

BULLETIN

of the

Kenton County Historical Society

organized in 1977; non-profit member,
Historical Confederation of Kentucky,
Publisher of the new regional magazine,
Northern Kentucky Heritage



INSIDE SEE:

HISTORY OF COVINGTON
BY O.J. WIGGINS
(9th in a series)

October 1994

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

October 1994

On Tuesday, October 4, at 7:00 PM, at the Kenton County Public Library (Erlanger Branch), Daniel Miller, a Professor of English Literature at NKU, will speak on.....

APPALACHIAN MIGRATION TO NORTHERN KENTUCKY

His talk will be based partly on his book, "A Crack in the Sidewalk". The author will be able to discuss some topics regarding the interaction of Appalachian culture in contemporary society. These topics are familiar to many people in Northern Kentucky. But the author will be able to explore some recent literature about Appalachian migration.

This educational program will be sponsored by the Kenton County Historical Society and will be free and open to the public.

Tuesday, October 4, 7:00 PM
Kenton County Historical Society (Erlanger Branch)
3130 Dixie Highway (next to Krogers)

Northern Kentucky Heritage

Our new regional magazine is now one year old. The next issue starts the second year. Now is the time to renew your subscription to receive the next issue due out this fall. Subscribe now so that no issue will be missed. Some featured articles include: "Covered Bridges of N. Kentucky", "KKK Murder in Owen County", "The Last Mayor of Latonia, KY", three "Sam Hill Stories" and more.

Subscription with membership in the Kenton County Historical Society - \$25.00

Senior citizen and student subscription with membership in KCSH - \$20.00

Subscription without membership - \$20.00

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

HISTORY OF COVINGTON
by O.J. Wiggins
Daily Commonwealth, May 31, 1884
(9th in a series herein transcribed)

RECORDS OF 1833 CONTINUED

June 5 -- Mr. Ross refused to act as Tax Commissioner and M.M. Benton was chosen in his stead as Tax Commissioner and Assessor, and his compensation fixed at ten dollars.

James G. Arnold was appointed Assistant Assessor.

June 20 -- Hiram Martin was allowed \$7 for making a desk for the Council Chamber; Carey Clemons was allowed \$10 for making table and benches, and A.L. Greer was allowed \$1.12 for candle sticks furnished.

George M. Southgate resigned as Trustee, and John B. Casey was appointed.

Isaac Martin was elected Town Marshall, an office just created. He was also appointed tax collector.

June 25 -- Mr. Casey having declined to act as Town Trustee, William A. Elliot was appointed (1).

July 3 -- The following unique order was made:

"On motion ordered that the sum of one thousand dollars be the amount of revenue tax for the town of Covington to be collected from slaves and real estate in said Town, for the year 1833."

As a sample of street contracting in those early days, Martin Hardin was granted contract July 12, 1833, to grade and macadamize Greenup Street to 3/4 of one cubic foot, and 15 cents per running foot for curbing.

Oct. 2 -- It was ordered that markets be held every day except the Sabbath.

Nov. 6 -- Ten dollars was appropriated for a town bell.

The report of the Clerk of the Markets for 1833 shows stalls rented to Reese Todhunter, Isaac Martin & Co., Lissie Balorg, Isaac Ireland and George Zell.

Dec. 4 -- The Board accepted a proposition from Jefferson Phelps and E.G. Bladen to build a steam ferryboat.

Dec. 11 -- Dr. J.W. King petitioned the Trustee for privilege to address that body on the subject of a macadamized road from Covington to Lexington. He was requested to address the citizens at large, and a mass meeting was called for the 14th inst.

At the same meeting (Dec. 11), H.H. Phelps, Nathaniel Price, and William Elliot were appointed Judges, and Hiram Martin, Clerk of an election to be held at the Methodist Chapel from 10 a. m. to 4 p. m., December 14th, to decide upon the question of seeking a City Charter.

1834

Jan. , 1834. a settlement with J.G. Arnold, City Collector, for 1831, was reported.

which shows: "Amount of property assessed \$161,260, which at 29 1/2 cents per \$100, amounts to \$475.72 "

February 5, 1834, Elijah Owens was granted permission to fence the graveyard at his own expense, or to collect private subscriptions if he desired.

At the next meeting (February 11th), Council took the work on its own shoulders, to be paid by private subscriptions.

Mar 5 -- The Committee to settle with the City Collector for 1833 reported:

Am't charged to Collector of town tax	\$ 930.35
Am't charged to Collector of street tax	\$1,632.00
Total	\$2,592.95
Credited by am't paid into treasury	\$2,378.00
Balance uncollected	\$ 118.40

A rather clean slate, speaking well for the diligence of the Collector.

The Committee to settle with the Treasurer reported:

Am't of money received from Collector, 1833	\$2,378.62
Am't of money received from the Treasurer, 1832	\$ 96.13
Am't of money received from the Collector, 1832	\$ 82.12
Total	\$2,556.87

CREDIT

Paid out by Treasurer, 1833	
To C. Clemons for building engine house	\$ 225.00
To M.M. Benton, Clerk for 1833	\$ 25.00
To M.M. Benton for record for 1833	\$ 46.12
For Treasury book	\$.36
Appropriation for a well, Madison site	\$ 7.25
Appropriation for well, Scott Street	\$ 10.00
William Elliot for plough	\$ 8.75
M. Hardin, work on Greenup Street	\$1,997.30
E.R. Bartleson, for printing	\$ 3.50
Appropriation, Madison Street	\$ 3.00
Clemons for benches and tables for council room	\$ 10.00
J.G. Arnold, expenses to Georgetown in giving bond in injunction case	\$ 14.00
Jas. Taylor for his fee bills	\$ 5.75
C.A. Littlefield, keeping well on Greenup Street in repair	\$ 20.00
Postage on packages to Georgetown	?
Clemons, building Market house	\$ 119.78
A. Connelly work on Second Street	\$ 15.00
C.A. Littlefield, plastering Council Chamber	\$ 22.00
Stove of Council Chamber	\$ 3.00
Drayman, hauling timber, dirt & c	\$ 1.10
A. Connelly, redemption money	\$ 7.22
Cutting down -?- Greenup	\$ 17.12
Total	\$2,532.92
Leaving balance due Treasurer	\$ 6.62

Signed H. Martin Chairman

At the same meeting an ordinance was passed granting \$2.50 to the first waterman who should arrive with his cask filled at any fire after night, and \$1 when the fire occurred in day time; and also fixing compensation for all water hauled to fires at 37 1/2 cents for each cask and 12 1/2 cents for each barrel.

Isaac Martin was allowed \$70 for his services as City Collector for the year 1833.

March 15, 1834 -- Messrs. Fairbanks & Co. were granted for two years the exclusive weighing to weigh hay & c. in the town, their scales to be erected upon the northwest corner of the public square; and Nathaniel Price was appointed weighing master. The Clerk was instructed to secure from the Secretary of State a copy of the act of the Legislature passed and signed on the 24th day of February, 1834, incorporating the town of Covington.

THE TOWN IS INCORPORATED

The first election under the city charter was held April 5, 1834. George Bucker and W.W. Wade acting as judges, and Hamilton Martin as clerk, by authority of the Council.

The following were the officers chosen: Mayor, Mortimer M. Benton; Councilmen, William Hopkins, John T. Levis, William Elliot, William Wright Southgate, John B. Casey, John A. Goodson, John Mackoy, and James G. Arnold.

The newly elected Council convened at the Council Chamber April 10, and after taking the oath of office (administered by George M. Southgate, J.P.C.C.) called John T. Levee to the chair, and elected Hamilton Martin clerk of the city.

Edward G. Bladen was elected City Marshall, defeating Martin Harden by a vote of 7 to 1. Mr. Arnold voting for Mr. Hardin. Messrs. Hopkins, Casey and Mackoy were appointed to lay off the city into Wards.

Messrs. Southgate, Goodson, and Lewis were appointed to draft rules and regulations for the government of the Mayor and City Council; and Messrs. Arnold, Southgate, and Mackoy were appointed to draft a "code of laws and ordinances for the better government of the city."

At the next meeting April 15, 1834, the committees made their reports, and the first Tuesday in each month at 4 p.m. was set as the time for regular meetings. It was resolved to have standing committees on Propositions and Grievances, on Law, on Ways and Means, on Internal Improvements and on Claims, consisting of three members each.

Mr. Casey, from the Committee on Wards, reported, "Dividing by the alley running north and south first below Greenup Street and the cross division east and west by Third Street, numbering the Wards 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th. First Ward commencing at the mouth of the Licking and running back to Third Street and down to said alley, Second Ward -- West of said alley and bounding on the Ohio River back to Third Street; Third Ward -- Immediately back and south of the First; Fourth Ward -- Immediately back and south of the Second Ward, both divided by the above named alley."

Isaac Cooper was appointed Assessor for the year 1834.

Platt Kennedy was collecting taxes in 1830, and on the 22nd of April 1834

Council decided that having failed to collect taxes to the amount of \$54 58 1/2, he would have to pay that amount himself. Collectors of later years would find this kind of decision rather hard to execute with thousands of dollars left in their hands at the time of the expiration of their term of office.

At the same meeting an ordinance was passed fixing the license for all pay entertainments at ten times the amount of admission for grown persons, and a fee of fifty cents to the Mayor of signatures and seal.

April 22, 1834. Council passed its first act in regard to schools. It consisted of four sections. The first made it unlawful for any person to open a school without a certificate of qualification from the Trustee; the second assessed a fine of from \$5.00 to \$20.00 for a violation of the first. The third section named Henderson H. Phelps, George M. Southgate, George B. Marshall, Milton Herndon, and Bushrod W. Foley as Trustees for 1834, and the fourth section made it the duty of the Trustees to visit the schools at the request of their chairman and report to Council.

George B. Marshall was chosen City Treasurer for 1834.

April 25, the committee appointed to procure a new fire engine was instructed to sell the engine then owned by the city, taking in exchange as many leather buckets as they might deem expedient. May 6th this committee asked to be and was discharged because they hadn't sufficient means to purchase a suitable new engine.

At this meeting, coffee house licenses were granted to Jesse Gray on the corner of Greenup and Second Streets; Henry Kidd, on Second Street, three doors east of Scott; Thomas Collins, on Front Street, next door to Jesse Harlow's coffee house; Willis Payne, on Second Street; William Joyner, on corner, Madison and Second Street; Edward F. Fowler, on Greenup Street.

Hanson Drew and Wm. Musselman were accepted as bondsmen for City Treasurer Marshall. Robert H. Ball was appointed Clerk of the Markets for 1834.

Robert H. Ball was granted tavern license for the corner of Greenup and Market Streets. B. W. Foley was appointed Deputy Marshall for the First Ward.

Mayor elect Benton took the oath of office before George M. Southgate, J.P. Campbell County, May 27, 1834, and presented it to Council May 31, 1834. At this meeting Dr. Milton Herndon, Cary Clemons and Dr. Harvey Lewis were appointed as a Board of Health, and the Marshall and his deputies were appointed Street Commissioners for sanitary purposes.(2). At this meeting Wm. Arthur was granted an auctioneer's license. Edward G. Bladen was elected City Collector for the year 1834.

June 7, 1834 G.B. Connelly was granted a license to run a wagon Sixteen dollars was allowed to pay for the first seal of the city. Wm. Woodruff made the seal, and John A. Goodson the press for it.

On the same date an ordinance was passed providing for a Street Commissioner for each Ward.

The tax assessment was fixed at 40 cents on each \$100.

Isaac Cooper was allowed \$15 for his services as Assessor for the year 1834. The ordinance appointing B.W. Foley Deputy Marshall for the First Ward was repealed and Martin Hardin was appointed Deputy Marshall for the City.

William W. Wade was appointed Street Commissioner for the First Ward, Samuel Pence for the Second Ward, Andrew Ross for the Third, and Thomas

Johnson for the Fourth.

June 20, 1834, the first workhouse was established in the cellar of a Mr. Lamb, for the city paying \$2 per month rental.

E. Garnett was granted a tavern license on Greenup Street.

July 1, 1834, City Marshall Bladen resigned and Deputy Marshall Hardin was elevated to that position.

A committee was appointed to report as to the cost of putting a fence around the public square "similar to that before the door of Pliny Bliss."

July 18 -- \$275 was paid to -- Hubbard for an engine.

Rease Todhunter was appointed Clerk of the Markets, in place of Robert H. Ball who refused to serve.

August 16, 1834 -- The following statement of expenses in preparing a Work-house, and allowed this date will give some idea of our earliest merchants:

Mackoy & Marshall, for nails, \$2.76; H.H. Phelps & Co. for lock \$1.50; John Patterson for smith work, \$16.87 1/2; Jno. A Goodson for lumber and work \$16.25.

Isaac Martin was appointed Deputy Marshall for the Fourth Ward.

Milton Lamb was appointed keeper of the Work House. The Work House was in reality only the Jail. So the Jail was in Milton Lamb's Cellar at this time, and he was the first jailer.

By a resolution of a committee at this meeting calling upon Jefferson Phelps to pay arrears due the city. It appears that Phelps rented from the three Town Trustees in 1828 the ferry privileges at the foot of Greenup Street for ten years at \$200 per year.

September 6 -- An ordinance was passed, Mr. Hopkins alone voting nay, providing for a municipal loan of \$5,000, "the name to be subscribed in stock of \$1,000 per share, payable in twenty years, with an annual interest of 6 per cents, and payable at such place or places as the purchasers and the Commissioner might select." E.S. Haines, of Cincinnati was to negotiate the sale, the only stipulation being that the stock was not to be sold for less than par.

Wm. Wright Southgate was appointed City Attorney for the ensuing year.

December 2 -- The Methodist Church on Garrard Street was relieved from paying tax.

December 29 -- The Committee appointed to settle with Jefferson Phelps reported that he has relinquished his rights to the ferry in consideration of the remission of balance due by him of \$264.90.

December 29th, City Collector Martin Hardin reported the following taxpayers as delinquent. We give their names as a species of incomplete city directory at that date:

Abbott, Thomas

Arnold, J.G.

Buckner, John

Finch

Fletcher, Lowell

Gray, John

Hanley, William

Hughs, Alex.

Hawley, John

Abbott, C.

Buckner, George

Drakes, James

Fisher, Gustavus

Cowter, B.D.

Griffin, David

Haden, John

Howard, Abner

Herbert, William

Johnson, Thomas A.
Kennedy, Sam'l Mrs.
Krout, Jacob
Leathers, John
Lcvassor, Eugenc
Musulman, William
Owen, Eliza
Poor, H.
Pitch, J.C.
Patterson, John
Roland, John
Riley, John
Southgate, G.M.
Southgate, W.W.
Swing --
Wayman, Wm. Mrs.
Westerman, Joseph

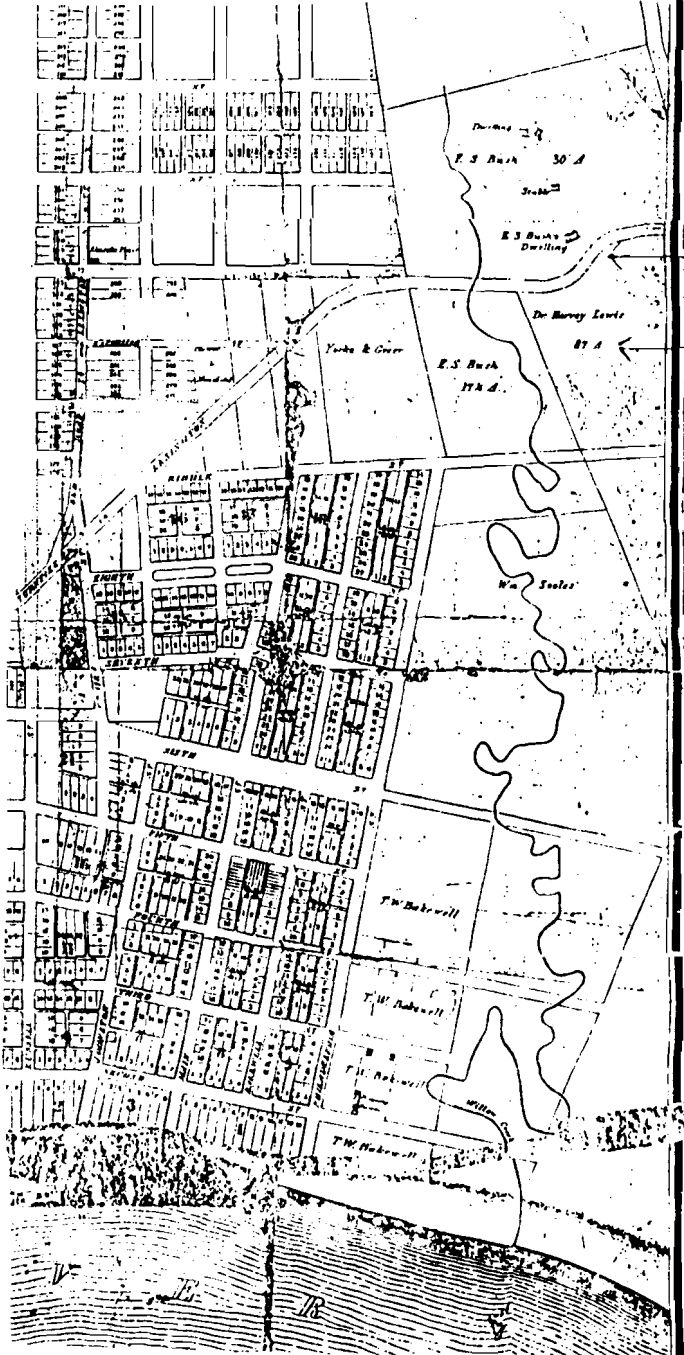
Jenkins, Heirs
Joyner, Lotho
Lancaster, Eliza
Luman, James
Martin, Hiram
Martin, Isaac
Porter's Heirs
Paxton, Joseph
Pace, James
Ramid, J.
Robinson, Simcon
Scholes' Heirs
Southgate, James
Sandford, C.B. & Co.
Strawbridge &
Brown
Wayman, Solomon

Endnotes

1. John B. Casey was probably a son of Joseph Casey, a Revolutionary War Veteran. John B. Casey's children included the following: George, James, John, Lewis, Albert, Richard, and Victoria. His brother Henry's children included the following: John, Ratsford, Joseph, Elizabeth, Lucinda, Samuel, and William ("Casey Family," compiled by Pat Wolcott). John B. Casey (circa 1800-1876) was the father ex-state Senator John B. Casey, and L.E. Casey, editor of the Daily Commonwealth (obituary, C.J., 6-10-76). John B. Casey, tobacconist, corner of Market and Greenup (1834 directory). J.B. Casey, born in Kentucky, residence near Covington Bank, corner of Third and Sixth; Dr. R. Casey, born Kentucky, tobacconist, residence between Fifth and Sixth and Greenup and Scott; William M.L. Casey, clerk at McKoys (1839-40 directory). James B. Casey, with Casey and Yager drygoods on east side of Madison north of Sixth; John B. Casey, wholesale grocer and produce commission merchant, southeast corner of Short and Lower Market Space, home southwest corner Fifth and Greenup; John M. Casey, attorney, southeast corner of Short and Lower Market, home southwest corner of Fifth and Greenup; Joseph Casey, tobacconist, east side of Banklick between Tenth and Eleventh; Ratsford Casey, tobacconist, east side of Main between Sixth and Seventh (1860 directory). John B. Casey elected President of the Covington and Lexington railroad (C.J. 7-10-52).

In 1820 The Temple Lodge No. 64, Free and Accepted Masons held their meetings in a building belonging to John B. Casey on the west side of Scott Street between Third and Fourth Streets; Casey married the widow of Benjamin Leathers who had operated a private "bank" at the northwest corner of Lower Market and Greenup Streets; in April 1828, 1829, 1830, 1831, and 1832 Casey was elected a town trustee; in 1830 Casey was located on the south side of Lower Market Street in a small frame building and he was "an extensive tobacco manufacturer"; in July 1831 Platt Kennedy, Thomas Gallant, and John B. Casey as members of the Covington Board of Health reported on smallpox and other health conditions; in October 1831 Casey was appointed to a committee on Finance with regard to a proposed bridge between Covington and Cincinnati which the Kentucky Legislature had to consider; in 1834 Casey was to be asked to advise a council committee regarding location of the boundaries of the Covington grave yard (Allen Webb Smith, Beginning at "The Point," A Documented History of Northern Kentucky and Environs, The Town of Covington in Particular, 1751 - 1834, printed locally, 1977).

2. Dr. Harvey Lewis, corner of Greenup and Fourth, home near Market Place; Dr. Milton Herndon, Third Street between Garrett and Greenup; Dr. John King, Fourth Street near the Licking River (1834 Directory); three years later in 1837 Dr. Theodore Wise, a native of Virginia and a recent graduate of the University Medical College, arrived in Covington and soon married Missouri Arnold, daughter of James G. Arnold. At the time Dr. Harvey Lewis owned a drug store on Lower Market; the town's other physicians then included Dr. King, Dr. C. Reynolds, and Dr. Williams (John E. Burns, "History of Covington to 1865," unpublished). Dr. Harvey Lewis once owned 87 acres in the present neighborhood of Lewisburg (Covington Map, 1840s).



Lexington
Turnpike
(now Dixie HGWY)

Dr. Harvey
Lewis' 87 acres

Riddle street
← (now Ninth)

1840s map

Historians Finish Book

Eric C. Nagle and Larry L. Ford have just recently finished compilation of their latest book entitled *Monument Inscriptions of Pendleton County, Kentucky*. The book, which took about two years to complete, indexes over 15,000 tombstone inscriptions in 120 Pendleton County cemeteries and contains approximately 280 pages. Many cemeteries not previously indexed have been included in this work.

The book, which is to be issued in hardbound, is currently available on pre-publication order and may be ordered by sending a check or money order for \$ 43.50 to E.C. Nagle, 5525 Neville Street, Dayton, Ohio 45424. The books should be printed and available sometime during June of this year.

Ford is currently President and Nagle is currently Vice President of The Pendleton County Historical and Genealogical Society.

**NOTICE:
CIRCULATION MANAGER NEEDED**

The staff of Northern Kentucky Heritage magazine is looking for a conscientious person to volunteer small amounts of time as needed.

All subscription data is already recorded in the Editor's computer, but computer experience would not necessarily be a requirement. Details of course can be worked out with obvious consideration given to the volunteer's own background and inclinations.

Subscriptions to the magazine come from the Northern Kentucky region, as well as from some state-wide and out-of-state locations.

The work should be a rewarding experience. Someone interested in advancing local and family history and willing to aid in the circulation of this new regional magazine might want to accept this position of Circulation Manager.

If interested contact by phone or drop a note to: Karl Lietzenmayer, Senior Editor, Northern Kentucky Heritage magazine, P.O. Box 641, Covington, Kentucky 41012.

RESULTS OF ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF THE KENTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOR 1994 - 1995

John Boh -- President
Ted Harris -- Vice-President
Karl Lietzenmayer -- Secretary
Joe Gastright -- Director
Shawn Ryan -- Director

Other current officers with unexpired terms:

John Dietz -- Treasurer
Sharon Pigg -- Director
Mike Flannery -- Director
George Chavez -- Director
Dorothy Wieck -- Director

**Kenton County Historical Society
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