

## November / December

# 2013



A Peek Into William Behringer's Journals

## Roebling Heritage Tour:

A Guide to Sites Related to John A. Roebling (1806-1869) and His Bridge on the Ohio River at Covington, Kentucky

WZIP: "The Voice of Northern Kentucky"

## A Peek Into William Behringer's Journals

### Lorna Petty Harrell

#### Introduction

In the 1980s, I worked as the program coordinator at the then recently reopened Behringer-Crawford Museum (BCM) in Covington's Devou Park. Among the silent companions in my work space were the museum's books, comprising a rather eclectic collection, including the many and varied journals maintained by William Jacob Behringer (1884-1948), whose collection of curiosities and memorabilia became the foundation for the museum. Behringer's dusty journals, which spanned his life from 1896 through 1946, seemed to intrigue many museum visitors, who often asked questions about them and occasionally gained permission to carefully peer into them.

I, too, found the journals interesting, but with so many things demanding attention as the museum reopened, I never found time to delve into them. It wasn't until nearly 30 years later that they recaptured my attention when BCM Director, Laurie Risch, asked me to assess each of the 22 volumes currently in the museum library in order to provide background for a proposal being prepared to seek funding to properly conserve the museum's library collection.

#### Overview of the Journals

As I began examining the journals in 2011, I was immediately struck by their wide range of condition, colors, and sizes – some fragile, others sturdy; some dark and faded, others still surprisingly vivid; some only ½ inch thick, others five inches thick; some clearly suitable for journaling, others very strange indeed. In a few journals, William (as I came to think of him) even wrote upside down because he was recycling and reusing the back pages of old ledgers and other books. Strangest of all was one book labeled "Monthly Time Book, No.6 – The Windisch Muhlhauser Brewing Co." (from a local Cincinnati brewery that operated from about 1866 to 1934). In this, William pasted pages penned in 1938 to chronicle travels and other events that occurred in 1936.



Above: William J. Behringer, age 28 (from a photo in his journals documenting his European travels in 1908).
On the cover: A page from William's journals.
Cover image: Gary L. Johnston, © Behringer-Crawford Museum

Like other Behringer journals, this one includes old travel postcards, but also includes a few paper targets he used to practice his marksmanship!

My initial review of the journals revealed that a few volumes include entries from more than one year or even more than one decade, illustrating Behringer's tendency to add to and reuse journals he had assembled earlier. A "Volume I" viewed early on, for example, included news articles from the assassination of Kentucky Governor-elect William Goebel on January 30, 1900, and then leaped forward to the death of Behringer's father on Good Friday 1934. As I continued reviewing the journals, the sheer number and variety of personal entries, news clippings, postcards and other memorabilia became overwhelming. It quickly became evident that I couldn't get more than a peek into William's life and times without getting completely consumed and off-track on my assignment for the proposal.

#### **Delving Somewhat Deeper**

The earliest Behringer journal in the BCM's collection is from 1896, when William was only 12 years old. According to the U.S. Census of 1900, neither of William's German-born parents, Theodore and Sophie, could read or write English. Needless to say, their son more than compensated for them with his years of prolific journaling. One of William's most fascinating volumes, dated 1907, includes many entries significant in telling the story of his life. In this volume, he discusses his birth on January 10, 1884 in West Covington, a small city then separate from the city of Covington. He describes leaving school at 13 to "begin the battle of life" and continues writing about his work as an iron molder, his local travels, and later his ever-widening travels throughout Kentucky and the eastern United States. He meticulously documented his travels, calculating that by October of 1907 he had traveled 8,176 miles! Illustrating this 1907 volume is an extensive collection of postcards from Mammoth Cave, Detroit, Niagara Falls and several other places in the eastern United States – still in displayable condition.

In 1908, now age 24, William ventured much farther, visiting New York City and sailing on the *Mauritania* to England, traveling on to Holland and Germany, where he spent considerable time with his mother's family, the Erhardts. Within the first of two large volumes chronicling his European travels is his passport, which provides a verbal description of young William. Also surprisingly tucked into this volume is his infant baptismal certificate. The second volume detailing his long European journey was perhaps written a few years later, because it includes a formal photo of William at age 28. Entries included are from Paris and Switzerland, as well as from his homeward journey, crossing the Atlantic on the *Lloyd Bremen* and taking time to visit relatives in New York

City and eastern Ohio. After returning home, he took several shorter trips to many places in Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana, apparently when the foundry where he worked closed for short periods of time. Three subsequent volumes from 1910 through 1912 are among those I found most interesting in the BCM's collection. During this time, William traveled extensively by rail throughout the U.S., going as far west as North Dakota and Montana, even visiting Yellowstone, America's first national park (established in 1872). The postcards and photos illustrating these volumes include the 1913 flood, the wicket dams along the Ohio River, and a rare postcard of Split Rock, a unique geological formation along the Ohio River in Boone County. Of special note to those familiar with the BCM's foundational collection is that in 1912, William first mentions his keen interest in taxidermy and the workshop he set up at his family home on Forest Avenue in West Covington. William's views on world events, including World War I and the adventures of Poncho Villa in Mexico are found in volumes penned from 1914 through 1917. A narrative about Covington's efforts to annex West Covington and a flyer protesting the annexation are among the more interesting and personal aspects of these volumes. In a 1918 journal with the word "Minerals "embossed on the cover, William attempted to develop a census of the residents of Covington at that time.

Moving into the historically pivotal 1920s, we find no Behringer journals in the BCM's collection. In a personal communication (dated June 6, 2013), BCM Director Laurie Risch explained that some of William's journals may still be in the museum's offsite storage. Alternatively, journals from the 1920s may be extant, but simply not in the BCM's possession. Whatever the case, the chronicles resume in 1932, a time during which William, now middleaged, apparently experienced a prolonged illness. That year he wrote, "Pleased to still be on the earth". In spite of health concerns, many more adventures awaited William, particularly hunting trips during which he apparently obtained some of the larger mammal specimens and perhaps geologic specimens which ultimately were displayed at the BCM. His 1930s journals include details of hunting trips to Canada and to the Arrowhead country of Minnesota

on the Gunflint Trail near the North Shore of Lake Superior. After these trips, he continued to paste into his journals many postcards of the small towns and scenic places he saw as he traveled north by rail. Curiously, his 1937-38 journal still includes strands of William's dark brown hair. A larger journal from 1938-39, presents information on the "Mammoth Exposition Train" that was in Covington for four days. According to my online research, this traveling exhibit displayed many oddities related to the 1939-40 World's Fair in New York City. Significant among William's entries during the same time period are those mentioning his field trips with a group from the University of Cincinnati which explored Ohio Valley prehistory.

The last of William's journals (1945-1946) in the BCM's collection is titled "Diary-News" and is a thick scrapbook with a Masonite-type cover and metal fasteners. At this point, much of William's documentation was achieved through news articles and postcards. The events of the closing year of WW II figured prominently; an important news clipping was a "day-by-day record of the outstanding events of 1945". Many small Christmas cards also are pasted in this volume, including one from close friend and admirer, Ellis Crawford and his family. After William's death in December 1948, the Crawford family would move into the Behringer family home in West Covington while Ellis began his campaign to turn the old Devou homestead in Park Hills, Kentucky into a museum to house the eclectic collection of items William had amassed over a lifetime of travel and discovery. So begins another story, leading to the founding of the BCM by Ellis Crawford (see Harrell 2000).

#### Conclusion

William Behringer's journals have fascinated visitors to the BCM for decades, although their sheer number and the volume of entries, news clippings and postcards are somewhat overwhelming. Interestingly, some of William's photos have been useful in documenting forgotten landmarks, including the location of a former Catholic cemetery in Devou Park near the BCM. Looking at the journals only from the outside reveals William's frugality in reusing old ledgers or anything else at hand. Peering inside, however, reveals much more. Living before television and long before computers and blogs, William documented his life and times as many others did, persistently narrating his daily activities, the weather and mundane things, as well as larger events that shaped his life and the 20<sup>th</sup> century. As the nature of the written word and the role of books in our society change, William's journals will continue to testify to an interesting life, whose legacy became instrumental to the founding of the Northern Kentucky region's museum of art, culture, and natural history, the Behringer-Crawford.

#### To learn more about William Behringer and his journals . . .

Visit the Behringer-Crawford Museum Park at 1600 Montague Road, Covington, (859) 491.4003. Click on their website at: www.bcmuseum.org Go to www.kentonlibrary.org/genealogy/pdf and scroll down to "William Behringer Journal" to see actual pages of one of William's earlier journals with his handwritten comments, photos and postcards. The scanned journal, however, is not the property of the Behringer-Crawford Museum.

#### References

Harrell. L.P. 2000. The Legacy of Ellis Crawford and the Behringer-Crawford Museum. *Northern Kentucky Heritage*, Vol. VIII, No. 1: 15-20.

Risch, Laurie. E-mail communication from Laurie Risch, Executive Direction, Behringer-Crawford Museum to author Lorna Harrell, dated June 6, 2013.

*The News & Journal*, November 25, 1939. "Mammoth Exposition will Arrive by Rail." Charleston, SC.

#### About the Author

Lorna Petty Harrell is a retired biologist and environmental planner who grew up in Northern Kentucky and resides in Taylor Mill. During the 1980s, she was associated with the Behringer-Crawford Museum as a Board member and later as its first program coordinator. She holds degrees from Miami University and the University of Wisconsin – Madison.

#### Acknowledgements

The author wishes to thank Laurie Risch, Executive Director of the BCM for her review and Gary L. Johnston for the photograph of the journal page. As always, Dennis Harrell, the author's husband, provided editorial comments and encouragement.

## **Roebling Heritage Tour:**

### A Guide to Sites Related to John A. Roebling (1806-1869) and His Bridge on the Ohio at Covington, Kentucky

### Don Heinrich Tolzmann



John A. Roebling Courtesy the author

The John A. Roebling Suspension Bridge is widely recognized as the major regional landmark of Greater Cincinnati. Construction began in September 1856, and it was dedicated on January 1, 1867.<sup>1</sup> In addition to the bridge itself, there are a number of interesting sites on the Covington side of the Ohio River which complement and supplement the knowledge of the man and his bridge.<sup>2</sup>

#### Tour Guide

#### 1) Roebling Statue

Location: Riverside Drive

This tour begins at the statue of John A. Roebling, located southeast of his bridge on the Covington side of the Ohio River and adjacent to Riverside Drive. This bronze statue was created by Richard G. Miller in 1988. The inscribed bronze tablet provides information about Roebling and the bridge. The statue's location provides an excellent vantage point to view the bridge in its entirety. The inscription reads: From an immigrant to an immigrant, John Roebling and all other immigrants who have helped build Greater Cincinnati. From Matthew Toebben and his family. Toebben, a German immigrant, founded Toebben Companies in Northern Kentucky.

#### 2) Shinkle's Row Townhouses

Location: 230-242 East 2nd Street [ne corner]

Amos Shinkle (1818-1892) was the enterprising businessman who became the driving force of the Covington and Cincinnati Bridge Company, after Confederate sympathizer Henry Bruce left town. Shinkle served on its board from 1860 to 1865, and as president from 1866 until his death. He was in the coal business, providing fuel for river steamboats and owned several steamboats as well. During the Civil War, he served as a colonel in the Kentucky Home Guard when Covington stood under the threat of attack by Confederate General Kirby Smith (1862).

A row house "simply means a series of apartments connected in a row to street frontage."<sup>3</sup> These red-brick three-story apartment houses were built by Shinkle about 1880 in the Renaissance Revival style and were restored in the 1970s.<sup>4</sup>

#### 3) Governor's Point Condominiums Location: 323 E. 2nd Street

The Governor's Point Condominiums once housed Booth Memorial Hospital, which was built on the site where Shinkle's home once stood. Built in 1869 in Gothic Revival style, it was often called "Shinkle's Castle." Sold to the Salvation Army after Amos' death, it was razed in 1926 to make way for the hospital, which later closed and was remodeled into condominiums.

### 4) Amos Shinkle Townhouse

Location: 215 Garrard Street

Built in 1854, the home is now on the National Register of Historic Places. It was restored by Bernie Moorman into a bed and breakfast. After Mr. Moorman's death, the home has been recently purchased by the Norman Desmarais family as their private residence. Shinkle lived here with his wife, Sarah, until 1869, when he moved to his "Castle" (mentioned above). Sarah always regretted leaving as she dearly loved this home.

# 5) Site of Wilhelm Hildenbrand's Residence Location: 318 Garrard Street.

This structure no longer exists. Wilhelm Hildenbrand was in charge of the re-construction of the bridge (1895-1898) and lived at this location during that time. Born in Karlsruhe, Germany, he attended Karlsruhe Polytechnik before coming to America in 1867. After working with the New York Central Railroad, he found employment working with the Roeblings on the Brooklyn Bridge. His obituary in the *New York Times* indicated that "As an engineer, he preferred to err on the safe side, so where the formulas were uncertain or not thoroughly tested by actual practice, he added strength to the structure. He was careful and conscientious in his work, and firm and lasting in his friendships."<sup>5</sup>

### 6) Ball's Row Townhouses

Location: 4th & Garrard Streets, nw corner.

Washington Roebling (1837-1926) served as assistant engineer (1865-1867) after his tour of duty in the Union Army. He wrote with regard to his place of residence: "I boarded with the Balls, a secesh [secessionist] family."<sup>6</sup> Washington is probably referring to the red-brick building known as Ball's Row, located at 4th & Garrard, built by Robert H. Ball, an innkeeper.<sup>7</sup> A plaque on the buildings known as





Ball's Row states: "Ball's Row - Early TownHouses circa 1840."

### 7) Henry Bruce Jr. House Location: 622 Sanford Street

Roebling lived with Bruce on Sanford Street.<sup>8</sup> This would have been during Roebling's initial stay in Covington in 1856-1857. Bruce (1811-1891) served on the Board of Directors of the Bridge Committee from 1856 to 1858, president pro-temp from 1858 to 1859, and president in 1859.



The Bruce Family Papers at Northern Kentucky University Steely Library contain several items dating in the 1850s supporting the Bruce-Roebling relationship. This includes a letter by Bruce indicating Roebling arrived in Covington on the morning of 28 August, 1856.<sup>9</sup>

The house was built as Dr. Orr's Female Academy about 1840 and was acquired by Bruce in 1853. Later it because the Rugby School, the name by which it is known today. There is no historic sign in front of the Bruce residence, but one stands in front of the home that Bruce apparently had built in 1860 directly south.<sup>10</sup>

The sign standing in front of the building south of the Bruce home bears the inscription: "Henry Bruce House - This House was built in 1860 by Henry Bruce, a founder of the Covington-Cincinnati Bridge Company. Bruce fled these grounds in December 1863, evading arrest for financing the escape of John Hunt Morgan. condemned a Confederate, he survives as a central figure in the paintings of his granddaughter, Mary Bruce Sharon, noted American Primitivist."

The building with the sign is not the Bruce home where Roebling stayed, since he lived with

Bruce in 1856-1857 before this south building was erected.<sup>11</sup> Due the confusion this might cause, it might be advisable to place a sign in front of the original Bruce home [The Rugby] to distinguish the two dwellings.

#### 8) Jesse Wilcox Home or Boarding House

Location: Greenup Street between 6th & 7th Streets

Roebling returned to the area in 1863 when the construction on the bridge began anew. According to his son, Washington, he boarded with Wilcox.<sup>12</sup> Whether this was at the home or a boarding house of Wilcox is unclear. Wilcox was a manufacturer of coal oil and member of the board of trustees of the CCBC from 1860 to 1862, serving as president from 1863 to 1865.

For his second visit to Covington, Roebling again stayed at a residence belonging to the president of the CCBC. Wilcox's residence is listed as being on the east side of Greenup Street between 6th and 7th Streets.

The same directory (1866-7) also lists Roebling as residing at a boarding house located on the east side of Greenup Street between 5th and 7th Streets. Unfortunately, no house address numbers are indicated, so the exact location of either is unknown.<sup>13</sup>

#### 9) Covington & Cincinnati Bridge Company Offices Location: 311 Greenup Street

The CCBC was located here in 1868 but previously had moved around to various sites in Covington. In 1856, it was on the east side of Greenup between 3rd and 4th opposite Market Space (now Park Place). In 1861, it was on the west side of Scott Street between 3rd and 4th, and in 1867 was on the west side of Greenup between 3rd and Lower Market.<sup>14</sup> The structure no longer exists.

#### 10) John A Roebling Suspension Bridge

Tours of the bridge are conducted by members of the Covington-Cincinnati Suspension Bridge Committee at RoeblingFest, held each June. These



John A. Roebling Suspension Bridge linking Covington, Kentucky and Cincinnati, Ohio Courtesy: University of Cincinnati website

tours provide the best opportunity for a close-up examination of the bridge.

#### 11) **Roebling Murals of the Covington Riverfront** Location: Floodwall southwest of the Roebling Bridge

These murals illustrate the history of the area and were painted by Robert Dafford of Lafayette, Louisiana and local staff artists between 2002 and 2008. One panel depicts the Suspension Bridge with both Roebling and Amos Shinkle in the foreground.

#### **Other Sites:**

Other sites are connected in some way to Roebling. One merits attention here. This would be the Odd Fellows Hall at 440 Madison Avenue, constructed in 1856. A fire in 2002 gutted the building, leaving only the facade and front wall standing. It was restored and is now known as "The Grand,"

available for receptions and banquets. According to one report, "Its unique attic truss work supporting the ceilings and floors below (before invention of steel I-beams) was thought to have been designed by John Roebling.<sup>15</sup> Although there is no documentation to support this claim, it should be noted that in 1856, Shinkle was elected Grand Master of the Odd Fellows of Covington and Roebling was in Covington that year to begin bridge work. He may very well have designed the building, or been involved in some way with its construction.

3. Email from Karl Lietzenmayer to Don H. Tolzmann (25 Oct 2009)

4. For biographical info about Shinkle, see: Charles Frederick Goss,

<sup>1.</sup> See: Don Heinrich Tolzmann, "John A Roebling and His Suspension Bridge on the Ohio River" Milford, Ohio: Little Miami Publishing Co. (2007). Also: "Roebling" by Jack Wessling, Encyclopedia of N. Ky, Lexington, University Press of Kentucky (2009) pp 767-8 2. For information about German heritage of the region, see: Don Heinrich Tolzmann, "German Heritage Guide to the Greater Cincinnati Area," Second edition Milford, Ohio: Little Miami Publoshing Co. (2004). Also: Encyclopedia of N. Ky, pp 394-5.

## WZIP: "The Voice of Northern Kentucky"

From the Encyclopedia of Northern Kentucky

WZIP, "The Voice of Northern Kentucky," went on the air October 5, 1947. This was the first Northern Kentucky broadcast station after WCKY moved to Cincinnati in 1939.

"ZIP," as it was called, had its offices and studios atop the building at the southwest corner of 6th and Madison in Covington. Its tower stills stands just east of I-75 at Goebel Park in Covington.

The station began as a result of a year-long competition between two local groups to obtain a license that the Federal Communication Commission had made available in 1946. The winning group, Northern Kentucky Airways, was made up of Arthur Eilerman, Gregory Hughes, and Charles Topmiller. The station's frequency was set at 1050 kilocycles. It was a daytime station, with a 250-watt power base.

WZIP supported the local community through innovative programming, including frequent interviews with community newsmakers, public officials, educators, business leaders, and religious figures. It features local entertainers, sports teams, farm news, civic groups and events, and man-on-the-street interviews.

Among its on-air personalities was Ernie Waites, Greater Cincinnati's first black disc-jockey. Its local religious programming included a Saturday morning show with a rabbi from the Temple of Israel on Covington's Scott Boulevard.

Station president, Arthur Eilerman, was elected president of the Kentucky Broadcasters Association in1957; the only Northern Kentuckian to ever hold the post. His wife, Carmen, was a well-known personality who served as announcer, interviewer, and program director. Among her shows, produced



Arthur and Carmen Eilerman inside the WZIP studios, Covington *Courtesy: Kenton County Public Library Archives* 

with studio audiences, were Carmen's Corner, Bulletin Board, and Down Memory Lane.

The station was sold in 1957 to Leonard Goorain and Alfred Kratz of Cincinnati. They sold it two years later to a group headed by Edward Skotch, who moved the offices to the Vernon Manor Hotel in Cincinnati. Skotch's group sold the station in 1960 to Carl, Robert, and Richard Lindner. After subsequent owner changes, 1050 AM operates today as WTSJ, a talk and Christian music station.

# A Look Back at The Headlines

An on-going feature reliving local headlines. This issue features: The Covington Journal – January 30, 1875.

### Local Headlines

"An investigation of the city's accounts is to be had. Let it be in great detail and thorough."

"The ringworm is prevalent. It is eruptive."

"The Sixth Street engine house has been pronounced unsafe, and its reconstruction will present an opportunity to put in a little job."

"It may not be out of order to remind the Street Commissioner that the fine thoroughfares of Covington have not been in worse condition than they are now for many a year."

### Advertisements

The Covington Journal is published every Saturday One-year delivery... \$1.00

H. Feltman manufacturer of fine cigars and dealer in tobacco #28 & #30 Pike Street between Madison and Washington Streets.

Family Grocery Market — 7th and Madison Codfish (per pound)..... 8¢ Eggs (per dozen)..... 25¢ Laundry soap (per bar)..... 9¢ Sugar (per pound)..... 12¢

Important to all purchasers The Hersome Gaiter the most comfortable shoe ever invented for sale only at Hickey's Shoe Store 616 Madison Street (directly opposite Pike)

## Want to be Published?

The Kenton County Historical Society is always looking for new authors for article submissions to their two publications, the *Bulletin*, and *Northern Kentucky Heritage* magazine.

Bulletin articles should be about a Kenton County topic, 2-6 pages of typed text, and have at least two references. Magazine submissions should be at least 8 pages in length with footnotes, and should cover a topic within the 10-county region.

> Submit Bulletin articles to: Kenton County Historical Society P.O. Box 641 Covington, KY 41011 or nkyhist@zoomtown.com

## Reminder

Please check out our new website if you have not done so already!

www.kentoncountyhistoricalsociety.org

"Cincinnati, the Queen City 1788-1912," Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Co. (1912) Vol 4, pp 50-51.

5. The New York Times, 22 Feb 1908. See also: Joseph Gastright, "Wilhelm Hildebrand and the 1895 Reconstruction of the Roebling Suspension Bridge," Northern Kentucky Heritage Magazine, VIII, #1 (2000).

6. Washington Roebling, Washington Roebling's Father: A Memoir of John A. Roebling. Edited by Donald Sayenga, Reston, VA: ASCE Press (2009) p.201.

7. Email from Paul Tenkotte to Don Tolzmann (19 Oct 2009).

8. Stephen T. McMurtry in: Encyclopedia of N. Ky, pp. 125-6. Regarding Bruce's service to the bridge company, see: Annual Report of the Presidents and Directors to the Stockholders of the Covington and Cincinnati Bridge Company, Year Ending Feb 28th 1867, p. 93

9. Steely Library Special Collections, Northern Kentucky University, Highland Heights, KY 41099.

10. Email from Virginia Kerst (8 Nov 2009).

11. Interview with Virginia Kerst (8 November 2009)

12. W. Roebling, Washington Roebling's Father, page 201.

13. Information compiled by Ralph Wolff from Covington City Directories at Kenton County Library.

14. Email from Ralph Wolff to Don H. Tolzmann (28 October 2009) 15. Cindy Schroeder, "Hall Restorers confident they made right decision," Cincinnati Enquirer (22 May 2003). For a picture tour of the interior of the IOOF Hall before the fire, see Northern Kentucky Heritage VII, #2, Spring 2000.

## Then and Now





Here are two views of the intersection of Montague and Prisoner's Lake Drive in Devou Park. Left photo circa 1920, right image 2013.

Left photo courtesy William Behringer Journals. Right photo courtesy Dr. Richard Cardosi.

# Mystery Photo

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



ANSWER:

Licking River scene, c. 1905

## Kenton County Historical Society

November/December 2013

ARTICLES FROM BACK ISSUES ARE INDEXED ON OUR WEBSITE!

Published bi-monthly by The Kenton County Historical Society Membership, which includes the Bulletin, \$20.00 per year

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### I Bet You Didn't Know

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

November 2, 1734: Quite possibly Kentucky's most famous pioneer, Daniel Boone was born in Pennsylvania.

November 3, 1806: Aaron Burr was charged with treason and tried in Frankfort. He was defended by Henry Clay and acquitted.

November 10, 1782: General George Rogers Clark led a force of Kentuckians against Miami Indians who had been terrorizing Kentucky settlements.

November 11, 1861: The *Lady Polk*, a 15,000 pound cannon mounted 180 feet above the Mississippi River at Columbus, Kentucky, exploded during a test firing killing 11 men.

December 1, 1776: Kentucky County was established by the Virginia assembly.

"On This Day In Kentucky" - Robert Powell

## **Programs and Notices**

### Kentucky State History Awards

Robert Webster, local history author, Kenton County Historical Society vice-president and *Bulletin* editor, will receive a state-wide award from the Kentucky Historical Society in the "publications" category for his new book *The Beverly Hills Supper Club: The Untold Story Behind Kentucky's Worst Tragedy* (Newport, Kentucky: Saratoga Press, 2012). The award will be presented on Friday, November 8, 2013, 5:30 p. m., at the Old State Capitol during the Kentucky Historical Society awards ceremony at its Annual Meeting and Kentucky History Celebration.

Northern Kentucky Regional History Day organizers will also receive an award from the Kentucky Historical Society.

### Behringer-Crawford Museum Update

Opening of the exhibit, "Vietnam: Our Story," Behringer-Crawford Museum, Saturday, November 9, 2013, 10:00 a.m. The schedule includes talks by retired Congressman and West Point graduate Goeff Davis, and by historian Jim Claypool; and music: the Holmes ROTC band, and choral music directed by Karl Lietzenmayer. Besides timeline and artifacts, "Vietnam: Our Story" will feature oral history interviews of veterans by curator Tiffany Hoppenjans, in accord with the Library of Congress veterans' oral history program.

### Annual Society Christmas Party

Invited to the annual Christmas Party are all members, friends and guests of the Kenton County Historical Society, at the Behringer-Crawford Museum, Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p. m. The festivities will include food, drink, music and museum tours.

### Mark Your Calendars

The next Northern Kentucky Regional History Day is scheduled for March 22, 2014. Mark your calendars now to take part in one of the most important events of the year regarding local/regional history. Held at Northern Kentucky University, the day-long event will include numerous presentations on topics of local history, as well as a large display area with booths and tables manned by local history societies, book publishers, etc.