

the Archives



Louisville Historical League INC

founded 1972

Dedicated to promoting the appreciation and preservation of our cultural heritage and historic environment in the Louisville metropolitan area.

Fall 2016

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THE AUDITORIUM-AMPITHEATER BICYCLE TRACK

BY CARSON TORPEY

While browsing at an auction house I came across a book “Old Louisville: The Victorian Era” by Samuel W. Thomas and William Morgan, perhaps you already have a copy of this book in your library. I flipped through the pages and found several photos of cyclists, my main focus is the bicycling history of Louisville, and then I saw a photo the Fireworks Ampitheater, part of the Auditorium, which was located at the southwest corner of Fourth and Hill Streets. So, why would a photo of the Fireworks Ampitheater excite someone interested in bicycles? Let me tell you.

The photo certainly shows the amphitheater but the focus of the photo is a “bicycle racing track” and not just any track but the first electric lit bicycle track in the United States. Look carefully at the white banked oval around the lake and the lights on poles surrounding the track. The Louisville bicycle riders were having the 1892 Kentucky Division of the League of American Wheelmen meet in this city but the city lacked a track on which to hold the races. Daniel Quilp, of the Auditorium, offered to build the track if the cyclists would sell subscriptions at \$3.00 each, which would allow the holder a key to the track where he could train anytime the amphitheater was empty.

The track foundation was made of broken slate packed with sand and covered with five inches of limestone screenings and then compressed by a five-ton steamroller. Then a section was covered in cement. The turns were banked 51



regional, and national meets. But the track had been built with the high wheel and hard tired safety bicycles in mind and by spring of 1894, the new pneumatic tired bicycles were travelling at much greater speeds, so great that there were many wrecks, as the new bikes could not hold their line through the turns. State officials banned ricing there. (The Fountain Ferry Track was built because of this.)

All was not lost. In 1897, Prince Wells, took over the management of bicycle racing there and made improvements to allow the faster bikes. He staged his annual road race at the track for the start and finish and then had nighttime racing in the evening. A unique feature of the remodeled track was the new finish-line made of an open pipe, with lights and covered with a glass plate making it easier for the racers and judges to see the line.



START OF THE SCRATCH MEN IN THE TEN-MILE ROAD RACE.
SPUNNER, KNISLEY, GIBBENS, ELINS.

Next time you walk past this block of Old Louisville, stop at the courtyard of the apartments just north of Gaubert Avenue and imagine the track making its oval through the buildings

AMUSEMENTS.

FIREWORKS AMPHITHEATER
8:15 WEDNESDAY NIGHT, 8:15
MAY 12, 1897.

A Great Cycle Event!

Mr. Daniel Quill takes great pleasure in announcing the opening of his new six-lap

ELECTRIC LIGHT CEMENT CYCLE TRACK
with the following five events:

- 1—One-half Mile Novice—Amateur.
- 2—One-half Mile Handicap—Amateur.
- 3—One Mile Handicap—Professional.
- 4—Two Mile Open—Amateur.
- 5—Two Mile Open—Professional.

PRICES.

Tickets—25c and 50c. Now on sale at the Auditorium City Ticket Office, 422 Fourth St.

SPECIAL—Now on sale, a limited number of Track Tickets—\$1.00—good for practice and training to May 1, 1897.



LOUISVILLE'S QUEST FOR A MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

BY CHARLES W. ARRINGTON

Louisville's quest for a municipal airport was a long drawn-out affair that lasted eight years. The quest essentially spanned from May 1920 when Bowman Field was founded to mid-1928 when the airport property was purchased by local government. In between included much drama that saw litigation in both federal and state courts with property owner, German national Waldemar von Zedtwitz in Europe and events in Louisville that led to voter approval of a bond issue in 1927, that allowed the purchase to go forth. After an earlier bond issue in 1924 failed, a maximum effort by Louisville leaders, business interest, and airport enthusiast, including airport founder Abram H. Bowman went forward. They rallied to support the land purchase through the 1927 bond issue. Abram Bowman himself worked long and hard to insure success by voicing concern that Louisville could not be successful without a municipal airport that would insure inclusion on the national air map which would bring air mail, airline passenger service, and progress.



Responding to this, Mr. Bowman's first partner in Bowman Field, Robert H. Gast wrote an article that appeared in the Courier-Journal on June 25, 1925 that spelled out the importance of Bowman Field to Louisville. The article follows in its entirety.

Value of Bowman Field To Louisville Is Cited
Secretary-Treasurer of Aero Club of Kentucky Points to Developments of Future.
By Robert H. Gast

Few people realize just what Bowman Field, Louisville's airport means to our city. It is one of the greatest assets of which we can boast. There is no other city in the country that has a flying field that compares with the Louisville port. Bowman Field in the short time it has been in existence has risen to be one of the most prominent airports in America. It is renowned for its hospitality. Nowhere in the air service can you mention Bowman Field, Louisville, Ky., but what you meet with instant approval and hearty endorsement.

The advantages of a city owning an airport such as this are many. Daily from many cities of our country ships fly in and discharge their cargoes and are off on their way. At present there are approximately fifteen ships a week through Louisville including the regular Army Air Service and commercial flyers.

Louisville within a short time will be placed on the air mail route. This plan meets with enthusiasm as the savings affected will be great. The discount on paper handled by banks will be enormous. Thousands of dollars daily will be saved by our banks in interest as the air mail will shrink the map several days.

Within a short time a mooring mast will be erected at Bowman Field. With this added facility it will be possible to have lighter than air craft stop at Louisville.

Commercial aviation is becoming one of the largest projects of this era. At this time it is only in its infancy but from all indications and the money and time being devoted to it by our capitalists it is flourishing into a huge business, destined to cover the country with a network of air routes. The fact that Louisville is already prepared with an organized airport and complete facilities will aid greatly to throw the trend of this gigantic new business our way.

The citizens of Louisville have a right to be proud of our field. The Aero Club of Kentucky, the authoritative body for all aeronautical matters in the state, is making every effort to place Louisville first on the aerial map of this country.

The cooperation and assistance of the public is invited. It is worthwhile to spend some time at Bowman Field and see what we now have and what is planned for the future. The Aero Club of Kentucky is particularly anxious that the public become familiar with its activities.

FRAZIER HISTORY MUSEUM

BY STEVE WISER



The Frazier History Museum is the preeminent museum for exhibitions about the history of Kentucky, the United States and her people. Through important artifacts such as Teddy Roosevelt's Big Stick, George Washington's Long Rifle, Daniel Boone's Family Bible, the oldest Civil War Memorial in existence, and the Peace Medal Lewis & Clark gave the Indians on the Corps of Discovery, the stories come to life in ways that engage, delight, and inspire visitors.

The Frazier's mission is to ignite the human spirit with thoughtfully crafted stories that enrich our community. Storytelling is a critical component of our product, and something that sets the Frazier apart from other institutions. Visitors every day learn about the past through live performances from our teaching artists, hands on experiences with artifacts, and through tours of the exhibits. Museum theatre and hands-on interactions are not just added value to outstanding exhibi-

tions and rare historical artifacts; they are, in fact, built into the overall experience. Our goal is to delight the visitor by helping them to feel something whether it's wonder, sadness, anger or joy.

Outside of its world class collections, and temporary exhibits the Frazier also boasts two featured exhibitions with a real focus on the Louisville, Kentucky region. The first Spirits of the Bluegrass: Prohibition and Kentucky brings the 1920's to life & shows how millions of otherwise law-abiding Americans chose to violate the national alcohol ban to quench the country's thirst for illegal booze. With two full sized bars, an event-ready Speakeasy with a lighted stage, and flapper dresses around every corner, Prohibition and Kentucky stands ready for a party. In 1920, you needed a doctor's prescription or a Speakeasy password to get your lips on some liquor. Today, both the great stories, and the spirits, are much easier to come by.

Prohibition and Kentucky traces the rise of the temperance movement, organized crime, and the repeal of the 18th Amendment in 1933, taking an in-depth look at America's "Noble Experiment." The Kentucky Distillers' Association (KDA) is the title sponsor for the exhibition, scheduled to run through 2017.

In the Lewis and Clark Experience visitors of all ages are taken on an immersive, educational adventure that puts them face to face with some of the many challenges encountered by the Corps of Discovery, seeking passage to the north-west. Visitors forge rivers and cross mountains while encountering new people, cultures and fantastic new species of animals. There are several artifacts from the period and detailed explanations on how and why they were used by the expedition.

The Lewis and Clark Experience features a 55 foot cut-away replica of Lewis and Clark's keelboat, replica Sioux Tipi and Mandan earthen hut. Visitors can even try their hand at animal tracking and exploring "secret" passages! While this exhibit is fun for all ages, it was designed with children and families in mind! The Experience runs through 2017.

On Tap!

The Frazier is thrilled to be in the initial stages of developing The Bourbon Gateway! We believe this new and expanded Bourbon experience will become a hub for Bourbon tourism and will become known as the greatest independent bourbon exhibition in the world. The Gateway will share the rich and authentic history of Bourbon as the "spirit" of Kentucky and will serve as the designated start of the Kentucky Bourbon Trail™. As with anything that spends years in the barrel perfecting, the Bourbon Gateway will be well worth the wait!



IRENE DUNNE (1898 – 1990)

BY GARY FALK



Movie star, actress, singer and U.N. delegate, Irene Dunne was born Irene Marie Dunn in Louisville in 1898 to U.S. Steamship Inspector, Louisville native Joseph John Dunn and musician- piano teacher Adelaide Dunn. Irene Dunne was Baptized at St. Martin of Tours church on Shelby Street. The family address

was 1803 Edward Street in the Highlands - a location which does not seem to exist today. Edward Street only extends to about the 1000 block, running east and west roughly between Debarr Street and just beyond Winter Avenue at Rufer.

She lived in Louisville, attending the Cedar Grove Academy, located at 318 South 35th Street in Portland (Later to become Sisters of Loretta School). At the age of fourteen, following the death of her father, the family moved to Madison, Indiana where her mother Adelaide had grown up.

Dunne (also known at times as Mrs. Francis D. Griffin) returned to Louisville at least twice.

She came for the premiere of *My Favorite Wife* at the Rialto in May of 1940 (tickets were a whopping 45 cents!). Her visit to Louisville, along with Randolph Scott was described in the media as “Stupendous and Colossal”.

In 1965 she was in attendance at Bellarmine College’s Knights Hall to become the first woman recipient (and first native of Louisville) of the Bellarmine Medal. The award was presented by the Most Rev. Charles G. Maloney, auxiliary to the archbishop of Louisville. She considered it one of her most cherished possessions.

There are historic markers in both Louisville (near the Belvedere) and Madison, Indiana for Irene Dunne.

Sources:

Website: www.iredunnesite/biography.com;

Website: www.meredy.com/iredunne

Wikipedia.org

The Encyclopedia of Louisville, John Kleber, Editor c. 2001 University Press of Kentucky, Irene Dunne article, p. 257 by Kenneth Dennis.

The Louisville Courier-Journal Newspaper: May 3, 1940 and May 14, 1965.



Cedar Grove Academy

“A TRIBUTE: HAVING A TOM OWEN MOMENT”

BY MIKE ZANONE

On Sunday, December 4th, at the J.B. Speed Art Museum at 2 pm, Louisville historian Tom Owen will deliver the Louisville Historical League’s annual Fenwick Lecture.

Louisville has been blessed with several great local historians in recent years, but longtime city alderman, Metro Council representative & U of L archivist Tom Owen is for many of us the face of Louisville history. Whether it’s his neighborhood walking tours, videos, enthusiastic lectures, or the way he pedals around town or pops up at your local TARC stop, he is that favorite grandfather or beloved uncle who keeps us spellbound for hours on the front porch on a Sunday afternoon with stories of “life in the old neighborhood” (to borrow a title from one of his popular talks).

Heck, this guy is so popular that we almost elected him as our city’s mayor nearly 20 years ago. What a history-changing election that could have been! But maybe it was our community’s better fortune that Tom continued his long & noble career on our city council as the voice of reason, as well as his nearly half-century tenure at the University of Louisville.

One of the great things about Tom Owen is that you never know where he will pop up. One day I was sitting on the Belvedere about to eat my lunch and here comes Tom with his bullhorn in hand, trailed by a gaggle of Presentation Academy students. He waved as I put down my turkey sandwich & he launched into a story about the Lewis & Clark expedition and York, whose Ed Hamilton sculpture was peering over our shoulders. Nearly an hour later as I was heading back to the office, I ran into the group again crossing 6th & Main, where Tom was pulling out a magnet to demonstrate those cast-iron facades along West Main Street. I just wanted to skip out on work for the rest of the day & join Tom Owen’s magical mystery history tour!

Over the years Tom has made regular appearances with LHL. Anybody remember his alley tour of the Cherokee Triangle several years ago? Or the crowd that packed the Union Station lobby one Sunday to hear him speak?

My introduction to Tom Owen was at the first LHL event I ever attended: a walking tour of Shippingport Island one Sunday afternoon in October 1980. I still have in my own archives the program from that day.

But my most inspiring Tom Owen moment came in January 2005, when Tom gave the keynote address for the Neighborhood Institute’s class at the Clifton Center. His talk that night was about the “Waterways of Jefferson County,” & he used his musings about each local creek & stream to weave together the history of the various neighborhoods in our community. He started out with his typical “aw shucks” low-key demeanor, but by the time he had carried us down the raging waters of Beargrass Creek from near Jeffersontown to its confluence with the mighty Ohio River, he was so excited I thought he might end up in my lap, since I was sitting in the front row! No doubt Tom was channeling some of his earlier career as a Methodist minister married with his love of local history.

That night inspired me to start my own walking tours of my neighborhood as a class project, one of which drew almost 70 people as an LHL event 2 years later. A funny story about that walking tour: when I arrived early at the start & was warming up with an electronic bullhorn, 2 ladies drove up & asked if this was where the walking tour that Tom Owen was giving would begin, & they thought I was him! I confirmed they had come to the right spot but apologized that he wouldn’t be here, but that they would be getting the “Tom Owen Lite” tour instead that day. I have to admit, it was quite a compliment to be mistaken for my hero. Maybe it was the bullhorn!



Pictured
left-right:

Mike Zanone
(LHL Board)

Tom Owen

Charles E. Parrish
(LHL Board)

I can't say enough about how helpful Tom has been every time I have visited him at the University of Louisville Archives, or e-mailed him with a question. You have to love a guy who enjoys reading old city directories or pouring over old Sanborn maps as much as he does. Many times he has directed me to some hidden gems about my neighborhood's history that were tucked away on the shelves within the special collections, such as the L.A.D.A report about a train station that was proposed at Bradley Park after WWII, or a freshman English composition paper from 1938 (with photographs) on the Preston/Eastern Parkway area. As the university's archivist, Tom probably knows where all the bodies & all the documents are buried, and he'll tell you if you ask!

So, on December 4th, at the J.B. Speed Art Museum at 2 pm, we will come not to bury or enshrine Tom Owen, but merely to hear him do what generations of Louisvillians have come to know & love because of him: spending an afternoon learning a little more about our past. Please join us then and enjoy another Tom Owen moment!

NEWS FLASH

BY GARY FALK

In the Spring issue I mentioned the plight of American Legion Post 201 located at 2919 Bardstown Road. The post has been in financial difficulties for some time. The property was on the market at that time.

An announcement has just been made that Assumption High School, just across the street from the post has purchased the property. The post is temporarily relocating to the Aero club at Bowman Field.

I was told that Assumption plans to expand their parking to the former post property. The lingering question for historians is what will happen to the Inn Logola (log cabin) portion of the property. I urge LHL members and friends to maintain a vigil on this property and urge anyone you know at Assumption or St. Raphael church to consider saving the log cabin portion of the property. It has historic value dating to the time it was built in the 1920s as a nightclub and roadhouse.



The Rascals of Ragtyme band has become something of an institution here in Louisville. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the ensemble which has been a part of the night club scene, political rallies, the Belle of Louisville, the Redbird games at the Fairgrounds stadium and countless special events throughout the city. Here is a brief history of this musical group. (ed.)

RASCALS OF RAGTYME

BY QUENTIN SHARPENSTEIN, LEADER

In 1966 the group Rascals of Ragtyme was formed as the house band for the legendary nightclub, the Wooden Nickel which was located at 635-37 South Fourth Street in downtown Louisville. With the war raging in Vietnam, I had just returned from an enlistment as a tuba player in the United States Military Academy Band at West Point, NY. That summer a group from New Orleans decided to bring key personnel to bring the French Quarter ambiance to 4th street between Broadway and Chestnut. I auditioned for the one musician leader from New Orleans, Jim Phares, and became a founding member of the Rascals.

The idea was an immediate success with lines stretching around the corner to throw their peanut shells on the floor, enjoy a mug of Oertels 92, and listen to that hot band. The club was open seven days a week playing to packed houses. The Wooden Nickel served one brand of beer, Oertels, peanuts in the shell, and served up by our singing waiters.

Alas, all things come to an end. So after about a year and a half, it went the way of many nightclubs. The club closed, but the Rascals have lived on. The Rascals quickly became the darlings of the country club set, the Belle of Louisville, and many official events in city government.

During the 2nd administration of Mayor Harvey Sloane, (1982-1986), he established the Mayor's SummerScene program. The Rascals were the centerpiece of the program that brought live music to nursing homes, parks, and festivals. The program continued and flourished during the administration of 1st. Metro Mayor Jerry Abramson (2003-2011).

Another major leap in our visibility to the public came in 1982. A Ray Smith established the AAA franchise of the Louisville Baseball team at Cardinal Stadium on the grounds of the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center. This produced approximately sixty appearances each summer for seven years until Mr. Smith sold the team. Owner A. Ray Smith built a gazebo for the band in the concession area. We played for an hour before each game and fans would stay until the first pitch. Next he built a bandstand for us in the stands and christened us the Redbird Ragtymes. His nickname for us was painted on the bandstand as "The Best Band This Side Of Paducah".

This year (2016) is our 50 year anniversary. The branches of our tree continue to grow with appearances far too many to mention. One place you can usually catch us is the first Sunday of each month at Clifton's Pizza on Frankfort Ave.



FOR A RIP-ROARING GOOD TIME TONIGHT, LET'S
ALL MEET AT THE GAY NINETY STYLE . . .

WOODEN NICKEL

OPEN SEVEN NIGHTS A WEEK
FEATURING THE
"RASCALS OF RAGTIME"

2 BANJOS, A TUBA,
TROMBONE & PIANO
BEER - BANJOS -
& PEANUTS

SING GAY 90 SONGS
- GET IN THE SING -
ALONG SPIRIT AND
HELP US REVIVE
THE GOOD OLD DAYS



HOURS: Mon., Thurs., 8:30 P.M. - 2 A.M.
Fri., Sat. 8 P.M. - 2 A.M. - Sun. 4 p.m. - 2 A.M. TELEPHONE 583-9047

637 SOUTH FOURTH

Edwin Hubble

(1889-1953)

- Measured distances to nearby galaxies using Cepheid variables
- Galaxies are islands of stars
- Developed a classification scheme for galaxies.
- Discovered the Expansion of the Universe
- Space telescope named after him!



This recent photo taken of 1287 Everett Ave. was the home of Edwin Hubble. He lived in Louisville for around 2 years, first on Payne Street and later in this home. Hubble taught Spanish, Physics and Math at New Albany High School (1913) and was also the basketball coach. He later moved to Chicago to attend the University of Chicago, majoring in Astronomy.

THE PLOT THAT BECAME OUR CENTRAL PARK (PART I)

BY STEPHEN W. BROWN

As a reward for service in the French and Indian War, Virginia awarded the choicest portions of its Kentucky territory to officers in that “world war”. The future site of Louisville was surveyed in 1774 by a team lead by John Floyd, authorized (unlike the group headed by Capt. Thomas Bullitt a year earlier) by Augusta’s County Surveyor William Preston. Land grants were patented in 1,000 acre tracts (and multiples thereof).

Most of the future Old Louisville neighborhood was included in the 1,000 acre grants to Thomas Bowyer (a lieutenant under Col. Byrd & subaltern under Col. Hopkins); his Augusta County neighbor, Ranger and Wyandot captive Arthur Campbell; and Henry Harrison of Surry County (uncle of William Henry Harrison). While John Floyd surveyed the Campbell and Harrison claims, Isaac Hite laid out the lines of Bowyer’s on the 2nd of June (1774). Bowyer, during his service as Captain of the 7th Co. in Virginia’s 8th Regiment during the Revolutionary War, was falsely reported as killed at King’s Mountain. Virginia’s Governor, Thomas Jefferson, signed off on Bowyer’s grant on July 14, 1780. Like Col. Campbell, Bowyer (who died in 1785) stipulated in his will that his thousand acres “near the Falls of the Ohio” be sold to pay his debts, funeral expenses, and any remainder bequeathed to his heirs. And like Campbell’s, it wasn’t -- resulting in lawsuits.

Thomas Bowyer’s land grant was auctioned on December 6, 1816 at the county court house in Staunton (close to Bowyer’s home) at the instigation of his executor and nephew Henry Bowyer. Brothers Cuthbert and Thomas Bullitt (nephew of the 1773 surveyor) purchased it for \$20,750, with half the money “in hand” and the balance to be paid in installments over 6 months. The deed was recorded early the following year. Although it’s generally written that the Bullitts’ thousand acres was comprised of part of the Bowyer grant and part of Campbell’s, and stretched to Poplar Level Road on the southeast, this is a huge misunderstanding (a full explanation and proof of this is too lengthy to include here).

The Bullitt brothers divvied up their acres and sold portions out of the family. Cuthbert kept a 55 plus acre parcel at the southern end of the grant (extending to Magnolia Avenue). Here on the high ground south of “the graveyard of the West’s” noxious ponds he built an oasis which he named Walnut Hill. The Cuthbert Bullitts made it their home until, with the draining of the mosquito-infested pools, Louisville’s contagion was contained. When Cuthbert returned the family to his estate stretching from the Main street at 5th to the wharf, Walnut Hill remained their summer residence. Meanwhile, the 165 acres just north of Walnut Hill was purchased from Thomas Bullitt’s heirs by wealthy merchant Robert G. Ormsby, where his brother George and family lived on the “Cedar Hill farm” (more on which in the sequel).

Contrary to what has been written, the future Central Park district was not merely swampy woods, truck farms, and a lone “hunting lodge” built by Cuthbert Bullitt in 1837 until the coming of Stuart Robinson and the DuPonts. For one thing, the Cuthbert Bullitt who built a fine home where he entertained the city’s elite was dead a dozen years by 1837, and Cuthbert Jr. did not inherit the property. Rather, it passed to his sister Amanthus. And after her marriage in 1829 to George Washington Weissinger (publisher of the Louisville Journal), Weissinger acquired the property (securing a release of any dower rights vested in Cuthbert’s widow Anne Neville Bullitt). The Weissinger home at Walnut Hill included gardens, orchards, a greenhouse, farm animals, and slaves. George and Amanthus’s children were born there (including the Old Colonel, George W. Weissinger Jr. of the “Little Colonel” stories). The Bullitt/Weissinger family cemetery was also on the property (behind the Landward House and not far from where the Dry Run once flowed through Old Louisville) before the remains were reinterred in Cave Hill.



CUTHBERT BULLITT

A sketch from the Jouett portrait owned by Hugh Bullitt, the son of Mr. and Mrs. C. Malcolm Bullitt, and a great-grandson of this pioneer.

In Part II (see our next newsletter), we'll cover the period from the auction of Walnut Hill following G. W. Weissinger's death in 1850 to the acquisition of the Central Park section by the DuPonts. Sources, aside from deed books, other court records, and period newspapers, include "The Annals of Augusta County, Virginia" by Joseph A. Waddell and the following articles: Robert E. McDowell's "The Wilderness Road in Jefferson County", Neal O. Hammon's "The Fincastle Surveyors at the Falls of the Ohio 1774", and Audra McDowell's "The Lan" "The World Series of 1890: Brooklyn vs. Louisville in a 7-Game Showdown" "Formerly the Stuart Robinson Joseph B. Marvin Blakemore Wheeler Home". This Central Park series of articles, along with several others I've written in previous LHL newsletters, cover topics to be included in my longer work: "A New Look at Old Louisville".

LOOKING BACK

BY GARY FALK

Caroline Bourgard (1862 - 1928) Music educator and the first Louisville public school supervisor of music. In 1908 she helped organize the Louisville Music Teachers Association. In 1916 helped create the state music teachers association. In 1921 she was an organizer for the first Louisville Woman's Chorus and in 1927 she originated the first arts school for African American children at the Phyllis Wheatley branch of the YWCA. She founded the Bourgard School of Music and Arts at 2503 West Walnut Street (Muhammad Ali Boulevard) where they are still located (2016). She wrote a definitive text for music teachers entitled *A Manual of Music for Teachers* (60 pages). Bourgard died in 1928 and is buried in Cave Hill Cemetery.



“THE WORLD SERIES OF 1890: BROOKLYN VS. LOUISVILLE IN A 7-GAME SHOWDOWN”

BY MIKE ZANONE



By the time you read this article, a very history-making 2016 World Series will likely have been completed. For the first time since 1948, baseball fans in Cleveland may be celebrating a long-awaited title, or the even longer suffering fans of the Chicago Cubs will be rejoicing over their team’s first world championship since 1908. But, just 18 years before those Cubbies won their last World Series, baseball fans in Louisville had their own taste of a Fall Classic, though the outcome left some in the cold.

Like any good story, some context is important here. Even many hardcore baseball fans are not aware that Louisville was once a major league city. In fact, it was a charter member of the National League when the senior circuit commenced play in 1876, fielding a team that played at the Louisville Baseball Park, which today is better known as St. James Court. By the following season, the Louisville nine often referred to as the “Grays” appeared well on their way to their first pennant, red with East coast gamblers to throw games, & 4 members of the team, including ace pitcher Jimmy Devlin, were banned from baseball for life. The N.L. also expelled Louisville from the league.

Louisville would return to the majors in 1882 as a member of the American Association, often dubbed the “beer & whiskey league,” since many of the owners had connections to the distilling industry & the league also promoted Sunday baseball & the sale of alcohol at its ballparks. Playing at Eclipse Park, which was located at the N.W. corner of 28th & Elliott Ave., the team was not a serious pennant contender for most of the decade, though they featured the batting savant & Louisville native Pete Browning, for whom the original “Louisville Slugger” baseball bat was reportedly crafted by the J.F. Hillerich & Sons Co. in 1884.

The season prior to their 1890 title run was historic in its own way, most of it bad. The Louisville Baseball Club set a then major league record by becoming the first team to ever lose 100 games in a season (111, to be exact), highlighted by a 26-game losing streak & a 27-111 overall W-L record. Other highlights (or lowlights) from that season included a players’ strike against the club’s owner, a career-low .256 batting average by the “Old Gladiator” Pete Browning, culminating with his alcohol-related suspension for the final 2-months of the season. At one point when the team’s train went missing during a road trip to Philadelphia during the same week as the Johnstown, PA flood, a scribe for the local paper wrote “if the entire team had been standing in front of the Johnstown reservoir when it broke last Friday evening the majority of the people of Louisville would have viewed the calamity as a just visitation of Providence.”

Safe to say, change was in the air for the 1890 season. Actually, it began in the middle of that previous disaster of a season, when the league took over the team from controversial owner Mordecai Davidson after the players’ strike, selling it to a conglomerate headed by Lawrence Parsons, a railroad businessman. After a revolving door of 3 managers in 1889, Jack Chapman, who had managed the Grays during Louisville’s first big league run in 1876 & 1877, was brought back to finish out the season & retained for the 1890 campaign. Local star Pete Browning signed with Cleveland of the newly found Players’ League for 1890, where his salary would nearly triple & his batting average would rebound to a league-leading .373.

Something else was in the air, too: on March 27, 1890 a devastating tornado struck parts of west & downtown Louisville along Main Street, jumping across the Ohio River to Jeffersonville before looping back to hit the Louisville Water Company's pumping station upriver from the city. In the wake of this great disaster, many began referring to the 1890 ball club as the "Cyclones," and it turned out to be an apt nickname that year. Fueled by Louisville native & outfielder William "Chicken" Wolf's .363 battering average & steady performances from holdovers Farmer Weaver (CF) & Phil Tomney (SS), the Louisvilles had a winning record in every month en route to a pennant-winning 88-44 record that also included 4 ties.

Campbellsburg, KY native Scott Stratton was the ace of the pitching staff, posting a career-best 34-14 record with a 2.36 ERA, while Louisville native Philip Sydney "Red" Ehret chipped in with a 25-14 record & 2.53 ERA. The team clinched the city's first & only major league flag with a 2-0 victory at home vs. Columbus on Oct. 6, becoming the first major league team to ever go from last place one year to first in the following season.

In those days, a "World Series" playoff between the champions of the N.L. & A.A. was usually arranged by the presidents or owners of the respective league champions. Following the 1890 season, the president of the N.L. champion Brooklyn ballclub met with Lawrence Parsons at the Louisville Hotel on Oct. 11 to negotiate terms for a championship duel. The winner of 5 of the 9 scheduled games would be declared baseball's world champions, with the first 4 games to be played in Louisville & the remaining 5 in Brooklyn.

The series began in Louisville on October 17, after the opener scheduled the day before was rained out. A crowd of 5,663 packed Eclipse Park, paying 50 cents for general admission to the grounds, 60 cents for pavilion seats, & 75 cents for grandstand seating. However, the Brooklyn Bridegrooms (the team's nickname owed to the fact that several of their players had gotten married in the off-season) spoiled the party with a 9-0 win over Louisville ace Scott Stratton.

The hometown nine fared no better the next day, losing again 5-3. Two days later on Oct. 20, the Cyclones forged a 7-all tie in a game that was called because of darkness, with the well-dressed & now sober Pete Browning in attendance to watch his old teammates. In the final game played in Louisville on Oct. 21, the home team finally broke through with a 5-4 win behind the pitching of Series star Red Ehret, who yielded only 7 hits as his team rallied for the tie-breaking run in the home 7th inning.

In the first game played in Brooklyn (Game # 5) on Oct. 25, the Louisvilles were once again trounced 7-2. But then they played like a cyclone roaring through the borough of Brooklyn, winning Game 6 by a score of 9-8 behind Stratton, with Ehret getting the save in relief, then tying the series the next day in a 6-2 win as Ehret scattered 8 hits for his second win of the series. Chicken Wolf was the hitting star for the Louisville ball club, posting a .360 average with 9 hits & 8 RBI's through the first 7 games.

And that's where it ended, after Game 7 on October 28th, each team having won 3 games with one tie. The cold & wet weather in Brooklyn that week would give way to a blizzard that marked the end of a baseball season that began with a Louisville cyclone & ended in a snow storm. The 2 clubs cancelled the remaining two games of the World Series & vowed to complete it the following spring, but that

never happened. So Louisville (and Brooklyn) could rightly claim to be the “co-world champions of baseball” (and maybe the coldest world champions!) for 1890.

The following season Louisville fell back to a 55-84 record. In 1892 the Louisville club would re-join the National League after the American Association folded, but their mediocrity would continue & cost manager Jack Chapman his job before the season ended. By the end of 1899 Louisville would be out of the big leagues for good as attendance dwindled, their ball park burned down, & club president Barney Dreyfuss sold off most of his remaining talent to the Pittsburgh club, including a soon-to-be superstar infielder named Honus Wagner.

World Series hero William “Chicken” Wolf would play his last game for Louisville in 1891 before finishing his career with St. Louis the next year. He returned home to his native city & became a Louisville firefighter. However, while responding to a fire one day he was thrown from the horse driven engine as it rounded a corner & suffered a severe head injury. Later one of his children died, worsening his mental state & leading to his being committed to the state insane asylum out at Lakeland (now Central State Hospital) in eastern Jefferson County. He finally died at the old City Hospital downtown in the spring of 1903, just days after his 41st birthday, and was buried at Cave Hill Cemetery.

Louisville has seen many great moments in its sports history. But among all the memorable stretch drives, buzzer beaters, Hall of Famers, Olympians & championships this city has witnessed, we should never forget that Game 7 of the 1890 World Series on a wintry day in Brooklyn when baseball fans could say our boys from Louisville walked off the field as winners in the season’s final game!

SOURCES:

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The Baseball Encyclopedia: Eighth Edition Rick Wolff, ed. Macmillan Publishing Company, 1990.

The Louisville Commercial newspaper, June 4, 1889.

The Louisville Courier-Journal newspaper, October 12, 1890.



The 1889 Louisville Eclipse, who finished in last place with a W-L record of 27-111; they seem a bit uninterested in this picture!
(National Baseball Hall of Fame; Cooperstown, NY)

The 1890 World Champion Louisville Cyclones (U of L Photo Archives)



Play at the plate; Eclipse Park, 1889 (U of L photo archives).

William Van Winkle
“Chicken” Wolf,
star of the 1890
World Series
(U of L Photo Archives)



CLIFFORD HAYES

By MICHAEL L. JONES



Clifford Hayes was one of the most accomplished musicians in Louisville history. He recorded with everyone from jazz greats Earl Hines and Johnny Dodds to country music legend Jimmie Rodgers. Yet his name is little known except by serious fans of old time music.

The fiddler's lack of name recognition is due in part to the fact that he was associated with jug band music, a genre that has been nearly forgotten locally. Another reason for Hayes' lack of notoriety is that he left us few public records during his time as a professional musician. In fact, until I located his grave earlier this year now one even knew where he was buried!

Clifford George Washington Hayes was born in Glasgow, Kentucky in 1893. He was the second of four boys in a musical family. Hayes' brothers Curtis, Otis and Sydney were all banjo players. His nephew Cal Smith was also renowned on the banjo and guitar. The Hayes family moved to Louisville in 1912.

Hayes joined the Louisville Jug Band in 1914. He would collaborate with that band's founder and jug player, Earl McDonald, off and on until they had a permanent break in 1927. In 1916, the Louisville Jug Band made an arrangement with the Old Grand-Dad Distillery to perform as the Old Grand-Dad Jug Band. Hayes, McDonald, and Smith also took part in the first jug band recording sessions in 1924, when they went into a New York studio with blues singer Sara Martin, who was also a Louisville native. Hayes and McDonald also led a number of bands together including the Dixieland Jug Band and the Old Southern Jug Band. In 1931, they took part in a Victor Recording session with Rodgers who was in Louisville for a collaboration with the Carter Family.

Hayes was obsessed with combining string band music with straight jazz. One of the things that made Louisville jug music different than other groups in the genre was the appearance of pianos and horns in some of their recordings. After his break with McDonald, Hayes led the Louisville Stompers who played jazz without a jug player. He had to return to jug band music during the Great Depression because of the success of McDonald's Ballard Chefs, who had a radio show on WHAS Radio.

I discovered Hayes while working on my book, "Louisville Jug Music: From Earl McDonald to the National Jubilee." The public records on him were sparse. The 1900 Census shows an 8-year old Clifford living with his parents, Robert and Susan Hayes in Hardyville, Kentucky. By the 1910 Census, the family lived in Jeffersonville, Indiana. And Hayes listed Louisville as his home when he registered for the World War I draft in 1917.

Hayes seems to have spent a lot of time ping ponging between Louisville and Southern Indiana. He is listed in the city directories in Louisville and New Albany off and on during the 1920s to the mid-'30s. He is listed as an employee of the Conrad-Kammerer Glue Company in Jeffersonville until 1929. Thereafter his occupation is always listed as musician. It is at this point that he became harder to track.

The most important record I found was a marriage certificate showing that he married a woman named Sarelda Owens in 1936 in Jeffersonville. Sarelda was born West Virginia. Using her unusual name, I was able to track the couple to Cleveland, Ohio, where they lived with her family from 1936 until his death. Hayes is listed in Cleveland in 1940 Census as a cousin from Kentucky.

Clifford Hayes died on tour in Proviso Township, just outside Chicago, in 1941. His death certificate indicates he was buried in Cleveland, but it doesn't say at what cemetery. By finding the death certificate of Sarelda, who died in 1976, I was able to locate Hayes' grave at Highland Park Cemetery. Hopefully, now this great innovator can start to get the recognition he deserves.



CAN YOU IMAGINE

BY GARY FALK



Howell Furniture store at 424-426 W. Market produced this heavily “air brushed” ad from a photograph – viewed north from Fourth and Broadway as a furniture promotion in the early 1950s.

Beginning in 1940, they featured Pappy McMichen and his “Georgia Wildcats” on a regular broadcast on WAVE radio.

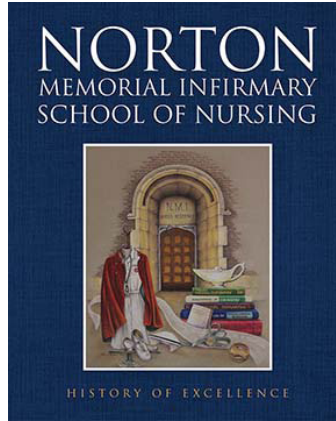
Pee Wee King and other local celebrities were also presented.

The show was a local favorite lasting well into the 1950s.

RECENT BOOKS PUBLISHED BY CAROL BUTLER

ButlerBooks.com

Norton Memorial Infirmiry School of Nursing: History of Excellence



Book Summary

Hardcover

9 x 11 inches

192 pages

Black-and-white photos throughout

ISBN 978-1-941953-37-2

Pub date: September 2016

Case Qty: 17

\$34.95

On New Year's Day 1886, the Norton Memorial Infirmiry School of Nursing — the first nursing school in Kentucky — opened its doors in Louisville. Over the next 90 years, more than 1,500 young people prepared for careers as registered nurses. Through the 1918 influenza pandemic, the Depression, the great flood of 1937, and two world wars, these dedicated students honed their skills. This book, compiled by four Norton graduates, takes the reader through major historical events, medical advances, vast cultural changes, and the evolution of the school. Other Norton graduates share their memories — from microbiology to bed baths and bedpans. Their profiles are sometimes touching and often funny, but always imbued with pride at being Norton nurses.

65 Years: making.moving.art.

Commemorating and celebrating the 65th Anniversary of The Louisville Ballet

Book Summary

Hardcover

9 x 12 inches

184 pages

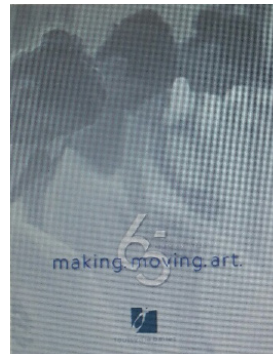
Full color photos throughout

ISBN 978-1-941953-38-9

Pub date: September 2016

Case Qty: 8

\$65.00



Following Boone's Trace

Book Summary

By Neal O. Hammon

Edited by Peter N. Holste

Paperback

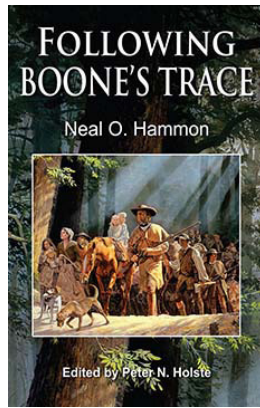
5.5 x 8.5 inches

144 pages

ISBN 978-1-941953-30-3

Pub date: June 2016

\$19.95



By today's standards, Colonial America wasn't exactly bursting at the seams, but it was an agrarian economy, and fertile, cheap land was highly valued. Thus, many entrepreneurs like Colonel Richard Henderson found the vast territory west of the Allegheny Mountains too enticing to pass up.

His Transylvania Company could reap a fortune in land sales if only it could overcome resistance from Indians, similarly unfriendly political forces in Virginia, and the treacherous mountains. So Henderson hired Daniel Boone, the experienced long-hunter who was familiar with the territory, to carve a route into Kentucky for land-seekers. Now, 241 years later, author Neal O. Hammon has written *Following Boone's Trace*, which precisely details that route Boone took through the wilderness.

Hammon touches on interesting stories, the successes and failures, and the unintended consequences of Boone's journey — for which we all are richer. In the words of Richard Taylor, former Kentucky Poet Laureate, "Hammon's meticulous, stubborn research makes him the dean of living Kentucky frontier historians."

The Kentucky where almost four and one-half million people live today is very different from the Bluegrass region that its forefathers — the intrepid pioneers of the eighteenth century — were drawn to explore and settle.

But however much the physical features of the Bluegrass State are amended to accommodate its present population, *Following Boone's Trace* reminds us that the exciting legends of yesterday are still very much alive.

Samuel Joseph Elsby: Banker, Businessman, and Community Leader

Book Summary

By Kelly Carnighan

Hardcover

5.5 x 8.5 inches

64 black-and-white pages

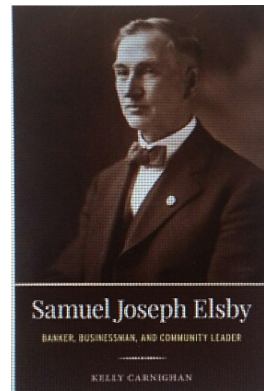
ISBN 978-1-941953-39-6

Pub date November 2016

\$14.95

Author's Note

When I looked at Samuel J. Elsby's gold pocket watch for the first time, I flipped open the back cover and read the inscription, S. J. Elsby, Cannelton, Indiana. At that very moment, I realized all anyone knew about Samuel J. Elsby was the Elsby name embossed on the front of The Elsby building, designed by Joseph & Joseph Architects of Louisville and built 100 years ago at Spring and Pearl Streets in New Albany, Indiana. I asked myself, who was this man Elsby? Where was he born and how did he come to build The Elsby? The journey retracing the life of Samuel Joseph Elsby began in Perry County, Indiana, and took me to Dallas, Texas. What I learned about the man along the way inspired me to tell his story.



Dark Highway: Love, Murder, and Revenge in 1930s' Kentucky

Book Summary

By Ann DAngelo

Hardcover

6 x 9 inches

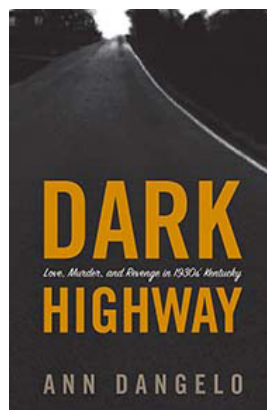
424 pages

ISBN 978-1-941953-32-7

Pub date: July 2016

Case Qty: 16

\$29.95



On a cold November night in 1936, the body of beautiful businesswoman Verna Garr Taylor is found in a ditch along a lonely highway in rural Kentucky. Verna has been shot through the heart, and fiancé, former lieutenant governor and brigadier general Henry Denhardt insists she committed suicide.

But the clues left behind point to murder, and General Denhardt quickly becomes the target of investigators. The general's sensational murder trial draws reporters from all over the country to the small Kentucky community. The case is featured in the New York Times, the London Herald, Newsweek, Time, Life, and other national and international publications.

When the trial ends in a hung jury, Kentuckians — including Verna's three angry and grieving brothers — wait in grim anticipation for the general to be tried again.

Postcards from Abe, 1842-1865:

Abraham Lincoln Writes to Lucy Speed at Farmington Plantation in Louisville, Kentucky

Book Summary

By Betty Southard Stokes

Illustrations by Emry Quinn

Wire-O Binding

9 x 6 inches

80 pages

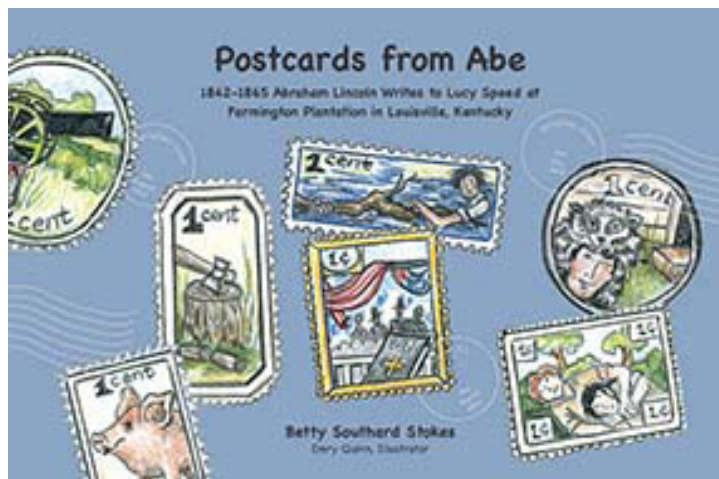
Full color throughout

ISBN 978-1-941953-24-2

Pub date: May 2016

Case Qty: 16

\$19.95



These postcards from Abraham Lincoln, written to his friend Joshua Speed's mother, Lucy Speed, at Farmington Plantation in Louisville, Kentucky, are just pretend. But despite the fact that this fun and educational book may not contain true artifacts, *Postcards from Abe* provides an honest recollection of Lincoln's childhood, challenges, and career, culminating in his being elected to serve as the 16th president of the United States of America.

This collection, which is the fourth in a series of historical postcard books created by award-winning Kentucky educator Betty Southard Stokes, is a perfect way to teach history to children in a fun, imaginative way.

UPCOMING EVENTS

BY STEVE WISER

LHL:

Note: All 'LHL Sponsored Events' are FREE to LHL members but non-members will be requested to provide a \$5 donation to attend. 'Other Events' may also charge a fee.

LHL December 4th, Sunday, 2pm, "Fenwick Lecture: Tom Owen", J B Speed Art Museum Free and Open to the Public (there is no \$5 non-member fee for this event); Parking logistics: you can park in the Speed Garage for a fee; but, FREE parking can be found by entering off of Cardinal Blvd. at the U of L entrance, turn right, go to end of the drive, then park in the large surface lot on the right for FREE and walk to the Museum.

There will be no "Holiday Gathering" this year.

LHL Annual Meeting; Sunday, March 26th, 2 pm, Locust Grove; Free and Open to the Public (there is no \$5 non-member fee for this event)

Other Events (Not LHL) Note: there may be a fee for these events.

"Lost Houses of Louisville", Wednesday, November 30th, 6 pm; St Matthews Library, 3940 Grandview Avenue: Our city is known as a great place in which to live. And while we have some very nice residences, we have also lost many fine homes due to fire, urban renewal, and demo for other newer buildings. This talk by architect / historian Steve Wiser will be a stroll down memory lane of beautiful estates and streetscapes that once graced Louisville. Free and Open to the Public.

"Historic Marker Dedication: Samuel Grabfelder & William Dodd", Saturday, Dec. 3rd, 11 am, 1442 S. Third Street. Grabfelder was a bourbon distiller and generous benefactor of Jewish charities as well as one of the founders of Louisville's Jewish Hospital; and William Dodd was a noted architect who designed the Grabfelder Mansion as well as Ferguson mansion (Filson Historical Society), and numerous other landmark buildings in the city. After the marker dedication, there will be an open house of the Grabfelder mansion which is one of Louisville's most distinguished homes and has not been opened since 1992. Free and Open to the Public.

History of African American Musicians and Jug Bands in Louisville; Saturday, January 14th, 2 pm, Little Loomhouse, 328 Kenwood Hill Road (off New Cut Road, opposite Iroquois Amphitheater); Talk by Michael L. Jones; Suggested donation: \$5 Little Loomhouse members; \$10 non-members

"Historic Marker dedication: Fenley Family Cemetery", 7515 Third Street Rd., Tuesday, March 24 at 5:00 pm. Free and Open to the Public

LHL Membership Information:

Please send your check payable to “Louisville Historical League” to

LHL, P O Box 6061, Louisville, Kentucky 40206.

Dues rates: \$15 senior; \$20 Individual / Senior Couple; \$25 Family; \$40 Patron

Or, you can pay via PayPal on our website

Reminder:

If you change either your street or email address, please notify the League via email reply at LouHist@Hotmail.com

And, if you are on Facebook, be sure to 'LIKE' our FAN page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Louisville-Historical-League/357678060912525?fref=ts>

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Please notify the League of any address or email change!



CEC NOTICE

BY WALTER HUTCHINS

For the past 23 Februarys, I (LHL Life Member, 2012 Founder's Award recipient) have produced and distributed the African American History Month Cultural Events Calendar for the Louisville Metro area.

The Calendar is a chronological list of almost all of the cultural events (meetings, movies, plays, discussions, performances, and so forth) related to African American history that are scheduled for January, February, and later in the year.

Ten-thousand copies of the Calendar are distributed free of charge in the Metro area annually. Modest advertising rates make the free distribution possible.

Do you know of an event being planned for February 2017 that could use some free publicity? Or, do you know a merchant or a civic service organization that has a message for our culturally-curious audience?

Contact me, Walter, for more information. Our submission deadline for events and advertisements is December 9, 2016.

Be happy!

502-583-3682 walhutch@gmail.com

Louisville Historical League—Since 1972

founded by Rev. Clyde Crews and Allan Steinberg

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.

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Comments and suggestions related to this publication:

gfalk@aye.net

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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.

Call or e-mail regarding printed copies of this newsletter

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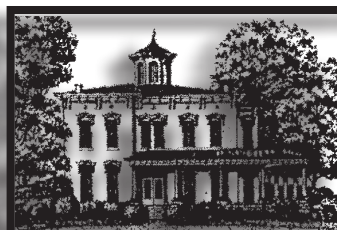
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