



# Bulletin of the Kenton County Historical Society

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September/October

2009

## I Bet You Didn't Know

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

September 7, 1896: A 100 mile bicycle race (Lexington to Covington) was won by Cliff Nadaud in a record 6 hrs, 7 mins, and 56 secs.

September 15, 1890: A new daily newspaper, the *Kentucky Post*, was founded in Covington by Edward Willis Scripps.

October 2, 1865: The Kentucky Agricultural & Mechanical University opened in Lexington. It became the University of Kentucky in 1916.

October 15, 1796: The Wilderness Road was completed from the Cumberland Gap to early settlements in central Kentucky.

*"On This Day In Kentucky" — Robert Powell*

## Annual Election Meeting and Presentation

The Kenton Co. Historical Society will hold its annual election meeting at the Behringer-Crawford Museum in Devou Park, Tuesday September 15th at 7:00pm. During the business meeting, members (encouraged to attend) will elect 4 officers and 2 directors. Nominations will be taken up to time of voting. After the business meeting, Deborah Kohl Kremer will discuss Northern Kentucky's Dixie Highway. Deborah will bring photos of scenes along the Dixie to show and discuss, as well as sign copies of her recently published book on the subject (Arcadia Press). There is no charge to attend.

## 2009 Northern Kentucky History, Art & Culture Lecture Series continues

Three lectures remain in this very popular series. Held at Baker Hunt, 620 Greenup Street in Covington, each lecture begins at 2pm. Price: \$7. For more information, phone (859) 431-0020.

September 13 - *The Balcony Is Closed - A History of Northern Kentucky's Long-Forgotten Neighborhood Movie Theaters*  
Bob Webster, local historian and author

October 11 - *River Stories and Some Fun with Captain Alan Bernstein*  
Capt. Alan Bernstein, owner of BB Riverboats and Covington's Mike Fink

November 8 - *John A. Roebling and his Suspension Bridge on the Ohio*  
Dr. Don Heinrich Tolzmann, Historian,  
Covington-Cincinnati Suspension Bridge Committee

## Newport Gangster Tour

Before there was Las Vegas... there was Newport, Kentucky. Rising from the profits of bootlegging, Newport would become the premiere gaming destination in the U.S. Explore Newport's connection to some of the most well known crime figures in our history, and learn about the individuals who gave the town its infamous reputation.

Tours run every Saturday in September, at 11am, 1pm, 5pm, and 7pm. Tickets are \$15.00 per person and tours begin in the Syndicate, located at 56 East 5th Street. For additional information, call: 513-659-4390.

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*ARTICLES FROM BACK ISSUES ARE INDEXED ON OUR WEBSITE!*

# Ormsby M. Mitchel

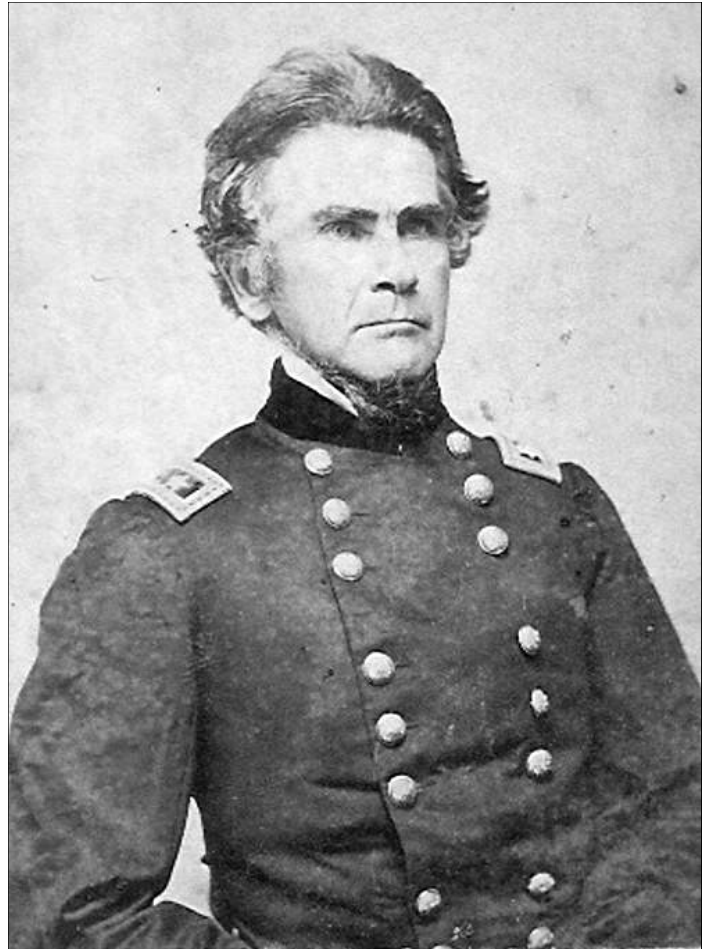
The 19th Century Carl Sagan, Civil War General and Namesake of Fort Mitchell, KY

Karl Lietzenmayer

The Kenton County city of Fort Mitchell will soon be celebrating 100 years.<sup>1</sup> It seems proper to present a brief biography of the city's namesake – even though, through an oversight, they have been spelling his name with two Ls. The original boundaries were the east side of Lexington Pike (Dixie Highway) to present Ft. Mitchell Country Club on the west; between St. John Cemetery north with Maple Avenue on the south. The name is taken from a prominent 1862 fortification for the defense of Cincinnati. Mitchel was not commandant of the fort, but the site was named for him due to the deep respect the citizens of Cincinnati had for his accomplishments.

In May 1927, the area to the south of Fort Mitchell on Dixie Highway (US 42/25) was incorporated as South Fort Mitchell. While Fort Mitchell tends to be inhabited by upper-middle class and Protestant residents, South Fort Mitchell is generally solidly middle class and Catholic. Indeed, Reverend Wilhelm Blees, the founding pastor of Blessed Sacrament Church was intimately involved in the planning of the southern city. Father Blees advised that most streets running from the Dixie Highway be dead-end with children's parks at the end of most of the cul-de-sacs. However, the city fathers didn't seem to be interested, telling him, "Father, we don't need to add that expense, since we have lots of space here for children to play." The city fathers were not able to foresee the inevitable suburban growth. Since Father Blees was a German immigrant, he knew full well what would develop as it had in Europe. In the decades after World War II almost every empty lot was filled with a dwelling, causing the children to play in the streets or in their own yards.<sup>2</sup> The only park of any size that has been developed by the city is Ormsby Mitchel Park, which cannot be said to be located conveniently for walking access.

By 1967, the two communities merged as a single city known as Fort Mitchell. The cultural differences became an issue for some at the time of combination but most



General Ormsby Mitchel

Photo courtesy [www.nkyviews.com](http://www.nkyviews.com)

residents feel the merger was a good decision for all.<sup>3</sup> Now for the story of the city's namesake:

Ormsby McKnight Mitchel was born 28 July 1809 near Morganfield, Kentucky.<sup>4</sup> His father John died when Ormsby was three and in 1814, his mother, the former Elizabeth MacAlister, moved the family to Ohio. The family first lived in Miami but then settled in Lebanon. As the youngest child, Ormsby still was attending school. At age twelve, he left school and took a job as a clerk for a Lebanon storeowner. He was not interested in clerking and still loved learning, and spent the next several years

educating himself. In 1825, John McLean, Postmaster General of the United States and resident of Lebanon, helped Ormsby secure an appointment to West Point. Ormsby graduated in 1829, ranking 15<sup>th</sup> in his class. He was a classmate of future Confederate Generals Robert E. Lee and Joseph Johnson.

After Mitchel's graduation, the Army assigned him to teach mathematics at West Point. At West Point, Mitchel had time to study law – to have an alternative career choice. He was also smitten with a young widow, Louisa Trask, whose husband left her with a small child. Louisa had returned to reside in her parents' home at Cornwall-on-the-Hudson. Mitchel made frequent trips up the Hudson to visit and by the summer of 1831, they were married.<sup>5</sup>

### **To Cincinnati**

That year, he was reassigned to Fort Marion, St. Augustine, Florida, and bringing his wife and her small son, served as a second lieutenant of artillery. Unhappy with military life, Mitchel resigned his commission and opened a law practice in Cincinnati in 1833 with E. D. Mansfield. Neither of them were very interested in pursuing a law career as they were both more academically inclined. Mansfield later became one of the most distinguished journalists of the Old West while Mitchel graduated toward astronomy and engineering. Mansfield's comments about their relationship is revealing:

"In the year 1834, I had my office on Third Street, near Main. My partner in our professed law business was Ormsby Mitchel . . . We were really literary men and our thoughts wandered off to other subjects."<sup>6</sup>

Probably the most unpromising period of his whole career in Cincinnati was when he endeavored to practice law. His family growing, and without clients, there was little income. Louisa stood by him during these years of discouragement but teaching and engineering enabled him to advance.

Less than a year after becoming an attorney, Ormsby returned to teaching. In 1834, he accepted a position at Cincinnati College [now University of

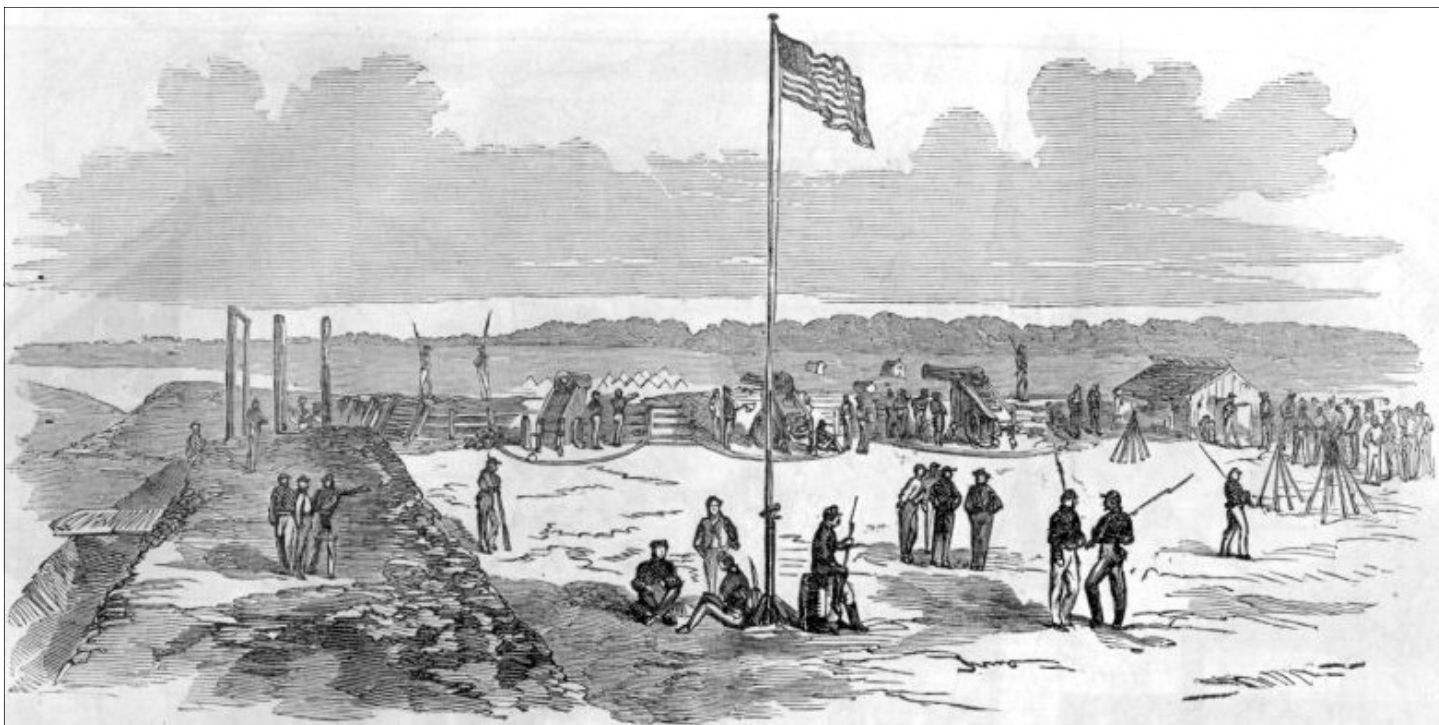
Cincinnati] as a professor of mathematics, natural philosophy and astronomy at a salary of \$1,500 a year. Cincinnati College was founded in 1819 but failed and was revived in 1835. Mitchel was also elected to the board of trustees for the college. He also served as chief engineer for the Little Miami Railroad.

His duties included lectures in astronomy. He was largely self-taught on the subject, as were most who studied the heavens. Constant practice made him familiar with methods of explaining astronomical problems to his students.<sup>7</sup> He soon became a sought-after lecturer on campus. His talks became so interesting that on special occasions members of the students' families were excited to be admitted to listen in. This led to invitations to lecture off campus at the city's larger meeting halls, which awakened considerable interest in the subject. Discussions of the establishment of an astronomical observatory soon followed,<sup>8</sup> but those interests far outstripped the potential of the young frontier city.<sup>9</sup> Considering the struggles most citizens had with their necessities, the establishment of an observatory seemed a hopeless task.

### **Establishment of an Astronomical Observatory**

Mitchel was invited to lecture on astronomy for the Cincinnati Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, a group of educated Cincinnatians interested in just what the group's title inferred. He prepared what amounted to a miniature planetarium to illustrate his discussions.<sup>10</sup> It was so popular, he was requested to enlarge his subject into a series of presentations. The last lecture in the series had to be repeated in Wesley Chapel (formerly standing at 5th and Broadway) which held 1,200.

Mitchel convinced prominent Cincinnati Nicholas Longworth [later Speaker of the House of Representatives] to donate some of his vineyard land for the project and organized what became the Cincinnati Astronomical Society. He proposed to raise \$7,500 from enthusiastic Cincinnatians in subscription shares for membership to purchase a refracting telescope from the best opticians of Europe. One thousand dollars were subscribed the first week and the full amount was pledged in three weeks from citi-



Rendition of Fort Mifflin — Courtesy of [www.nkyviews.com](http://www.nkyviews.com)

zens of all classes. The Cincinnati Astronomical Society was formed in May 1842 and a set of officers was elected from among the stockholders. Honorable Jacob Burnet was elected president.<sup>11</sup>

### **In Search of Optics**

With the pledged money, and \$1,000 of it in cash, Mitchel headed to Europe to engage the best manufacturer and eventually secured a 15-inch refracting telescope – at the time the largest in the world. It was quite a coup for a western pioneer city when no established eastern city was interested. Mitchel boarded a stage in Cincinnati which rattled through Xenia, Yellow Springs, and Columbus. There he was riding a stage to Wheeling on the National Road (US40). The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad was finished barely to the city of Cumberland and boarding the train, he rode to Baltimore which met the Washington train. He found himself whizzing along at the incredible speed of 20 miles per hour.<sup>12</sup>

### **In Washington**

It was somewhat difficult leaving his family for so long a period, this being the first visit to Europe. Mitchel traveled to Washington DC on his way to collaborate with European astronomers. He conferred

with Congressman Nathanael Pendleton of southern Ohio and eventually the entire Ohio delegation was enlisted. He succeeded in obtaining letters of introduction to British Royal Astronomer Airy at Greenwich as well as to the American ambassadors of several European countries. Meeting with John Quincy Adams (now a Massachusetts congressman) gave him much encouragement.

Mitchel surveyed many of Europe's centers of Astronomical study: met with the Royal Astronomer in England, traveled to Paris and eventually visited the Optical Institute in Munich. He made arrangements for a 15 inch refractive telescope to be sent to Cincinnati. He returned to Greenwich to study astronomy more thoroughly before returning to America.<sup>14</sup> Completed in 1845, the observatory was one of the most advanced in the United States at that time.<sup>13</sup> It was the second largest refracting telescope in the world. John Quincy Adams accepted Mitchel's invitation to speak at the cornerstone ceremony on Mt. Ida. Afterwards, the name of the hill was forever known as Mt. Adams.

Following the observatory's completion, Mitchel lost his professorship due to a destructive fire

at the Cincinnati College. He lost his salary but continued to serve as the chief operating officer of the observatory. He began giving lectures on astronomy across the country to support the Cincinnati observatory and became recognized as one of America's best known astronomers. Mitchel also published a monthly magazine on astronomy called *The Sidereal Messenger*.<sup>15</sup>

Mitchel's fame was now nationwide. In 1846 he was offered the Rumford professorship at Harvard. In 1851 he was offered Professor of Astronomy at the University of Albany when Professor Agassiz was appointed as Zoology chair. He declined both. However, Mitchel furnished plans for the Dudley Observatory at Albany, which was then in embryo. The Royal Astronomical Society of England elected him a member in 1850. Other honors such as election to the American Philosophical Society followed.

To supplement his income, Mitchel served as a construction engineer for the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad in 1852 as he had for the Little Miami Railroad in 1836 and '37.

Louisa's health was declining by the late 1850s and Mitchel was offered the superintendent position of the Dudley Observatory in Albany, New York. Ormsby's time was much consumed in caring for his wife and she longed to return to the Hudson where she had been raised. In 1858 Mitchel accepted the Dudley Observatory appointment and was in that position when the Civil War broke out. He did not resign his position at Mt. Adams and essentially maintained directorship at two observatories, leaving the duties at Cincinnati in the capable hands of his assistant Henry Twitchell.

Early in the war, he gave several speeches in Cincinnati, encouraging men to enlist. He also briefly commanded the Department of Ohio and helped plan Ohio's defense against invasion. On August 18, 1861, Mitchel received a commission as brigadier-general of Ohio volunteers. His wife was suffering from debilitating strokes and his farewell to her and his family was fraught with worry they would never meet again. The day after his departure, Louisa

suffered another stroke and died.<sup>16</sup>

Mitchel participated in the Fort Donelson campaign (February 1862). He also assisted in the capture of Nashville, Tennessee.<sup>17</sup> The mayor of the city surrendered to Mitchel. Upon securing Nashville, Mitchel advanced to Huntsville, Alabama with the objective of destroying rail lines.

Men from Ormsby Mitchel's unit were involved in what has become famous as "The Great Locomotive Chase" also known as Andrew's Raid after the civilian leader James Andrews.<sup>18</sup>

While most white Southerners were unhappy with the presence of Union soldiers among them, many of these people came to respect Mitchel for his kindness. He ordered his men not to steal from civilians. Mitchel did grant some slaves freedom but only if the African-Americans provided his men with information. Other slaves who ran to Union lines were returned to their owners.

In July 1862, Mitchel was promoted to major general. At the same time, Mitchel was removed from his command by Secretary of War Stanton. Mitchel clashed with General Don Carlos Buell over the use of Negro lookouts. Buell ordered any Negro horseman riding into camp with information on Confederate movements was not to be accepted as a permanent refugee in the Union camp. Mitchel could not accept the use of Negro lookouts and then not protect them. By July 1862, Mitchel was seriously debating whether to resign his commission because of differences with Buell.

Rather than allow a competent officer to resign, Stanton transferred him to Washington, DC and then reassigned him to South Carolina. Mitchel contracted yellow fever shortly after arriving in South Carolina and died 30 November 1862. He is buried in Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn, New York.

1. The original Ft. Mitchell (not including South Fort Mitchell) was incorporated March 1910.

2. Interview with Otto Lietzenmayer, father of author (1950).

3. Author's experience. Since age 2, I have spent over 40 years of my life growing up and raising my family in Fort Mitchell. I was able to

# Robert Surtees

## Academy Award Winning Cinematographer

Chris Meiman

Perhaps Northern Kentucky is not the first place one thinks of as a breeding ground of Hollywood talent, though several notable participants have hailed from the area, including the Clooney family, actress Una Merkel and photographer George Hurrell. Perhaps no one is as celebrated in his field, yet unknown in his hometown as cinematographer Robert Surtees. In a career that spanned five decades, Surtees captured some of the most indelible images in movie history. The chariot race in *Ben-Hur*, Gordon McRae singing “Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin’” in *Oklahoma!*, and Anne Bancroft famously trying to seduce Dustin Hoffman in *The Graduate* were all immortalized through Surtees’ camera lens.

Born in Covington in 1906, Surtees did not spend much time in the area after graduating from Cincinnati’s Withrow High School. By age 21, he had moved to California and was apprenticing for some of the pioneers of cinematography. Upon arriving in Hollywood, Surtees began working as an assistant cameraman for Gregg Toland, who would eventually film *Citizen Kane* as well as legendary cinematographer Joseph Ruttenberg.<sup>1</sup> After spending a couple of years working for Universal Pictures’ Berlin operations, Surtees returned to California and began assisting cinematographer Hal Mohr, only one of six cameramen to have a star on Hollywood’s Walk of Fame. Surtees was a camera operator on the 1935 interpretation of *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* for which Mohr won the Academy Award for Best Cinematography.<sup>2</sup>

Director Henry Koster noticed the young Surtees while he was working with cinematographer Joseph Valentine on a series of films starring Deanna Durbin in the late 1930s. Koster was impressed with Surtees and hired him to work on his next picture, *Two Sisters from Boston* in 1946. Koster remembered Surtees’ fondly in his memoirs saying, “He was very



Robert Surtees - Cinematographer

witty, too. We exchanged jokes. I remember he put a sign on his camera, “C.A.I.C.” At first, he wouldn’t tell me what it meant. Finally, he said, ‘Christ, Am I Confused!’ So that was Bob Surtees. He won several awards, and rightly so. He became a bigger cameraman than Joe Valentine ever was.”<sup>3</sup>

One of Surtees’ first projects as the principal cinematographer came in 1943 with the filming of the Academy Award winning short film *Heavenly Music*. The next year saw Surtees’ film *Thirty Seconds over Tokyo* with long-time cinematographer Harold Rossen. The pair was nominated for an Oscar, though losing out on the Best Cinematography award to *Laura*. It would be the first of sixteen nomi-





Charlton Heston as Ben Hur, filmed by Robert Surtees



"Mrs. Robinson, are you trying to seduce me?"  
Likely the most memorable scene from *The Graduate*

nations for Surtees.<sup>4</sup>

Before long, Surtees became a master of lush color cinematography. According to film historian Aaron Sultanski, Surtees was, "the beneficiary of the latest improvements in the Panavision lens and Eastman film stock, his work shows a tonal clarity originally articulated by [director Cecil B.] DeMille..." Sultanski went on to say that, "...Surtees' glittering illustrations represent a last effort by Hollywood producers to celebrate the splendor of the wide screen in the face of small-screen television dramas."<sup>5</sup>

The 1950s saw Surtees at the height of his cinematographic game. He won three Best Cinematography Academy Awards in the decade starting with the 1950 epic *King Solomon's Mines*. After being nominated again in 1951 for co-shooting *Quo Vadis* with William V. Skall, Surtees returned to the winner's circle the next year for his work on *The Bad and the Beautiful*. *Oklahoma!* followed in 1955 before Surtees won again for the legendary film *Ben-Hur* in 1959.

Few would have guessed then after winning three statues in his first six nominations, that Surtees would never win another despite garnering another ten nominations. Still, the Covington native would be associated with more iconic films. He filmed *Mutiny on the Bounty* (1962), *The Graduate* (1967), *Doctor Doolittle* (1967), *The Summer of '42* (1971), *The Last Picture Show* (1971), *The Sting* (1973), *The Hindenburg* (1975), *A Star is Born* (1976), *The Turning Point* (1977) and *Same Time Next Year* (1978), all of which were nominated for Academy Awards.<sup>6</sup>

After working on *Same Time Next Year*, Surtees retired from the business in 1978 at age 72. Robert and his wife Maydall retired to Caramel, California, where Robert would pass away after a protracted illness just after New Year's Day in 1985. Though he was then gone, Surtees has enjoyed a long legacy in the cinematographic world. His peers in the American Society of Cinematographers dedicated an award to Surtees in 2002. "Bob Surtees was a master of the art form, whose career spanned half of the history of the industry," says Richard Crudo of the ASC. "He worked in black and white and color, on classic epochs and intimate stories with the same enthusiasm and love of the art. His films were and remain a source of inspiration for every cinematographer who has followed in his wake."<sup>7</sup>

*Continued on page 9 - far right column*

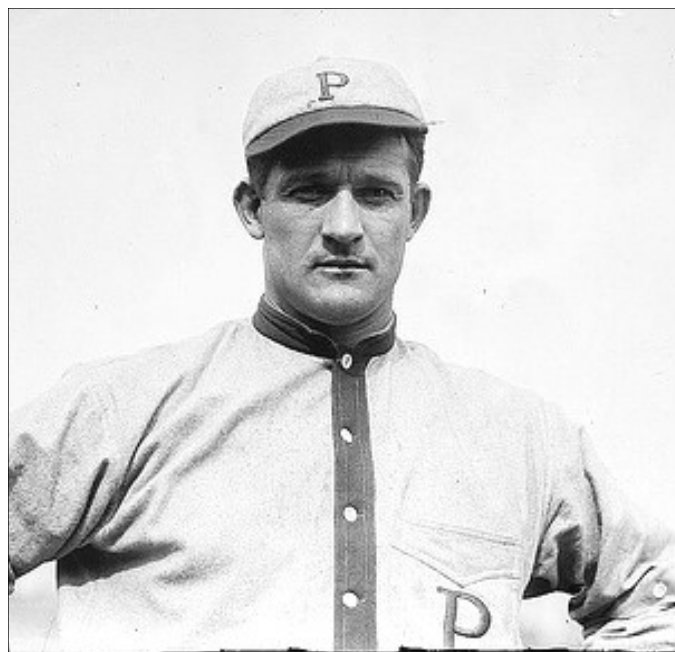
# Howie Camnitz - World Championship Pitcher

Chris Meiman

In a career that spanned more than a decade, Howie Camnitz won more than 100 games for the Pittsburgh Pirates, including a World Series title in 1909. After a very promising start to his career, however, Camnitz's baseball world crashed down relatively quickly as arm problems ended his career at the young age of 34.<sup>1</sup>

Samuel Howard Camnitz was born in Covington, Kentucky, on August 22, 1881, to Elizabeth and Henry Camnitz. The family lived at 23 East Tenth Street.<sup>2</sup> Henry was a printer by trade and something of a prominent citizen in Covington. He was involved in the local baseball scene, providing 5,000 score sheets for each game of the Kenton Baseball Club in 1883.<sup>3</sup> The family's time in the area would not last any longer; however, as the Camnits moved to the Central Kentucky town on McKinney, about twenty miles south of Danville. It was there that Howie's brother Harry, also a future big league pitcher, was born in 1884.<sup>4</sup> By 1905, Henry Camnitz was working for the *Adair County News* in Columbia. The *News* printed a *Toledo Times* profile of Howie saying that, "...his curveball [was] lightning fast."<sup>5</sup>

Howie attended Centre College in Danville before signing with the Class-D Vicksburg (MS) Hill Billies of the Cotton States League. In 1903, Camnitz dominated the CSL, sporting a 26-7 record and striking out 294 batters.<sup>6</sup> He was then drafted by the Pittsburgh Pirates in the Rule V draft and began his major league career in 1904. The initial experience was troubling for young Camnitz as he won only one of five decisions.<sup>7</sup> Camnitz's best pitch was a curveball, but he used it so often that opposing players soon caught on and he was sent back to the minors.<sup>8</sup> After a stint in Toledo and a brief return to Pittsburgh in 1906, Camnitz returned to the Pirates rotation for the start of the 1907 season as a regular starter. As a rookie, Camnitz pitched a five-inning no-hitter in a 1-0 victory over New York, one day after his 26<sup>th</sup> birthday. For the year, Camnitz compiled a

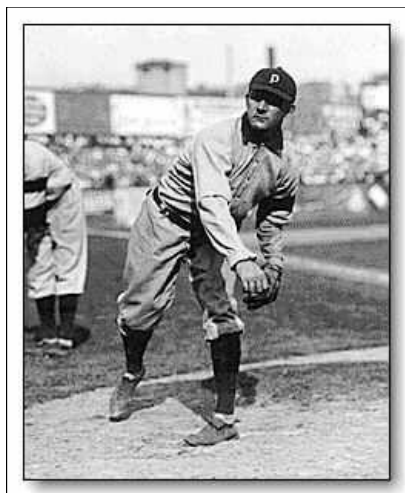


13-8 record with a fine 2.15 Earned Run Average. He continued his dominance of National League hitters in 1908 by sporting a 16-9 record and a career best 1.56 ERA.<sup>9</sup>

The next season, Camnitz became one of the NL's elite pitchers, starting with an Opening Day 3-0 victory over the Reds at The Palace of the Fans.<sup>10</sup> That year he became the ace of the Pirate team and sported a remarkable record of 25-6 and a 1.62 ERA. The Pirates easily won the National League pennant and faced Ty Cobb and the Detroit Tigers in the World Series. Camnitz was the logical choice to start game one in Pittsburgh for Hall of Fame player/manager Fred Clarke. Howie was hurting, however, and Clarke was forced to look elsewhere. Officially, Camnitz was dealing with a throat infection, though baseball historian Irv Goldfarb cites contemporary reports that Camnitz was an alcoholic and had "fallen off of the wagon."<sup>11</sup> Clarke stunned the baseball world by choosing rookie Charles "Babe" Adams to start Game One. Adams responded by winning the game 4-1. Clarke turned back to his ace, Camnitz, for Game Two; however, it was clear that whatever was



ailing the Kentucky native had not dissipated. Camnitz allowed five runs in 21/3 innings and the Pirates lost the game 7-2. Howie was lifted from the rotation and pitched only one additional inning in the Series, allowing a run in a relief appearance in Game Six. Fortunately for Camnitz and the Pirates, the rookie Adams pitched the series of his life, winning three games, capped off with an 8-0 shutout in Game Seven.<sup>12</sup>



After a poor 1910 regular season, Camnitz rebounded in 1911 and pitched the first of two 20-win seasons in a row. After a sub-par 1913 season that saw him traded from the Pirates to the Philadelphia Phillies, he jumped to the newly formed Federal League. Pitching for the Pittsburgh Rebels of the Federal League, Camnitz compiled a pedestrian record of 14-18. Early in the 1915 season, he was accused of violating club rules and was given an unconditional release. After eleven years of major league pitching, Camnitz's career was over. He still ranks among the top 20 in Pittsburgh Pirates history in wins, (116) ERA (2.63) and strikeouts (806).<sup>13</sup> He retired to Louisville and became a car salesman. He died on March 2, 1960.<sup>14</sup>

1. Goldfarb, Irv. "Howie Camnitz," *The Baseball Biography Project*. Society for American Baseball Research. bioproj.sabr.org. Accessed July 21, 2009.

2. 1880 Covington City Directory

3. *The Daily Commonwealth*, March 10, 1883, p.2.

4. "Harry Camnitz," baseball-reference.com. Accessed July 21, 2009.

5. *Adair County News*, April 19, 1905, p. 1

6. Goldfarb, *Ibid*.

7. "Howie Camnitz," baseball-reference.com. Accessed July 21, 2009

8. Goldfarb, *ibid*.

9. "This Day in Baseball," *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, August 23, 2003, p. D7

10. Peterson, Bill. "Reds Find Relief Just in Time," *Cincinnati Post*, April 8, 1991, p. 1D

11. Goldfarb, *Ibid*.

12. "1909 World Series," baseball-reference.com. July 21, 2009

13. "Howie Camnitz," baseball-reference.com. Accessed July 21, 2009

14. Goldfarb, *Ibid*.

## SURTEES – Continued

Part of Surtees' legacy is the people he helped mold in the business. Three-time Academy Award winning Cinematographer Conrad Hall, worked for Surtees as well as other important cinematographers. Hall, who filmed *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*, *American Beauty*, and *Road to Perdition* is, like Surtees' mentor Hal Mohr, another cinematographer with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.<sup>8</sup>

Another part of Robert Surtees' legacy is his son Bruce, who is another acclaimed cinematographer. Closely associated with Clint Eastwood's films of the 1970s and 1980s, Bruce Surtees also filmed classic movies *Risky Business*, *Beverly Hills Cop*, and the 1974 biopic of comedian Lenny Bruce, *Lenny*, for which he was nominated for an Oscar.<sup>9</sup>

Some of the advice Bruce Surtees received from his father he relayed in an interview with the magazine *American Cinematographers* in 1987. Bruce Surtees said his father told him, "Always make it dramatic. Forget about trying to explain where the source of light is. Think of what makes the *take*, not the scene, dramatic."<sup>10</sup>

1. Thackery, Jr., Ted. "Cinematographer Robert Surtees Dies." *Los Angeles Times*, January 7, 1985. P. 4-5.

2. "Hal Mohr." Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia, [http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Hal\\_Mohr&oldid=296263797](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Hal_Mohr&oldid=296263797), Last Updated June 14, 2009. Accessed July 7, 2009.

3. Koster, Henry and Irene Kahn Atkins. *Henry Koster* (The Scarecrow Press: Metuchen, New Jersey) 1987, p. 84

4. "Robert Surtees." Internet Movie Database, <http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0005892/>. Accessed July 7, 2009.

5. Sultanik, Aaron. *Film, A Modern Art*. (Cornwall Books: Cranbury, NJ) 1986, p. 299.

6. "Robert Surtees." Internet Movie Database, <http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0005892/>. Accessed July 7, 2009.

7. "ASC Hands Out Student Heritage Awards." American Society of Cinematographers Press Release, February 4, 2002.

8. LoBrutto, Vincent. *Principal Photography: Interviews with Feature Film Cinematographers*. (Praeger Publishers: Westport, CT) 1999, p. 3.

9. "Bruce Surtees." Internet Movie Database, <http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0839732/>. Accessed July 7, 2009.

10. "Heartbreak Ridge, an Exercise In Realism, Green and Eastwood on Spontaneity." *American Cinematography*. The American Society of Cinematographers. Vol. 68, No. 1, January 1987, p. 31.

# A Look Back at The Headlines

*An on-going feature reliving local headlines*

*This issue features:*

*The Covington Journal – September 2, 1874.*

There has been no one committed to the jail at Independence for felony since January 1871, which speaks well for the morals of the people from that part of Kenton County.

The morning train on the Kentucky Central road on Monday last, was thrown from the track at Butler Station by a defect in the switch. The baggage car was smashed up, but no one was hurt.

Sheriff Macklin had his buggy demolished and his horse injured by the carelessness of the driver of a heavy lumber wagon on Thursday afternoon.

During all the week the thermometer at mid-day has been well up in the nineties. Notwithstanding the intense and unacceptable heat, there is no unusual sickness in Covington. Indeed there has been no healthier season for years. Holy water?

An ardent youth entered the County Clerk's office a few days since for the purpose of obtaining the necessary document that would unite him with the idol of his heart, and in the excitement of his bliss, gave the name of his future mother-in-law, who is a widow, which was entered on the license. The mistake was discovered in time to prevent a scene.

Another instance of carelessness and negligence of the employees of the Covington Street Railway Company has come to hand. On Tuesday night of this week, an elderly lady, returning from Cincinnati, requested the driver to inform her when the car reached 11th Street, which he promised to do. He failed to do so, however, and carried the lady to the end of the route, 18th Street! Upon her reminding him of his negligence, he refused to bring her back to 11th Street, and she was compelled to walk nearly a mile to her residence. How long are our people to bear the insolence and impositions of this corporation?

## MITCHEL - Continued

- play sand lot baseball and freely roam the wooded areas whereas my children were denied those experiences in the same town.
4. F. A. Mitchel (son), "Ormsby MacKight Mitchel, Astronomer & General" Houghton, Mifflin Co., Boston (1887) p. 4.
  5. F. A. Mitchel, *Ibid.*, p. 40.
  6. Quoted in F. A. Mitchel, *Ibid.*, p. 43.
  7. The importance of amateur astronomers is still significant since many of them take on tasks of tracking individual heavenly bodies where the professionals have no time.
  8. The only proposition to establish an observatory in the United States was made to Congress by John Quincy Adams while president (1824-1829). Mr. Adams' proposal was generally ridiculed throughout the country and was rejected by Congress.
  9. Although the fastest growing city in the United States, Cincinnati in 1835 had not much more than 25,000 population.
  10. F. A. Mitchel, *op. cit.*, p. 50
  11. Wm. Goodman, Treasurer; M G. Williams, Secretary. Directors included: E. Poor, J. H. Perkins, E. D. Masfield, H. Storr, Jonathan Foote, J. Jonas, G. P. Torrence, J. T. Brooke, J. P. Harrison, M. Greenwood, and M. T. Williams.
  12. Ormsby Mitchel, "Memoirs" as quoted in F. A. Mitchel, p. 60-61
  13. The observatory was situated on a prominent hill on the east side of Cincinnati known as Mt. Ida, named for Ida Martin, a recluse who resided there. John Quincy Adams was invited to dedicate the observatory and since that time, the hill is known as Mt. Adams.
  14. F. A. Mitchel, *op. cit.*, p. 140.
  15. One of Professor Mitchel's discoveries was the nature of Antares as a double star. Also: see F. A. Mitchel, p.172.
  16. F. A. Mitchel, *op. cit.*, p. 208. Ormsby had 6 children with Louisa (3 boys; 3 girls) and her Trask son had died in 1850 of consumption contracted in the Mexican War. Louisa was buried in Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn, NY.
  17. 23 February 1862. In Nashville, General Mitchel met with Mrs. Polk, widow of the president who mentioned to him the war would end when the South is released from the Union. General Mitchel dis-

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

"Recently a friend of mine gave me a copy of your May/June 2009 Bulletin which featured an article on the Ohio Scroll and Lumber Company. In the article, Anthe Machine Works was mentioned as a supplier of tooling for this company."

"I remember the Feuse family and Harry Rivard as its last president. I visited the plant often with my father as a child and as a grown-up. I took over Anthe Machine Works in 1963 when my father passed away. I managed the company until 1995 when I retired and passed it on to my two sons, who still run it today. We are currently 112 years old."

Sincerely,  
Donald H. Anthe

P.S. – Enclosed is a check for \$20.00 for membership and subscription to the Bulletin

## Then and Now



Left: View northwest from the entrance to the Suspension Bridge in Covington in 1937. Workers stack sandbags in an effort to keep flood waters from making the structure impassible. Right: Same view today.

Left photo courtesy the Kenton Co. Library. Right photo courtesy Ron Einhaus

## Mystery Photo

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



### ANSWER:

This is the north tower of Trinity Church, Covington.

Photo courtesy Ron Einhaus

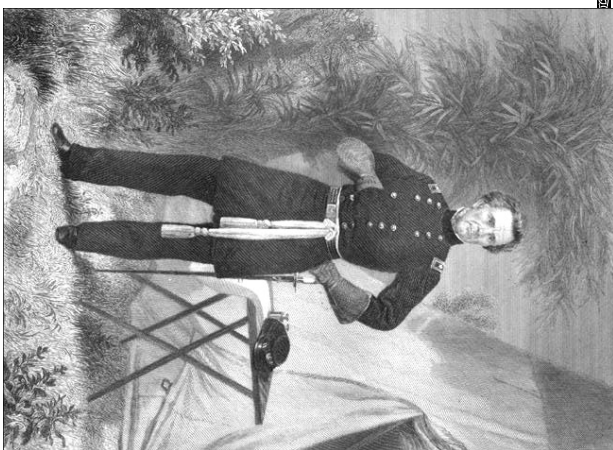
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# COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

September/October 2009

## Feature Story:

Ormsby Mitchel

## Other Stories Inside:

Robert Surtees — Award Winning Cinematographer  
Howie Cannitz — World Championship Pitcher