



Bulletin of the Kenton County Historical Society

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If I Ever Live to Get Back Home:
Two families with Northern Kentucky Roots - the Oxleys and the Wests

Tip-toe Through the Tulips
A Vietnam Veteran Reminisces

If I Ever Live to Get Back Home:

Two families with Northern Kentucky Roots — the Oxleys and the Wests

Olivia Dohn

A large Greek Revival-style brick house with double-gallery porches stands shaded by trees with its side facing Madison Pike in Independence. This house remains the largest physical reminder of the West and Oxley families. Through an investigation of the two families focused on the 19th century, stories emerged of war and conflict, illnesses, Manifest Destiny, dreams of California gold, and a business that spanned the South.

Introduction

The Oxley House at 5234 Madison Pike is among the oldest properties in Independence and was likely built about 1847 under the ownership of Telemachus and Melinda Webster. It was eventually owned by Margaret Oxley, née West, the wife of Frederick G. Oxley.¹ F. G. Oxley was a successful businessman who ran the Oxley Stave Company, manufacturing barrels in Kentucky, Ohio, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, and Missouri.^{2 3 4}

Both the Wests and the Oxleys are longstanding families with living descendants in the area, and many members of the families are interred among the older stones in Independence Cemetery in southern Kenton County.

The Olivers & The Oxleys

The story of the Olivers and the Oxleys illustrates the great hardships that families in the 19th century endured, as well as the impressive mobility of families during a time when travel was slow, difficult, and often dangerous. Philadelphia Oliver was born in 1795 in Virginia to Revolutionary War veteran John Wesley Oliver and Elizabeth True.^{5 6} She moved with her family to Kentucky where she met Clare Oxley, born in 1799 in Fayette County, Kentucky. The couple married in Fayette County in 1823.⁷ They had at least four children born in Kentucky: Elizabeth Oxley, John Oliver Oxley, Thomas Jefferson Oxley,

and Benjamin Franklin Oxley.⁸ The family relocated to Randolph County, Missouri between 1832 and 1835, where Frederick Gholson Oxley, their fifth child, was born.⁹ Philadelphia's brother and sister-in-law remained in Cincinnati and the two corresponded with Philadelphia and her children occasionally, and some of those letters still remain. Clare Oxley died in the Mexican-American War, in the late 1840s, as a first lieutenant.¹⁰ Elizabeth, the first born child, married Felix G. Cockrill in Randolph County, Missouri in 1844.¹¹ He died soon afterwards and she remarried in 1852, only to die later that year.^{12 13}

In many of Philadelphia's own letters and those written by her sons, her hardships are mentioned. Philadelphia's mother Elizabeth also lived with the family in Missouri and passed away in 1856 at age 82.¹⁴ It could not have been easy to lose a husband, a mother, and a daughter all in the space of a decade. However, her hardships were not over; two of Philadelphia's sons were likely taken by conflict far away soon afterwards.

The Allure of the West

Many families, and especially many young men, felt the pull of the West during the mid-19th century. Gold was booming in California, and stories trickled back of glimmering dust that could turn pauper to prince. In one letter, Thomas J. Oxley described the allure of the West as a fever that threatened to sweep the entire region and deplete it of a quarter of its inhabitants. He described the symptoms as "...an inordinate and insatiable thirst after glittering dust accompanied with thrusting the hands violently into the pockets and withdrawing them very much disappointed."¹⁵ Although responsibility for the family allowed Philadelphia's sons to temporarily resist the temptation of fortune, Thomas J. Oxley, born ca. 1828, and John Oliver Oxley, ca. 1826, eventually journeyed westward.

Letters between the two sons, their mother Philadelphia, their uncle James Harvey Oliver, and aunt Sophia Oliver, show communication back home, giving a glimpse of family news, hopes, fears, and a little bit of judgement. Both young men signed the letters with their full proper names, but used personal names throughout the letters. Thomas Jefferson was Jef and John was Jack. When they mentioned their younger brother, F. G. Oxley, they called him Ghol. The correspondence began from Missouri. Thomas had moved from the Cincinnati area to Huntsville to be closer to his mother after all her misfortunes, including the death of their father. His letters were usually somewhat gloomy, but in Missouri that gloominess became more pronounced. He found no luck with his medical practice, and lamented that his older brother had not yet met his fortune either. However, John was heading to Danville, Missouri to see if he could be a more successful lawyer there.

At this time, they were writing to their uncle and aunt who still resided in Cincinnati. Thomas determined to set back for Cincinnati before spring in 1849. His letters shared his aspirations to find fortune in California, calling them “fanciful dreams” which he claimed were only temporary fits of fancy, cured by his mother’s unwillingness to let him go. His most ardent desire, he professed, was to provide for his mother and give her the happiness she deserved.¹⁶ However, by April 1852 he was writing home from Columbia, California and alluded to having been there for quite some time.

John also wrote to his uncle in 1849. He had just relocated to Danville and wrote on his new stationary, showing “John O. Oxley, Attorney at Law.” His letters were more optimistic, although he was troubled about weak points of his brother Thomas, harkening back to Thomas’ own fears for John. The two seemed to worry about each other in both a caring and chiding manner.

John too was concerned for his mother’s happiness after all her misfortune, and hoped that his law practice would be able to help her financially. He admitted that business was not as good as it could be, but he hoped it would pick up.¹⁷ By 1852, Thomas sent his brother’s love from his own letter from California.¹⁸



Above: Margaret Jane Oxley — courtesy Peggy Lietzenmayer
On the cover: The Oxley House, Independence, Kentucky
courtesy Karl Lietzenmayer

Thomas worked as a doctor in Columbia, California, although he dreamed of finding a profession that would be better for his health and disposition. John worked primarily as a lawyer, although Thomas wrote somewhat judgmentally about his brother’s inability to find employment that he considered worthwhile or properly compensating. Though the two kept the professions they had in Missouri, they also mined for gold and removed snow from mountains to sell out of an ice house expecting a large profit. They did not acquire the vast fortunes they had imagined. In the 1852 letter, Thomas already wrote of his golden dream being dispelled, but still hoped to make some money.¹⁹

By 1853, he wrote home a little more pessimistically. The ice house burned down, burning with it the large profit. Fortune had been fickle in finding gold, and he no longer dreamed of vast fortunes. He

missed Cincinnati, his acquaintances, and his family, who he imagined had forgotten him, died, or scattered. He even mentioned a certain Miss Emma whom he imagined might still be single and waiting for him in Cincinnati. When he referred to the future, he frequently added modifiers such as, "...if I live that long...", or, "...If I ever live to get back home..."^{20 21}

Thomas seemed to bounce between downs and ups. He wrote of the lovely climate, and left at the end a note that Uncle Harvey should send a few thousand dollars to invest in San Francisco, because "...it is destined before we are all dead and gone to be one of the largest and most flourishing cities in the union."²² At one moment he seemed about ready to leave California, at another to head to South America. At another point he considered Sacramento or San Francisco, but always circled around going home to Cincinnati or Missouri, perhaps for good. Through this sparse communication between 1849 and 1856, there are glimpses of Thomas' emerging political ideologies. He very much resented the influx of northern "blue bellied Yankees" coming into the area, swinging elections to "Black Republicans," a derogatory term for the emerging Republican Party.^{23 24} The Oxley brothers also ran for elected offices in 1856, Thomas for Representative of Mokolumne County and John for County Judge.²⁵

The Wests

The Wests were connected to the Oxleys by marriage and were a farming family in Ohio and Kentucky. Moses West was born in Ohio ca. 1816. Moses married Mary A. Higgins in January 1837 in Campbell County (before Kenton County was formed).²⁶ They moved to Independence and had two daughters, Margaret born 1848, and Susan ca. 1852. Moses was a farmer, but became a teamster and stagecoach driver by the 1860s. An active member of the freemasons of the Bradford Lodge #123, in Independence, he served as Senior Warden, the second of three principle officers under the Worshipful Master, as reported to the Grand Lodge of Kentucky.²⁷

According to Mary West's gravestone, she died in 1890, at which point Moses moved in with

his daughter Margaret and her husband Fred G. Oxley.²⁸ Moses lived with Margaret until his death in 1908. His dedication to the masons is evident in the symbolism and grandeur of his gravestone.^{29 30}

Moses and Mary's second daughter, Susan, married James Fleming, a teamster. In the 1880 census, they lived next door to Moses and Mary with their sons Raleigh West Fleming and Harry Moses Fleming, the last record found of the family together.³¹ It is possible that Susan died in childbirth in 1886 when Clare Fleming, the couple's youngest son, was born. James went to Illinois afterwards, leaving his children with his sister-in-law. He died in Chicago in 1905.³²

By the 1900 census, Clare and Raleigh were living with their aunt Margaret J. Oxley, and worked on the farm. Harry moved to Birmingham, Alabama, where he married and raised a family. Clare moved out to Chicago where he is found in the 1910 census.

Raleigh moved to California and married Mary Croushore in 1909.³³ They had two children, a daughter Margaret, presumably named after her great aunt, and a son Clare.³⁴ The couple separated and Mary was never seen nor heard from again. The children were placed on a train back to Northern Kentucky.³⁵ Raleigh eventually moved back to Covington.

Raleigh registered for the WWI draft in Independence and became a teamster like his father and grandfather. M. J. Oxley, his aunt, was listed as his next of kin on both his WWI draft registration and his death record. He died of a cerebral hemorrhage at age 50 in 1924 and was buried in Independence near his family, leaving two teenage children to be raised by others.^{36 37}

Frederick Gholson Oxley & The Oxley Stave Co.

By 1860, most of the surviving Oxley family returned to Kentucky or nearby Hamilton County, Ohio. Frederick Oxley had been working as a druggist in Louisville for a time around 1860 with his brother Benjamin F.³⁸ At the outbreak of the Civil War, he returned to the Northern Kentucky area. Boarding at various places in Cincinnati and Covington.



Historic view of the Oxley House — courtesy www.nkyviews.com

ton, he eventually owned a livery stable in Covington.³⁹ According to a brief biography written about him in 1887, he also had a contract from the government to furnish beef to the army during the Civil War. It was around this time that he became acquainted with Margaret West, and the couple married and settled down in Independence in 1867.⁴⁰

Philadelphia lived with her son Benjamin, still a druggist, and his family in Cincinnati in 1870.⁴¹ Philadelphia died in 1878 at the age of 83 and was buried in Independence.

Frederick soon sold the livery and opened his own stave company, which first appeared in the Cincinnati City Directory in 1877. The F. G. Oxley Stave Company had an office on the northwest corner of Second and Walnut Streets in Cincinnati. They shipped their barrels at the foot of Kemper Lane along the Ohio. Eventually, Oxley had offices in Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Georgia. The company dealt mostly with staves and “cooper stuff” (as one directory eloquently put it), as well as consolidated coal and mining. The company had an exclusive contract with Standard Oil Company.⁴²

Court Case

Around the end of the 19th and into the 20th century, industrialization led to legal battles between unions and businesses. The F. G. Oxley Stave Company had one court case which made it to the U.S. Court of Appeals. The company switched its production to more mechanized and automated methods, specifically a machine to hoop barrels, inciting the ire of some unions. The unions called for a boycott of all machine-hooped Oxley Stave Company goods across the United States, Canada, and Europe. The union insisted that some of their large clients request only hand-hooped barrels or else boycott the company altogether. The Cooper’s Union further claimed that the company was using child labor, and not the cooper journeymen, in order to cut costs. Oxley Stave Co. argued that this boycott caused a significant loss of income. The case made its way to the United States District Court, which ruled in favor of the Oxley Stave Company, and then eventually to the U. S. Court of Appeals.⁴³ The court ultimately decided that the union “...had no right to form a conspiracy to deprive the plaintiff of its right to manage its own business.”⁴⁴

Essentially, the boycott was deemed an illegal weapon because of the damage it did to the business. The court went on to say that any person or group could leave a position if they felt there was inadequate pay, but they could not interfere with the business or determine whether the business utilize new inventions. The two judges who ruled in favor of the company argued that such a precedent would allow unions to prevent the use of typesetters, presses, and any other useful inventions. This was an important distinction because it argued that not only would this deprive the company of time saving and cheaper production, but it could then also deprive the public of a superior product. There was no mention of the child labor within the case, so that claim remains unclear. However, one of the judges presented a lengthy dissenting opinion which warned against trusts and corporations whose managers' only interests were in the highest dividends.⁴⁵ This case represents some of the perennial arguments between business and labor.

Margaret Oxley, F. G. Oxley, & Family

Margaret and Frederick had two children together, Robert born in 1869, and Mary Elizabeth in 1872.⁴⁶ Frederick G. Oxley died in 1900 of peritonitis while in Alabama.⁴⁷ His obituary named him, "one of the best-known men in the commercial world of the South... known throughout Kentucky and Tennessee and other Southern states."⁴⁸ Margaret became the administratrix of three different estate probates, in Alabama, Tennessee, and Kentucky.⁴⁹ His estate at that time was worth an estimated half million dollars cash, together with large properties.⁵⁰ The stove company was sold in January of 1901 to the Standard Oil Company. The headquarters was moved from Cincinnati to Cleveland.⁵¹

Robert Oxley married Flora Ragan, also of Independence, Kentucky. The two married at the Oxley house in Independence. However, by 1897 the *Cincinnati Enquirer* reported on trouble in the marriage with a title which read, "Divorce sought by the wife of Robert Oxley, Son of a Millionaire."⁵² Flora was suing for divorce and the custody of both their children and accused Robert of cruelty and drunkenness.⁵³ The divorce did not happen immediately, however, as the couple had two more children together. Eventually they did divorce and Flora took the

children with her to Birmingham, Alabama. She remarried soon afterwards to someone quite familiar: Robert's cousin, Harry Moses Fleming, the son of Margaret's sister Susan.⁵⁴

Robert's sister, Mary Elizabeth, moved to Bridgeport, Alabama and married Walter Selman, a traveling salesman from Georgia.⁵⁵ They had a son and two daughters together, and moved closer to Mary Elizabeth's family after the death of her father. They lived in Newport, Kentucky for a while, later moved up to Dayton, Ohio, and then moved back to Independence in the 1930s, but before Walter's death in 1935.^{56 57 58} Mary Elizabeth lived in the family home in Independence until her own death in 1954.⁵⁹

Like her mother-in-law, Philadelphia, Margaret outlived her husband and became the matriarch around which the rest of the family flocked. By 1900 Margaret cared for her nephews, Clare and Raleigh Fleming, who lived with her for a while before going out on their own. Moses also moved in by 1900 shortly after Margaret's mother died, and remained until his own death.⁶⁰ Margaret's son Robert, and eventually her widowed daughter Mary Elizabeth also eventually joined the household.⁶¹ Margaret died in 1943.⁶² Robert Oxley died a year later in 1944.⁶³

Conclusion

The surviving records of the Wests and Oxleys afford a very personal glimpse of past lives, from children of the American Revolution, to westward expansion, to Midwest farming, to entrepreneurship. These two families took part in and witnessed pivotal changes in this area and in the larger country. It is a rare treat to be able to read personal letters from the mid-19th century and glean not only the broad facts, but the squabbles, concerns, and hopes of everyday life.

One of the physical reminders of these families still stands in Independence. The Oxley house had been divided into small apartments for a time, and had generally fallen into disrepair. Marion Schadler, former mayor of Independence, purchased the property in 1988 after living next door and watching it deteriorate for years. He ignored advice to bulldoze and instead worked to restore it to its former

glory. In the 1990s the house was opened to tours as a small museum, displaying antique kitchen and household items, farm equipment, tools, and furniture, many of which he found or repaired himself.⁶⁴ Mr. Schadler passed away earlier in 2018

Present owner is the Deaton Nursery, Independence. Future plans for Oxley House are unknown at the time of this writing.

About the Author

Olivia Dohn worked at the Kenton County Public Library for two years. She is passionate about helping people explore their own history and that of the community. She has a BA from Hampshire College where she studied Environmental Justice. She moved to Northern Kentucky in 2013. She has recently relocated to Denver, Colorado with her partner.

Endnotes

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14. Thomas Jefferson Oxley to Mother and Brothers, June 18, 1856,

Columbia, Calif. *James Harvey Oliver Papers (1840-1857)*, BANC MSS C-B 428, Courtesy of the Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

15. Thomas Jefferson Oxley to James Harvey Oliver, Feb. 2, 1849, Huntsville, MO. *James Harvey Oliver Papers (1840-1857)*, BANC MSS C-B 428, Courtesy of The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

16. T. J. Oxley to J. H. Oliver 1849.

17. John Oliver Oxley to James Harvey Oliver, Feb. 20, 1849, Danville, MO. *James Harvey Oliver Papers (1840-1857)*, BANC MSS C-B 428, Courtesy of The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

18. Thomas Jefferson Oxley to Sophia Oliver, Apr. 9, 1852, Columbia, CA. *James Harvey Oliver Papers (1840-1857)*, BANC MSS C-B 428, Courtesy of The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

19. T. J. Oxley to S. Oliver 1852.

20. Ibid

21. Thomas Jefferson Oxley to Sophia Oliver, Apr. 21, 1853, Columbia, CA. *James Harvey Oliver Papers (1840-1857)*, BANC MSS C-B 428, Courtesy of The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

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36. *Kentucky, Death Records, 1852-1965* [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2007.

37. U.S., *World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2005.

38. *1860 United States Federal Census, Louisville Ward 5, Jefferson, Kentucky*, [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2009. Images reproduced by FamilySearch. Margaret Fleming Carson had 4 children: Jacqueline S. "Jacquie" (1934); Barbara Lou "Bobby" (1937); Margaret Ann "Peggy" (1939); Raleigh W. (1942). Clare Fleming had one child, Lawrence (1939).

continued on page 10

Tip-toe Through the Tulips

Sam Magee

This is the second in our series of interviews with Vietnam vets from Kenton County. Military life is a unique experience. Put two veterans at a table and you will hear stories. We would like to revive and preserve some of the stories that would never be included in the history books. Some will be first-hand accounts, others will be oral histories which have been transcribed and edited. This edition comes from Sam Magee, Simon Kenton High School class of 1969. Special thanks are once again extended to our own Al Murphy, the veteran sitting on the other side of the table in each of these stories.

Scene One

After being drafted, I was inducted into the U.S. Army on September 3, 1970. I took basic training at Fort Lost in the Woods, Misery (officially known as Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri). After basic, I did my infantry AIT at Ft. Ord, California.

During AIT, I would guess in November, we marched out to one of the firing ranges to qualify on the .45 caliber pistol. With the .45, qualifying generally meant you could hit the side of a barn at fifteen feet. So, we all hit the side of the barn and proceeded to the next step in our training which was, of course, learning to take proper care of our weapon.

At Ft. Ord, it seemed like there was sand everywhere and so we were standing outside at these old wooden tables near the firing range and the drill instructor was demonstrating as he told us the proper procedures for cleaning the weapon. The first thing the drill instructor said was, "Now, when you break these down, don't go any further than what I tell you to and if you lose the spring out of this .45 you'll be out here all night raking this sand until you find it."

Well, about thirty seconds later my spring went flying across the table and I guess he recognized the sound because he looked up and he said, "Whose spring was that?"



Al Murphy (left) and Sam Magee

"It was mine, sergeant." I raised my hand.

He said, "What's your name?"

"Magee," I replied.

"Magee, come up here, he shouted."

I walked up to the drill sergeant and he asked, "Magee, what did I just tell you?"

"You said don't go too far because you'll lose that spring and if I did, I'd be out here all night raking that sand until I found it."

I guess this drill instructor had been through this exercise often enough that he probably expected someone to do it, and he was pretty sure that no one ever finds those springs. I suspect he was trying to find a way to get both of us out of that situation.

The drill instructor said, "I'm gonna tell you what Magee. You tell me a joke that makes me laugh and I'm gonna let you off the hook. But if it don't make me laugh, then you're going to be out here all night raking sand until you find MY spring."

I knew I didn't want to rake and sand at all, as I weakly replied, "Okay."

Well, I was almost panicky because I am not good at remembering jokes. Luckily, it just so happened that a few days earlier somebody had told me this joke and it popped into my head. So, I looked straight up at this sergeant and I said, "Sergeant, where are you from?"

Obviously irritated with the delay, he said, "I'm from California."

Of course we were in California, and I said, "Well, do you know how I was told they raise children out here in California?"

He looked at me kind of funny because he had no idea where this was going and he kind of mumbled, "No. How do they raise children?"

I said, "Well, they pee on flowers and raise blooming bleeping idiots."

Well, all of the trainees thought it was hilarious that I would say this right to a drill instructor and everybody busted out laughing. He didn't laugh, but at the end of the day he let me off the hook and I didn't have to rake any sand.

Sam Magee
Simon Kenton High School
Class of 1969

Scene Two

I met Sam Magee during the trip from the Induction Center in Cincinnati to basic training at Fort Leonard Wood. We were assigned to the same barracks in the same company in both Basic and AIT. We spent a lot of not-very-fun time together and became good friends. I was probably standing right next to Sam for the .45 pistol class, and probably right next to him for similar classes about cleaning the M16 and M60.

Sam and I shipped to Vietnam on different days in February of 1971. I went to the 4/3 Infantry and Sam went to the 2/502 Infantry.

Within a few days of joining my unit in the field, I became the M60 gunner. A few days later I

fired a couple of hundred rounds in an action we called Harass and Interdiction (H & I). Well, I was still a brand new trooper and that was the first time I had fired that M60 in any kind of enemy action. I decided I was going to really impress all of the experienced "grunts" in my squad by keeping that gun clean and in top-flight readiness. I took out my cleaning kit, broke that machine gun down and made it spotless.

I got to the trigger mechanism and, you guessed it, I pulled a little pin that I didn't really remember from any of the previous training. Something moved and I lost that little spring. Luckily for me, about an hour after I endured my well-deserved dressing-down, I received my reprieve. The guy in the hooch next to me found the spring and all ended well. So, I proved the moral of the story, which is, you don't have to be raised in California to be a blooming idiot.

Al Murphy
Holmes High School
Class of 1966

Want to be Published?

We are always looking for material for the Bulletin, as well as Northern Kentucky Heritage Magazine

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Bulletin articles should be no longer than 500 words and should have at least two references. Magazine articles should have several references and endnotes, as well as images or graphics.

Email us if you have any questions.

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A Look Back at the Headlines

An on-going feature reliving local headlines.

This issue features:

The Kentucky Post – September 10, 1931

Dangerous Dixie Highway Curve Widened

This is just one of the many improvements in streets and thoroughfares in Covington accomplished under the direction of O.A. Kratz, city manager.

The well-banked bend was formerly one of the most dangerous curves on the Dixie Highway leading from Covington to Lexington. So dangerous, in fact, it was frequently referred to as “dead man’s curve.” Several accidents occurred there in recent years. The highway was widened and properly banked by John J. Exterkamp, contractor, at a cost of \$1,746.24.

Latonia Asks for 28th Street Span

Anxious to make other thoroughfares into Covington available to South Side residents, the Latonia Civic Club, thru its president, Capt. Louis N. Palmer, sought the aid of city commissioners and Kenton-co officials in obtaining a free bridge across the Licking River at 28th Street.

The existing bridge is owned by the city and is called the Covington Waterworks Bridge since its main object was to carry water pipes over the river. It could be paved, engineers believe, and provide an outlet for South Covingtonians to Newport and Campbell-co.

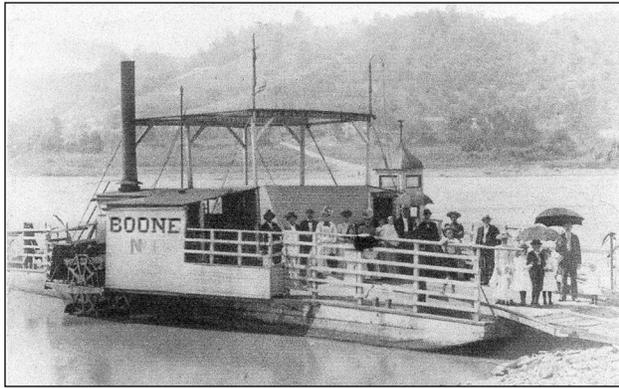
The resolution was passed as at recent meeting of the club and Palmer told commissioners that steps were underway to obtain a petition from property holders, asking that work begin as soon as possible.

It was pointed out that residents must now travel to 4th Street or to 12th Street before they can enter Campbell County.

Oxleys and Wests — continued

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Then and Now



Two views of the Anderson Ferry

Left image courtesy www.nkyviews.com / right image courtesy Robert Webster

Mystery Photo

Can you identify the Mystery Photo? The answer is found below.



Answer:

Toll gate on the turnpike at Constance, Kentucky

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Dick Johanneman (Ex Officio)

I Bet You Didn't Know

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

September 1, 1905: Pittsburgh star, Honus Wagner, became the first major league player to allow his signature on a Louisville Slugger.

September 4, 1864: John Hunt Morgan was shot and killed by Union soldiers.

September 11, 1751: Christopher Gist arrived and explored parts of Northern and Central Kentucky.

October 8, 1862: The Battle of Perryville pitted 16,000 Confederates against 58,000 Federals. Casualties were astounding and neither side declared a victory, but Confederate forces withdrew from the state.

October 12, 1842: Gov. Joseph Desha died in Georgetown.

From: *On This Day In Kentucky*, by Robert Powell

Programs and Notices

Kenton County Historical Society

An **antiques fair** will be held Saturday, October 13, 11:00 - 2:00, in the Kenton County Public Library, Covington branch, 5th Street and Scott Boulevard. Qualified appraisers will be available to look at your stuff and state what it is worth; absolutely free; no reservations; come early to avoid the rush; no furniture, but photos of furniture can be used.

Members, guests and the public are invited to a **cemetery tour** scheduled for Saturday morning, October 20, 9:00 to 11:00, in St. Mary's Cemetery, Dixie Highway, Ft. Mitchell. The Kenton County Public Library staff will lead a tour to gravesites of certain deceased where they will read and comment about the interesting lives of famous, infamous, and noteworthy persons and families.

Immediately after the cemetery tour on October 20th the Kenton County Historical Society will hold its **Annual Election of officers and directors** in a brief business meeting in the cemetery. The current one-year terms of President, Vice-president, and Secretary, and three-year terms of two Directors will have expired. Nominations of any members in good standing are being received and are encouraged. They may be emailed to John Boh (jhboh55@gmail.com), or made by phone message (859-491-0490). Nominations may be made at the meeting itself up to the time of voting.

Behringer Crawford Museum

A **Silent Art Auction** of paintings and sculptures begins September 1st. Visitors may stop in during business hours to bid on a wide variety of art pieces rendered by local artists.

The **annual Fresh Art Auction** is scheduled at the museum on Sunday, September 16, starting at 4:00 p.m. Reservations - \$80 per seat. The schedule includes cocktails, music, dinner catered by McHale's, and the auction of local artists' work painted leading up to the event.

Holiday Toy Trains, Dickens Village and more are upcoming. In upcoming months, people will be able to check the museum's new website for the schedule of the interactive holiday toy trains, Dickens Village and accompanying exhibits, and the adult and children's programs scheduled during the holiday season.