

# KENTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 641, Covington, Kentucky 41012 (606) 431-2666

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## Bulletin

## September 1999

### President

Karl Lietzenmayer

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### Editor of Bulletin

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### KCHS MEETING

**DATE** Saturday September 11

**TIME** Noon til 4 PM

**PLACE** Oxley House  
5234 Madison Pike  
Independence, KY

### PROGRAM

Tour of Oxley House  
& Museum  
Election of Board

Former Mayor Marion Schadler  
will show us the 1847 house which  
he has restored.

### From the President.....

Board elections are once again upon us! The Society is grateful for the service of those members completing their terms.

Candidates for Treasurer and 2 Directors are as follows: Daniel Carter for Treasurer; for Directors, George Gressle, Caden Blincoe, Steve McMurty, San Juan C. Romero. We will elect a Vice President from the Board.

Dan Carter and his wife, Linda, bought and rehabbed the Sandford House after his retirement from 32 years at P & G. He also has been treasurer of the Cincinnati Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society and the Bed and Breakfast Association of Kentucky. George Gressle is a computer programmer with Union Central Life Insurance. He has provided free computers and equipment to improve our work. Caden Blincoe is retired from The Kentucky Post, although not entirely retired from the field of journalism. He continues to write for several organizations on a volunteer basis. Steve McMurty is an attorney with McMurty & Wolff, and represents the Covington Housing Authority. His father was a history professor and expert on Lincoln. San Juan C. Romero is a retired Air Traffic Control Chief, and now serves as Spanish Interpreter for the Kenton County Court. He and his wife, Kathy, have been members of KCHS for many years.

Please come to the September meeting on the 11th to elect our Board, or send in your vote as soon as possible. Nominations still being accepted,

We are very sorry that Dorothy Colwell must resign as treasurer for health reasons, and are grateful for the professional way she handled the treasurer's post. We wish improved health to her as well as Board member, Joseph Gastright, and member, Betty Foster.

### About the September Program.....

This month's feature article should pique your interest to see this interesting Louisiana-styled house dating back to 1847.

The Kenton County Historical Society will be joined by the new History Group of Independence. We will meet at at noon at Mayor Schadler's home next door to Oxley House, and have lunch first. (Please bring your lunch.) The drinks and dessert will be provided. After a short meeting and election of the Officers and 2 Directors, we will begin our tour.

### Directions to Oxley House:

Take I-275 to the Independence Exit, Rt. 17 South. Or, through Covington, take Madison Pike. Continue on Rt. 17 south, past construction at top of Independence Hill where new homes are being built. Continue 1 mile more and you will see Oxley House on the left (5234 Madison Pike) and the Schadler home next door. Park in the church parking lot across the highway.

And for October, look in the next Bulletin for the fantastic details about the Historic Walk (with a brass band!) through downtown Covington businesses, planned for Saturday, October 16, Tall Stacks Weekend.

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

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## Museum is One Man's Praise of the Past

by Kristina Goetz

(Reprinted from The Cincinnati Enquirer July 1, 1999)

There's a house in Independence where memories are made.

They're created by the man next door whose love of antiques has turned into a passion for sharing history. And they're imagined by visitors who tour the refurbished 1847 Southern-style mansion that he calls the Oxley House.

"There's no running water," said Marion Schadler, 78, the museum's curator of sorts. "There is a hand pump. There's a coal stove, coal and wood.

"People used to have to carry in the wood and carry out the ashes. There's no central heat. It was all fireplaces. You burned up facing the fire and froze facing away from it.

"If you wanted butter, you churned it. It's altogether a different lifestyle."

That lifestyle is what Mr. Schadler wants people to know about when they visit the two-story home at 5234 Madison Pike.

"Generally, people are amazed that it's here," he said.

"When people have relatives or friends from out of state, they come."

Independence school children used to take field trips there but haven't in a while.

That hasn't stopped Mr. Schadler, though, from telling stories of days gone by to the visitors who do stop in. He wants people to know about the way things used to be.

"What I'm finding is that for younger people, it's just amazing that people lived like that," he said.

Mr. Schadler's granddaugh-

ter, Leslie Schadler, 23, said the house is his passion.

"He loves to take people over there and show them a bit of history that they don't get to see anymore," she said. "He loves to tell stories and talk about it when people ask questions.

"I think he really likes the fact that I'm as interested in it as he is."

Unlike other museums, though, patrons can pick up the old farm tools, open the drawers of antique dressers and read postcards that date to as early as 1903.

"A lot of those cards were sent to my mother before she was married," he said, adding that each visitor seems to fancy something different.

"By and large, people pick out something they've had some relation with," Mr. Schadler said. "People like the toy wagon if they had a wagon. A woodworker goes through there and he'll admire the furniture.

"A lot of people work on the farm and they'll admire a tool they used to work with."

Mr. Schadler, who was Independence mayor from 1972 to 1989, named the home the Oxley House after the Louisiana family that built it. It stands next door to the Schadler home.

He and his wife, Rosella, bought the New Orleans-style brick and frame house in 1988 after watching it deteriorate for years.

Since then, Mr. Schadler has restored the house and filled it with

antiques he's bought, traded for and found. He doesn't look too much anymore for additions to his collection, but if he comes across something at an estate sale, he might buy it.

"This is a way you get some of the stories out," he said.

And just as Mr. Schadler tells stories of yesteryear, so do the pieces in the Oxley House, he said.

The story doesn't have to be about a particular person or place. It can just tell the way people lived. That's a story in itself, he said--like the old industrial sewing machine that was patented in the 1860's, or the rope bed with a feather mattress, even a version of today's Crock Pot.

Mr. Schadler doesn't charge admission and doesn't have hours of operation. He likes it that way.

"Just call before you come," he said. "Make sure we're here."

### Historical Coverlet

On Sale

Depicting 11 Historic Buildings in Erlanger

\$50

Delivery by Christmas if ordered by October 1. For photo and order blank, write Erlanger Historical Society, P. O. Box 18062, Erlanger, Kentucky 41018. Or call the Erlanger Depot Museum between noon and 4 PM on Saturdays, 727-7955.

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**Letters to the Editor.....**

I read with interest your August Bulletin, particularly noting recent Covington projects which involved major tax credits. Leah and the City housing staff was also intricately involved in our building which was well in excess of 1 million dollars and we believe beautifully preserved a building that played a role in most of childhood memories (The Parisian).

Just another success to add to your list of reasons why [the office of] Historic Preservation is so vital to a city's heart and soul.

Thanks, Jim Krueer  
Adams, Stepner, Woltermann and Dusing

**Announcing**  
5th Annual Northern Kentucky  
**African American**  
**Heritage Festival**  
Saturday August 28  
Noon until 9 PM  
Randolph Park, Covington  
Celebrating local African-American  
Heritage and Culture

**Erlanger Heritage Day**  
Sunday September 19  
Noon to 6 PM  
Erlanger Railroad Park

**KCHS PUBLICATION PRICE LIST**

Title	Member Price	Non-Member	Mailing Fee
Collected Papers	\$25	\$30	\$6
1860 Census Index	\$10	\$15	\$2
1880 Census Index (vol. I)	\$20	\$25	\$2
1880 Census Index (vol. II)	\$20	\$25	\$2
1990 African American Census for Kenton County (except Covington)	\$ 2	\$ 4	\$1
Wallace Woods	\$ 5	\$ 6	\$1
West Side Walking Tour	\$ 5	\$ 6	\$1
Trinity Church	\$10	\$15	\$2
Wiggins' list biographies (106)	\$ 2	\$ 4	\$1
Linden Grove Cemetery (vol.I)	\$35	\$40	\$4
Linden Grove Cemetery(vol.II)	\$25	\$30	\$3
Northern KY Heritage (subscrip')	\$12	\$15	\$0
Selective Issues of NKH	\$ 6	\$ 7.50	\$1
Newport Barracks	\$ 9 for Kenton & Cambell members	\$10	\$1

**Elections 1999**

**Nominate one or more fellow members for each office.**

**PRESIDENT** (1 year term) \_\_\_\_\_

**VICE PRESIDENT** (1 year term) \_\_\_\_\_

**SECRETARY** (1 year term) \_\_\_\_\_

**DIRECTOR** (3 year term) \_\_\_\_\_

**DIRECTOR** (3 year term) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return to:**

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

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**Candidates for 1999 Election  
One Man's Project, Oxley House**

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