NEW OMNI LOUISVILLE

Several venerable structures were razed to make room for the new Omni Hotel, which just opened this month. We certainly miss the old architecture and the history that surrounded that block but the new hotel is striking in its beauty and it marks the beginning of a new era for central downtown. An effort was made by the Omni to incorporate several historical elements from the neighboring buildings that were razed, including the Falls City Theatre Equipment Company sign and the frontispiece to the Louisville Water Company Building. An excellent photo collage of Louisville history is in the “Library”, a first floor lounge and bar.

Credit goes to several individuals for paying respects to Louisville history and creating a Louisville theme throughout the hotel. Eamon O’Brien, director of sales and marketing and Laura McCoy, interior designer were important players in the choices that were made. The architectural firm for the hotel was HKS, Inc.
Kaelin’s Restaurant Returns
by Gary Falk

We struggle to find preservation success stories but the restaurant known as Kaelin’s that opened in 1934 at 1801 Newburg Road is back in business – now known as Kaelin’s 80/20.

Local legend has it that the Cheeseburger was invented at this site by Carl and Margaret Kaelin who opened the restaurant in 1934. Since that time the establishment has gone through many changes but the recently refurbished sign indicates that a new modernized Kaelin’s now occupies the site, which includes a 1930s style soda fountain and an ice-cream parlor. It all pays great respect to the tradition that was started so many years ago. The Kaelin’s daughter, Irma Kaelin Raque, who operated the business for many years, is surely pleased.

When the last occupant, Mulligan’s Irish Pub, closed the facility was purchased by developer Jesse Flynn. Chris Fenton, Bill DuBourg and Matt Staggs, all friends and graduates of St. Xavier high school, have joined forces as partners in the new operation.

All I can say is: If you can’t stop, please wave!

Tom Owen Receives Award . . .

Historian and U of L Archivist Tom Owen has received the Kentucky Historical Society’s Distinguished Service Award this fall. According to the latest (Winter/Spring 2018) U of L Magazine, the award is presented to those who have “provided great services to Kentucky and the field of history in their professional or personal lives”. Tom is well known for his neighborhood tours and history presentations.

Great history but not much of a future. . .

Yet another change to our area is the closing of Jeffboat after occupying a site that has been home to shipbuilding in Jeffersonville since 1834, starting with James Howard and the many steamboats that were built there. In 1938 it became Jeffboat, building many landing craft, submarine chasers, barges and boats of about every kind. What happens next is anyone’s guess.
German Methodist Churches?? German Baptist Church??

BY REV. GORDON A. SEIFFERTT

German Methodist churches and a German Baptist church?? In Louisville?? Where did they come from? Germans brought their traditional versions of Christianity from Germany to the United States and to Louisville: Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Reformed, Evangelisch. The second Protestant church in Louisville was not among those, but The First German Methodist Episcopal Church, established in 1841 on Clay between Jefferson and Market (the building is being renovated), was. The four Louisville German Methodist churches, plus one in New Albany and one in Jeffersontown, established the German Methodist Deaconess Hospital in 1895—a forerunner of the Methodist Evangelical Hospital. The first German Baptist church was organized in 1856 on Hancock near Chestnut. It established the German Baptist Orphans’ Home in 1871 and the Home settled in the Hanan Estate on East Broadway (Cherokee Road) beside Cave Hill Cemetery. Until recently the building was used by the Highlands Community Ministry for day-care. City directories of the era carried this information: “Receives orphan children and other children in needy circumstances, regardless of religious denominations.”

If these German Methodists and Baptists did not come from Germany, where did they come from?

William Nast was born, 1807, in Stuttgart, Germany, and raised in the Lutheran tradition. He came to the United States in 1828, teaching first at the United States Military Academy and then at Kenyon College in Ohio. Influenced by the Methodist movement, he united with the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1835. In 1837 it authorized him to establish a German Methodist mission in Cincinnati. The Louisville church began in 1841. Over the next 20 years, German Methodist churches were established in almost every state plus Germany, Norway, and Sweden.

During the 1500s, in addition to the Protestant Reformation whose two primary groups were the Lutherans and the Reformed, there was also a much more radical group of Separatists which splintered into a number of denominations. These included the Anabaptists who, as opposed to most Christians through the centuries and at that time, would accept only believer’s baptism, not infant baptism, as biblically based. Konrad Anton Fleischmann is considered as the founder of the first German Baptist church in America. Born 1812, in Nuremberg, Germany, he was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran tradition. At nineteen, struggling with religious doubts, he found inner calm among the Separatists. Two years later he was baptized in a Separatist congregation. He trained to be a pastor and came to the United States. His first attempt to establish the Baptist version of church among Germans was an abysmal failure. He sought appointment from the American Baptist Home Mission Society and was appointed as a missionary to the Germans in Eastern Pennsylvania in 1839. The first conference of German Baptist churches’ delegates was in Philadelphia, 1851. The Louisville church was one of about 30 in its founding year, 1856. By 1977 there were 356 congregations.

So why did Germans, stereotyped as stoic, rational, traditional, rules-following, unemotional, born-into-one’s-faith, folk for whom Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Reformed, Evangelisch had been home for generations, become Methodists, much less Baptists? An hypothesis. Those traditions were very heavily based on creeds (what one believed, usually contrasted with what others believed), and locus of church authority (from the top, a pope, or the individual Christian, or the local congregation, or associations, dioceses, synods, conventions). Those traditions also had behavioral expectations toward caring for others. But how one feels, where one’s heart is, an affectional inner calm, was not important. Except that for some Germans, it was. Their heart was central to their faith . . . and they found that experience in the newer traditions. Some Germans became theologically convinced that infant baptism had no biblical basis.

German Methodists and Baptists? Germans who came to the United States from their old traditions, who converted here to new traditions.

Rev. Gordon A. Seiffertt is a retired UCC minister and an authority on German Evangelical and Reformed churches in Louisville. He wrote the section on Protestant Churches for the 2015 book Germans In Louisville – A History (History Press), C. Robert Ullrich & Victoria A. Ullrich, Editors

The First German Baptist Church, NW corner of Clay and Broadway ca. 1876 – 1919 (Photo: Louisville Anzeiger Newspaper)
Famous Visitors Left their Mark

BY Bob Dawson

Thousands, maybe millions, of people have visited Iroquois park since its beginning in 1889. But before it was Iroquois Park, when it was still known as Burnt Knob, it was visited by two famous historic figures.

It seems that pioneer Daniel Boone killed a bear, or “bar” there in 1803. Thirty-two years later in 1835 General, later President, Zachary Taylor participated in a deer hunt in the park. How do we know this? They both left their marks in the park, or rather on beech trees in the park.

Both trees were discovered in 1912 in the Fenley’s Woods section of the park. This is the area bounded by Palatka Road and Sanders Gate Lane (the old Manslick Road). Think of that part of the park surrounding the Metro Police Horse Barn.

The photo shows the carving on the Daniel Boone tree as it appeared in 1912. Immediately there was controversy on the authenticity of each. One “expert” wrote a long and detailed letter to the Courier-Journal on how neither tree could be authentic since the carving would not have lasted all that time. Both were later claimed to be authentic. The Daniel Boone tree was authenticated by no less an authority than the Filson Historical Society.

Where are they now? The Zachary Taylor carving was preserved by a fence around the tree. No such care was taken with Boone’s tree. The original carving was covered with others by people over the years. By 1932 both trees were on their last legs and had to be cut down. The Boone inscription was cut from the trunk and was given to the Filson Society and according to a 2007 newspaper article by Byron Crawford it was still in their possession. The news was not so good for the Taylor inscription. The inscribed section was given to the Speed Museum. When the museum was questioned by Mr. Crawford, they had no record of it.

Today the bears are gone. The park abounds in deer, but no one hunts them. Visitors (but maybe not so famous) still carve their initials and messages on the venerable beech trees.

Robert (Bob) Dawson is an active member of the Louisville Historical League. He has contributed many articles and presentations over the years, especially regarding the history of railroading in our city where he qualifies as an authority. We welcome his contributions in several areas of Louisville and Southern Indiana history.

Looking Back

Oertel Brewing: “Here’s To You” Radio Show

BY Gary Falk

In 1936 and 1937 the Oertel Brewing Company presented a radio show on WHAS entitled Here’s To You, broadcast every Saturday night from 9 to 9:30 p.m. It was hosted by local celebrities and the “Oertel ’92 Dance Orchestra”. Most of the shows emanated from either the Drury Lane theatre at 5th and Walnut or the nearby National Theatre (the Drury Lane theatre building stands today; the theatre was also known as the Walnut and the Scoop at different times). During the 1937 flood the show continued to be presented from the WHAS radio studio. The show was regularly attended by as many as 2300 people.

Photo courtesy of Donald Howard
Microfiche Is History
By Ellen White

As historians, we have all either been amazed or annoyed by microfiche—that little piece of film, the size of a large index card, on which we have found a deed or probate record in furtherance of our research. State-of-the-art technology in its time, microfiche was a way to easily store multiple documents in a space-efficient, long-lasting manner. If properly stored, microfiche has a life expectancy of up to 500 years!

How do these age-old documents make it onto microfiche? For the past 28 years, Terry Smith has been the one employee at the Jefferson County Clerk’s Office who has scanned all of our important documents onto microfiche.

The microfiche machines at the County Clerk’s Office are 30 years old. The front panels of one machine have been removed and are sitting on the floor, because the machine broke down so often that it saved time just to keep the panels off. The repairman would come down from Cleveland every so often, usually when Terry “bribed” him with fried chicken for lunch. Since the beginning of the year, the noisy machines have been silenced. Now that the machines are off, Terry has noticed a ringing in his ears. He believes that this may have been going on for years, but he just couldn’t hear it over the machines.

With Terry’s retirement at the end of March 2018, the microfiche has retired with him. Now, the records will be digitized, and the analog backup copy required by Kentucky law will simply be the paper document.

As Terry enters a new phase of his life, just like the handwritten and typewritten documents of another era, microfiche passes into history.

Ellen White is a board member of the Louisville Historical League.

John Findling to Leave Louisville

LHL board member and historian John Findling will be leaving Louisville later this year to be closer to his family in Wichita, Kansas.

John retired from Indiana University Southeast in 2005, where he had been a professor of history since 1971. He graduated with a PhD in History from the University of Texas at Austin in 1971.


We will miss John and his wife Carol.
Lt. Alfred Foree
By Bryan Bush

Alfred Foree was born on August 22, 1846, near Louisville, Kentucky. His father, Erasmus D. Foree was a well-known physician with worldwide training and a professor at the Hospital College of Medicine in Louisville. In 1864, he entered the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, and graduated with high honors. His nickname Doctor because of his loving admiration and devotion to his father. One of the stories to emerge from his time at the Naval Academy relates to his personality. One evening in the parlor, a group of young had gathered and they asked a young girl to sing. She selected a very sentimental song and began to sing. Unfortunately she did not have a singing voice at all. The young men began to make fun of her at their expense. A friend of Alfred Foree saw his face and remarked to how grave he looked. In a few moments, Alfred left the parlor. His friend asked him the next day and asked: “You did not enjoy the other evening?” “No,” was his reply. “I like fun always but I don’t call it fun to ridicule a kind-hearted silly girl.”

After his graduation, he was assigned a duty of three years around the world and on his leave he returned home and spent several months with his family and friends. He was promoted from sailing master to lieutenant and was going to visit Washington to take an exam for the position. On March 29, 1872, he wrote his last letter to his family from Kingston, Jamaica, where his ship U.S.S. Kansas was on her way from Key West to Greytown. In his letter he was in cheerful spirits and was looking forward to visiting his family the following summer when he was assigned his next leave.

On April 12, 1872, the U.S.S. Kansas, under the command of Captain Hatfield, was sent to Greytown, Nicaragua. The ship was escorted by a surveying party that was looking into the question of finding an isthmus canal for the United States government. On April 12, Commander A. F. Crossman, who was in command of the surveying expedition, attempted to cross over a bar in a whaleboat, but the steering oar broke and the boat capsized, along with paymaster Bemiss, midshipman Stevens and five other sailors. According to eyewitness Lieutenant James M. Miller, United States Navy, the Kansas immediately sent a boat from the ship to go to their rescue and Foree volunteered to take charge of the rescue. After working in the sea for some time without avail, he returned to the ship for more assistance. Lt. Miller joined Foree and they again went to the rescue. They tried to float a large cask and drop the boat through the surf with a line, but the current was so strong that the rescue was impossible to accomplish their purpose. Alfred spoke up and said: “My God, men, we must save those people from drowning.” Foree commanded the first boat to the rescue. In the heavy surf he saw Crossman weakly struggling. He jumped overboard for the commander just as his own boat capsized. Another rescue boat was sent to the rescue but also capsized. Minute guns were fired from the U.S.S. Kansas, but no aid could be given from the shore since the ship was six miles from shore and out of sight. No one on the shore knew what the firing shots meant. A canoe arrived in time to save Paymaster Bennis and one of the crew and to tow in the other sixteen men. Alfred Foree tried to swim back to the canoe, but was washed off. Edward Ramell, a seaman from the U.S.S. Kansas, swam out to him and twice tried to place him on the boat, but Alfred finally became so weak he could no longer hold onto the boat. Then, he said: “Goodbye my men; leave me and save your selves. Don’t try to save me for it is no use.” Then, throwing up his arms, he sank and was seen no more. The others managed to swim ashore. Three of the men came in on an empty cask. Captain Crossman and Foree both drowned. They were later picked up together, the Commander in Lieutenant Foree’s grip. Coxswain William Walker, ordinary seamen William Arkwright, E. Bingfield, and James Eley were also lost at sea. Twenty-seven men were saved.

In Cave Hill Cemetery, Dr. E. Foree erected a monument dedicated to his son. The monument is made of a block of granite rising to a column of Carrarn marble. On the front is a ship tossed upon the waves and the inscription:
Lieutenant Alfred Foree, U.S.N.

Who lost his life

In the surf off Greytown, Nicaragua

In an effort to rescue his comrades, Officer and Boat’s Crew

From Droning

His Last Words were:

“Goodbye my men, leave me, save your selves.”

On the wall in the chapel at the Naval College in Annapolis has been placed a tablet to his memory.

Resources:


The Kansas Disaster: Drowning of Three Boat-loads of the Nicaraguan Canal Surveying Expedition off Greytown Harbor, Sailing Master Foree Lost, The Louisville Courier-Journal, May 4, 1872


GOING . . . GOING . . . GONE . . .

There have been so many historic structures razed recently that it is hard just to chronicle the losses. Shown above is the Puritan Uniform building located at 206-208 West Breckinridge Street.

Spalding University purchased the building in 2016. There was some discussion about adaptive reuse and the usual feel-good banter back and forth - but in the end, as is usually the case, the building (several buildings actually) has been demolished. The probable result of this is either a courtyard or a parking lot. Another century-old building goes up in dust.

Also worthy of mention is the recent loss of the historic Camp Taylor garage on Trevillian way, removed by the city. Other buildings such as Anshei Sfard Synagogue and the recently closed Bank Shot Billiards at Market and Preston, built in 1911 as the German Security Bank, remain on the watch list.
Several years ago, I noticed the Filson Historical Society had two race medals in their collection. Because of their remodeling, all materials were temporarily put into storage. Now that the remodeling is complete, I asked to see the medals. I was sent an email with photos of them. They are beautiful. Winning cyclist received gold medals in the 1880s and 1890s. One award is from the Prince Wells’ Road Race and the other is from a Lexington, Kentucky, race. The name on the medals was Louis Ackley, a name I did not recall even with all my research. So, I looked again. He was sixteen years old and only raced for one year and thus easy to overlook. Here’s his story.

Louis Ackley’s name first appears in the newspaper when he enters the Prince Wells races on July 7, 1894. Louis is either 15 or 16 years old and is from Louisville. He lived at Hancock and Jefferson Streets and worked R. C. Whayne’s bicycle shop. He first entered the ten-mile road race. The race left the Auditorium track and proceeded out Third Street and Southern Parkway where the racers turned around at Iroquois Park and returned to the track. The distance was eight miles.

He was one of the first to start with a 5 minute and 30 second handicap. (He started 5 and a half minutes before the fastest riders) There were 62 starters and 48 finishers. Ackley’s placing was not recorded so he must have been off the pace.

The same afternoon, he entered the one-sixth mile race on the track. He and another rider fell just after the start and the race was restarted. Ackley was the winner and won a medal. Second place received a football.
On the last Friday of August, he won the half-mile race at Lexington, Kentucky, and received a gold medal.

On September 1, 1894, Ackley entered the R. C. Whayne Southern Road Race, a ten-mile race on the “Boulevard” now called Southern Parkway. This event was the largest one held in Louisville up to this time. Over 6000 people came to see the races, especially the women’s race. (The first women’s road race held in the United States) The course started at Cyclers’s Rest, continued one-mile to the foot of Iroquois hill, and then returned. This was repeated five times.

This time he had a three and a half minute handicap. The Courier-Journal September 2, 1894, reported, “a dozen others were bunched at the five-mile mark. Little Ackley however, had passed the turn several sections before and was speeding on his last trip. He came into the stretch at least 300 yards in advance of his nearest rival, with his body over the handlebars, and riding like his life depended on it. He was loudly cheered and was carried to a cot in the Cyclers’s Rest despite his protestations. He rode a Waverly.” His prize was a “Southern” brand bicycle, the brand made by his employer, R. C. Whayne.

Two days later, he continued his winning ways at National Park in Louisville. There were two races scheduled. The first, a one-fourth mile, was run in two heats. Ackley won both, with times of one and one-fourth minutes and one minute flat.

While training with Mitchell and Davisworth near Iroquois Park on September 29, Mitchell and Davisworth collided and Ackley, who was in their slipstream, ran over Mitchell, causing a gash on his face.

In 1906, his photograph appears in the Courier-Journal with other young men of the East End who organized an athletic club.

There were no other mentions of him in the Courier-Journal, racing his bicycle but what a year he had. 1894 was the year bicycle sales exploded as did races, parades, and sport riding. We may never know why Ackley raced for only one year but what a year he had; he was living the dream!
I had a recent opportunity to “tour” the Broadway Theater, which is (was) located at 816 East Broadway (at Logan Street). The Broadway was the second theater on Broadway with that name, the first being located at Broadway and Shelby Streets (1908). The Broadway, designed by the architectural firm Joseph and Joseph opened in 1915 for Vaudeville and silent movies, and ultimately the “talkies”. During the early years there was a Wurlitzer 7 rank pipe organ in the theater with side portals containing the pipes. I do not know if any part of the organ is intact. The theater was modest in size (see image) with around 900 seats.

Sometime during the 1990s the ceiling was dropped to the balcony railing height (see image), a distance of around 35-40 feet for the firm which leased the building at that time, Office Resources, Inc. (ORI) office products company. It was indeed fortunate that they occupied the building until they moved to a new facility on Plantside Drive in 2016. They were good stewards of the property, keeping it a viable building. They were able to preserve many of the interior furnishings and characteristics. The outside front of the theater remains beautiful and well preserved, much as it appeared when built (see images).

The theater closed around 1959. The 1960 Caron City Directory lists the property as “vacant”. An interesting facet of the life of this theatre is that it remained under the ownership of several generations of a single family during its entire existence. The Steuerle family operated the theater as the Broadway under the corporate name Broadway Amusement Enterprises, beginning with brothers Louis F. Steuerle as president and Joseph C. Steuerle, secretary. In the 1950s the theatre’s operator was listed as Eugene J. Steuerle. The actual address was listed variously as 814 to 820 East Broadway (south side). In the 1960s the theater was occupied by the Catholic Theatre Guild for a time.

What about the future of the Broadway? Jim Wilson of Ward Commercial Group would certainly like to know. He represents the property owners and hopes to find a suitable tenant. With so much of the theater still intact it would certainly make a great performance venue . . wishful thinking I guess.

Sources: Cinema Treasures (www.cinematreasures.org) website
(Bill Eichelberger, Joe Vogel and Will Duncan)
Louisville Courier-Journal August 25, 1927, November 17, 1960
Early interior images: Caufield and Shook collection.
Author’s personal photo collection (frontal and current day interior)
What's My Name?
Complete the crossword below

Across
2. Seventeen-year member of KY General Assembly, sponsor of open housing legislation: known as the 'Lady of the House.'
4. Prolific journalist, educator and civil rights activist. Author of 'The Fascinating Story of Black Kentuckians.'
5. An area of West Louisville is named in honor of this educator, organizer, writer and businessman.
6. Black Presbyterian minister and early missionary to Africa. Became known as the 'Black Livingstone.'
8. Educator and activist who sued University of Kentucky for admission - and won.
10. Son of distinguished entrepreneur and activist who founded A. D. Porter & Sons Funeral Home.

Down
1. Pastor of Zion Baptist Church and brother of Martin Luther King, Jr.
3. First African American elected to KY House of Representatives.
7. First woman and first African American elected to KY senate.
9. Founder and publisher of early black newspaper - 'The Louisville Leader.'

Crossword Puzzle
by
Walter Hutchins

Answers Page 18.
On October 6, 1869, artist Enid Yandell was born in Louisville, Kentucky, to Lunsford Pitts Yandell, Jr., a prestigious surgeon and Louise Elliston Yandell. Enid attended Hampton College in Louisville. She earned a degree in both chemistry and art. She then accelerated through a four-year program, in two years, at the Cincinnati Art Academy. She never married. At a time when women were not encouraged to work, particularly women of affluent families, Enid’s parents were supportive of their daughter’s decision to pursue a career in sculpting. However, Enid noted that her Uncle David declared she was the first Yandell woman “who ever earned a dollar for herself.”

Enid studied with notable sculptors of the day, Philip Mariny and Lorado Taft in Chicago, Karl Bittner in New York, and Frederick MacMonnies in Paris. Throughout her career, she maintained studios in both New York and Paris. She was the first woman inducted into the National Sculpture Society and paved the way for other women.

On January 8, 1893, a Courier-Journal reporter described Enid as, “sitting aloft on a scaffolding in Martinis Studio, clad in a corduroy gown and muddy apron, and daftly puts life and emotion into brown lumps of clay. Miss Yandell is a beauty of the black-eyed, black haired, fine-figured Kentucky type. She has ridden and driven, and rowed and skated and used tools, until every muscle is fully developed, and she looks as though she might be a model for one of the statues.” Enid had the following to say of her parents, “I think fathers and mothers amount to something. You remember the bull said to the boy: “You’d be as big as I am maybe if your parents had been carefully selected.”

In 1893 sculptor Lorado Taft was falling short on his deadline to complete the decoration he was responsible for on the Horticulture Building for the World’s Columbian Exposition in Chicago. When Taft realized all of the other capable male sculptors were committed to other projects, he asked permission from Daniel Burnham, the Director of Works for the World’s Columbian Exposition, to do something unheard of at the time—use women assistants. Burnham’s response was, “hire anyone, even white rabbits, if they can get the work done.” Taft organized a group of three women, which included Enid Yandell. From that day forward, the three women became known as the White Rabbits.

Enid and the other women sculptors that made up the White Rabbits shared a flat together and wrote a book called Three Girls in a Flat (Copyright 1892) that detailed their experience working on the Exposition. If you look at the inside of the cover of the book, you will find they dedicated it “To That noble body of women which is acting as advance-guard to the great army of the unrecognized in its onward march toward liberty and equality – The Board of Lady Managers of the World’s Columbian Exposition.”

According to the Courier-Journal, “Instead of carrying it” (the book) to publishers, they decided to publish it themselves. They bought their paper from the wholesale house and engaged artists to illustrate it, and gained knowledge and experience as they went along. It would cost $1,500 to get out their first edition. They went about and solicited $1,200 worth of advertising, which they put back in and the expenses were paid before the book was fairly on the market.
Enid was commissioned by the Filson Club to complete a sculpture of Daniel Boone for the Kentucky Building at the World’s Columbian Exposition. The Filson Club provided Enid with Boone’s actual hunting shirt, flintlock rifle, tomahawk, knife and powder horn, along with a portrait of Boone to aid in her artistic interpretation. It was originally made from “staff”, a non-permanent material. In 1906, C.C. Bickel, a large cigar manufacturer in Louisville, Kentucky, happened to carry a line of cigars by the name of “Daniel Boone”. They commissioned a bronze version of the Daniel Boone statue as a gift to the City of Louisville. The Daniel Boone statue is still standing today at the foot of Eastern Parkway. Interestingly, in 1898, the Courier-Journal reported that Tiffany & Co. asked Miss Yandell to make them a copy in miniature of her celebrated statue of Daniel Boone, which they were to carry in stock. The reporter went on to note, “Tiffany & Co. are the judges of real artistic merit and have only such pieces, so this is a complimentary recognition of our young friend’s position in the artistic world of New York. Enid Yandell is going to become famous as a sculptor before she is many years older. She bears the unquestionable stamp of a genius and is endowed by nature with many other remarkable attributes. She shows concentration of mind and purpose, much tact and savoir faire. Comprehensively, I find her an unusual woman.”

The Kissing Tankard was a popular Yandell piece that was also executed by Tiffany & Co. It was originally shown at the Pan-American Exposition. Yandell used motivation from Goethe’s poem about a fisher boy and a mermaid. The boy is perched on a rock, atop the lid of the tankard, longingly, looking down into the eyes of the mermaid; the handle is configured by the curve of the mermaid’s body. When the lid was opened, the boy leaned forward and kissed the mermaid on the lips.

February 21, 1897, the Courier-Journal headlines boasted “Largest Statue Ever Made By A Woman” in reference to the forty foot sculpture of Pallas Athena that Enid was commissioned to complete for the 1897 Tennessee Centennial and International Exposition. Enid sculpted Athena in her Paris Studio based on an eighteenth century design of Pallas de Velletri. The statue was created in three pieces that were shipped to Nashville, on a ship, separately. In 1977, the Courier-Journal reported the night before Athena set sail to Nashville, there was an “elegant Bohemian party that was given and food and drink served from a table set on her (Athena’s) twelve foot wide chest.” Athena was assembled in Nashville and took her place of welcoming visitors, standing before the Fine Arts Building, which was a full-size replica of the Parthenon in Athens. Unfortunately, Athena was made of staff and never cast in a permanent material. She deteriorated within a year.
Enid was commissioned to create the Ruff Memorial Fountain, located at the intersection of Third Street and Southern Parkway. It was executed during the summer of 1897. A Historical Highway Marker located at the site notes that it was erected to honor cycling pioneer A.D. Ruff. Today it is commonly known as the Wheelman’s Bench, probably because the fountain is no longer there. It has been replaced with a modern day drinking fountain. On February 13, 1898, the Courier-Journal reported—“...the fountain in the center of a semi-circle, the water flowing from mouths of three heads of Neptune into basins below. The semi-circle enclosure is built of rough stone about five feet high; on the inside, facing the fountain in proper, is a bench with seating capacity for about half a hundred people. Around the outside of the semi-circle will be placed racks for bicycles.” In the same Courier-Journal interview, Enid Yandell had the following to say in a “decisive, forcible tone” regarding her work on the Ruff Memorial Fountain, “I was very mad at those Park Commissioners. They would not allow me enough to make any sort of a creditable job of it. You see I wanted to put up something in Louisville that would be a credit to the town and to me. But those men gave me $50 less than the thing actually cost. Oh, I was so mad.”

In the same interview, reporter Lilian Anderson lent some insight into Miss Yandell’s studio life. “She sat in an easy, graceful position among the pillows on a luxurious, comfortable looking couch, playing with her inseparable little fox terrier, Thais. The dog was demanding some of her attention, determined I should not monopolize all of it, for she is very jealous. It is a pretty little French dog, which Miss Yandell brought over with her from Paris. Thais pays no attention to English, apparently not understanding it, but obeys her mistress’ slightest command when spoken in French. She is well-trained and performs many tricks, a very cute one being to produce Miss Yandell’s mouchoir (tissue) from the depth of her pocket”

In April of 1901, Miss Yandell talked about her design of the sundial for the garden of American Stockbroker, Oliver Harriman. Four figures represent the four seasons of life, childhood, youth, womanhood and old age. Enid explained it thus, “I show spring by a boy who creeps after a snail. You know, time seems to creep when we are young. The snail has crawled to the edge of the dial and the baby, spring, is reaching for it. This young man, summer, has caught a bird, which suggests the flight of time that he is trying to stay. He holds its feet here at the edge of the sun dial, so that the shadow of the bird’s wing marks the time. See this bacchante that has slipped upon a sheaf of wheat? This is autumn. Winter is a stooping old woman. Drawing her cloak around her is a conventional enough design for winter.”

And with excitement, she told Ada Patterson of the Courier-Journal the story of her journey to receive the commission for the Struggle of Life fountain, dedicated in Providence, Rhode Island, in 1899. The commission was by Italian diplomat Paul Bajnotti, in memory of his wife, Carrie Brown. “A committee was appointed to publish a call for competitive designs. Miss Yandell made fourteen designs, none of which pleased her. At last, she hit upon the allegorical idea of a struggle for the higher life. The figures lie, as symbolized by a struggling woman, the soul represented by an angel, and duty, passion and avarices, shown by three male figures. The struggle is between the woman and the angel, life and the soul, on one hand, and the three earthly claims, duty, avarice and passion on the other. The mantle of truth flowing from the shoulders of the angel softens somewhat the fierce struggle of the five figures. Miss Yandell said of the Struggle of Life, “Yes, I am proud of it. Because with it, I won in the competition with eighteen men. It is something to win in a bout with eighteen men, especially if four or five of them are well-known sculptors.”
The Struggle of Life victory had to be particularly sweet for Miss Yandell. After all, in 1894, she had submitted the design that was unanimously accepted for the commission of the *To the Confederate Dead* monument. The commission was later taken away, basically because the Confederate men did not want a woman to design their monument. The second choice that was erected at 3rd and Brandeis, near the University of Louisville campus, was recently deconstructed.

In 1908, Miss Yandell founded the Branstock School in Edgartown on Martha’s Vinyard. It functioned until her death in 1934. Some other known facts about her later life: Yandell was dedicated to women’s suffrage and even donated some of her works of art to raise funds for the cause. She campaigned for Calvin Coolidge when he ran for office on a pro-woman platform. By World War I, Miss Yandell had pretty much stopped her work as a sculptor and dedicated her time to helping others through the Red Cross and La Societe des Orphelins de la Guerre, a French organization that cared for War Orphans.

She died in Boston on June 12, 1934. In a 1901 interview with the *Courier-Journal*, the topic of “home” came up. Her eyes were brighter when she said, “I am going home in June. Whenever I go, I am always very proud of being an American woman and prouder still of being from Kentucky.” Enid Yandell is laid to rest at Cave Hill Cemetery, in Louisville, Kentucky, in the Yandell family plot, Section O, Lot 396, just at the northern tip of the lake. Enid Yandell’s Louisville monuments include Daniel Boone at Eastern Parkway, Hogan’s Fountain in Cherokee Park, and the Wheelman’s Bench at Third Street and Southern Parkway.

Author Stefanie Rae Buzan is a long time member of the Louisville Historical League and has served on its board of directors. She co-authored (along with Rosemary Hauck McCandless) the book, *A View From The Top* (The Little Loomhouse 2007), a history of the neighborhoods surrounding Iroquois Park and Kenwood Hill.

**April Meeting of the LHL**

4/22/18

The Reverend Clyde Crews presented a fascinating history of Bellarmine University to a receptive audience in the new McGowan Hall of the school. We were fortunate to catch Clyde and co-founder Allan Steinberg of the Louisville Historical League both in one place at one time. It was a fun and informative afternoon.
AWARDS MEETING

On March 18 the League had our annual awards presentations. The meeting was held at the new South Central Library at 7300 Jefferson Boulevard. Carl Kramer received our Founders Award for 2018. Carl has authored some 13 books, had 30 entries in the Encyclopedia of Louisville and has made many presentations to our members, including his recent “History of the American Commercial Barge Lines.” He was adjunct professor in History at Indiana University Southeast.

The Samuel W. Thomas Book Award was presented to Bill Ellison and Linda Raymond for their book The Two Lives and One Passion of Louise Marshall. Louise Marshall was the founder of the Cabbage Patch Settlement.

MONTGOMERY STREET SCHOOL

BY GARY FALK

Tucked neatly away in the Portland neighborhood of Louisville is an absolute gem of local history known as the Montgomery Street School, which was built in 1853 and renamed the Emma Dolfinger School in 1929 after the noted biologist and Louisville native. It is referred to today as the Dolfinger. The building houses a number of concerns, among them the offices of the organization Interfaith Paths To Peace.

This building, located at 2500-2506 Montgomery Street, has managed to survive through several wars, including the Civil War from the time it was built. It was designed by the architectural firm of Zeigler & Seaman. The building likely served as a Civil War hospital for a time. For some 155 years the building has served as a school, either public or private. It has some fascinating features including the extensive use of arches in windows and doors, a contemplative architectural design element. In 2017 a roadside marker was placed in front describing its history. That it remains such a sturdy structure is testimony to the workmanship that went into building it.
Walter Hutchins is a member of the Louisville Historical League. He has presented many informative programs, especially relating to the history of the African American community here in Louisville. Thanks to Walter for this informative "history" crossword puzzle.
Programs and Events at the Frazier History Museum

By Mick Sullivan, Historian Frazier Museum

Summer of 2018 is an exciting time for the Frazier Museum. As preparations continue for the fall opening of the Kentucky Distillers Association partnership exhibit The Spirit of Kentucky, the museum is re-interpreting much of its original collection: from the Civil War, to The Southern Exposition, to Mr. Frazier’s founding collection, and beyond.

On the site of a historic 1916 fire that destroyed part of the original Doerhoefer Building and brought an end to the Ox Breeches Manufacturing Company’s tenure in the building, the museum will be opening a two-story public park with a new entrance and native Kentucky-focused garden by award-winning gardener John Carloftis.

As a part of Mr. Frazier’s Founder’s Gallery, which features objects from Mary Todd Lincoln, Jessie James, Custer, and others, the museum is also installing a display about the history of the institution and its physical site. The graphic and objects trace the location’s history from settlement, to the long-gone “Ninth Street Tobacco Warehouse,” to the Doerhoefer Building, which housed businesses from Kahn Brothers, and Jack Daniels, to today.

Magnificent Mona Bismarck: Kentucky Style Icon, is an exhibit about a Louisville-born international fashion-icon and has been receiving acclaim in press around the globe. The exhibit is open until July 29th.

Joe Hardesty Finds New “sandbox”

Since our last newsletter - on January 4, 2018 to be exact, Joe Hardesty, someone we came to rely on at the LFPL for the past 22 years, became director of the new Sons of the American Revolution Library at 809 West Main Street (Fulton-Conway Building). Sure, we will miss Joe at the main library where he worked so hard to digitize much of the newspaper articles and other time sensitive documents, but this is a real plus for Joe and we applaud his new position at this world-class research library.

Gary Falk, editor of the Archives, has been active in the urban history community for over 30 years. He is a long-time board member of the Louisville Historical League and was the recipient of their Founders Award in 2017.

In 2009 Gary published a collection of articles entitled Louisville Remembered (History Press, Charleston, SC). His book Made In Louisville, an industrial history of the city of Louisville (Publishers Printing) was released in 2013. He was a contributing author for the Groves Music Dictionary (Oxford University Press 2013) and for Germans In Louisville (History Press 2015).
Bowman Field Aviator Keeps City Wet

BY CHARLES W. ARRINGTON

Bowman Field Aviator Keeps City Wet. This fictitious newspaper headline probably would not have raised any eyebrows had it been published during normal times, but it definitely would have during the 1937 flood of which it refers.

Ledcreich Stuart Vance, better known as L.S., an engineer with the Louisville Water Company, was the man of the hour when he initiated an operation during the 1937 flood that allowed the steamboat C.C. Slider to be maneuvered into position at the River Road Pumping Station. A flexible steam pipe was then connected between the steamboat and the station to power a pump that allowed Louisville to have about two hours of clean drinking water each day during the flood.

L.S. Vance graduated from Manual High School in 1916. He received an engineering degree from Cornell University. During World War I, he joined the U.S. Army Air Service and received his pilot's wings at Kelly Field, Texas, in 1919. When Louisville's Bowman Field became a U.S. Army Airdrome in 1922, Vance brought his piloting skills to the new Bowman based 465th Pursuit Squadron, U.S. Army Air Service Reserve. In a short time he was the squadron commander. When the Aero Club of Kentucky was organized in 1922 he became a charter member, which now allowed him to serve Louisville aviation from both sides of the coin, civilian and military. After Bowman Field became a municipal airport in 1928, Vance was appointed to the new Louisville and Jefferson County Air Board. During World War II he went on active duty and became the chief supply officer at Maxwell Army Air Field in Montgomery, Alabama, rising in rank to Lieutenant Colonel.

In 1949, Vance was reappointed to the air board and became chairman in 1952. He led the air board during a period of rapid airline growth that required continuous expansion of infrastructure. At Standiford Field, Louisville's airline terminal, runways needed to be lengthened to accommodate new jet airliners and the airline terminal was in constant need of enlargement to handle more passengers. Vance often had to scramble to find money to provide for this during a period of technological change in the airline industry.

For his work during the 1937 flood, L.S. Vance received the George W. Fuller Award in 1938. The previous year he was made the chief engineer at the water company. His association with the company dated to 1922 after graduation from Cornell. In 1946 he joined the Metropolitan Sewer Board as a technical advisor. When his duties with the sewer board were no longer needed, he returned to the water company and was assistant superintendent starting in 1953.

In addition to his many duties, L.S. Vance was appointed to the Louisville Planning and Zoning Commission in 1938.

Ledcreich Stuart Vance passed away on October 6, 1962 at 63 years of age. Undoubtedly the busiest man in Louisville from 1922 to 1963, he always rose to the occasion each time that he was called upon. Obviously an early believer in the airplane and the benefits that aviation would bring to the community, Vance nurtured the way for Louisville airports to progress from prop planes to jets. With the water company he provided for safe drinking water during the 1937 flood and engineered the growth of the company to easily meet the water demands of today. His monument is not a brick and mortar structure but the smooth operation of Louisville airports and the benefits from the turn of every water tap along the Louisville Water Company system.

Army bomber visits Bowman Field during 1923. L.S. Vance is standing to the far right. (Courier-Journal Online History Archives).

Steamboat C.C. Slider plies the Ohio River during 1928. (U of L Photo Archives website)
L.S. Vance viewed aboard a Bowman Field Reserve Squadron North American BT-9 training airplane. (Author’s collection)

One of the first jet airliners at Standiford Field, this TWA Boeing 707 was open for public viewing during November 1959. (Charles Keeling Photo)

Charles Arrington lives in Louisville and has been a member of the Louisville Historical League for many years. He regularly presents power-point presentations on Louisville and Southern Indiana aviation topics. Charles wrote an excellent article on the history of Bowman Field entitled Historic Bowman Field for the United States Air Force Museum publication Friends Bulletin. He co-authored the book Wings Over the Falls: A Century of Aviation in Southern Indiana with Garry J. Nokes. In 2017 Charles published the book Bowman Field (Images of Aviation) with Arcadia Publishing.

Acknowledgements:

(1) Courier-Journal Online History Archives
(2) Louisville Water Company website
(3) University of Louisville Photo Archives website
(4) Charles Keeling photo collection via daughter Barbara

THE LOUISVILLES OF 1876
BY STEPHEN W. BROWN
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In 1876 Louisville fielded a charter member team in the National League. The following year, The Louisville Base Ball Company folded the club after an investigation revealed that four players sold the pennant for a pittance and were forever banned from base ball (yes, it was two words in those days). Because the scandal-ridden team of 1877 was commonly known as The Louisville Grays, it’s widely assumed that the ’76 team was also called the “Grays”. To cite just two examples, see the entry on professional baseball in The Encyclopedia of Louisville or Neil W. Macdonald’s “The League That Lasted: 1876 and the Founding of the National League of Professional Base Ball Clubs” (where a photo of the team appears on the cover). And yet, I can find no contemporary evidence supporting the assumption that Louisville’s charter-member club was ever called the “Grays”.

In print that year the club was often referred to as “The Louisvilles”. A Courier-Journal article on the LBBC’s preseason exhibition games describes their practice uniforms as white with navy blue trim. Just over a week before their home opener, the paper gave this detailed description: “The uniforms of the Louisville club consist of white caps, trimmed with blue; white shirts trimmed with blue, with an embroidered L on the breast; white pants with blue stripes; and white stockings, with about three inches of blue stripe around the calf. The stockings are something entirely different from anything yet seen on the ball field, and will doubtless prove pleasing to the eye.”
The only 1876 reference to The Louisville Grays and base ball I can find concerns the picked nine of a local independent military battalion formed that year to take part in the grand Centennial Parade. This Louisville Grays organization ran ads in the CJ for an Independence Day picnic at Pleasure Ridge Park which would include a match game against another amateur nine. These ads were printed in the paper on consecutive days leading up to the picnic, and were placed immediately above notices for games between The Louisvilles and The Mutuals at the Louisville Base Ball Park. Given that the same man, Walter Haldeman, was the majority owner of both the LBBC and the CJ, it’s scarcely creditable that another Louisville Grays would be advertised in the paper above a team of his known by the same name.

The CJ began referring to the LBBC team as the Grays before the 1877 season began and notes their new uniforms are gray and red. I’ve not found any published explanation for the switch in team colors and can only speculate as to the reason for it. Whereas the original Louisville Base Ball club (of 1858) wore blue and white, the Eagle Juniors (the team which developed the grounds the LBBC played on) donned gray with red trim. Haldeman’s son John played on that team. He not only reported on the 1877 Grays but occasionally subbed in for them; his suspicions regarding the late season collapse of the Grays, along with anonymous tips from the East coast, led to the investigation which implicated star pitcher Jim Devlin & co.. But if that was a motivation, why didn’t the Louisvilles sport gray and red from the get-go?

Perhaps the move from blue to gray mirrored national politics. The backroom machinations surrounding the Presidential election of 1876 signaled an end to Reconstruction and helped inaugurate the era of Jim Crow. As the Civil War began, Walter Haldeman abandoned his printing press (at the time he owned the Courier; the Journal was independent and favored the Union) and fled Federal authorities. It was while holed up in Tennessee that he became friends with young Henry Watterson. After the War, Haldeman bought the Journal, merged the papers and recruited Watterson to be the Editor. While Watterson’s moderating influence likely softened Haldeman’s Southern sympathies, the paper remained staunchly Democratic. And the Louisvilles, much as their home state had done, abandoned the Blue for the Gray.

In addition to the above mentioned sources, I examined the Haldeman papers at the Filson, Dennis C. Cusick’s MA thesis: “Gentlemen of the Press: The Life and Times of Walter Newman Haldeman”, all the books on local baseball history I could find (including those by A. H. Tarvin, Philip Von Borries, Anne Jewell, and William A. Cook’s “The Louisville Grays Scandal of 1877”), and numerous websites from The National Weather Service and The History Channel to those of Baseball-Almanac and the SABR.

Stephen W. Brown is a frequent contributor to The Archives on a diverse number of topics. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Louisville Historical League.

Stock certificate for the Louisville Base Ball Club.
Shown below are some item pieces that came out of the privys and cisterns located on the NW corner of Shelby and Market Streets. They were located by a dig this past year by Mike Maloney and others. Some items were also located by members of Corn Island Archeology who researched and catalogued the pieces to prepare for a limited number to be displayed in the lobby of the new AC Hotel by Marriott, which just opened at the location.

(Photos courtesy of Mike Maloney)
POLITICAL QUICKSTEP: The Life of Kentucky’s Colonel Charles S. Todd
By Sherry Keith Jelsma
Hardcover
6 x 9 inches
400 pages
$24.95

Charles Stewart Todd was born into a life of privilege and unyielding social structure. After studies at the College of William and Mary and Judge Tapping Reeves’s law school, he joined the militia to serve in the War of 1812; by the time he mustered out, he was a regular army colonel. He fell in love with and married Letitia Shelby, daughter of Kentucky’s first governor, Isaac Shelby.

The couple appears to have been happy and both were engaged in their farming operation. Todd also wrote political articles for newspapers. However, during recurring financial crises, he accepted political appointments that required leaving his wife and children behind in Kentucky for years at a time. Todd accepted a position as a United States confidential agent in Colombia and Venezuela, where he fought disease and disaster for four years as local patriots rebelled against Spanish rule. He spent six years as ambassador to St. Petersburg, Russia, during the reign of Czar Nicholas I, and later worked in Texas for the burgeoning railroad industry.

Todd’s political connections ran deep and included his governor father-in-law, statesman and presidential candidate Henry Clay, President William Henry Harrison (for whom Todd had managed the “Tippecanoe and Tyler Too” campaign), and President Zachary Taylor, whom Todd had also backed.

About the Author
Sherry Keith Jelsma, granddaughter of historian Dr. Henry Noble Sherwood, grew up with history. She earned a bachelor of arts with honors from Harvard/Radcliffe College and an MA from New York University.

Jelsma taught at public schools in Louisville, Baltimore, and New York City. Elected to the Jefferson County, Kentucky, board of education for three terms (twice as chair), she resigned to serve a four-year term as secretary of the Kentucky Cabinet of Education, Arts, and Humanities.

THE TWO LIVES and ONE PASSION of LOUISE MARSHALL:
Founder of the Cabbage Patch Settlement
WINNER – LHL’S 2018 SAMUEL W. THOMAS LOUISVILLE HISTORY BOOK AWARD

By Linda Raymond and Bill Ellison
Paperback
6 x 9 inches
344 pages
$25
ISBN 978-1-941953-51-8

Rich, flawed and female, Louise Marshall was an unconventional hero. She neither sought nor received medals, but she saved hundreds of people from certain ruin and changed tens of thousands more lives for the better. Some people compare her to Jane Addams, who founded Chicago’s famous Hull House and traveled the world promoting great causes of the Progressive Movement. Miss Marshall focused her life on one Louisville, Kentucky, neighborhood, known as the Cabbage Patch, and the individuals
who lived there. For 70 years, she used love, not legislation, to foster pride, self-respect, and character in people who loved, admired, and hated her — often at the same time.

Powered by a conservative faith, Louise Marshall built an institution, the Cabbage Patch Settlement, which still uses her methods to attack today’s most difficult social problems. And she still offers us lessons in courage and the power of one unlikely hero to change and save lives.

About the Authors
Linda Raymond and Bill Ellison are retired journalists with a strong interest in history. After retiring from long careers at the Courier-Journal and Louisville Times, they pursued their interest in history, and Raymond taught writing for 15 years at Bellarmine University and other Louisville-area colleges. Together they wrote Like Jacob’s Well: The Very Human History of Highland Presbyterian Church, which won the Angell Award for best first book by Presbyterian writers.

AMERICA: The Founders’ Vision
By Thomas Graham Jr.
Foreword by Kathleen Kennedy Townsend

Softcover
6 x 9 inches
192 pages
$24.95


In today's heated political climate, we commonly hear, "That's not what the Founders intended" or "The nation's Founders addressed that." What did our country's Founders really say — about liberty, democracy, the role of states, the military, equal protection under the law, First Amendment rights, and more?

Retired Ambassador Thomas Graham Jr., a former senior US diplomat and leading authority in international arms control and non-proliferation, gathered the Founder's original words from the Federalist Papers, the National Archives, various presidential libraries, and other sources to create America: The Founders' Vision.

About the Author
Thomas Graham grew up in Louisville and attended Louisville Male High School before graduating from Princeton University and Harvard Law School. In addition to practicing law in Louisville, he has held a number of posts with the Federal government in Washington, D.C.

THREE BOOKS THAT WILL BE PUBLISHED THIS SUMMER BY BUTLER BOOKS

Louisville’s Street Railways and How They Shaped the City’s Growth
By Martin E. Biemer, James B. Calvert, and George H. Yater
with major contributions by Ernest K. Gibson

Hardcover with dustjacket
9 x 11 inches

For nearly eight decades, Louisville’s street railway system was the key to the city’s growth. Beginning in the late 1860s, the streetcar lines stretched outside the city limits, beckoning the city to follow. Their story is told in a new book, Louisville’s Street Railways — and How They Shaped the City’s Growth, by Martin E. Biemer, James B. Calvert, and George H. Yater, with major help from Ernest K. Gibson.
Americans were crazy about bicycles in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Enthusiasts bought and learned to ride the newest machines, formed clubs, held races, and sang popular songs about bicycling. In many ways, Louisville, Kentucky, was at the heart of this craze.

This book is the thoroughly researched history and evolution of bicycling in Louisville. Fascinating and informative, this book is a must-read for bicycling enthusiasts.

About the Author
Carson Torpey is a native of Louisville, Kentucky, and attended Atherton High School and the University of Louisville, majoring in mathematics. He and his wife, Alison, have two children.

After working at Bicycle Sport for 20 years, he opened his own store, Bardstown Road Bicycle Company in 1994. He began riding a 10-speed bicycle in 1969 as a way to get to the soccer games at the park but found a love for cycling instead. On a ride with the Louisville Wheelmen in 1974, he discovered the lure of bicycle racing and went on to win several state championships.

More books have been written about Old Louisville than any other neighborhood in Kentucky. Its stunning architecture annually draws thousands of visitors. Few have explored its human stories, its more colorful residents, its notorious scandals and murders, hidden treasures, and forgotten lore. The lives of the people who have made it their home have often been obscured by its imposing facades and massive doors.

In Secrets of Old Louisville, David Williams has uncovered a wealth of stories no other book has explored. Along the way, he punctures a few urban legends that until now have been taken for granted.

Secrets of Old Louisville answers questions no other book has posed. Filled with historic and contemporary photographs, it is a colorful look at what makes Old Louisville one of the most fascinating neighborhoods in the country.

About the Author
David Williams has had an abiding interest in history and the written word almost since birth. He was born and raised in Louisville and graduated from St. Xavier High School, locally known as St. X, where he was an editor of the school newspaper. After graduating in 1968 from Xavier University in Cincinnati with a major in history and a minor in English, he spent three years in the US military in Germany, where he was able to indulge his love of history. He lives with his husband, Aaron Bingham, and their three cats, Patrick, Tabitha, and Thomas Purrkins, in an Old Louisville house built in 1895.
Several individuals with historical ties to the music industry in Louisville have formed a committee to produce and publish a book that will celebrate the lives, talent, careers, and contributions of over 100 of the city’s African American musicians and entertainers.

The idea for the book, yet to be titled, evolved from an extraordinary photo exhibit debuted at the Kentucky Center for African American Heritage during African American history month. The exhibit featured dozens of African American musicians and entertainers who were either born in Louisville or who have lived and performed in Louisville for a significant portion of their professional lives.

The book will salute those and many more African American performing artists who have made major contributions to Louisville’s music scene over the past several decades. It will also highlight several Louisvillians whose talent and impact have earned national and international recognition. Music genres featured in the book will include jug band music, blues, rhythm and blues, jazz, classical/theatrical, and gospel music.


Committee members working on the book, which will be published in 2019 by Butler Books, include music historians Ken Clay, Keith Clements, Gary Falk, Ron Lewis, Michael T. Jones, and Wilma Clayborne, as well as Samantha Holman, representing the University of Louisville School of Music.

Anyone with photos, bios, articles, or other materials about any of Louisville’s African American musicians and entertainers is encouraged to contact the book committee’s chairman, Ken Clay, at legaciesunlimite@bellsouth.net or 502-468-6005.

About Butler Books
Butler books is a Louisville based full-service publisher of nonfiction, fiction and illustrated books. Founded in 1989 by the late Bill Butler and his wife Carol, who continues as president and CEO, they have published hundreds of local titles, many about Louisville area history. Carol and Bill Butler were awarded LHL’s prestigious Founders Award in 2009.
2018 schedule of LHL events and other significant history tours and presentations.

Note: All LHL sponsored events are free to members. Non members are requested to provide a $5 donation.

CAVE HILL CEMETERY TOURS with tour guide Steve Wiser: May 19 and June 2 (Saturday twilight tours with tractor pulled wagon). Time: 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Cost is $35 per person.

June 10th (Sunday Historic Walking Tours): 1-3 p.m. Cost: $15 per person. RSVP by calling (502) 451-5630.

May 12: Bryan Bush will be giving a Civil War walking tour of Cave Hill Cemetery at 9 am and in the evening at 5:30 pm which will be a hay wagon tour. The cost of the walking tour is $15 and the wagon tour is $35.

May 14: Terry Chambers will present The History of Rose Island on Monday May 14th at the Bon Air Library, 2816 Del Rio Place at 7 p.m. This event is free and open to the public.

May 19 (Saturday): Steve Wiser presentation entitled “Old Louisville Sites to See, Part 1” at 1 p.m. Beginning at the Neighborhood Visitor Center in Central Park near Magnolia and St. James Court, the talk is $10 and the walking tour at 1:30 is also $10. Each participant will receive a copy of Mr. Wiser’s book, Haunted Houses of Louisville. Reservations can be made by e-mail to info@oldlouisville.org or by calling (502) 635-5244. Part 2 to be presented on June 16 (below).

May 20 (Sunday): LHL event 2 p.m. Whiskey Row history at Bearno’s Pizza, 2nd and Main Streets.

May 26: Bryan Bush will be giving a walking tour of Cave Hill Cemetery at 9 am, which will cover figures from the American Revolution, the Mexican War, the Civil War, World War 1, and World War II.

June 2 (Saturday): The Schnitzelburg History Walk with Don Haag will start at 10 a.m. We will meet, depart, and return to Amvets Post on South Shelby Street at Forrest Street. Make your reservations by sending email to barbu68@hotmail.com. You can also email me at donhaagr5@gmail.com. Let us know the number in your party. Also, I suggest you arrive 15-20 minutes early. Coffee and donuts will be available. The tour route will include some streets of Schnitzelburg not previously covered. For those interested, we will eat lunch afterwards at Check’s Café, Burnett and Hickory St.

June 16 (Saturday): Steve Wiser will present part 2 of the “Old Louisville Sites to See” presentation. Both events will begin (1 p.m.) at the Conrad-Caldwell House located at 1402 St. James Court. $10 for presentation and $10 for walking tour.

June 24 (Sunday): LHL event Ice Cream Socia, a tour of the campus at the University of Louisville with Tom Owens

July 2018: No meeting this month.

August 19: Indoor LHL program at the newly renovated Immanuel Church at Fourth Street and Breckinridge Street. Time and other details TBA.

September 3 (Labor Day): St. James Art Show

November 18: Fenwick Lecture Serie—details TBA.

December 2: The annual holiday party at the Peterson-Dumesnil House, 301 S. Peterson Ave., 2 p.m.
Louisville Historical League—Since 1972
founded by Rev. Clyde Crews and Allan Steinberg
Steve Wiser, President

If you change your address or email address
please notify the League so that you can continue to receive your notices!

Membership in the Louisville Historical League is $15 for Seniors, $20 Individual, and patrons $40.
Send check to LHL, POB 6061, Louisville, Kentucky.
The Louisville Historical League is headquartered at the Peterson-Dumesnil House.
301 S. Peterson Ave., (Crescent Hill), Louisville, KY 40206

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Comments and suggestions related to this publication:
gfalk@aye.net
Visit us on facebook as Louisville Historical League

The Archives is the official publication of the Louisville Historical League. Questions or comments should be addressed to Gary Falk, gfalk@aye.net or (502) 962-1040.

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