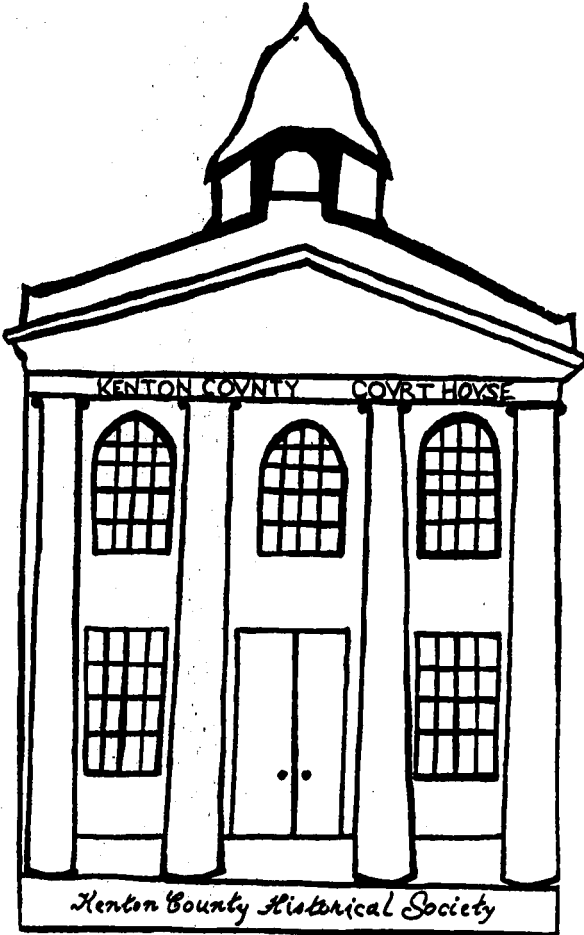


KENTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
(organized in 1977; non-profit;  
member, Historical Confederation  
of Kentucky)



October 1993

## Kenton County Historical Society

P.O. Box 641  
Covington, Kentucky 41011

REVIEW

October 1993

### PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

On Tuesday, October 5, 7:00 p. m., at the Kenton County Public Library (Erlanger branch), John B. Deye will speak on ...

### THE CINCINNATI GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY--THE PAST 150 YEARS.

In 1987 the company celebrated 150 years of service. It started in 1837 as the Cincinnati Gaslight and Coke Co.

Mr. Deye will be representing C. G. and E. This program will be hosted by the Kenton County Historical Society as one of its series of monthly educational programs. This program will be free and open to the public.

Tuesday

October 5

7:00 p. m.

Kenton County Public Library (Erlanger branch)  
3130 Dixie Highway (next to Krogers)  
Erlanger.

### OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS OF KCHS 1993-1994

The following were elected (or re-elected) for the next term: John Boh (President), Ted Harris (Vice-president), Karl Lietzenmayer (Secretary), John Dietz (Treasurer), Dorothy Wieck (Director), and George Chavez (Director). The terms of the following Directors were unexpired: Mike Flannery, Sharon Pigg, Joseph Gastright, and Shawn Ryan.

### ERLANGER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Erlanger Historical Society proudly presents HERITAGE DAY, September 19, at the Railroad Park. ARTS, CRAFTS, & FOOD. Noon until dusk.

### MEMBERSHIP/SUBSCRIPTIONS

We thank those persons who have so far become members (or renewed membership) in the KCHS and who have also subscribed to our new biannual magazine, Northern Kentucky Heritage.

PEOPLE NAMED RICH IN PRESENT-DAY KENTON COUNTY

"Starting at a hill overlooking the Ohio river where Ft. Bates commanded not only the river but Pleasant Run Valley, an old road may be traced...to Ft. Rich which took the name from the family who owned the land....From here... almost a mile to Ft. Perry...South of these two forts may be found a few vestiges of the rifle pits which ran from Bromley to a point opposite Coney Island, a distance of some ten miles."

--"THE RAMPARTS OF THE THREE CITIES" by D. Collins Lee (March 1946) in Bulletin Historical and Philosophical Society of Ohio, Cincinnati, volume 4, No. 1.

In Cincinnati, even before the Civil War, several persons named Rich had lived there. And by 1873 Thomas B. Rich, a conductor for the Pacific Coast and St. Louis railroad, lived in the Queen City. By the late 1880s Thomas B. is still there, and David W. Rich has begun a long career as a Post Office employee. Years later in 1918, Carl W. Rich is listed as a depot passenger agent for the Cincinnati, Columbus, and Cleveland railroad. But Carl W. Rich would become an attorney, politician and public official (such as city solicitor, Judge, congressman) and in-between serve as Mayor of Cincinnati for "three non-successive terms" in the late 1940s and early 1950s. However, local records do not indicate that Carl Rich's family is related to the prominent Rich families of Kenton County Kentucky (street directories, newspaper index).

Some family records say that Thomas and Stephen Rich (from a Quaker family) and others came from Pennsylvania by Flat-boat. Thomas settled in Boone County near Big Bone where some descendents have remained. However, the family of Thomas' grandson, Charles Coulson Rich (1809-1883), re-settled in Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Iowa. Furthermore, this family became Mormons and promoted their new religion in California, Utah, and Idaho where Charles is buried (Kentucky Post, 9-24-1991).

According to tax records, Stephen Rich (born 1857) and Jane Blackburn Rich (married at Cecil county Maryland) paid taxes in Campbell county (on property in present-day Kenton) by 1801. Later their estate of 450 acres was divided equally among nine children ("Pioneer Families of Kentucky," by Flora Rich Maddox and Florence E. Rich, Christopher Gist Papers, volume 6, March 22, 1955).

Only the youngest of their five boys, John, was born in Kentucky (1797). John and Susan Ross had eight children, and they lived "approximately, the corner of Sleepy Hollow and Old State Roads" in present-day Park Hills. Their oldest son, Samuel R. Rich (1818-1895), was a farmer located in present-day Ft. Mitchell (Maddox and Rich and 1883 county atlas). Samuel R. Rich's oldest child, Sarah, married John Leathers (obituary, Kentucky Post, 3-17-1910), who was twice elected to two-year terms as Kenton County Sheriff (Daily Commonwealth, 8-2-1880 and 8-12-1882).

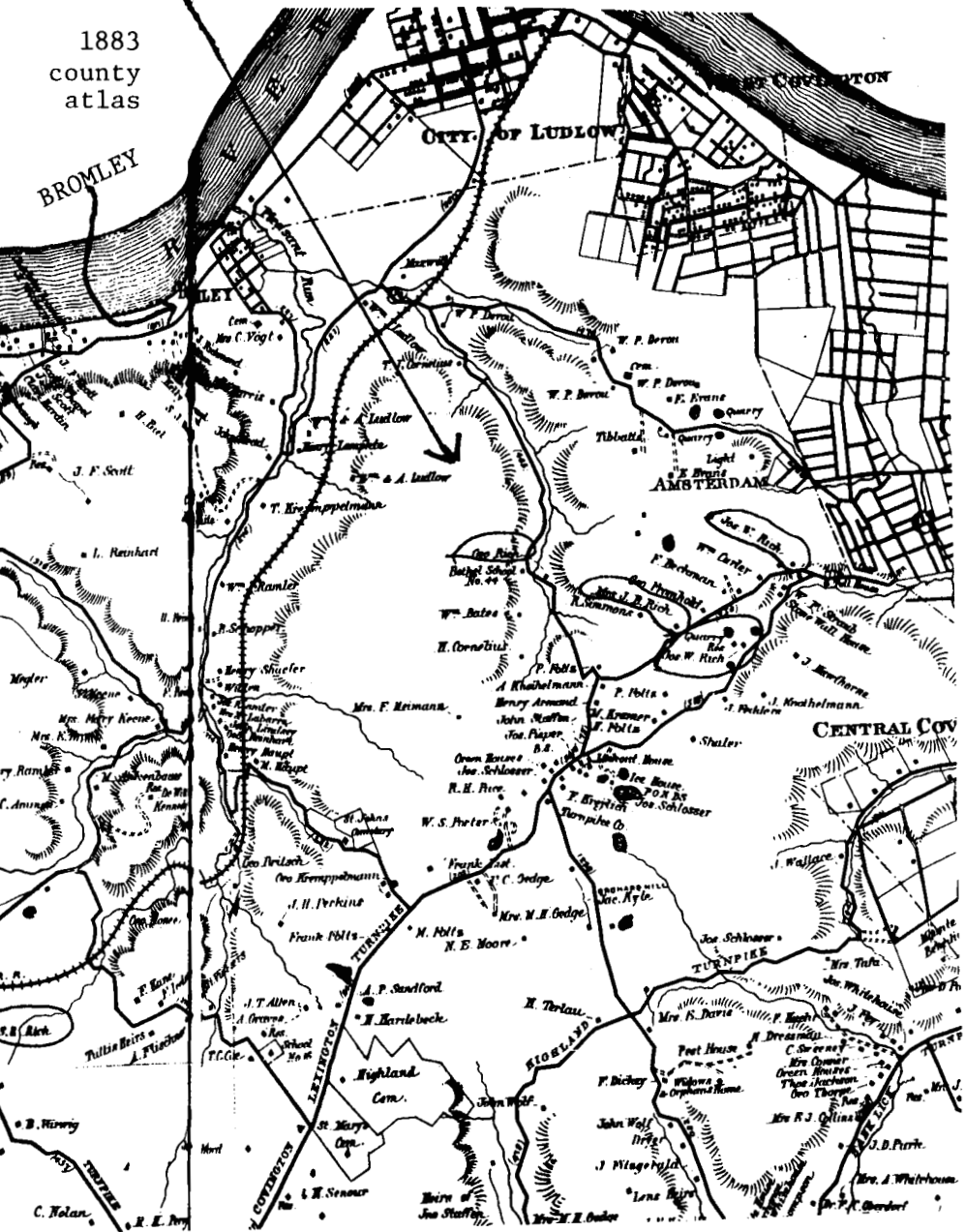
Stephen and Jane Blackburn Rich's second youngest son, Joseph (born 1789 or 1791 in Pennsylvania) married three times. His first wife, Sally Kyle, was, it is thought, a sister of Jacob Kyle (Kyle's Lane). In the early Campbell County courthouse records, Joseph is referred to, along with brother Allen, and Alfred Sanford, Wm. Moore and Joseph Kennedy when they are ordered to mark a road "from said Carneal's Ferry to intersection of the Georgetown Road by Joseph Kennedy's..." (Order book, November 28, 1820). Joseph had six children. For many years his youngest, Joseph Willis Rich (1841-1911), known as "Stonequarry Joe," supplied stone and was a contractor located then in present-day Park Hills on the Lexington Pike. Joseph W. is credited by one source with building the "first mile" of the "old Lexington Turnpike," (now Dixie Highway) and other streets (Maddox and Rich). According to the 1895 city directory, he also once was "Secretary" (owner?) of the Covington Sand and Stone company, 1205 Madison. A grandson of Joseph W. Rich, Wallace Stewart Rich, became a Vice-president of the Stewart Iron Works, Covington. Joseph Willis and Virginia Arnold Rich (daughter of Moses and Sarah Owens Arnold) had twelve children (six died in infancy), including Florence E. Rich (unmarried), who gathered data in Kentucky in order to piece together much of the Rich family tree (Rich genealogy).

Stephen and Jane Blackburn Rich's third youngest son, Stephen, Jr., (born 1787 in Pennsylvania) married Nancy Drucker, and they had eleven children. They included Jane who married Dr. Piner, Elizabeth who married Robert Mann, and Joseph ("Brickhouse Joe") who married Missouri Bell Elliot. Stephen, Jr., is buried "in Piner" (Rich genealogy).

In the early Campbell county courthouse records, which ordered the laying out of new road sections, "Stephen Rich" is referred to and could have been the elder Stephen,

"FORT RICH"

1883  
county  
atlas



or his third son. But these orders once refers to a point where Grassy creek intersects with a road, and another time to the road to Falmouth at "Stephen Rich's lane" (Order books, August 27, 1821 and May 26, 1828).

Stephen and Jane Blackburn Rich's fourth youngest (and second oldest) son, Alfred ("Allen") Rich (born 1787 in Pennsylvania) married Nancy Helm, and they had three children. Their oldest son, Allen (born 1825), married Louisa A. Hallem, and they had nine children. Their fifth child, George (born 1854), would seem to be the man located on Sleepy Hollow road (near Ft. Rich) in the 1883 county atlas, and he once also had a grocery store at Banklick and Robbins streets in Covington (street directory). Allen's oldest of nine, Ira, had a son, Bert, who earned a reputation for his furniture and moving and storage business, partly through effective use of slogans (Maddox and Rich). Bert and his second wife, Ann Dressman, had three children, Vivian, Nona, and Bert, Jr. Finally, Allen had, it appears, a twin brother, Joseph B. Rich (1825-1881), who was a farmer, and whose widow is listed in the 1883 county atlas as located on Old State Road (Rich genealogy).

The first son of Stephen and Jane Blackburn Rich was Samuel (born 1777 in Pennsylvania). Samuel located "on Grassy creek," which, it was noted, flows more or less between Kenton and Pendleton counties (Rich genealogy). Samuel and Sarah Rittenhouse Rich had eleven children. When Samuel passed away (possibly in 1843) his 1469 acres were divided among his wife and Alfred, Joseph, Stephen, Samuel, Jr., Blucher, Margaret, Caroline, Susan, Harriet, and Flore (another daughter, Jane, may have been deceased). Upon Sarah's death her property was divided among Harriet, Thomas Williams (a son and a daughter married a Williams), and Blucher, who for some reason received the major portion of over 200 acres including the "homestead" house on "Falmouth road" (Inventories, book 1, November 29, 1843, and book 4, December 3, 1860).

Waurega McNay Rich thought that Rich road was "built" in the 1860s by the sons of Samuel Rich Jr (1818-1892), one of Samuel and Sarah Rittenhouse Rich's eleven children. Nevertheless Rich road lays on a ridge which divides Cruise's creek from Little Cruise's creek west of where they join to flow, like Grassy creek to the south, into the Licking river. Rich road also provides a more direct route between the city of Piner and the city of Morning View, and the road appears to bisect land all of which it seems was once owned by a Rich.

Most of the dentists, physicians, attorneys (and maybe politicians) from the Rich family were descended from

Samuel Jr., nicknamed "Devil Sam." But they were also descended from his wife, Mary Stowers, who was descended from "a sister of Daniel Boone" (Maddox and Rich).

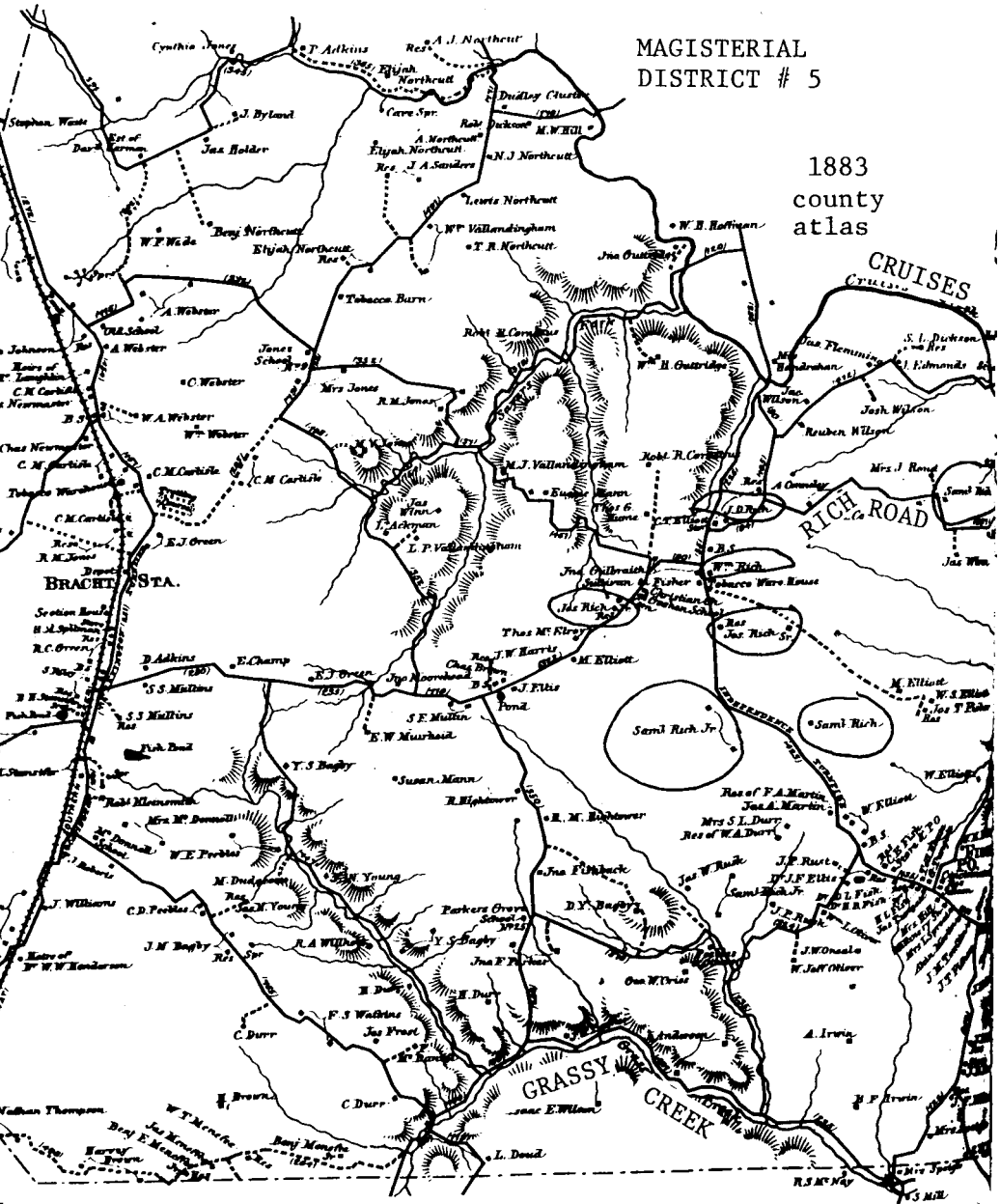
One of Devil Sam's sons, John Stephen Rich (1857-1939), had eight children including Dr. Albert Rich, a dentist from Piner who practiced in Covington (Coppin building), Erlanger, and other locations, but who settled in Williamstown (obituary, Kentucky Post, 11-23-84). Another of John Stephen's sons, Dr. Stephen Rich, once had a dentist office at 1037 Madison street, Covington.

Another of John Stephen's sons, Blucher, married Susan Elliot and they had seven children, two of whom were dentists, Dr. Charles A. Rich, who once had an office at Pike and Madison, and Alfred, an oral surgeon, located in Doctor's building on East Seventh street, Covington. Alfred had a son, Dr. James R. Rich (born 1927), physician, who is practicing in the Taylor Mill area.

Devil Sam and Mary Stowers' son, Joseph Rich (1847-1926), married Helen Lambert, daughter of John Lambert (born 1812 in Ireland) who was a "charter member" of First Baptist in Covington, but who moved out to the country and helped "organize" Oak Island Baptist Church (now relocated to Moffett road). However, Joseph Rich moved to Covington, became a policeman. Later Joseph became superintendent of the Ludlow Lagoon Amusement Park (1902-03 Ludlow directory and Maddox and Rich).

One of Joseph and Helen's sons was Dr. Samuel P. Rich. A daughter, Flora, became a schooteacher, and married Reverend John L. Maddox. Another son, Robert L. Rich, became a fireman for the Cincinnati, New Orleans, and Pacific railroad (known locally as the Cincinnati Southern), and also a railroad engineer's union official. Joseph and Helen's oldest child, John Lambert Rich (died 1930), became a prosperous attorney, who was a Master Commissioner "for six years" (Maddox and Rich). He did much commercial work in various locations, and, according to a legal acquaintance still in that office, worked (but was not a partner) in Cincinnati for Galvin and Galvin, a prominent corporate law office which did much work on both sides of the river.

John Lambert Rich married Bertha "Aitcheson," and their three children grew up at 412 Garrard street. Marjorie became a teacher possibly best known as Dean of Girls at Holmes High school (Maddox and Rich). Dr. Murray L. Rich saw service in World War II, and was a Covington Physician for some 30 years, in the Doctors building, 33 East Seventh street (Obituary, Kentucky Post, 9-14-84). John Lambert and Bertha Aitcheson's youngest child was Ralph P. Rich.





Ralph P. Rich was a partner in the law firm McGarry, Rich and Goodenough (1938-39 directory, obituary). In 1954 his firm was McGarry, Rich and Bryson. He was for years also involved in the Covington city solicitor's office. And, he was also appointed City Manager in 1958 (interim), 1960-62 and 1964-66. Between his two full terms as City Manager he was retained because of his legal experience to "prepare plans for acquiring land" for the new Internal Revenue Service Center that was arranged through congressman Brent Spence's office to be built in Covington near



the riverfront, near the new I75 expressway which was opened in the early 1960s (Kentucky Post and Times-Star front page story, 1-24-62).

A former law partner recalled that Ralph was a good source to find an answer to a difficult legal question. At his death, only his wife and his brother, Dr. Murray Rich, were listed as survivors (Kentucky Post, 3-22-77). His wife, Nancy Rucker Rich, died in 1979 (Kentucky Post, 10-23-79). According to a cousin, Alberta Lockhart, Ralph occasionally visited his relatives on Rich road.



Marjorie Rich



Dr. Murray Rich



RALPH RICH  
City Manager

--Marjorie, (Dr.) Murray, and Ralph were not descended from those sons of Stephen and Jane Blackburn Rich who had located in the more immediate vicinity of Covington (present-day Sleepy Hollow road, etc.).

--Marjorie, (Dr.) Murray, and Ralph were descended from the first son of Stephen and Jane Blackburn Rich, Samuel (born 1777), who had located at the southern end of the county north of Grassy creek (Rich genealogy).

--John Lambert and Bertha Aitchenson Rich and their children, Marjorie, Murray, and Ralph resided at 412 Garrard street, Covington (street directory).

(by John Boh)

**A CALL FOR PAPERS:** Northern Kentucky Heritage, a new bi-annual magazine, wants to publish interesting and significant papers on local and regional history--especially on topics related to Northern Kentucky, covering (not exclusively) the counties of Boone, Campbell, Gallatin, Pendleton, Owen, Grant, Carroll, and Kenton counties. Students, scholars, researchers are invited to make submissions to the following address: Karl Lietzenmayer

Editorial Board  
Northern Kentucky Heritage  
c/o Kenton County Historical Society  
P. O. Box 641/Covington, Ky 41012



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