

KENTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 641, Covington, Kentucky 41012 (859) 431-2666

E-MAIL nkgheritage.kchs@juno.com

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Jo Ann C. Brown

MEETING

DATE Tuesday, November 12

TIME 7 PM

PLACE Trinity Church
4th and Madison
Covington

PROGRAM Hemmingray Glass

Glenn Drummond has had an interest in Hemmingray for quite a long time. He has contributed to a book on Hemmingray Glass and recently completed a book on the genealogy of the family of Hemmingray.

Bulletin

November 2002

Editor's Notes.....

The KCHS Bulletin will have a new format beginning January 2002. Karl Lietzenmeyer will be the new editor, and the Bulletin will be published bi-monthly. This should save time and money.

Karl will need 2 or 3 volunteers to print, fold, label and organize for bulk mailing. The Bulletin is printed at the Behringer-Crawford Museum in Devou Park. It takes about 1 hour to print. While it is printing, final folding can be done as well as labeling if the Museum has the space available. If Karl has 3 volunteers, it should take about 2 hours to complete (in addition to time for printing). This is done in the last week of the month. Please contact Karl or call the KCHS phone number to volunteer.

On October 17, 2002, Murals of Covington's River history were unveiled. They are located near the Covington Landing next to the Suspension Bridge. So far there are two murals completed and three more have been financed. The first one illustrates that herds of buffalo passed through Covington and crossed the Ohio River. We will give you details later concerning the artist, Robert Dafford, and those who sponsored the project. Members of KCHS have been consulting with the artist for historical detail.

Northern Kentucky's Bush Family

by John Boh

George W. Bush shares his name with a prominent pioneer Northern Kentucky family. The early Bush family participated in much of the development of Covington and Northern Kentucky. The 1856-57 street directory includes a portfolio page behind the front cover that displays the "residence of Phillip S. Bush".¹ Phillip Bush had become an insurance agent at Pike and Madison streets, and he resided at the southeast corner of Robbins and Madison streets.

Phillip S. Bush's grandfather (also named Phillip) had served as a captain with George Washington during encounters with the French and Indians.²

Born in Virginia, Phillip S. Bush's father, John Bush (1767-1845), first settled in Kentucky in 1788. After surviving prolonged Indian encounters, he came to Northern Kentucky with families that included veterans of Bryan's Station, John Tomlinson, Cave Johnson and Captain

WEB SITE <http://www.kenton.lib.ky.us/~histsoc/>



RESIDENCE OF PHILLIP S. BUSH

John Craig.³ In 1794, when Campbell County was created, organizers appointed John Bush to be one of its first court justices. Phillip S. Bush recalled that his father resided in Boone County (formed out of Campbell County in 1798) on the river at North Bend "nearly opposite" General William Henry Harrison's farm in Ohio.⁴

Along with other properties, **John Bush** bought land on which he was already residing, 175 acres on the Ohio River, from Cave Johnson and wife Betsy of Campbell County in 1797.⁵ John Bush married twice and had many children.⁶ In 1822 he conveyed adjoining parcels of land in Boone County to each of three sons--**Phillip S. Bush, John Craig Bush and Edward Smith Bush.**⁷

In 1831 Phillip S. Bush represented Boone County in the lower branch of the Kentucky legislature, and in 1834-36, served as Kentucky Senator.⁸ In 1835 and 1836 organizers of the new Northern Bank of Kentucky elected prominent Northern Kentucky citizens as its officers and directors: Richard Southgate, President; John Tibbatts, James M. Clarkson, Wm. W. Wade, Erastus Tousey, John B. Casey, Carey Clemons, George B. Marshall and John T. Levis, directors, and Phillip S. Bush, Cashier.⁹

Bush served as Cashier of the bank where he resided in the building at the northwest corner of Third and Scott Streets, now the newly remodeled Bank of Kentucky.¹⁰ William Ernst succeeded him in 1849. Ernst married his first wife, Phillip's daughter, Lydia Bush, and they established the Ernst family as a North-

ern Kentucky political and business dynasty.¹¹

Phillip Bush was an officer in the local Colonization Society.¹² When legislation was proposed to form Kenton County out of a portion of Campbell County he was a protester.¹³ But he was appointed with two others to represent Kenton County in advancing ill-fated Licking River projects.¹⁴ He also helped promote construction of the Covington and Lexington railroad.¹⁵

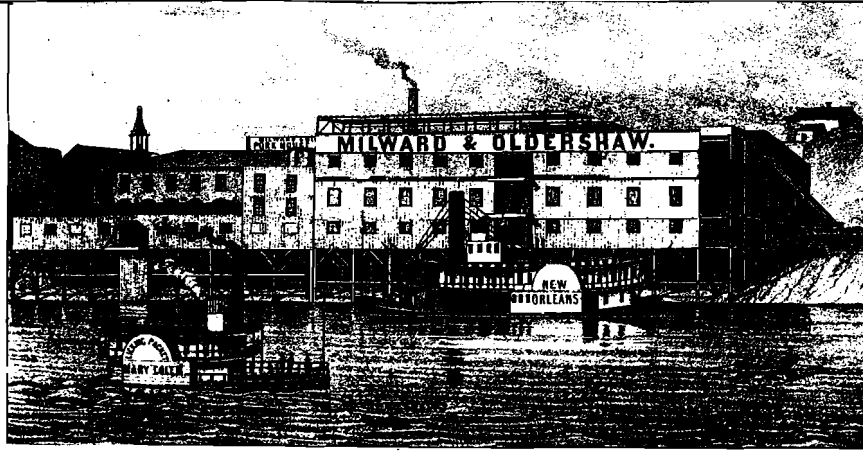
In 1848 Phillip S. Bush, his son, John S. Bush, and H. C. Watkins sold land on the Licking River for the **Milward and Oldershaw** meat packing plant.¹⁶ The multi-level plant measured 360 by 160 foot.¹⁷ According to the *Covington Journal* in 1849, the plant employed about 200 and was prepared to slaughter "one thousand hogs per day."¹⁸

Phillip S. and John S Bush also financed the **Licking Rolling Mill** located between Eleventh and Twelfth Streets at the river. John S. Bush became a partner with Richard Jordan. In 1850 and 1851 a number of transactions transferring ownership involved Abraham Morrell, Nelson P. Stewart and Thomas Phillips. In 1851 a \$15,000 mortgage on the five-acre property was outstanding to Phillip S. Bush.¹⁹ The mill operated into the twentieth century.²⁰

In the 1856-57 street directory "Bush" Street in Covington was running "west from Licking Iron Works, south of 11th." Bush Street passed through subdivision land of the Western Baptist Theological Institute for which **Phillip S. Bush** and his brother-in-law, **Cave Johnson** served as trustees and agents.²¹

In the 1840s and 1850s, with the constant influx of immigrants, Covington annexed and expanded southward. The Bush family invested and speculated heavily. In 1842 Phillip S. Bush and John T. Levis were selling off 25 acres of his "late" brother Edward S. Smith Bush "adjoining the city of Covington, on the Lexington turnpike within the gate, and in full view of the city of Cincinnati."²² In 1847 Phillip's son, John S. Bush, recorded a subdivision map with streets including Bullock, Twelfth, Watkins and Hermes to its intersection with Pike.²³

With the Bush family's activity in investments and speculations, assets increased dramatically. In 1848 Phillip S. Bush's valuation for county tax purposes was \$10,435 with at least 16 lots, and John S. Bush's valuation totaled \$16,250 with 14 lots. In 1851 Phillip S. Bush's valuation totaled \$38,325, and John listed at least 20 lots. The Bush and Jordan Rolling Mill located on 5 acres totaled \$60,000. In 1860 Phillip S. Bush owned 17



1/2 acres on Dry Creek and 11 lots. His valuation was \$26,840. Over 40 town lots for 9 Bush family members were listed.²⁴

But in October 1850 young John S. Bush passed away at age 32.²⁵ His will dated October 2, 1850 left personal and household property to his wife Elizabeth S. Bush and "my servants Clarence, Martha and Milley." He left personal property, cash and some 20 town lots (with contingencies) to his daughter, Mary Riddle Bush and to his "child unborn." He directed the "residue" to his mother Vicy Bush, sisters Sally P. Paxton, Mary G. Chambers, Elizabeth, Julia C., Matilda, and Catherine Bush and Uncle John C. Bush. He appointed "my father" Phillip S. Bush his "sole" executor. A codicil awarded \$3200 to his sister Julia C. and husband Dr. R. B. Lynd.²⁶

By 1866 Phillip S. Bush, still an insurance agent, resided on the south side of Twelfth Street between Madison and Washington Streets. In 1869, probably retired, he resided at 19 East Bush Street.²⁷ In 1871, the *Covington Journal* reported the "death of an old citizen: at age 76. "In his early life he was a resident of Boone County." He was "identified with business interests for about forty years." He was buried from the Madison Baptist.²⁸

In time Phillip S. Bush oversaw a trust for family heirs that was later transferred by deed to William Ernst. This trust also held his former residence at the southeast corner of Madison and Robbins.²⁹ After other transactions in 1874, W. W. Trimble, a wealthy lawyer and legal scholar, purchased that residence in the name of his wife Mary Trimble.³¹ Today a Walgreens Drug Store marks the site.

But in the 1920s, Eleanor Childs Meehan, an octogenarian, wrote: "I remember when the late Trimble residence was erected by Mr. Phillip Bush, there stood by a pond, at Tenth [Robbins] and Madison Streets, a flowering tulip tree. The odor and beauty of its flowers remain with me."³²

Notes

1. *Covington and Newport Directories, City Guides and Business Mirrors*, 1856-57; *City Atlas*, 1877.
2. *Licking Valley Register*, August 9, 1845 cited in History of Covington to 1865, unpublished by John Burns.
3. Bryan's Station was a fortification against the Indians 5 miles northeast of Lexington.
4. History of Covington until 1865, unpublished by John Burns. 5 DBA, p. 242, December 1797, Boone County Court.
6. *Licking Valley Register*, January 4, 1845, p. 2.
7. DB E. p. 460; p. 461; p. 462; p. 463, Boone County Court.
8. *History of Kentucky*, revised by Richard Collins, 1874.
9. "Northern Bank of Kentucky," Covington Historic preservation files compiled Walter Langsam.
10. 1839-1840 Covington Street Directory.
11. Covington Hist. Pres. Office; *Kentucky, A History of the State*, vol. 7, by W. H. Perrin et al., 1887.
12. *Western Colonist and Literary Journal*, July 12, 1839, p. 2.
13. History of Covington to 1865, John Burns, unpublished.
14. *Licking Valley Register*, October 25, 1845, p. 1.
15. *Licking Valley Register*, April 3, 1847, p. 3.
16. DB 10 p. 181 June 5, 1848; DB 10, p. 182 June 15, 1848.
17. History of Covington to 1865 by John Burns.
18. *Covington Journal*, November 9, 1849, p. 2.
19. DB 15, p. 100; p. 102; p. 103; p. 104; p. 106; p. 107; DB 16, p. 308; DB 18, p. 273; p. 275; p. 277.
20. *Cincinnati The Queen City*, by George Englehardt, 1901.
21. *Cincinnati 1841*, Charles Cist; newspaper ad undated
22. *Licking Valley Register* 1842, p. 3.
23. Plat 11, first recorded in Deed Book 6, p. 601, May 17, 1847, Covington court records.
24. 1848, 1851, and 1860 Kenton County property tax records (very difficult to read).
25. *Covington Journal*, November 23, 1850.
26. Will Book, p. 120-122, October 2, 1850.
27. 1866-67 street directory, 1869 directory.
28. *Covington Journal*, October 7, 1871, p. 3.
29. DB 2, p. 445 April 14, 1860; DB 4, p. 247, February 23, 1863.
30. DB 32, p. 13, October 30, 1874.
- 31 "An Octogenarian's Personal Recollections..." by Mrs. Eleanor Childs Meehan, revised, 1924.

Kenton County Historical Society
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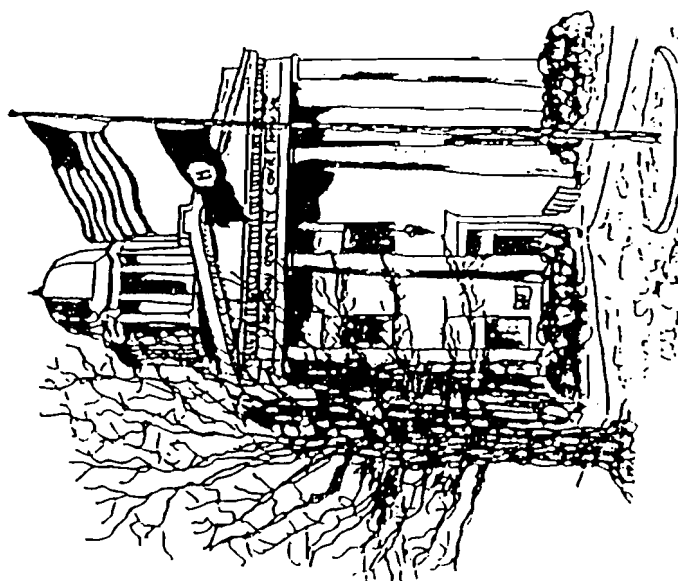
John Boh
507 Russell Street
Covington KY 41011

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Dedicated to preserving our heritage as the "Gateway to the South"

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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INSIDE:
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