



Bulletin

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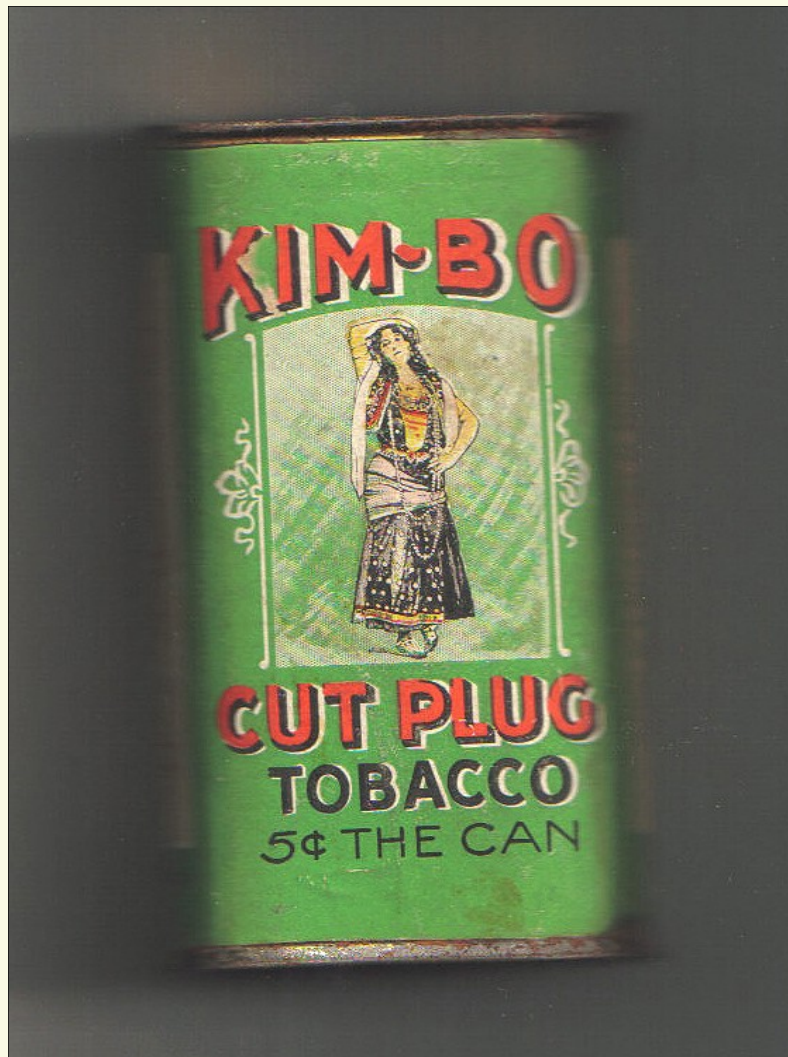
Kenton County Historical Society

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Covington

Covington - When the Tobacco Industry Was Big

John Boh

Tobacco manufacturing prevailed through the 1920s with the auctioning of local growers' leaf into the 1950s. For most years in Covington — a substantial river city and vibrant urban center — major industry included tobacco.

Already in 1834 the street directory listed a “cigar manufacturer” and nine “tobacconists.”¹ By 1840, fast-growing Covington had 2,000 inhabitants, a cotton factory, a rolling mill, two flour mills, a pork packing plant and nine tobacco factories employing about 100.²

In July 1841, the *Licking Valley Register* boasted that Covington had a rolling mill, cotton factory, flouring mill, hemp bagging factories, rope walks, a brewery, slaughter houses and packing houses. “And then comes the great staple tobacco” of which incredibly “will be manufactured in this city in the year 1841 upwards of fifteen thousand kegs and boxes of chewing tobacco” worth \$200,000 and “besides we ship hundreds of hogsheads and boxes of leaf, to all parts of the chewing and smoking world.”³

In 1844 the Rolling Mill and Nail Factory employed 120 and the Covington Cotton Factory 70 to 100 (three-fourth females). Its twenty-two tobacco and cigar manufacturers consumed 2,210,000 pounds of leaf tobacco annually, and a “stemmery,” handled another 500,000 pounds. Tobacco employed about 250 persons in Covington, aside from barrel, keg and box makers and other related products.⁴

Tobacco in Kentucky

Before the Declaration of Independence, recalled W. F. Axton (*Tobacco in Kentucky*), American colonials shipped an amazing 100 million pounds of tobacco yearly to England and elsewhere. Tobacco also became the great American export crop in 1791 when



Above: Burley tobacco stacked in a warehouse
courtesy Kenton County Public Library

On the cover: Can of Kim-bo Cut Plug Tobacco
courtesy Richard Ritchie

a total of 118,000 hogsheads worth \$4,349,567 matched the record before the Revolution. However, turbulent years (1792 to 1815) of European conflict depressed the tobacco export market.

Therefore, Kentucky farmers sold more flour, brine packed and smoked meat. In 1810 thirteen mills made hemp bagging and twine for cotton baling and thirty-eight rope walks made twine and rope. Kentucky and Tennessee shipped fibers, gunpowder and salt to the cotton-growing South. Kentucky corn was distilled into Bourbon whisky.

Before White Burley was the preferred crop in the Bluegrass, Kentucky produced nearly all the hemp made in the U.S. For growers it was 1830 before tobacco began to equal other commodities, and 1840 before tobacco sales exceeded its record year of 1791.

With statehood in 1792, Kentucky copied its parent state Virginia (“built on smoke”). Warehouse

inspectors approved tobacco leaf that became deposits for growers in warehouses in return for notes that could be used as currency.

Kentucky tobacconists also inherited production methods from Virginia. In late summer, growers cut and hung tobacco in barns to fire cure or air cure (White Burley). Once cured, humid air had to bring the delicate leaves “into case” for handling without crumpling. They removed it from the barn and stripped the leaves from the stocks. To prevent rotting, farmers typically “sweated” the leaves for a while on flat wooden frames. For shipping they re-packed them under mechanical pressure in large oaken barrels or “hogsheads,” over a half ton in weight. Later, processors removed the stems, dried the leaves to a precise temperature, added back moisture and re-packed them in hogsheads for fermentation and mellowing.

By the 1820s, the “western states” including Kentucky and Tennessee (later Ohio, Indiana and Missouri) grew maybe up to 20% of U.S. tobacco.⁵ An early tobacco “plantation” ideally had access to a wharf where the packed hogsheads could be loaded on to barges.⁶ Thus early tobacco growing was more concentrated in the general region of the Cumberland, Green, and Tennessee rivers.

In the 1790s Louisville factories already made “segars,” “smoakum” (pipe mixtures), snuff and chaw. The introduction of the steamboat (1811) only increased business in the city and facilitated a booming trade downriver. Louisville was by then established as a tobacco center when the Portland Canal opened (1830). Indeed the canal allowed boats to bypass the Falls of the Ohio without stopping to haul cargo around it or through the city’s busy commercial district.

By 1850, the leading counties each grew over three million pounds, many others one to three million pounds, and others less. Northern Kentucky counties along the Ohio River, from Trimble to Mason, also grew “significant amounts.” Henry, Bracken and Mason counties grew one to three million; Owen one-half to one million; Trimble, Shelby, Carroll,

Gallatin, Boone, Kenton, Grant, Pendleton and Nicholas counties 100,000 to 500,000; Campbell less than 100,000 pounds.

Louisville had 82 tobacco and seegar factories. However, aside from Louisville, most factory processing was done on the East Coast and in Europe. Virginia even sold processed tobacco back to Kentucky customers. Some Kentucky factories just stripped, stemmed and re-dried; others made the finished product. In 1852, Louisville shipped 16,000 hogsheads or over 1.6 million pounds. From upriver in Mason County, 244 hogsheads of “prime light” leaf sold for over a “half million dollars” in a single day.⁷

Second to Louisville, the city of Covington shared in this tobacco prosperity. A tour in 1858 of the William B. Mooklar Company showed an “army” of workers in the “twisting room.” Nearby “rows” of boys aged ten and up were “stemming” the “leaf” and cutting “wrappers.” On the second floor, the weed was flattened three times in three long rows of iron screw presses of immense power.

“Among the highest bidders,” the *Covington Journal* boasted, for “premium tobacco,” was Mooklar, with agents in Richmond, Virginia, Louisville, and St. Louis. Manufactured from top grade leaf, Mooklar’s “Key Brand” chewing tobacco might soon rival fancy Virginia brands.⁸

The French preferred snuff; Spanish cigars; and the English smoked pipes. German and middle Europeans influenced the establishment of manufacturing centers in New York and New Jersey. Later, large centers emerged in Pennsylvania, California and Florida. Nevertheless, small cigar manufacturers were also widespread, as was the case in Covington.

In 1860, Kentucky tobacco production doubled that of 1850. It was almost one-fourth the US crop and earned about one-half of the state’s agricultural income. Western counties still were leaders. Crittenden, Henderson, Davies, and Todd each produced from 4 million up to 11.5 million pounds.

With the advantage of its new L&N railroad, Louisville supplied Union forces and also traded in the

Confederacy. However, Cincinnati had its own new railroad facilities passing through to the East; and also the Covington & Lexington Railroad connected Cincinnati to Central Kentucky. From 6,000 hogsheads before the Civil War, by 1864-65 Cincinnati was dealing 50,000, becoming a "major hogshead market together with Northern Kentucky."

Aside from railroads, Cincinnati and Covington became an even more prosperous tobacco center, and Northern Kentucky and the Bluegrass a most productive tobacco growing region after the introduction of "White Burley."⁹ With the still popular western dark leaf and the newer White Burley, Kentucky was "the nation's premier tobacco growing state in poundage" from 1865 to 1929.

In 1869, the "twenty-four tobacco manufactories" in Covington were employing "about eight hundred men and boys." Tobacco production was valued at "over four millions of dollars."¹⁰ "The leaf tobacco trade of Cincinnati and Covington exceeded \$6,000,000." It was quickly envisioned that the region might become the principal "tobacco market in America."¹¹

By 1870, Kentucky manufactured over \$2 million in tobacco (three fourths chaw, smoakum and snuff), mostly from Louisville — always the tobacco center. Of \$19 million manufactured in New York, \$8 million was in cigars and cigarettes, the remainder in chewing, smoking and snuff. Missouri totaled \$10 million, practically all chaw and smoakum. Virginia, at \$7 million, manufactured mostly chewing, "smoking" and snuff.¹²

Covington and White Burley

Covington was at the center of "one of the finest tobacco districts in the country," boasted the *Daily Commonwealth* in 1879. Newer companies were Robert Hamilton and Company and Simrall and Crawford manufacturing "fine cut"; Lovell & Gedge, "both plug and fine cut"; and a large factory, Lee & Smith, for "plug alone." Older companies included the Glore Brothers, Senour and Noonan, Lovell and Buffington, Hudson and Son, McNamara and Brothers, and the O'Brien Brothers.

In the "Cincinnati district" the White Burley tobacco growing counties included Mason, Bracken, Pendleton, Campbell, Kenton, Boone, Grant, Owen and Trimble; in Ohio, Brown, Clermont, and Adams. Manufacturers of plug tobacco used "very fine" white tobacco "for filters, making the manufactured article much finer." Covington tobacco factory wages were estimated at "\$400 per day."¹³

Kentucky grew a third of U.S. tobacco but ranked fifth in 1880 in the manufacturing of "plug" behind Virginia, New Jersey, Missouri and North Carolina. Of the \$4.7 million total tobacco value in Kentucky, plug accounted for \$3.7 million. In poundage, Louisville led with 5.2 million. Covington "took the lion's share of the remainder," 2.5 million pounds of "plug and fine chewing" tobacco.

Louisville handled 52,536 hogsheads compared to 49,402 by Cincinnati. Kentucky white burley products went to Cincinnati and Middletown. Big tobacco factories were started in "western states," in Middletown, Louisville, St. Louis and in Tennessee.¹⁴

In 1886, Covington tobacco companies were numerous: Perkins and Ernst tobacco factory; Percival's Leaf Tobacco Warehouse; W. C. Hamilton Tobacco Works; J. Shelley Hudson's Tobacco factory (on Madison, two buildings, three floors each, wrapping, storage steaming drying, pressing); Robert Hamilton Tobacco Factory (on Madison in two large buildings, fine cut plug and smoking tobacco, casing, drying, cutting, steaming and storage); Kenton Tobacco Factory; Lovell and Buffington (cutting first floor, packing second floor, sorting 3rd floor, storage 4th floor); McNamara and Sealts manufacturing (roughly opposite Lovell and Buffington on Scott Street).

Near the elegant "Riverside" neighborhood was the Senour and Gedge Re-drying Tobacco Warehouse (100 block of Greenup adjoining the Suspension Bridge Company offices); across the street the Senour and Gedge Tobacco Manufacturing plant (east side at 116-118 Greenup, pressing 1st floor, stripping 2nd floor, packing, 3rd floor); the Kentucky Railroad Tobacco Company (210 Greenup, plug manufacturing) and a large tobacco warehouse (212-220 Greenup).

Retail stores included: "Cigars, Billiards," 516 Madison; "Cigars," 504 Madison, 536 Madison; "cigar manufacturing" in the rear of 536 at 536½ Madison; Cigars, Confection, 13 Pike; Cigar factory, 802 Madison; "Cigar Factory No. 1," 28 Pike.¹⁵

The J. Shelley Hudson Tobacco Company in 1882 had a new brand name called White Swan. A lithograph showed a lady in her gondola with beautiful white swans floating by and the city of Venice in background. It was the latest Bright Navy Tobacco made of the finest White Burley filler; "the wrapper" was "selected Virginia stock"; it also was known as White Swan "by the tin tag."¹⁶ In 1886, an industrial directory said that J. Shelly's father, Homer Hudson, started it in 1863; manufacturer of Fine Bright Plug (525-527 Madison Ave, three story brick fifty feet by 159 feet long, a forty horsepower engine, "fifty skilled operatives").

Henry Feltman's company (a brick building three stories high, twenty-two feet wide and 110 feet long, an elevator, "forty skilled workmen") manufactured fine cigars and dealt in tobacco leaf. It sold 125,000 cigars annually in Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri, Tennessee, Georgia and elsewhere. Founded in Cincinnati (1848), it moved to Covington in 1853, to 28-30 Pike Street in 1873. A German native, Feltman, age 53, was president of the German National Bank.¹⁷

The Anchor Tobacco Works (factory, 18 and 20 East Pike and 17 and 19 East Sixth, four floors for manufacturing, basement for storage, fifty employees) had a nation-wide reputation for the superior quality; twist, plug and spun roll; W. H. Whiteman was secretary and treasurer. The company purchased fine "raw tobacco" from Virginia and Kentucky; brands of plug including the famous "Nomad"; "Maple Leaf," "Fast Express," "Anchor," "C. O. D.," "Labor" and others; of spun tobacco "Silver Cord," "S. and T.," and "Pineapple"; "Narrow Gauge" and "Pappoose" "are the finest bright tobacco of this style anywhere." Its market was in every state east of the Mississippi River and in Missouri, Kansas, and Nebraska.¹⁸

According to Axton, in the 1800s Americans using tobacco most often chewed! It included those in



Erlanger Tobacco Warehouse
courtesy Kenton County Public Library

towns and cities as well as the countryside. Early backwoodsmen bit off a rather harsh tasting self-made twist of leaf for a chaw. Commercial twist made from western Kentucky leaf had not been as sweet as the much sweeter plug now manufactured with White Burley. During the Civil War, sweet plug was introduced to many Union soldiers; after the war their addiction multiplied sales.

Kentucky in 1890 had thirty-eight factories making chewing and smoking tobacco, ten more than in 1880. Louisville made \$5.1 million in plug, of which the National Tobacco Works alone made 15% of the nation's total. Next to Louisville was Covington. Including chewing and smoking, its tobacco earned "almost a million dollars"; stemming and re-handling earned another quarter million. Kentucky stemming and re-handling plants increased from twenty in 1880 to seventy-nine in 1890.¹⁹

Getting Cincinnati warehouses to move across the bridge was an aim of the Covington Business Men's Club in 1903.²⁰ Perhaps the last big manufacturer in Covington was the E. O. Eschelby Company, which had had an office in Cincinnati. From Newport, it relocated its plant to Covington at 6th and Main streets in 1903.²¹ Preparing to employ "nearly 100" it renovated a four story building²² and became a chewing and smoking tobacco maker and leaf dealer. The Eschelby Tobacco Company property, at 409-415 West Sixth Street, was sold in 1956 for \$1.00 and other considerations to John R. and Mary T. Green.²³

Emblematic Lovell and Buffington

Covington's most prominent later manufacturer was Lovell and Buffington, which in 1874 erected a large factory building at 235 Scott Street; it would employ 125. In 1906 it erected a six story structure just south of the first one. The same year, Lovell and Buffington purchased the Whiteman & McNamara Company, 18 East Pike Street, which in 1901 had employed seventy.

Lovell and Buffington's best known brand for its domestic and overseas market was perhaps Fountain Fine Cut. In 1876 it won a gold medal at the Philadelphia Centennial celebration and received the same honor in 1893 at the Columbian Exhibition in Chicago. Also gaining popularity was a chewing tobacco called Bull Dog Twist and a smoking tobacco called Bull Dog. In 1904 another gold medal was won at the St. Louis Exposition.²⁴

Both H.L. Lovell and James Buffington had roots in Virginia, notably the section that became West Virginia. Centered at Charleston, the Kanawha River Valley produced salt and then coal in a constant river trade with Cincinnati.²⁵

Rich, Lovell and Buffington started on Water Street in Cincinnati. After Rich retired, Lovell and Buffington relocated to Covington. In 1875, 125 workers were employed.²⁶ In 1893, the company claimed 80 employees making 2,000,000 pounds valued at \$3 million.²⁷

James Buffington died prematurely in 1881 at age 51, at his residence in the 100 block of Russell Street.²⁸ The company was appraised at \$97,424, of which Buffington held half interest. His share of "Good Will" was listed as another "\$26,000." The total value of his extensive estate was estimated to be \$235,712.²⁹

After Buffington's death, H. L. Lovell, D.C. Collins, Howell L. Lovell, Jr., William D. Collins, Joseph E. Mitchell, and Charles Davis in December 1884 incorporated Lovell and Buffington Tobacco Company for "the manufacture of tobacco" (capital stock \$300,000). H.L. Lovell passed away in 1900.³⁰ In April 1901, the directors agreed to increase stock

offerings from \$300,000 to \$500,000. In 1912 directors again re-incorporated."

In 1917 the directors' decreased stock from \$500,000 to \$245,500. Then they increased the "common stock and added a category of preferred stock. Then in 1923, directors again reincorporated."³¹ Lovell and Buffington production was terminated in the late 1920s. The property was soon occupied by other businesses.³² Nevertheless, for over fifty years, the two large factory buildings stood as emblems for Covington's old tobacco industry.

12,000 Brands Nationally!

Nationally, the chewing, smoking and cigar market once had as many as 12,000 brands. In the 1890s, thousands of relatively small companies in Kentucky were buying and selling and processing in the local and regional markets assisted by simple mechanization to "compress and cut plug and twist."

These were also years that saw swift changes. The organizer of the American Tobacco Company (a combine of the principal "eastern" tobacco manufacturers in a "trust") also held ownership to "his unique Bonsack cigarette machine." By 1910, the trust controlled most of American cigarette, plug, smoking tobacco, fine cut chew, snuff, "little cigars" and a small portion of the cigar market. Ruthless pricing schemes forced companies including the larger ones in the "western" states to sell out.

At the same time, in the late 1890s, prices fell sharply for western "black patch" tobacco. To force up prices, cooperatives were organized but voluntary membership fell short. Therefore organizers resorted to terrorist violence as "Knight Riders", trying to force all growers into cooperatives, destroyed barns and warehouses. It spilled over spreading east to the Bluegrass and Northern Kentucky.

On March 26, 1908 a conflagration in Covington (4th Street at Bakewell) destroyed T.S. Hamilton warehouses, several nearby residences, and other property.³³ Then, however, legal action eventually diminished the terror. Night Riders were liable to pay compensatory damages; federal courts finally declared that price fixing violated the Sherman Anti-

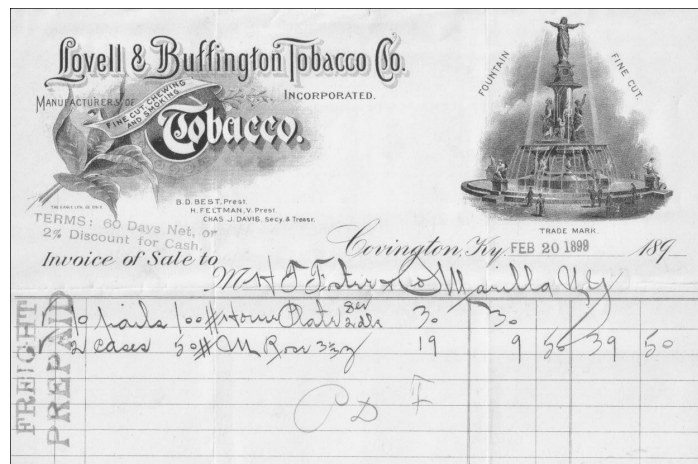
Trust Act. The trust was “partitioned,” but the “Big Four” survived. Of these, R.J. Reynolds soon introduced blended cigarettes under the brand name Camel. The American Tobacco followed, by introducing Lucky Strike; Leggett and Myers gave smokers Chesterfield; and Lorillard offered a mostly failed cigarette brand.

Blended cigarettes became the heart of the 20th century tobacco industry. Thirty per cent of the ingredients in popular cigarettes are the White Burley grown in the Blue Grass and Northern Kentucky. In the 1970s, the annual production of dark leaf amounted to 20 million pounds; White Burley varied from 350 to 550 million pounds.

To leverage higher prices, Kentucky civic leaders in the 1920s engaged in a campaign again to form growers’ cooperatives. Then finally for the Bluegrass and Northern Kentucky, White Burley was established as a permanently reliable and profitable cash crop after the federal government developed programs to limit production while providing price supports.

Nationally, tobacco product sales totaled \$316.7 million in 1909; \$500 million in 1914; and \$1 billion by 1919. By then, 75% of the market was in cigarettes and cigars, but Kentucky manufacturers did not share much in this growth. In 1900, Kentucky’s tobacco production was valued at only \$22 million, but 70% was chewing and smoking products. Most of the remainder was from stemming and re-handling operations and only about 7% was from cigars and cigarettes.

Kentucky manufacturing had concentrated on “plug” sales, which did not increase from 1910 to 1920, and thereafter decreased. Not seen in Covington either was resurgence in manufacturing which occurred primarily in Louisville. There, a smaller more nimble Axton-Fisher Tobacco Company did well enough during the Depression. By the 1920s, Brown and Williamson was prominent. In the 1970s, corporations that also ran factories in Kentucky produced one-third of all U.S. cigarettes. A big cigar manufacturer in Owensboro produced nearly 700 million cigars.³⁴



Invoice from Lovell & Buffington Tobacco Co., dated 1888

courtesy Richard Ritchie

The Kenton Loose Leaf Auction Warehouse

After the Civil War, transportation improvements and other constant changes encouraged market centers like Covington to build new local tobacco warehouses. After 1900, a changeover also occurred inside the warehouses. With transport in hogshead discontinued, the norm became to unload from growers’ trucks into baskets on the floor for auctioning.³⁵ Typically, buyers from large tobacco companies accompanied the auctioneer on the floor bidding on farmers’ burley.

From 1955 until the late 1970s, a warehouse auctioned tobacco in Erlanger (at the current site of the Kroger shopping complex at Silver Lake on the Dixie Highway). With the recent demise of the Covington auction warehouse the “New” Kenton Warehouse was incorporated to sell loose leaf tobacco and for other uses. However, it operated less than twenty years before moving on.

In Covington, the predecessor to this Erlanger warehouse was incorporated in 1918 by W.H. White-man and by Bart Schmidt and Frank F. Albers of Cincinnati (capital stock \$2000). The purpose of the “Kenton Loose Leaf Tobacco Warehouse” was for “carrying on a general loose leaf tobacco warehouse business in all its branches, including the purchase and selling of leaf-tobacco, upon commission or otherwise, either at public auction or by private sale....”³⁶

For years, the importance of the tobacco market to Covington was evident. It was affirmed on a Ken-

tucky Post front page in January 1919. A photo showed a parade of vehicles loaded with tobacco which was blocking traffic where ordinarily vehicular traffic was light. This was within a block of Covington's city hall. "The fragrant weed" was being delivered by "wagons, automobiles, auto buses, passenger cars" to the Kenton Loose Leaf Tobacco Warehouse, 2nd and Greenup streets. 114,870 pounds were sold at an average of \$32.14 per hundred yielding \$36,920.17. The highest was 74 cents the lowest 11¼ cents. Bidders from Liggett & Myers and from the Lorillard Tobacco Company "were most active."

One Bracken County crop of 3,175 pounds averaged 51 cents; another weighing 2,975 pounds averaged 39 cents; a Boone County crop weighing 2,360 pounds averaged 50 cents; 3,150 pounds from Franklin County Indiana averaged 40 cents; another crop from Boone County sold 2,685 pounds at an average 39 cents per pound.³⁷

Already in 1919 the *Kentucky Times Star* reported that the warehouse on Greenup Street opened "a few months ago" was deemed too small. Kenton Loose Leaf, under President William Whiteman, was going to build a larger one on the site of the old Federal League Ball Park (next to Lovell and Buffington).³⁸ For a time, another auction warehouse operated in Covington. Like Kenton Loose Leaf, the Tri-State Loose Leaf Tobacco Warehouse, in the late 1920s and early 1930s, hosted annual fall tobacco sales (northwest corner 2nd and Russell streets). Its President, A.L. Hite, resided in Higginsport, Ohio; VP Frank L. Powers in Augusta; Treasurer R.E. Hennesey in Ft. Mitchell and "secretary and manager" Charles I. Thomas at 211 E. 4th, Covington.³⁹

In December 1924, heavy business was reported for the second week of the "Covington tobacco market." Kenton sold 43,506 pounds yielding \$3,440.73; Tri-State sold 86,750 yielding \$17,580.68.⁴⁰ In December 1930, the start of the Covington tobacco market was postponed until December 9, when the Lexington Market would also open.⁴¹

In November 1933, the Covington Chamber of Commerce and others set a goal: a record sale of 12 million pounds. "The Covington market, equal of

any in the 'burley belt,' has plentiful transportation and sufficient parking."

The "region" encompassed the counties of Boone, Kenton, Campbell, Bracken Owen, Pendleton, Grant, and Gallatin counties in Kentucky; Butler, Highland, Brown, Clermont, Pike, Hamilton and Warren counties in Ohio; and Dearborn, Ohio, Shelby, Fayette, Ripley, Rush, Franklin, Decatur, Switzerland, Grant and Union counties in Indiana.

Located in a congested urban setting across the river from Cincinnati, the Kenton Loose Leaf Tobacco Warehouse had been competing with outlying auction warehouses, often within driving distance for local growers at Maysville, Carrollton, Cynthiana, Ripley, Ohio; and Madison, Indiana.⁴²

In July 1955, the Kenton Loose Leaf Tobacco Warehouse Company in Covington was dissolved.⁴³ The warehouse was also used as an exposition center. The old tobacco warehouse building burned down on January 7, 1956.⁴⁴ More than two decades after the old warehouse burned, the two large factory buildings of Lovell and Buffington were finally torn down to provide parking facilities for the RiverCenter complex.

From Business Directories The Northern Kentucky Tobacco Industry

1878-79

Covington: "Tobacco Leaf"— M.I. Baker, north side of Main east of 3rd [sic]; John W. Boughner, 115 West 3rd; J.E. Routh & Company, north side of 3rd, east of Main; J.T. Sullivan & Company, 214-220 Greenup; "Tobacco Agent"— J. Harklerodes, 150 East Third; "Tobacco Manufacturers" (Plug and Fine Cut)— Lovell & Gedge; ("Plug")— John Flavin; Homer Hudson & Son; P. McNamara & Company; W. F. A. Moore; O'Brien Brothers; Senour & Noonan; Senour & Perkins; ("Fine Cut")— J.A.P. Glore & Brothers; ("Fine Cut and Smoking")— Robert Hamilton, Lovell & Buffington, Simrall & Crawford.

Associated with the marketing of local tobacco products were other companies: "Tobacco Box Manu-

facturers" – Theo. Bueter, alley east of Scott, north of Fifth; J.H. Niemann, 18 Berry; "Tin Ware Manufacturers" – Conrad Diener, 541 Pike; John F. Firth, 813 Washington; John Longshore, 75 east 11th; M. Nordhoff, 806 Craig; William Menninger, 904 Madison; C.F. Rasch, 1113 Madison [sic].

Newport: (about 17) "Cigars & Tobacco"; **Dayton:** (2) "Cigars & Tobacco; **Bellevue:** no "Cigars or Tobacco"; **Ludlow:** (1) "Cigars & Tobacco".⁴⁵

1890-1891

Covington: (1) "Cigar Box Manufacturer"; (48) "Cigars and Tobacco"; (2) "Tobacco Box Manufacturers"; (7) "Tobacco and Leaf"; (9) "Tobacco Manufacturers." **Newport:** (1) "Cigar Box Lumber"; (1) "Cigar Manufacturer"; (33) "Cigars and Tobacco"; (2) "Tobacco Leaf"; **Dayton:** (2) "Cigars and Tobacco"; **Bellevue:** (5) "Cigars and Tobacco"; **Ludlow:** (1) "Cigar Manufacturer"; **Milldale (Latonia):** (2) "Cigars and Tobacco."⁴⁶

Lovell & Buffington images, courtesy of Richard Ritchie, trustee, Behringer-Crawford Museum; other images courtesy Faces & Places, Kenton County Public Library

Endnotes:

1. 1834 Covington street directory
2. Shaffer's Advertising Directory for 1839-1840
3. *Licking Valley Register*, July 21, 1841
4. *Licking Valley Register*, July 27, 1844, page 2
5. W. F. Axton, *Tobacco and Kentucky*, The Kentucky Bicentennial Bookshelf, Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1975, pages 41-49, 52, 70
6. Rhea Taylor, "Basis for the Constitutional Convention Conflicts," *Filson Club*, Volume 46, 1972
7. Axton, pages 47-49, 52-55
8. "Tobacco Manufacturing," *Covington Journal*, June 12, 1858, page 2
9. Axton, pages 54-57, 66-67
10. *Covington Journal*, January 15, 1864, page 3
11. *Covington Journal*, October 2, 1869, page 3
12. Axton, page 72
13. *Daily Commonwealth*, February 11, 1879, page 1
14. Axton, pages 51, 64, 73-74
15. 1886 Sanborn maps
16. *Daily Commonwealth*, June 24, 1882, page 2
17. *1886, Leading Manufacturers and Merchants of Cincinnati and Environs*, New York: International Publishing Co., page 237, 239
18. *Illustrated Cincinnati: The Queen City of the West--Containing also Covington and Newport, Kentucky, and Hamilton, Ohio...*, New York: Acme Publishing and Engraving Company, second addition, 1891, page 205
19. Axton, pages 55, 58-60, 71, 75
20. The Covington Business Men's Club...to Induce Tobacco Warehouse Men to Come Here," *Kentucky Post*, March 7, 1903, page 1
21. "Another Tobacco Factory," *Kentucky Post*, April 11, 1903, page 3
22. "Another Industry to Locate," *Kentucky Post*, April 17, 1903, page 1
23. Deed Book 449, pages 282-284, Covington Courthouse, November 26, 1956

24. Jim Reis, "Covington Famous for Chewing Tobacco," *Kentucky Post*, March 1, 1999, page 4K
25. Ruth Woods Dayton, *Pioneers and their Homes on Upper Kanawha*, 1947
26. *The Ticket*, July 27, 1775
27. *Kentucky Post*, March 18, 1893
28. *Daily Commonwealth*, July 13, 1881, page 1
29. *Daily Commonwealth*, September 2, 1881, page 1
30. *Cincinnati Enquirer*, May 28, 1900, page 7
31. Articles of Incorporation, Covington Courthouse, books
32. Jim Reis, "Covington Famous for Chewing Tobacco," *Kentucky Post*, March 1, 1999, page 4K
33. "Night Riders Burn Covington Warehouse, Homes Destroyed," *Kentucky Post*, March 26, 1908, page 1
34. Axton, pages 77-78, 82-83, 85, 91, 94-99, 100-103, 110-112, 115-117, 121-122
35. Rhea Taylor, "Basis for the Constitutional Convention Conflicts," *Filson Club*, Volume 46, 1972
36. Articles of Incorporation, Covington Courthouse
37. "New Industry Brings Business to Covington by Wagon Loads,"
38. *Kentucky Times Star*, March 14, 1919, page 26
39. 1928-29, 1930-31 street directories
40. "Tobacco Sold," *Kentucky Post*, December 20, 1924, page 1
41. *Kentucky Post*, December 2, 1930, page 8
42. "Record Tobacco Sale for Covington Is Aim of Community Effort," *Kentucky Post*, November 2, 1933, page 1
43. Articles of Incorporation, Covington Courthouse
44. Jim Reis, "Convention Center Had a Predecessor Just a Block Away," *Kentucky Post*, March 1, 1999, page 4K
45. *Haddock's General Business Directory Covington, Newport, Dayton, Ludlow and Bellevue Ky, 1878-79*, T. M. Haddock, Cincinnati: Wrighton and Company, 1878
46. 1890-91 business directories

Letters to the Editor

Re: Koehnken (last issue)

May I offer a few additional details and corrections: The Plum Street Temple was restored by Fritz Noack – Thomas Miles is the organist. Also, I believe St. Francis de Sales is using an electronic organ – not St. Xavier. St. Xavier Church, Cincinnati, has installed a 4-manual Wicks pipe organ and I am not sure if any Koehnken pipes were used.

Dr. John Deaver

Organist – Trinity Episcopal, Covington

Re: Nunnolley (last issue)

As always, I enjoyed the current [July/August] issue of the "Bulletin". I contacted Mr. Nunnolly back in 1970, when we lived on Southern Ave. He took the entire keyboard and hammers from our old upright piano out of our house in a box. A few years earlier my husband Bob bought the piano for \$15 from a family in West Covington and brought it home in the back of his pick up truck. The finish was blackened from multiple coats of varnish and the veneer was missing from one side. The ivory keys were yellow and chipped, a number of ham-

A Look Back at The Headlines

An on-going feature reliving local headlines

This issue features:

The Kentucky Post – April 1, 1971.

New College Is Born

A dream turned into reality, and a crowd of several thousand, including a cross-section of Northern Kentucky leadership, saw it happen.

Ground was broken for Northern Kentucky State College Wednesday, while a brisk March wind whipped through the hilltop site in Highland Heights.

Governor Louis B. Nunn turned the first earth, driving a Caterpillar bulldozer a short distance near the groundbreaking ceremony

Dr. Frank Steely, clear-speaking president of the new four-year college, declared the college "will avoid the froth and gobbledook of education."

Ten splendid high school bands converted the Pompilio lawn into a splashed flower garden and charmed the joyful throng musically.

Old Glory and the Kentucky State Flag fluttered in a breeze of hope and realization.

Easter Buffet

Please consider the special Easter Buffet, only \$3.95, at our beautiful restaurant inside the majestic Rowntowner Inn (now the Drawbridge).

At the Movies

Showing at the Dixie Gardens Drive-In is the *Owl and the Pussycat*, starring Barbara Streisand. At the Madison Theater is the Disney film *The Barefoot Executive*.

mers were broken and the felt was hard and flat. But I loved it and played on it as often as I could, even though it was grossly out of tune. When we lifted the top we found a certificate attached to the wood that read, in part: "The Worlds Columbian Exposition awards the W. W. Kimball Co. for...having attained the highest standard of excellence in all branches of their manufacture. Chicago, 1905."

While Mr. Nunnally had the musical parts, I went to work "refinishing" the piano. This was before I learned we should not "restore" old furniture. But I never regretted it. Beneath all those coats of varnish stain was a beautiful mahogany veneer. When Mr. Nunnally returned and installed the new keys, felt and hammers, behold, it was a thing of beauty. He and I were very proud of our achievement. He played it, then said it was a wonderful instrument and, "They don't make them like this anymore"

Over the years he returned several times to tune the piano, admonishing me that a piano needs to be played to help it stay in tune. So now the piano is over one hundred years old and it occupies a wall in our dining room. I still play on it a bit. I always think I'll take some lessons, but never have. Thanks for your story about Mr. Nunnally which brought back some fond memories.

Regards,
Barbara Brown
Williamstown, KY

Re: Koehnken (last issue)

On your list of organs: The St. Henry organ did get moved; I don't remember where at the moment but will look it up for you someday. Wise Temple: the organ is used for all services in the building. It was restored by Fritz Noack with some significant modifications: the pitch of the organ was lowered to A=440. The original tracker action was altered, as the original action was not quite right from an engineering perspective. The console is now raised off the balcony floor by several feet to correct an original design miscalculation. St. Francis de Sales: The Koehnken was rebuilt or replaced by the Mathers company and very little of any pipe organ remains. There was an electronic in the balcony when I arrived in Cincinnati in 1978. Mark Schaffer was the organist, then, and the organ that he played has been replaced many times over. The church was, for a while, used as a venue for displaying the latest electronic models and pictured in many organ periodicals, always with a different instrument. St. Xavier, downtown: The church purchased a Wicks organ in the 1980's. Mark Bailey is the organist. One pedal pipe from the Koehnken remains on display. Mark Lively wanted to rebuild the remains of the Koehnken into a two

Then and Now



Left: Taken from the front of old Third District School at 5th and Philadelphia. The view is looking directly north —note St. Patrick's Church on the left (now a Super-America).

Photo on right: same view today.

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



manual instrument, but the organist insisted on a three manual so they went with Wicks for that reason. Holy Cross Monastery: The organ was moved to Holy Cross/Immaculata Church in the 70's where I played it daily in the 80's. It is still there; they have a new parish musician and I believe that they expected it to be used weekly. (I was asked to apply for the job, but thought someone else should have the fun of working in Mt. Adams; I certainly enjoyed my time there.) Our Lady of Perpetual Help: The organ was moved to Holy Family Church, Price Hill by Richard Kersting in the 80's. It is used regularly. Concordia Lutheran is really Prince of Peace Lutheran. It is seldom used. There were many difficulties with the blower, and Jed Satchwell and I worked hard to keep it going. He eventually replaced the blower with a used one from the Episcopal church in Pleasant Ridge in the late 80's. I haven't seen or heard it since. Mother of God: Koehnken also made tracker organs that had "reversed" consoles. I'm not sure if one could have been retrofitted or if the pipe chamber design has to conform to the reversal. The Koehnken organ from the Congregational Church on Race Street (near Prince of Peace Lutheran) is in Texas awaiting restoration by Roy Redman. It is for sale. We recently lost a very significant Barkhoff organ from the Episcopal Church in Northside. I saw it offered for sale on ebay and asked the church if I could buy it and leave it in place. The current occupants, though, wanted the front of church location for their new baptismal/band space. It sold quickly for \$4,000. Thought you'd want to know!

Don Hurd

Mystery Photo

Can you identify the mystery photo below?

The answer can be found at the bottom of the page.



ANSWER:

Riverhouse Condos on Highway Avenue in Botany Hills.

Photo courtesy Ron Einhaus

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I Bet You Didn't Know

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

September 2, 1862: General E. Kirby Smith moved 11,000 Confederate troops into Lexington after his victory at Richmond.

September 8, 1775: Daniel Boone arrived at Boonesborough with his family beginning the settlement for Kentucky. On the same date, the first white female residents of Kentucky arrived at Harrodsburg.

September 22, 1902: The first KY State Fair opened at Louisville's Churchill Downs.

October 1, 1794: The state's first post offices were opened at Lexington, Louisville, Bardstown and Frankfort.

October 8, 1829: While drilling for water near Burkesville, Martin Beatty discovered oil. Incredibly, this was the world's first oil well.

"On This Day In Kentucky" — Robert Powell

2010 Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Historical Society will be September 14th at 7:00 pm. at the Behringer-Crawford Museum in Devou Park. Guest speaker will be attorney Robert E. Rich, descendant from a well-known Kenton County pioneer family. Robert will speak about the Kentucky Historical Society as well as Kenton County History. This event is free and open to all members and guests of the Kenton County Historical Society. For more information, contact John Boh at: (859) 491-0490.

Six@Six — A New Lecture Series

Six@Six is a new lecture series sponsored by NKU's Scripps Howard Center for Civic Engagement. The first two lectures are detailed below, but for more information on the entire series, phone: (859) 572-7847 or log into <http://sixatsix.nku.edu>

September 1 - Abraham Lincoln: Public Speaker

Presenter: James Ramage, Regents Professor, Department of History and Geography
Location: The Mercantile Library, 414 Walnut Street, Cincinnati, Ohio

October 21 - The Art of the Quilt: Stitched [Hist]ories

Presenter: Kimberly Allen-Kattus, associate professor, Department of Visual Arts
Location: Behringer-Crawford Museum, Devou Park, Covington, Kentucky

2010 Northern Kentucky History, Art & Culture Lecture Series continues

Held at Baker Hunt, 620 Greenup Street in Covington, each lecture begins at 2pm. Price: \$7 ea. For more information, call (859) 431-0020.

September 12 - The Fort Mitchell Centennial

Featuring several NKU students, as well as Paul Tenkotte,
NKU Chair and co-author of the Encyclopedia of Northern Kentucky

October 10 - Goetta, Goebel & German Heritage in Northern Kentucky

Don Heinrich Tolzmann, Ph.D., Author and Editor of numerous books on
German American History and Culture

Behringer-Crawford Museum

The museum's current exhibit, *Centennials*, celebrates the history of the City of Ft. Mitchell, the Boy Scouts of America, and Devou Park. A highlight of the exhibit is a working scale model of the business district of South Fort Mitchell in 1943. Notable Northern Kentuckian Daniel Beard and his immense contribution to the founding of the Boy Scouts organization is also featured.

Adults \$7.00, Seniors \$6.00, children 3-17 \$4.00.

For more information, contact the museum at (859) 491-4003