw how their philosophy includes a high value and respect for every employee. This attitude, usually found in small companies, prevails in this large company.

Endnotes on page 10

New Beverly Hills Book

Five years in the making, our own Bob Webster has completed his concise history of the Beverly Hills Supper Club, and his book is now on sale! Nearly 350 pages in length, 8.5x11 in size, and containing more than 120 images (both color and black and white), this is arguably the most important publication regarding a topic of Northern Kentucky history released in the past 30 years.

On Saturday May 28, 1977, Kentucky experienced its worst tragedy since the great Civil War. Before midnight, more than 120 bodies had been pulled from the burning structure and dozens more would be found the following day in what was the third-worst nightclub fire in our nation's history. Several employees told investigators from the very beginning about suspicious activities they witnessed leading up to the fire but were ignored. Due to one employee's unwavering quest, new researchers spent several years and countless hours in a reinvestigation to uncover what really happened that night.

Webster's book titled *The Beverly Hills Supper Club – the Untold Story Behind Kentucky's Worst Tragedy*, explains how 169 people were likely killed as a result of greed, deceit, mafia rule, arson, and government cover-ups. Order your copy directly from the Society. Send check or money order for \$57.00 (includes postage and handling) to:

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

HELP WANTED

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Current data bases, comprised of approximately 800 entries, use "MyMailList & AddressBook" software. We will train.

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For further information call Terry Averbek, 859-341-8329, or email, waver33@fuse.net.

Frederick Alexander Laidley

Fran Allen

(an excerpt from The Encyclopedia of Northern Kentucky)

Frederick Alexander Laidley was born on January 28, 1841 in Huntington, West Virginia. The son of James Madison Laidley, a prominent attorney, and Anna Maria Buhring, he was raised in nearby Charleston and attended public schools there. He started a small store in Charleston, and then from 1858 to 1864 manufactured salt in West Virginia on the Kanawha River. In connection with the salt business, Laidley traveled often to Cincinnati. He became fascinated with steamboats and in 1864, began his career as a river man, getting a job as a clerk on the steamer *Annie Laurie*. By 1866 he was that boat's captain and for most of his life, he was referred to as Commander Laidley.

In 1866, Frederick Laidley married Julia A. Rook, who was from Malden, West Virginia. The couple moved to Cincinnati in 1867 when Frederick became agent for the Kanawha Salt Company. He also became a charter member of the Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce. Though his business was in Cincinnati, Frederick and Julia chose Covington, Kentucky for their home, building what is still known today as the Laidley House on East Second Street.

The "Laidley House" faces south at the corner of Second and Kennedy Streets near the Licking and Ohio Rivers in the protected Licking-Riverside National Historic District of Covington. The house itself is a Kentucky landmark and it is surrounded by historically significant homes. A visitor to the imposing and beautiful three-story mansion will first be impressed by its setting on the property and its lovely façade. The home is surrounded by a stone wall topped with an iron fence, and the property is entered through a decorative gate. The structure itself is orange-red brick with a white Kentucky limestone foundation and massive front steps; the entrance, corners, and windows are trimmed with limestone. Above the approach to the house is an octagonal cupola sitting on top of the colorful slate-faced mansard



The Laidley House

Courtesy Bob Webster

roof, like the decorative top of an elaborate wedding cake. After walking up the front steps, one comes to the glass-paneled front door inside an intricately-carved, walnut-stained wooden entrance, with folded paneled doors and a black and white checkerboard-patterned marble floor. Just inside the front door is a long rectangular entrance hall with an elaborate parquet floor and a winding staircase, with unusual parquet stair treads.

Frederick and Julia had four children: Frederick R., Mary, Marguerite, and Elsie Louise. During the late 1800s and early 1900s, the house was a lively social gathering place. A Laidley descendant occupied the home until 1972.

Frederick engaged in numerous business ventures over the next 50 years. From 1873 to 1896, he was in the pork-packaging business; in 1886, he became primary stockholder in the Louisville and Cincinnati Packet Company, and by 1891 served as its general manager and treasurer. With this company, he built and operated two of the finest and fastest boats on the Ohio River, the famed *City of Louisville* and the *City of Cincinnati*. These two steamboats and five others were called the White Collar Line or White Packet Line. He was an original stockholder

A Look Back at The Headlines

An on-going feature reliving local headlines

This issue features:

The Ticket – November 20, 1875.

Local Matters

“The Strawbride and McDannold planing mill on Madison Street will lie idle a day or two, the main pulley of the main shaft having broken suddenly.”

“County Clerk, Julius Bristow, is in receipt of a letter from the Register of the Land Office in the state of Texas, asking information as to the whereabouts of one John Cox, of this county, and stating that Cox, or his descendants are heirs to a large tract of valuable land in the state of Texas.”

“Articles of Incorporation have been lodged in the County Clerk’s office for the German Catholic Mutual Benevolent Association of Covington and Newport. The group is something on the order of the A.O.U.W. and numbers some of the best citizens of the two cities as members.”

“There is a place for a town clock on the tower of Mother of God Church on Sixth Street, and the members of St. Aloysius Society of that congregation are circulating a subscription list with a view of raising at least \$1,500 for that purpose. A petition to Council for assistance will naturally follow.”

“At a meeting of the pastors of the Evangelical Churches of this city, it was resolved to hold a Union Service next Thursday, Thanksgiving Day in the Union M.E. Church at the corner of Fifth and Greenup Streets, Covington. It was further resolved to ask the Rev. Dr. Werrell preach the sermon. The service will commence at 11 o’clock, and we expect a great gathering of people upon this occasion. We call the attention of all ministers of this city to publish this notice to their own congregations tomorrow.”

Silent Giant - continued

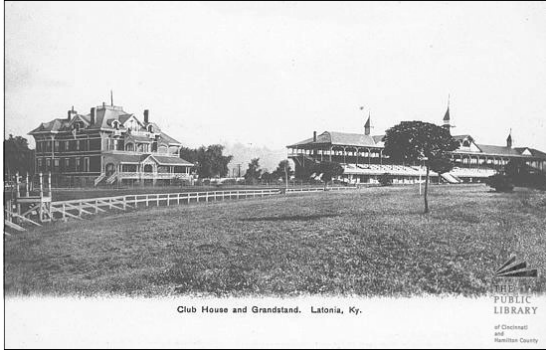
1. The Atkins and Pearce Company origin date is listed in *History of Cincinnati and Hamilton County Ohio; Their Past and Present*, (Cincinnati: S.B. Nelson & Co, 1894), 813.
2. The founders of the company and its complete historic timeline can be found on the Atkins & Pearce Company website, "History: A Commitment to Product Innovation since 1817." Accessed September 9, 2011. <http://www.atkinsandpearce.com/History/>
3. The arrival of Henry Pearce was mentioned in the history timeline on the website but also in a correspondence from Mr. Frank Pearce Atkins, Cincinnati Ohio, to Mr. Harry Pearce, Bellefontaine Ohio, 3 October 1933.
4. The company name changes are noted throughout the company history timeline but are also marked on old contracts and the letterhead from Mr. Frank Pearce Atkins to Mr. Harry Pearce. The company would be renamed to Henry Pearce’s Sons in 1886 and then one year later changed to Atkins & Pearce Manufacturing Co.
5. *Ibid.*
6. *The Atkins & Pearce Story: A Tradition of Manufacturing Excellence*, Personal Files of Atkins and Pearce, pamphlet for customers. In 1950 the company pioneered the textile processing of glass fiber by leading the industry in product innovation. They eventually continued to expand into the development and manufacturing of industrial textiles and narrow their fabric production.
7. Tonya Arrasmith interview by Becky Jetter, September 2011.
8. Jeb Head interview with Becky Jetter, October 2011.
9. Tonya Arrasmith interview by Becky Jetter, September 2011
10. Leonard, J.W. *The Centennial Review of Cincinnati: One Hundred Years*. Cincinnati: J.M. Elstner & Co, 1888.
11. Company website: www.atkinsandpearce.com/history/

Laidley - continued

of the Common Carrier Company and president of the Louisville and Evansville Transportation Company. These companies specialize in moving freight and/or passengers up and down the Ohio River. He was president of Licking Coal and Towboat, which supplied towboats with coal and other supplies, and in 1881, he began shipping meat by rail with the Cincinnati Southern Railroad.

Laidley’s lifestyle and his role as a prominent businessman came to an abrupt end after the winter of 1917-1918. During that winter, the Ohio and Licking Rivers froze in many places, and in 1918 an ice gorge destroyed the *City of Cincinnati*, the *City of Louisville*, and the *Loucinda* (another WCL steamer). Much of Laidley’s great wealth was gone. He lived out the rest of his life in his Covington home and died after a short illness at age 90 in December of 1931. He was buried at Highland Cemetery in Fort Mitchell. The last Laidley in the house was Louise Laidley More, who died in 1972. Shortly after, the house was sold at auction to an interim absentee owner who planed for luxury apartments. By that time, the house was in disrepair. In 1975, it was purchased by James and Frances Allen who have restored it to its original beauty. They still occupy the home in 2012.

Then and Now



The original Latonia Racetrack. The left image shows the grandstands and track, while the image on the right shows a portion of the shopping center which now occupies the property along Winston Avenue.

Left photo courtesy the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County. Right photo courtesy Bob Webster.

Mystery Photo

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



ANSWER:

The northernmost tower of Latonia's Holy Cross Church.

photo courtesy Bob Webster

Kenton County Historical Society

May/June - 2012

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*

May 15, 1900: An 11,500 ton battleship, the USS Kentucky, was commissioned for service. It was scrapped in 1924..

June 5, 1985: Steve Cauthen, of Walton, became the first US jockey to win the coveted Epsom Downs in the 206th running in Great Britain.

June 6, 1774: A group of 30 men under the leadership of James Harrod established the first permanent settlement in Kentucky.

June 11, 1864: Nearly half the town of Cynthiana was destroyed during the second Civil War battle fought there.

June 20, 1781: Daniel Boone presented a petition to the Legislature to charter Lexington.

"On This Day In Kentucky" — Robert Powell

Programs and Notices

Roebeling Fest — Saturday June 23rd

Celebrate the heritage of our very special Roebeling Suspension Bridge. Held near its entrance at 3rd and Court Streets, come and see displays from various local and regional history organizations and civic groups, enjoy food, drink, and other vendors, musical accompaniments, dancing, and other happenings.

Behringer-Crawford Museum Events

To May 27th: **Our Rivers' Fury: Past and Present Ohio Valley Floods.**

2012 is the 75th anniversary of the 1937 flood, however, this exhibit reviews the constant impact of floods in the region.

June 22 to August 12: **Wolfgang Ritschel Exhibit.** Visitors to the museum may have seen a few of his paintings noted for deep colors. Stop by and enjoy a wonderfully-colorful display of his talent.

September 8 to January 20, 2013: **The Battle that Never Occurred: The Civil War in Northern Kentucky.** Relive September of 1862, when Confederate forces approached Cincinnati but fortifications from Ludlow to Fort Thomas helped turn them back.

Kenton County Fair — July 16th to the 21st

The Society will once again participate in the Kenton County Fair with an exhibition booth. Make plans to stop by through the week and see our display on local history and enjoy looking through our many publications — always available for purchase, while you enjoy the various events at the fair.

Music at the Behringer-Crawford Museum

Great entertainment is once again the summer theme at the Behringer-Crawford Museum. \$5.00 admission fee. See the museum's website for further information: www.bcmuseum.org

May 10: "Bourbon 'n Blues" The Bluebirds (Cincinnati Blues)

June 14: "Beer 'n Brass" Brass Fellowship (brass band concert in the park)

June 21: Mike Wade Jazz Quartet (trumpeter extraordinaire and his band)

June 28: Ricky Nye, Inc. (a headliner in Europe, blues and boogie)

July 5: The Comet Bluegrass All-stars (bluegrass in the Bluegrass)

July 12: Roger Drawdy and the Firestarters (like a high-energy Belfast band)

July 19: The Sweet Beats (not John, Paul, George and Ringo — but the next best)

July 26: Son del Caribe (salsa and all Latin flavor)