

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.

Spring 2015

UPCOMING EVENTS

Note: All 'LHL Sponsored Events' are FREE to LHL members but non-members will be requested to provide a \$5 donation to attend, beginning with the April 19th program. 'Other Events' may charge also charge a fee.

LHL sponsored Events

March 15th, Sunday, 2 pm: Louisville Historical League March meeting: "Annual Meeting"; Southwest Library; 9725 Dixie Highway (Snyder Freeway west to Stonestreet Road exit; right on Stonestreet to Dixie; then left on Dixie to 9725 Dixie Highway (about a quarter mile, on left, next to Meijer Store – parking in library or Meijer lots) FREE and Open to the Public.

April Meeting, Sunday, April 19th, 2 pm, Concordia Lutheran Church, 1127 E. Broadway : Historian Bryan Bush will be talking on 'Andrew Cowan'. Bryan has a new book on Cowan, who was a hero at Gettysburg as well as a champion of Louisville's Olmsted Parks system. Note: non-members will be requested to provide a \$5 donation.

Membership Renewal Time!

Please send your check payable to the 'Louisville Historical League' to LHL, P O Box 6061, Louisville, Kentucky 40206; Dues rates: \$15 Senior; \$20 Individual / Individual Couple; \$25 Family; \$40 Patron

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

March 14th, Saturday, 10 am to Noon: Open House for the Family Health Center, 834 East Broadway (Broadway & Logan / Campbell Streets) This is a public healthcare clinic that is in the renovated historic landmark that once housed American Standard offices. FREE

March 19th, Thursday, "The Bridges of the Falls" lecture by Carl Kramer; Conrad Caldwell House (1402 St James Court) 5 pm reception / 6 pm Lecture; Fee: \$10 (purchase at door); More info: 636-5023

Sunday, March 22nd, 2 pm: "Historic Houses of Frankfort Avenue", Peterson Dumesnil House, 301 S. Peterson Avenue in Crescent Hill. Local architect and historian Steve Wiser will talk on the history of houses in the Clifton / Crescent Hill neighborhoods, from River Road on the West (Heigold House) to the former 'Turrets' estate on the East, near Hillcrest Avenue. Limited seating. Fee: \$5.00; RSVPs are required. Email: LouHist@Hotmail.com or call 419-6559. Or, click on this link to RSVP: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/historic-homes-on-frankfort-avenue-lecture-and-book-signing-tickets-15585611985> Proceeds benefit the Peterson-Dumesnil House Foundation.

March 31st, Tuesday, 2:30 pm: “Notable Women of Louisville” by Steve Wiser, St Matthews Library, 3940 Grandview Avenue, FREE.

“Historic Houses of Louisville” series: May 7th, May 21st, June 11th and June 25th from 6-7:30; Conrad Caldwell House, 1402 St. James Court (St. James Court & Magnolia in Old Louisville). Seating limited: RSVPs required: 502-636-5023. Fee: Individual lecture \$10; Series \$25. Click on this link for more info and / or to RSVP: <http://conrad-caldwell.org/2015/01/24/7245/>

LHL Membership Information:

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

Or, you can pay via PayPal on our website

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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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APRIL 14, 1865: JEFFERSON COUNTY'S CONNECTION TO THIS FATEFUL DAY

By Steve Wiser, AIA

At the celebratory military ball in his honor, Major General Robert Anderson held high his glass and exclaimed ‘to the good, the great, and honest man, Abraham Lincoln’. Anderson, earlier that same day, had re-raised the same flag he had lowered four years previously over Fort Sumter in Charleston, S.C., harbor. Shortly after Anderson’s toast, the tragic news reached him of Lincoln’s assassination on April 14, 1865.

Lincoln and Anderson knew each other very well. Both were Kentuckians: Lincoln, from what is now Larue County, and Anderson from Jefferson. They first met in Illinois, while serving in the Black Hawk War of 1832. All are familiar with Lincoln’s path to greatness, but few of Anderson’s journey.

Anderson’s father, Richard Clough Anderson, Sr., served in the American Revolutionary War and married George Rogers Clark’s sister Elizabeth. After her death, he married Sarah Marshall, who was cousin to Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall. Robert was born in 1805.

After graduating from the U. S. Military Academy at West Point, Anderson was assigned to travel to Colombia with his step-brother, Richard C. Anderson, Jr., who had been appointed U. S. Minister there. Tragically, Richard died of illness during this trip. The Kentucky County of Anderson is named for Anderson, Jr.



Robert Anderson continued his military career, serving on the staff of General Winfield Scott during the second Seminole War. He was seriously wounded in the Mexican War, from which another Jefferson County resident, General Zachary Taylor, would be propelled to the Presidency.

As a southerner whose family held slaves, Anderson was directed to command Fort Sumter so as not to inflame the already heated tensions surrounding this volatile, national crisis. In early April, 1861, a sustained bombardment by Confederate artillery forced Anderson's surrender. While Anderson stayed loyal to the Union, many other Kentucky and Jefferson County residents sided with the Confederacy.

Anderson was briefly assigned commander of the 'Department of Kentucky'. But now 56 and in ill-health, he relinquished leadership to Brig, General William T. Sherman. Lincoln decided to use Anderson's 'fame' status to boost the North's patriotic morale as well as fundraise for the war effort. With the surrender of Robert E. Lee on April 9th, Lincoln gave Anderson one final order: return to Fort Sumter and re-raise the same flag to symbolize the end of the Civil War. Little did either Kentuckian realize that this event would mark both the war's end and Lincoln's tragic death.

Anderson did not return to his birthplace in Jefferson County, known as 'Soldier's Retreat', (which now has been rebuilt on Seaton Springs Parkway off of Hurstbourne Parkway, and is of similar design as Locust Grove). He died in Nice, France, in 1871, and is buried in the West Point cemetery, under one of the most decorative monuments of that hallowed ground. 150 years ago, Lincoln and Anderson were both 'good, great, and honest' Kentucky men.

(Steve Wisner, AIA, is a Louisville architect and historian. He has written numerous books on local architecture and history.)

JOHN BANVARD'S MISSISSIPPI PANORAMA

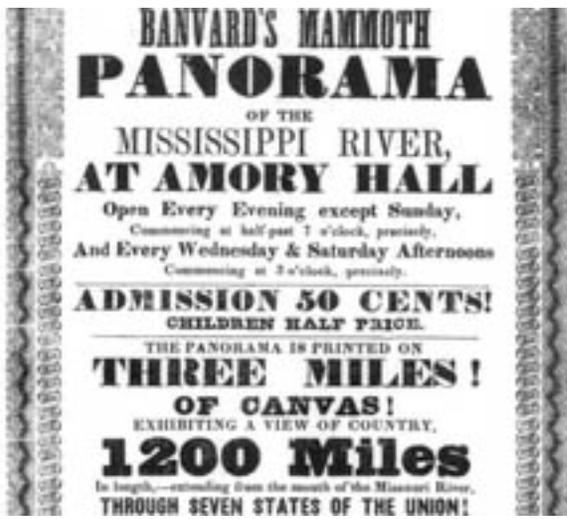
"THE GREAT THREE MILE PAINTING"

by Gary Falk

John Banvard was born in New York City in 1815. At some point in his life he became a painter and creator of what he called a Georama (1853) which was a form of moving diorama or circular art, also referred to at the time as a moving panorama. They were popular in the mid-1800s. Banvard painted scenes viewed from around 3000 miles of the Mississippi River Valley on nearly three miles of canvas.

He had more than a casual acquaintance with the city of Louisville.

Banvard (ostensibly) worked for around two years in Louisville as an apothecary's helper, coming here in 1831. In 1833 he worked as a theatrical scene painter for the Chapman Family Floating Theatre in Pittsburgh. He started painting Mississippi River images in 1840. This culminated in a canvas that was twelve feet high and 1300 feet long and eventually one half a mile (although advertised as a "three-mile canvas"). He built a special building in Louisville for this purpose that was located on Third Street between Main and Market called the Apollo Saloon. Banvard built a barn on the outskirts of Louisville to house the huge sections of canvas. He devised a tracking system of grommets to keep it from sagging. As you viewed his Mississippi River scenery, it would "pass by you" offering you a scenic tour of miles of landscape. His show in Louisville opened on June 29, 1846. The presentation was quite impressive for its day. There was a Scientific American article published a few years later describing how the whole thing worked.



He received high praise at the time from Tal P. Shafner, the secretary of the Kentucky Historical Society, who said "Having frequently travelled the Mississippi River, I am much acquainted with the grandeur and magnificence of the scenery which you have portrayed in your stupendous work with a correctness I have never seen equalled". Louisville mayor Frederick A. Kaye also commented on its authenticity.



When Banvard enjoyed prosperity, he purchased sixty acres of land at Cold Spring Harbor on Long

Island and built a replica of Windsor Castle, naming it Glenada as a tribute to his daughter. It was razed in 1904.

Little remains today of his work. The Robinson museum in Pierre, South Dakota and the Kampeska Heritage Museum of Watertown have a few of his pieces, but most have disappeared. There is a rumor that the great three mile painting was shredded and used to insulate a home in Watertown. Banvard was buried in the frontier town of Watertown in 1891.

Sources:

Description of Banvard's Panorama of the Mississippi River painted on Three Miles of Canvas John Putnam Printer (No. 81 Cornhill) Boston 1847 p. 46-48.

Journal of American Culture, Spring 1981 article by John Hanners p. 28-42

Find-A-Grave Memorial - John Banvard 1815-1891

Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia (online): John Banvard

The Panorama Effect: A Mass Medium is Born www.baruch.cuny.edu

WFPL coverage on Banvard, Sept. 23, 2012 by Devin Katayama and Gabe Bullard

Christy Lickei of the Codrington County Heritage Museum of Watertown, S.D. (e-mail)

LOUISVILLE JUBILEE

Contributed by Chuck Parrish

From the Courier-Journal, 13 Sept. 1882, a description of "Fireworks Over the River." Photo shows all that remains of Corn Island in 1914 from downtown Louisville.



There was a daytime parade with General Basil Duke as grand marshal, followed by "illuminations and fireworks" at night enjoyed by crowds on both river banks, forming "a natural amphitheater." "Chinese lanterns glistened from boats, barges, and boathouses, and swung with graceful radiance above the dark waters. Showers of fire, purple, amber, and golden, shot from the anchored barge, charmed the spectators.. Between the extended displays large skyrockets went careening into space. One novel display was a brilliant blazing of a steamboat in bold relief and over its wheel read RAINBOW, a popular Ohio River steamer. Many prominent visitors were placed in the Life Saving Station and in the clubs' boathouses. The finale was a series of loud reports from exploding mines and the display ended in a general detonation."

This was known as the Louisville Jubilee, held to celebrate the arrival of three new railway companies to the City. The crowd was estimated at 100,00 people.

(The article reports that local photographer, Edward Klauber, took many photos of this event, but I have not been able to locate them, although other photos by Klauber are found in local repositories.)

THE POINT(E) AND BUTCHERTOWN

By Rev. Gordon A. Seiffertt, Contributing Author

Actors Theatre's recent production of "At the Vanishing Point" by Naomi Iizuka offered creative insight into these neighborhoods. Family names, place names, inter-connections, and familiar characters rang true to this one who was a denizen of the 1600 block of Story fifty years ago (and yet today). Because the play was a creation based on the area and not a documentary, it also revived my interest in the actual history of these two separate neighborhoods now considered one entity.

The Fort Nelson historical site at Seventh and Main includes a 1780 era map embedded in the sidewalk. Beargrass Creek flows into the Ohio just east of the tip of Corn Island, now long under water. Beargrass Creek made a 180-degree turn just past the present pumping station, flowed westward approximately where I-71 is today, then entered the Ohio near today's Fourth Street. The area between the westward creek and the river became known as The Point (sometimes spelled "Pointe"). Looking at the map, it is obvious why the area was called "The Point"...the creek's flow into the river formed a point.

By 1800, persons were living on The Point. An 1832 map shows only one road bridge connecting the city to The Point, an extension of Second Street to Fulton. There appears to be a foot bridge crossing near Campbell.

About the same time, persons began moving east past the bend in Main Street which continued to the Frankfort Pike where it became Bluegrass (the present 1600 block of Story). The 1873 city directory still called it Main, but by the 1875 directory it was Story. The street was named after one of its residents, John Story, whose name is also inscribed in the 1879 gatehouse at the water company reservoir.

Slaughterhouses were not allowed in the central city. East Main became the thoroughfare for Butchertown with its host of slaughterhouses, as well as breweries and distilleries. Beargrass Creek, flowing below both sides of East Main, became an open sewer carrying wastes to the heart of the city.

So, in 1854, the Cutoff diverted the creek directly north to the river through a new channel. The stream which had provided a definitive delineation between The Point and Butchertown was gone. Without the flushing water flowing, the old creek bed became a series of stagnant ponds. Slowly filled in, for a while serving as a path for railroad tracks, eventually much of the bed became junk yards, and, between Ohio Street and the Cutoff, the city dump. (In order to provide solid foundation for I-71, it was necessary to dig a trench to solid ground and fill it with sand and gravel pumped from the river. On occasion, when oxygen reached the decaying matter, it would catch fire.)

An 1858 map shows that The Point with criss-crossing roads had grown out to the Cutoff—an expanding neighborhood. An 1879 map has the growth continuing east of the Cutoff between Reservoir (Mellwood) and the river, out to Shiloh (today's Edith). There were more than six road bridges crossing the creek bed connecting the two neighborhoods. The old bed still provided a dividing line between properties, but it was no longer a definitive break between the two...except for those who lived on the Point. They are Pointers well into the 21st century.

The floods of 1937 and then 1945 devastated The Point to the extent that the city declared the area not habitable. The Pointers moved to many locations, of course, but quite a few settled in Butchertown, especially in the 1600 block of Story. (VanBuren Baptist Church which had been on River Road moved to the 1500 block and then had to move again when I-64 came through.) Even into the 1970s in the 1600 block, more than a dozen residences included Pointers or their descendants, and at least two well-known business establishments were owned and operated by Pointers. So the co-mingling of Pointers with Butchertowners made the distinction difficult...except for the ones who knew where they came from. There are still a few alive today who love to tell their stories of life on The Point and what a fantastic neighborhood it was.

So, two primary factors confused the identities of these two separate neighborhoods. First, the Cutoff which diverted the boundary creek. Second, the relocation of many Pointers into Butchertown. Other factors would include St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church serving both neighborhoods.

Today, Butchertown's boundaries are usually considered as from I-65 on the west to the Cutoff and a bit beyond on the east, from the river on the north to Main-Mellwood on the south. Obviously persons who live beyond the old boundaries have come to believe being a Butchertowner is what they want to be. The Point now has extensive river-front parklands, condos, and businesses, and in the near future, a botanical gardens. So both two-century-old neighborhoods are flourishing.

UPDATE ON THE HIGHLAND AMERICAN LEGION POST #201

BY GARY FALK

In the May 2004 Newsletter, I wrote a short history of the roadhouse and restaurant known as Inn Logola where many bands performed. Inn Logola was built in the 1920s. In 1940, ownership of the property, which included the log cabin was transferred to the American Legion. At the time, the new owner made many changes and improvements. In recent years a large hall was built on the rear of the property.

A recent article in the Louisville Courier-Journal pointed out the plight of the American Legion Post 201 with regard to the former Inn Logola property. The post today has a declining membership and has put the property up for sale, including the log cabin.

I discussed the matter with post commander John Collis and property negotiating chair Dennis Benjamin. They point out that they are in a difficult position with regard to the property. There are many maintenance issues and little revenue to make needed improvements.



Recent photo of the Highland American Legion Post #201

The Post has had the property on the market for some time now with little interest from developers. Even though it is located on one of the most successful commercial corridors, several problems exist with property and zoning issues. The log cabin portion, which concerns groups such as Preservation Louisville and the Louisville Historical League still remains as an endangered property. It all seems to point to a problem without a current solution. I mentioned that our area of concern is the log cabin and our desire to see it become part of some form of adaptive reuse.

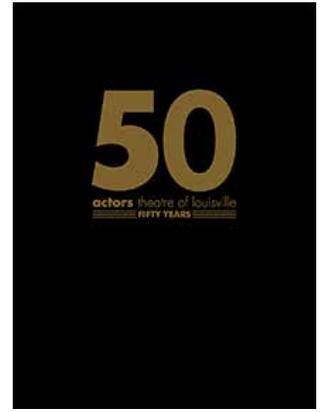
Hopefully I will have good news to report in the next LHL newsletter.

NEW FROM BUTLER BOOKS . . .

ACTORS THEATRE OF LOUISVILLE: FIFTY YEARS

11 X 14.75
160 pages
Hardcover
ISBN 978-1-935497-76-9
\$60
Carton Quantity: 8

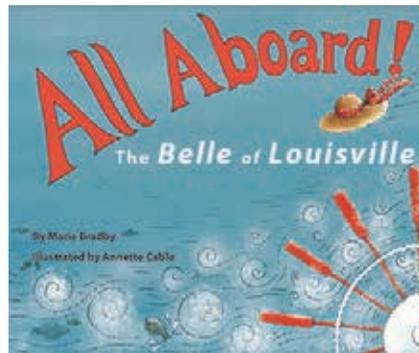
Actors Theatre of Louisville: Fifty Years is a celebration of the theatre's rich history and legacy in Louisville, as well as a salute to five decades of visionary leadership and collaboration on multiple levels that have brought hundreds of new plays into the American repertoire.



ALL ABOARD! THE BELLE OF LOUISVILLE

By Marie Bradby
Illustrated by Annette Cable

11.5 X 8 – horizontal format
32 full-color pages
Full-color softcover
ISBN 978-1-935497-79-0
Retail price: \$14.95
Carton Quantity: 80



Published by Marie Bradby and Annette Cable

Produced by and available from: Butler Books – www.butlerbooks.com, 502-897-9393, info@butlerbooks.com

In All Aboard! The Belle of Louisville, passengers drop what they are doing and rush to board one of the oldest operating steamboats in the world.

Hurry! The captain and crew are busy getting the Belle's old engines going.

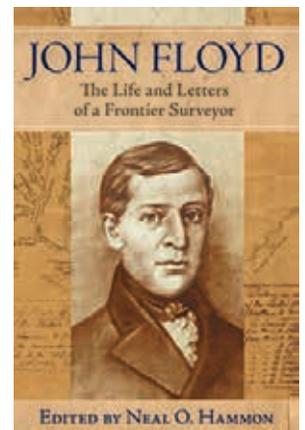
Steam PUFFS. Machines WHIRR. Gears CLICK. Here we go!

JOHN FLOYD

THE LIFE & LETTERS OF FRONTIER SURVEYOR

Edited by Neal O. Hammon

Softcover – 6 X 9
312 pages
ISBN 978-1-935497-69-1
Retail price: \$19.95
Carton Quantity: 24
Published by Butler Books – info@butlerbooks.com, www.butlerbooks.com, 502-897-9393



A non-academic who is perhaps the dean of Kentucky frontier historians, Neal Hammon is a veteran of World War II and the Korean conflict. Graduated from the University of Illinois with a degree in architecture, which he practiced for over 30 years, he is an avid researcher and the author of six books, most of them relating to the frontier period in Kentucky and the nation's frontier history.

—Richard Taylor, Ph.D., former Poet Laureate of Kentucky

KENTUCKY BOURBON BARRONS

LEGENDARY DISTILLERS FROM THE GOLDEN AGE OF WHISKEY MAKING

5.5 X 8.5

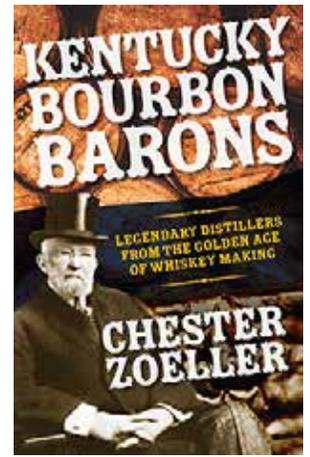
Full-color softcover

96 pages

ISBN 978-1-935497-92-9

Carton Quantity: 72

\$24.95



The Golden Age of Distilling in Kentucky occurred during the last of the 1800s and the early 1900s. Hundreds of distilleries produced a wide spectrum of whiskies – Bourbons, both sweet and sour mash, rye, and multi-grain whiskies. Whiskey was not only a delightful drink; it was also thought to have medicinal benefits.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Chester “Chet” Zoeller was born in Louisville, Kentucky, in 1941. He was raised in the shadow of Churchill Downs and lived within a few short blocks of many of the largest distilleries of the day; the Yellowstone, Seagram’s, Hill & Hill, and Stitzel-Weller distilleries were all within smelling distance.

Building History

by Ray Brundige, TPNA Board

A building as it passes through time can remind us of what we were, can show us what we have become, and can lead us to what we want to be. The old mansion on Rosewood Avenue is an example. It connects us to some of our nation’s deepest roots. It is an example both of how our community has adapted to change and of decisions we face.

The mansion stands on grounds awarded to a veteran of the French and Indian War and inherited by a veteran of our Revolution. The heir, Major William Preston, received a portion of a 1,000-acre land grant that stretched from the Ohio to just beyond the path of Eastern Parkway and from the south fork of Beargrass Creek to the path of Baxter Avenue. In 1815 he established Preston’s Lodge as his home on the plantation, which was called “the Briar Patch”.

His heirs further divided the land. By 1853, a newly-married William Preston Johnston owned 37 acres surrounding the site where the mansion stands. He may have built the original house; it was certainly where he was living at the time of the 1860 census. Johnston lost it, however, during the Civil War. He had enlisted in the Confederate cause and the Union forces had then established a fort on the grounds. The property was sold to settle debts, and was described as the former residence of William Preston Johnston, “now occupied by the United States as a Hospital”. The hospital morgue was reportedly in the basement, echoing the use of Robert E. Lee’s home for the Arlington Cemetery.

Several wealthy merchants made the place their homes in the next half century while Louisville grew. What had been a distant country estate became a more familiar landmark. By the 1890’s, the Courier-Journal was running articles to highlight charitable festivals at Edward Goddard’s “Hillcrest”. Bands played and Chinese lanterns hung on the numerous trees on the spacious grounds.

The city’s growth accelerated with the turn of the century and as the new suburbs reached Hillcrest, Mr. Goddard converted the mansion to apartments, sold some of the land for use in the city’s new park, and subdivided the rest for building sites.

The preceding paragraphs give one version of the history to be found at 1505 Rosewood Avenue. We could extend and embellish it by telling more of the stories of the people who lived there or expanding on the times when they lived. It is more useful to consider what the broad summary can teach.

First, the building is a visual reminder of the whole catalog of stories attached to it and its grounds. It looks like an antebellum southern plantation, and it was. When we look at it we can remember the family who owned the plantation and connect to the Civil War, the Revolution, and the French and Indian War. When we look again we can remember how they lost their land and connect to Reconstruction, the Gilded Age, and the Gay 90’s. One more look and we remember Mr. Goddard converted the old mansion into use for apartments, and that connects us to the more recent history of our neighborhood.

Deeper lessons are there as well. Remembering Kentucky’s settlement brings memory of the native Americans who lost their homeland. The graceful white pillars of the mansion remind us of a graceful way of life – and of the slavery that supported it.

The point of the lessons, to me, is that humanity is complex. We need the things that remind us of how that complexity has played out in the past.

The Friendly Fenley Cemetery

by Rosemary McCandless & Stefanie Buzan

At one time, small, family cemeteries were very common in Jefferson County; once part of a family farm, the Fenley Cemetery now sits forgotten and in neglect. Just behind the River City Worship Center at 7515 Old Third Street Road you will find an overgrown, wooded area. Upon closer inspection, you will realize you have stumbled upon a cemetery with burials dating from pre-Civil War to 1969.

Although there is no owner of record for the Fenley Cemetery today, the site can be traced back to a 15,000 acre land grant awarded to CP Raquet in 1785. In 1831, John H. Fenley purchased 800 acres from Raquet's heirs. By 1841, Fenley acquired additional surrounding property, giving him a total of 1,100 acres. Fenley's property stretched from what we know today as the southern boundary of Iroquois Park to the Outer Loop. Upon John Fenley's death, the property was passed on to his son, Isaac. During this time, Palatka Road was known as Fenley Road.

Fenley Cemetery is the final resting spot for many members of the Fenley family and although the criteria for burial in the cemetery is not clear today, it would appear the Fenleys allowed other families to bury their loved ones on the property.

Some of the grave markers in the Fenley Cemetery are a simple field stone with no writing while others are more elaborate and include symbols that provide insight into the lives of the deceased.

Isaac Fenley Born 1827, Died 1893 – the headstone depicts a handshake which is interpreted as a greeting from God to eternity and a last farewell to those left behind.

James Fenley Born 1872, Died 1892, son of Isaac and Sarah Fenley – the headstone depicts a rose in full bloom which symbolizes someone who was taken from this world during the prime of their life.

John Burkhard, Born 1853, Died 1875 – the headstone includes images of an anchor which denotes the profession of a seaman. Additionally the bottom of the stone is adorned with leaves of happiness.

In 1893, Isaac Fenley passed away and his daughter, Annie Fenley inherited the Fenley home (known as Hickory Grove) and the surrounding acreage. Annie sold 6.5 acres to the Board of Park Commissioners for absorption into Iroquois Park. This section of Iroquois Park is still known as Fenley Woods.

In 1903, Annie Fenley moved to California. At that time, Hickory Grove and its land passed from the Fenley Family for the first time in 72 years. The remaining acreage was sold off and developed into the neighborhood it is today. Hickory Grove, the Fenley Home still sits at 5400 Hickory Hill Road.

During the spring of 2015, a volunteer effort will be made to clean up the Fenley Cemetery and restore the landscape, headstones and original plantings. We are looking for people that would like to help reclaim this forgotten piece of history. If you would like to help, please call 641-8916 or 314-7711.



Musing on Louisville Streets - part 1

by Gary Falk

The history of streets can be quite challenging, but it is a fun topic. For this newsletter, I'll just refer to it as a musing (perhaps even rambling) - a nice, tidy, safe adjective which means essentially that I can't be held responsible for errors or omissions!

In Louisville, with the possible exception of Water Street, which was named in 1783 to denote the road that paralleled the shoreline of the Ohio River, the names being applied to Louisville streets were not formalized until a map of the city was created by Jared Brooks in 1812. No such street with the name of Water shows up on a contemporary map of Louisville. The nearest



Water street today is in the downtown of nearby New Albany. Perhaps Louisville's Water Street became Witherspoon or Witherspoon Way. It may have morphed into the current River Road. Water Street may have ended when the area subject to flooding known as the *Point* (or *Pointe*) was excavated following World War II. Fulton street, which followed the same route, seems to have had a similar fate, although there is still a street by that name directly across the river in Jeffersonville. It has been suggested that Brook street, which is nearby (first known as Brooks street and partly named (1855) East street early on), is named to denote the path of Beargrass Creek. I suppose that it is possible that it was named for the aforementioned map maker as well. In the 1850s, the path of the Beargrass Creek was rerouted, away from the downtown area adjacent to the wharf.

The main streets running parallel to the river were named Main, Market, Jefferson, Green, Walnut, Chestnut and Dunkirk. Main was not the main street in the traditional sense, although it was an important corridor. Main was mainly warehousing and disbursement to serve the wharf, especially between Fifth and Seventh Streets. There were hotels and businesses that dotted Main but, by design, the main street for commerce was Market Street. Market was wider than most of the other streets to allow for curbside vendors, the management of the increased flow of vehicular traffic (buggies and carriages early on) and movement of persons from location to location. By the 1920s, Fourth Street had largely become known for commerce, however. One interesting aspect of Fourth Street is that (at least in 1855) there were three Fourth Streets - one in Louisville, Portland and Shippingport. Fourth Street north of Main on early maps was called Wall Street. Jefferson Street became the street of finance, government and jurisprudence, which it remains, pretty much, today. Probably because of the influence of Mr. Louisville, James Guthrie, the one downtown street that was located one-half block between two other streets, namely Fifth and Sixth, was named Center Street. The street started at Broadway and ended at the steps of the courthouse on Jefferson Street. The hope was that Louisville would be the capital of the state and that the courthouse would be the capitol building. Center street would be a 'gateway' for ceremonial purposes for the new state capitol. The street (eventually) was named for the Armory which was built on Walnut (Muhammad Ali Blvd.) sometime after 1905. Little remains of Armory today.

Green Street was largely residential, as were the numbered north and south streets that crossed it. From Green, going south it was mostly residential. Dunkirk (Broadway) defined the city's southern boundary until the mid-1850s. Green Street was changed to Liberty Street following World War I, largely in response to an effort by certain groups to sanitize the area because of its well-known brothels. Walnut Street is so-named because of its location close to a grove of walnut trees nearby. I'm not sure how Chestnut Street got its name, but going west after (around) 29th Street it becomes River Park Drive.

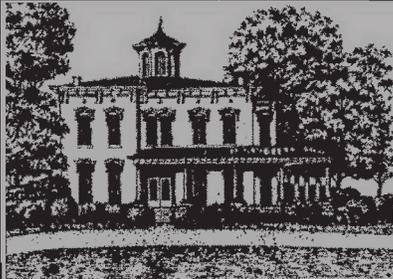
For many years, the Louisville Herald-Post ran a series of articles called *Your Street and Mine* (1930s). This was an excellent history, well researched, about the naming of Louisville streets. It usually included a homespun comment or two about who lived on the street, often with an interview, and it described the homes or businesses that were located on it.

As Broadway (Dunkirk, later Prather) developed going east it retained the name East Broadway, even after crossing (Newburgh - note spelling) or Baxter Avenue (named for twice mayor John Baxter) until that portion was renamed Cherokee Road. A nearby street was named Slaughter Ave. after the family that had owned the land. Supposedly, because of the implications of the name, it was later changed to Patterson Ave. Going west, Broadway was named the South Western Turnpike after 26th Street.

To offer a short editorial (why not?), generally I don't like seeing established streets having their name changed, except, perhaps for a short stretch of only several blocks. It seems to trivialize the important history that named the street. Avery Ave., named for Benjamin Franklin Avery, an industrialist who did great things for the city of Louisville, was renamed Cardinal Boulevard to accommodate the expansion of the University of Louisville. Today there is no street in the city named for this important individual.

More on this subject of Streets in a future issue.

Photo Caption above: As late as 1895, Fourth Street was largely residential (600 block looking south).
Photo: R. G. Potter, Louisville's Family Album (1976)



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Fox, Fox & Pearce—Civil Rights Pioneers

by Stephen W. Brown

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Twenty-two years before Homer Plessy and eighty-five years before Rosa Parks rode into history, three long-forgotten young, black men boarded a segregated streetcar in Louisville. They did so in a deliberate attempt to get arrested and force a test case in Federal Court. Little has been written about them in their or our lifetimes. And not much of any depth has been written about their case. In another place I'll deal at length with the legal case, the surrounding social and political circumstances, and other key players involved in it. Here we'll merely give brief biographies of these three unsung civil rights pioneers.

Robert C. Fox was born in Maysville KY circa 1846. He was perhaps the eldest of a dozen children born to Albert & Margaret Fox. During the Civil War Robert crossed the river and enlisted in the USC 27th Infantry Company K at Ripley Ohio. They saw some hard action in the Eastern Theater. After the War he married Victoria Beatty of Hanover Indiana. Upon moving to Louisville, Robert partnered with undertaker James Taylor. By the time of the "ride-in", Robert had set up his own shop and was joined by his brother Samuel in the Fox Brothers undertaking firm. In 1874 Robert & Victoria filed a petition in Louisville Chancery Court empowering her to act as femme sole; she would continue to run the company for a decade after Robert's death. By 1880, Robert's parents were living with the couple. The following year Robert died from a pulmonary condition shortly after his father passed away. Because Robert was a member of the Board of Visitors of the Louisville Colored Schools, their commencement exercises, scheduled for the same morning as Robert's funeral, were delayed in his honor. With his Masonic Lodge attending, Robert was buried in the Eastern Cemetery.



Samuel O. Fox was born in September 1849. At age 15 Samuel left Maysville to join the war effort. He enlisted at Greenupsburg KY in Co. H of the 100th USC Infantry and became a company drummer. Samuel was hospitalized in Nashville, where the company was mustered out. On June 20, 1873 Samuel married Ophelia O. Taylor. A year later they had a son, named after his grandfather. Albert. In 1888 Ophelia filed for divorce on grounds of abandonment and lack of support; she was granted custody of Albert (who would become a West Coast musician). After leaving Fox Brothers, Samuel drifted between jobs. In 1889 he was reported as having caused a disturbance at a political rally. In 1890 Samuel filed for a military pension as an invalid. A year later he shot and killed a man in a livery stable dispute, but was acquitted of all charges. By 1900 he was living with his mother in Maysville and working as an upholsterer. Samuel was in and out of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers for the final dozen years of his life. He died on Dec. 17, 1917 and is buried in the Dayton National Cemetery.

About the only thing written of Horace Pearce is that he worked for the Fox brothers. He was perhaps hired for his skills as a carpenter, but did not remain long in their employ. Horace was born in Jefferson County and grew up in Hart Co. KY. Almost certainly this was on the farm of Edmund Pearce. Edmund was the son of James A. Pearce and Anne Clark Pearce, daughter of Jonathan Clark. Two girls with first names and approximate ages matching sisters of Horace are listed as slaves born to Edmund Pearce in Hart County birth records. Both Horace and his brother Edmund Brooks Pearce claimed an Edmund Pearce as their father on Freedman's Bank papers. Edmund Pearce was twice widowed by the time he moved with his sons to the Hart Co. farm. The tobacco plantation's main house, still standing, is clearly modeled on the Clark home at Mulberry Hill. Horace and his siblings were mulattoes, and his mother Mary is never associated with a husband in any known record. So Horace was perhaps the great grandson of Jonathan Clark.

After the "ride-in" Horace remained involved with the Republican Party. Among his several occupations, he worked as a newspaper reporter. His mother continued to live with or near Horace until her death in 1887. Two of his sisters married ministers (one of these had been involved in the Quinn Chapel congregation's efforts to aid the test case) and moved out of state. Another sister married a grandson of Wash Spradling. Their baby brother Brooks (Edmund B. Pearce) took a stick to a gun fight (over a woman of questionable character) and died in front of Police Chief John Whallen's house in 1885. On Sept. 6, 1888 Horace married Lucie B. Jackson at the Fifth Street Baptist Church. While working as an elevator operator at the Equitable Building in 1898, Horace's arm was caught in the machinery. The arm was amputated and he sank into unconsciousness. Horace hung on for a week before dying at home on April 28th. He is buried, like Robert Fox, at the Eastern Cemetery in an unmarked grave.

In addition to the obvious sources (newspaper articles, censuses, city directories, Freedman's Bank, military & cemetery records) I'd like to mention the work of one of my favorite figures from Louisville history: William H. Gibson's "History of the United Brothers of Friendship and Sisters of the Mysterious Ten." In my intended feature length documentary I'll cite and take issues with the few scholarly writings on the Louisville Mule Car "Ride-in" of 1870 and the Federal District Court test case of 1871. I'm grateful to Bryan Bush for sending me corroborating information concerning the Fox brothers military service; and to Peggy Heustis (working with owner Bruce Cohen on the history & preservation of the Pearce farm in Hart Co.) for a copy of the watercolor (likely including the slave quarters). In addition to the documentary, I've written a MusicVideoDoc (short film script with the story told in song and illustrations) on the "ride-in" and test case. Stay tuned...

Did You Know?

1841 - The first movement toward the establishment of schools for the training of the Negro people in Louisville was the Adams School on Woods Alley between Ninth and Tenth Streets. There were five pupils and one teacher who was the Reverend Henry Adams, pastor of the First Baptist Church (Fifth Street). It grew and operated until public schools were established.

1869 - Black leaders convened a “Colored Educational Convention” to address local concerns. It was held at Benson’s Theatre at Fourth and Jefferson Streets and lasted three days. The great orator and leader Frederick Douglass was invited but was not able to attend.

1873 - Central Colored School was the first of three public schools built for colored children. It was located at the southeast corner of Sixth Street and Kentucky Street. Originally intended for only primary grades, it was later used as a high school.

1877 - The State Association of Colored Teachers was organized as a support system for the “Negro” schools of Kentucky. With the name changed to the Kentucky Negro Education Association (KNEA), the organization was one of the most potent forces in the rise and progress of education among African Americans in the state.

Source: *Recalling the Record - A Documentary History of the African American Experience Within the Louisville Public School System of Kentucky* (1870 - 1975). Ruby Wilkins Doyle. 2005.

Review by Walter W. Hutchins



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Comments and suggestions related to this publication:

gfalk@aye.net

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Editors: Steve Wiser, Gary Falk

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