

Summer 2015

In This Issue . . .

- 1. Ohio River Islands
- 3. Charles Mengel Home
- 4. Hundley Conversion
- 6. Will Play Golf
- 7. Butler Books

- 8. Budding Genealogist
- 9. Louisville's 1st Zoo . . .
- 10. Weaver Revealed
- 12. Cemetery Stewards
- 13. Eliza Curtis: I was never a slave
- 14. Louisville Clock Relocated
- 15. Ger. Churches in Butchertown??
- 16. Did You Know?
- 17. Louisville Slugger
- 18. In the News/Then and Now
- 19. Upcoming Events
- 20. Louisville Historical League

OHIO RIVER ISLANDS

By Chuck Parrish, Historian (ret) Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District

Among over 80 Islands in the 981 mile flow of the Ohio River, there are eight of interest and historical significance in the Louisville area, including one no longer extant.

Corn Island is perhaps the one with the most historical notoriety, and whose remains lie far beneath the waters formed by McAlpine Dam. It was located near the Kentucky bank out from the end of present day Twelfth Street. Originally dubbed Dunmore's Island (for the Royal Governor of Virginia) by Thomas Bullitt's surveying party in 1773, it was on this small island that George Rogers Clark camped with the soldiers he led on their way to engage the British and Indians in the Northwest campaigns of the Revolutionary War. Presumably, the name is derived from the first crop of corn grown there in 1778. Stone quarrying and navigation improvement projects by the Corps of Engineers in the mid-late nineteenth century had removed nearly all of the island by the early 1900s. Likely the last photographs of the river that show Corn Island are those among the collections of The Filson Historical Society, dating ca. 1912.

Sand Island, comprising about 45 acres, is located just below McAlpine Locks. On early maps it is noted as Sandy Island. A narrow channel separates it from the Kentucky bank of the River. When water is emptying from the locks, a siren sounds to warn boaters and fishermen of the turbulent waters caused by the discharge.

Near Sand Island is the "newest" island in the area. This small island of only about 2 acres has grown there since the 1960s when the locks and dam were completed. Hydrologic action of the waters from the lower gates of the dam has deposited sand, causing its formation. This island was named Lewis and Clark island to note the significance of the famous expedition which began at the Falls of the Ohio in 1803.

Shippingport Island was formed by construction of the Louisville and Portland Canal, 1825-1830, separating the island from the "mainland" of the City. The French brothers Tarascon established the town of Shippingport in 1806 and developed boat building and milling operations, and other commercial concerns soon followed, eventually becoming a thriving community. When the Canal was built a fine stone arch bridge at 18th Street provided access to Shippingport, where one could stay at McHarry's Hotel and relax at Elm Tree Garden, a popular entertainment spot. The town was subject to frequent flooding, and after each flood fewer people returned. The Great Flood of 1937 had devastating effects, removing many houses and buildings, resulting in only a very few inhabitants. The last residents left the island in the late 1950s when the federal government purchased the 250 acre area for the construction of McAlpine Locks and Dam. The Louisville Gas and Electric Company built the hydroelectric station on the lower end of the island in the 1920s. While most of the Island is not accessible to the public, the Corps of Engineers does allow fishing access on the lower end near the LG&E site, and also provides a historic interpretive/visitor area adjacent to the newest 1200 foot lock.

Shippingport, Sand, and Lewis and Clark Islands are all located within the Falls of the Ohio National Wildlife Conservation Area, nearly 1200 acres of land and water under the jurisdiction of the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

Towhead Island is a small 12-acre area located just upstream of the Big Four Bridge and offshore from Waterfront Park. Tradition maintains the island was formed ca. 1819 around a sunken flatboat laden with millstones. Due to their weight the millstones were not removed, nor was the flatboat raised, causing a slower current, resulting in a sediment deposit which caught drift and detritus floating downriver. After the mouth of Beargrass Creek was diverted in 1854 to its present site upriver, detritus and debris flowing out of the Creek has increased the size of the Island. Towhead Island is owned by Nugent Sand Company, and the river (West) side is used as a fleeting area for barges. Public access is not allowed.

Located about 6 miles upstream of Louisville is Six Mile Island. Now owned by the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission, it is uninhabited, although once used for farming. The channel between the island and the Indiana bank is a popular boating area. Stories are often told about moonshiners operating on the island during the years of Prohibition. The Clark Maritime Center is located at the upper end of the Island, near where the east end bridge is being built.

Next upstream is Twelve Mile Island, getting its name from the distance from Louisville. The Island is about 1 and one-half miles long and contains about 160 acres, and that part of the River is a popular sailboating area. The Oldham-Jefferson County line bisects the Island and it is jointly owned by both counties. A distinctive feature of 12 Mile is a number of sunken barges placed at the upper end to impede erosion.

Eighteen Mile Island is actually located about twenty-one miles upstream of Louisville, and contains just over 100 acres, all situated in Oldham County. A narrow channel separates it from the Kentucky bank. Privately owned for many years, it was once part of a large farming operation known an Clifton Farms. The Island is now part of the land holding of Woodland Farm, owned by Laura Lee Brown and Steve Wilson, who have restored the historic house on the property, and who raise bison.

Sources: Historical files, Louisville District, US Army Corps of Engineers, and "A Tale of the Islands",

Courier-Journal, Saturday Scene, Sept. 19, 1992.



THE CHARLES C. MENGEL HOME, 1325 S. THIRD STREET

By Gary Falk



The home built by Charles C. Mengel



The exquisite woodwork in the library exends from floor to ceiling. The mantel designs on each of the fourteen fireplaces helps define the rooms.

Just across the street from the Filson Historical Society is the home built in 1885 by (Col.) Charles C. Mengel for his family at 1325 S. Third Street. The Mengel brothers, Charles, Clarence and Herbert, came to Louisville from Gloucester, Massachusetts. They created one of this nation's premier wood industries - ultimately employing over 6000 persons. They founded a company town in Tennessee for their logging, sawmill and forestry operations, named Mengelwood. Charles Mengel (1856 - 1939) was president of the company. Much more could (and should) be said about the various divisions and products of the Mengel Company. For nearly one hundred years it was one of the most vital enterprises in this city.

It is indeed unfortunate that the name Mengel is seldom mentioned today.

The home is currently owned by Dr. William Nunery and his wife Mathieu. Words can hardly express the careful restoration work and attention to detail that they are doing with this home - work that I am sure Charles Mengel would approve.



The grand stairway off the main corridor The oval Tiffany stained glass adds a special touch.



The Main dining room on the first floor

Since the Mengel family occupied the home, it has had a "mixed" history of apartments and business interests located inside. Fortunately, most of the woodwork incorporated into the structure in the 1880s is still intact. The home includes a carriage house that is a historic structure large enough for a family or business.

On June 20, the Nunery family was kind enough to offer me a tour of the nearly 9000 square foot home to witness the many improvements that are taking place. The building has four levels from basement (with an eleven foot ceiling) to attic. An elevator serves three of those levels. The home has twelve bedrooms with eight walk-in cedar lined closets. There are seven bathrooms.

The above images will offer some insight about the hardwoods and precise inlays in the ornamentation of floors, fireplace mantels and ceilings. Tiffany stained glass tops off the features of the building.

For more information on the Mengel company, refer to *The Encyclopedia of Louisville*, p. 610 or *Made In Louisville* (Publishers Printing) p. 260-261.

THE HUNDLEY CONVERSION

By Stephen W. Brown

In 1832, attorneys John Rowan and Ben Hardin convinced an Oldham County court to overturn John W. Hundley's Jefferson County will. They argued that Hundley was unduly influenced by the Rev. Gideon Blackburn (a former head of the Presbyterian Church in Louisville and then President of Centre College). The verdict not only deprived the Presbyterians and Centre of an endowed seminary on Hundley's 1,168 acre plantation, but also affected the fate of his 39 slaves. Hundley's will (with well-crafted amendments and codicil) provided for his "servants" imminent or eventual freedom, conditioned upon their length of service and age. He even set aside money to purchase the freedom of one Daniel Curtis from bondage in the Deep South. Slaves would petition courts as late as 1856 for their freedom as promised in Hundley's will.

The plaintiffs and financial beneficiaries in the Court's decision were close relatives of Hundley, some of whom had even signed sureties for the Executors of Hundley's will. One of these, Paschal D. Craddock, would eventually end up with the bulk of the plantation. It's been alleged that Craddock, himself an attorney, cheated Hundley's siblings out of their share of the estate. The Deed Book says he bought it from the bank. The property was then called Bellair (spelled with two "I"s in Mary Craddock's diary but with only one on the 1858 Bergmann map; Hundley himself terms it a "plantation" in his will). Today we know it as "Bashford Manor" – the name adopted when J. B. Wilder bought the main portion from William Craddock in 1871.

Half a century after Hundley's will was thrown out, Hugh Hays (father of song-writer and river news chronicler Will S. Hays) wrote a series of recollections of early Louisville for the Courier-Journal. In detailing the Hundley/Craddock place, Hays recounted the slaying of the notorious Paschal Craddock, and also a key event in the life of John W. Hundley.

As Hays tells it, after a successful trip selling slaves down the River (John and his brother Thomas were professional slave-traders), Hundley and his "negro body servant" boarded the steamer Tennessee bound for Louisville. In the middle of a snowy night (the event happened on Feb 8, 1823 and not in May as Hays gives it), the boat hit a snag near Vicksburg and went down. While many drowned, Hundley managed to procure a yawl and with his body servant and moneybags in tow, fled. When some of the souls struggling in the freezing water attempted to save themselves by hanging on to his craft, Hundley beat them off with an oar. Survivors attempted to lynch him. And when the news reached Louisville, he was burned in effigy at the corner of Fifth and Main. Later Hundley would be plagued with nightmares. But with the Reverend Blackburn's benevolent assistance, he lamented and reformed. He built a church on the plantation. Many commented on his remarkable change of character. And he wrote the will.

Hays' account is not the only source we have for this story - Cuthbert Bullitt also told the tale for his Times-Picayune readers as part of his "Tale of Two Cities" series.

Hundley's remorse and repentance apparently didn't happen overnight, but came in fits and starts. In July of 1825 he advertised in the American Friend & Marietta Gazette a reward of \$500 for his runaway Ben. The oral tradition connected with Hundley's "servant" Eliza Curtis Hundley Tevis has it that she earned her bequests (and freedom?) from being the only person to minister to him when he had smallpox in 1819. But it was Thomas Hundley who saw to Eliza's freedom and who left her money and property. If she is named in John Hundley's will, it is only by implication (as one freed after giving him fifteen years of service). And although Hundley made provisions for his "servants" (and conditioned his donation to the Presbyterian Orphanage in Middletown upon the institution accepting a certain number of black children), he did not immediately and universally manumit them upon his decease.

Hundley did build a church on his property (called the Beulah or Hundley Church); there are records of prominent neighbors such as Maj. Samuel Bray and the Hikes contributing to it. It seems to have burned down around the time Paschal Craddock ran afoul of his neighbors (perhaps a sign from them, if not from God). And Hundley's contributions and subscriptions to the Presbyterians and their mission work occurred over a period of years (not as a result of some deathbed change of heart while under Blackburn's care).

By May of 1828, (when the chroniclers Basil and Margaret Hall dined there during their sally through America) Hundley, and perhaps his household, appeared a bit run down. Thoughts of Divine judgment were seemingly seldom far from his mind. So, I'll suggest that Hundley did not forget Eliza's ministrations for a decade, but that the oral tradition's date is wrong by ten years – that Eliza tended Hundley in 1829 and that he died of smallpox then. There is one source to back this supposition: an Ida Symmes Coats' talk before the Filson Club (entitled "The Bardstown Road in the Early Days"). Although Mrs. Coats conflates a few things, she grew up in the area and claims to have known Eliza well. Whether by that 1829 date Hundley was healed of his spiritual disease, who of us can say?

Aside from sources mentioned within the article, I consulted Sam Thomas's papers at the UL archives and the James Guthrie papers at the Filson (where the widow Craddock's diary also resides). My interest in Hundley stems from a documentary project I'm producing with Cynthia Cooke (fellow LHL Board member and owner of the Bashford Manor B & B or Sam'l Bray's place) called "Eliza's Children". Tia Brown is a fellow researcher and key collaborator in this project. Richard Pangburn has shared his extensive research into the assassination of Paschal Craddock with me. The wonderful members of the group we call The Eliza Society, which includes descendants of Eliza's sister Mary as well as heirs of area slave owners, continue to meet and relate their lore and legacies. Jana Meyer of the Filson is our newest member; but special thanks are also owed to all the fine folks at the Filson, UL Archives and Photo Archives, Metro Archives, LFPL, and the nice gentleman at the Deed Room who works after hours and on Saturday mornings. The picture included is a sketch by Captain Basil Hall from his "Travels in North America 1827 and 1828"; reproduced in Samuel W. Thomas' "Views of Louisville Since 1766". Margaret Hall's observations on Hundley are found in: "The Aristocratic Journey – Being the Outspoken Letters of Mrs. Basil Hall Written During a Fourteen Months' Sojourn in American 1827-1828."



WILL PLAY GOLF

By Bob Dawson

"WILL PLAY GOLF-Society Folks Organize a Club For the Popular Game". This was the column headline in the October 16, 1896 issue of the Louisville Courier-Journal. The article announced that a club, the Louisville Golf Club, was being organized. The newspaper reported that "although golf has been raging in the Eastern cities for several years the local took no steps toward organization." The promoters met on a Saturday afternoon at the Iroquois Wheeling and Driving Club in Beechmont. The Iroquois Club was a bicycle and social club in Louisville at the time, and had a three story clubhouse on Grand Boulevard (Southern Parkway) at Brookline Avenue.

The article went on to state that few people in Louisville have seen the game. One who had, the paper said, was a Miss Abbe Goodloe having played the game while staying in New York. Miss Goodloe was said to be a good player.

Work began in late October laying out the course on the Iroquois Club House grounds. The course extended from the Club House 1000 yards north along the Boulevard and then west 800 yards, then back to the club. The ground, while fairly level, was mostly overgrown with tall grass and bushes. The course was also bisected by a creek, and the Third Park street car line.

Leading up to the first game, the Courier-Journal and other newspapers ran articles about the history of the game, with descriptions of how it was played, terms, and equipment used.

Game day, November 19, 1896. The Courier-Journal covered the event. It described the ground as "craw fishy". The article then went on describe the course. "The first teeing ground is well situated and exceptionally good, but there the beauty stops." Most of the afternoon was spent practicing at the tee. Said to show the most skill was: Sam Henning, Will Snead, Joseph Odiorne, John I. Jacob and Marion E. Taylor. One participant listed was Powhatan Wooldridge. His name alone required that he be remembered. Among the ladies were: Misses Rachel Macauley, Mary Bruce, Douglas Quarrier, Mary Macauley and Barbour Bruce. The game ended when Mr. Henning fell into the creek. All was not a loss; it was also noted that tea was served.

It was quickly decided that the ground in Beechmont was not suitable for golf. The Louisville Golf Club began looking for another location, eventually going out River Road to the old reservoir site (near the VA Hospital).

Over the years more courses opened up and the game rapidly grew in popularity. Golf was not to return to Southern Louisville, where it began, until a nine hole course was opened in Iroquois Park in 1947.



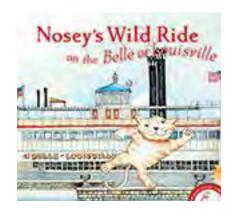
New from Butler Books . . .

For information on these books, contact: Carol Butler, Butler Books www.butlerbooks.com (502) 897-9393

Nosey's Wild Ride on the Belle of Louisville

By Martha Driscoll Illustrations by Susan Andra Lion

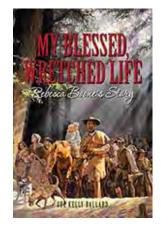
A story about a steamboat on the Ohio River, the *Belle of Louisville*. She is the only steamboat in the country built during the Great Steamboat Era (1820s to the 1920s) that is still cruising! A mischievous cat wanders on board the Belle and leads four children on a wild chase all over the boat. This rascal of a cat causes pandemonium wherever he goes. In turn, the children learn what makes a steamboat unique.



This book, authored by Martha Driscoll, includes the whimsical ink and colored pencil drawings of award-winning artist, Sue Lion, and a Seek-&-Find activity for young readers. Both children and adults will enjoy this historically accurate and highly informative book about one very special steamboat – the *Belle of Louisville*.

My Blessed Wretched Life: Rebecca Boone's Story

By Sue Kelly Ballard



"Imagine living in the wilds of western Virginia during the early settlement of what would become Kentucky. Despite the solitary stillness of the early morning, this could be one's last day alive. Was that the sound of a bird or an Indian signal to attack? White settlers, hunters, Revolutionary War soldiers, and entrepreneurs were streaming into the sacred hunting grounds of the Native Americans who soon found their very existence threatened. Rebecca Bryan Boone and her household had to constantly be at the ready for Indian attacks — a grim reality in the new frontier. Sue Ballard's fresh approach to the wife of the famous frontiersman, Daniel Boone, offers an insightful view of the hopes, hardships, happiness, and horrors that most American pioneer women confronted. Rebecca narrates her story in dialect commensurate with the period. Ballard's skillful presentation engages the reader and vividly brings to life the everyday experiences of her subject."

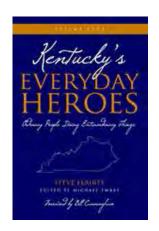
-Russell Hatter, City of Frankfort Historian, Capital City Museum, Frankfort, Kentucky

KENTUCKY'S EVERYDAY HEROES: ORDINARY PEOPLE DOING EXTRAORDINARY THINGS, VOLUME FOUR

By Steve Flairty Edited by Michael Embry Foreword by Bill Cunningham

"Steve Flairty continues his remarkable series of books recognizing the most important — not the most famous — people in our beloved Kentucky. As we read the stories of these noteworthy Kentuckians, we are reminded that our communities all across the wide breadth of this state would be critically diminished had these people not been born, not endured, and not shined their brilliant lights into the nooks and crevices of our beloved Commonwealth."

— Justice Bill Cunningham, Supreme Court of Kentucky, 1st Supreme Court District



POSTCARDS FROM DANIEL: 1755-1784: DANIEL BOONE WRITES FROM THE KENTUCKY WILDERNESS

By Betty Southard Stokes Illustrations by Emry Quinn



These postcards from Daniel Boone, written from the Kentucky Wilderness, are just pretend. Postcards were not on the market during Daniel Boone's lifetime. They did not appear until 1851, after Daniel Boone had passed away. But despite the fact that this fun and educational book may not contain true artifacts, *Postcards from Daniel* provides an honest recollection of Boone's thoughts and discoveries as he explored the Kentucky wilderness from 1755-1784. This collection, which is the third 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.

The Budding Genealogist

By Ellen White

Looking for an entrée into the world of genealogy research? The internet is an excellent place to start. Ancestry is a feebased service, but there are many free resources for the casual genealogist.

Your first step is the Social Security Death Index, for the date of death. You may then be able to locate the obituary, which can provide you with names of a spouse, siblings, children, grandchildren, and the name of the cemetery and funeral home. Cemetery records are not confidential, so you may simply call the cemetery, and they will give you the location of the grave. The funeral home may also be helpful, providing an unofficial death certificate, which lists the date of death, date of birth, parents' names, marital status, and spouse's name. Although there is a cost, you may obtain a certified death certificate from Vital Statistics in Frankfort.

Courtnet can provide probate or divorce information. The Jefferson County Clerk's Office website has copies of wills, which may provide the names of the person's family members, or their address. The Jefferson County Property Valuation Administrator's (PVA) website is a good way to look up property records. A tip when working with street names: if the street name does not come up on the PVA, it may have changed. You will not find Walnut Street, because it is now Muhammad Ali Blvd. Remember, too, that the landscape has changed. A particular address on Herr Lane may not be listed on the PVA. That is not because the house is no longer there; it is because the road itself has changed. Long ago, an area may have been a farm owned by Mr. Herr, hence, Herr Lane. Now, though, the land has been subdivided, so it may be *off* Herr Lane, not *on* it.

Census records are a great source of information. Use different variations of the name, including the middle name. The family of Moses Schultz was listed in one census as Scholtz. It is easy to see how mistakes were made. The census

taker asked the names of everyone living in the residence, writing down what they heard. This is open to interpretation, especially with accents. Take into account that the person transcribing the cursive handwritten records may not be reading it correctly. That's how Morris Sandler was transcribed as Mavis in one record.

At the Louisville Free Public Library, you can discover the wonderful world of the City Directory, which provides a wealth of information: name, address, occupation, and others living at the same address. Do not stop with just the person you are trying to find. Collaterals may provide links in your chain.

You may become frustrated, but it is worthwhile to persevere, even if you need to set it aside for a while. Even going only as far back as your greatgrandparents, it can be fun immersing yourself in the time of your ancestors, giving you a deeper connection to your heritage.

-8



This bldg at 1824 W Broadway has survived the surrounding demolition of the Phillip Morris tobacco bldgs. Does anyone know the history of it?

Louisville's First Zoo Turned Colonial Gardens

By Stefanie Buzan and Rosemary McCandless

The large, white, ominous building that sits at the corner of New Cut Road and Kenwood Drive is known by everyone as Colonial Gardens, but did you know the building actually has a secret past? It was once the home of Louisville's first zoo, Senning's Park. It all started in 1868, when Carl Fredrick Senning found his way to Louisville from Kesse, Germany. On March 8, 1877, Carl Senning married Minnie Groeper. For sixty-two years, the Senning's introduced Louisville to innovating firsts.

As the streetcar reached out to South Louisville and the Grand Boulevard stretched to Iroquois Park, the Sennings found themselves heading south, settling just across the street from Iroquois Park. Here they built Senning's Park. An ad from its heyday described Senning's Park as "A fragrant, beautiful eating place. Cozily warm all winter under the palms. A well-cooked chicken, frog leg, baked duck or porterhouse steak dinner prepared by expert chefs and daintily served. A refined atmosphere that will greatly help you enjoy your meal. In the city, yet out of the noise of it. Such is the pleasure which awaits the diner at Senning's Park."

In 1920, William Senning took over operation of Senning's Park from his parents. Fred and Minnie had introduced Louisville to the first bowling alley, and now William carried on the family tradition of originality when he opened the first zoo. He built one of the finest collections of animals in the country, including lions, tigers, bears, monkeys and a variety of exotic birds. William Senning acquired his animals through years of correspondence with other zoos and collectors.

The following text from a 1927 news article announced the arrival of the ostriches at Senning's Park: "When manager Will Senning of Senning's Park Zoo purchased two young ostriches from the Florida Ostrich Farm, at South Jacksonville, Florida, he little reckoned that his young hopeful, William A. Jr., and probably thousands of other children in and around the city, would soon be in a fair way of becoming proficient in the art of ostrich driving. This form of sport has long been a favorite with the folks of Australia, the native habitat of these birds."

In 2006, Bill Senning Jr. son of William Senning Sr. established that the top floor of Colonial Gardens served as the living quarters for the Senning family. He recalled it would get cold during the winter and the family would have to store the alligators in the basement to keep them warm.

Over the years, stories detailing animal antics at Senning's Park became legendary. One such story was recounted by William Senning, Sr.: Jimmy the Bear was fed so many ice cream cones that he fell and could not get up. The Senning's Park staff had to throw a bucket of water on poor Jimmy in order to bring him back around.

In its heyday, the popularity of Senning's Park prompted the Louisville Street Railway Company to add cars to their service to Third Street and New Cut Road. For the observance of Decoration Day alone, the park reportedly prepared for a crowd of between eight to ten thousand people.

During the Depression, Senning's Park fell on hard times. The animals were expensive to care for and feed and Bill Senning could no longer afford to maintain the operation. Fred and Minnie resumed operation. When Fred died in 1939, Senning's Park was sold to B. A. Watson for fifteen thousand dollars. He remodeled the property and named it The Colonial Bar and Grill.

Louisville was fortunate that William Senning, Sr. kept good notes on all of his animals, such as how to care for them, what to feed them, cost and source of purchase and various mistakes and success he had with the animals. Around 1970, the James Graham Brown Foundation consulted with Mr. Senning as they prepared to start the current Louisville Zoo.



Senning's Park Cages

> Senning's Park Outside



Weaver Revealed

By Keith S. Clements

Near the entrance to the Louisville Cemetery at 1339 Poplar Level Road there is a Kentucky historical marker stating that 31 acres were incorporated in 1886 for a cemetery designated for African American citizens. One of the names of several prominent persons buried there is blues guitartist, Sylvester Weaver. Because music was an important part of the black community, there are several gravesites of people who have made significant contributions to the blues and jug bands.

In 2009 the National Jug Band Jubilee dedicated an impressive headstone for Earl McDonald. This musical legend established Louisville as the home of jug band music as an accomplished jug blower, singer, composer, band leader and recording artist. McDonald recorded 42 tunes during the 20s and 30s with the Dixie Jug Blowers and his Origional Louisville Jug Band. There is another historical plaque at Waterfront Park honoring him, and Michael Jones has written an excellent history about McDonald in his recently published book, "Louisville Jug Music."

John "Preacher" Stephens was a colorful bluesman who started playing the tuba and assorted other horns in Louisville clubs during the 50s. His association with Johnny Wicks (Wickliffe) and his Swinging Ozarks led to recording for United Records in Chicago in 1952. Stephens' shouting vocals were also heard on the RPM, Fran and Blugrass labels. Later in his career he became proficient with the spoons playing with the Henry Miles Jug Band, and was a part of the first Midnight Ramble Series at the Kentucky Center For The Performing Arts in 1985. A simple headstone was placed by his family upon his death in 1993.

"The Famous Moanin' Mama" was how OKeh Records advertised Sara Martin to promote this classic blues singer following her big hit "Sugar Blues." During the 20s she toured the country in vaudeville and the TOBA circuit as a national act. In 1923 she teamed up with Sylvester Weaver singing "Longing For Daddy Blues" which was the first blues vocal recorded with only a guitar accompaniment. Martin also fronted her own jug band, which included McDonald. A headstone was placed on her unmarked gravesite in 2014 through a joint fundraising campaign with the National Jug Band Jubilee and the Kentuckiana Blues Society. The ceremony was special, with an onsite performance by the Jake Leg Stompers and Maria Muldaur

Following the dedication of Martin's headstone, the two organizations decided to enhance the gravesite for Sylvester Weaver using the extra money that was received for Martin. In 1992, the KBS raised funds and placed a modest marker at Weaver's unmarked grave to honor the Louisvillian who was a pioneering guitartist. He recorded over 50 tunes for OKeh from 1923 to 1927. His fluid guitar picking and bottleneck technique was innovative and influenced other musicians like Lonnie Johnson and Earl Hooker. Weaver's guitar insturmentals "Guitar Blues" and "Guitar Rag" were the first solo recordings by a musician playing blues guitar and "Guitar Rag" was later covered by Bob Wills and His Texas Playboys as "Steel Guitar Rag." Another Louisville native, Helen Humes, was discovered by Weaver when she was a teenager and she recorded her first songs in 1927 with Weaver and Walter Beasley accompaning her on guitar. Humes would later become an internationally known jazz vocalist. After 1927, Weaver retired from recording and playing professionally; he worked as a butler and chauffeur for the Lemon family, occasionally playing his guitar to entertain their children.

Weaver's legacy received appropriate recognition with a rededication ceremony on July 25, 2015, which would have been his 119th birthday. Bays Brothers Monument and Engraving prepared a shiny black granite headstone with Weaver's image on the front and his biography on the back, similar to what they did for Martin's stone. The event was publicized in the KBS newsletter and Martha Elson wrote an article for the Neighborhood section of the Courier-Journal. During that hot afternoon 45 people attended including Toya Flanagan with her two daughters to honor her great great uncle. She had no idea of the significance Weaver was to the blues, having known him only as "Uncle Brother." Following some introductory remarks by myself, Ruby Hyde represented the Smoketown Pride and Heritage Commitee presenting a plaque to the family. Weaver had lived briefly in Smoketown on Finzer Street. Musician and historian Pen Bogert spoke about Weaver and gave some background about what the times were like when he lived. Weaver's niece and her children removed the drape covering the stone to a round of applause. Bluesman Mark "Big Poppa" Stampley, concluded the ceremony, performing some of Weaver's music. Finally, there was a walking tour of the other gravesites mentioned above.

The original stone had Weaver born in 1897, as was commonly known at the time, but subsequent research by Bogert of his WW1 draft registration and 1900 census records identified his birth in 1896 on the same date which was corrected on the new stone.

To celebrate Weaver's memory and birthday, a reception was held at Syl's Lounge on 2403 W. Broadway, with catered food and blues playing on the jukebox thanks to the generosity of the owner, Sylvia Arnett. Syl's is celebrating 25 years under her ownership.

What other musicians are buried in unmarked graves in the Louisville Cemetery who deserve recognition?



When I was asked to prepare a brief bio about myself, I thought it would be more interesting to tell what got me interested in the blues. Buddy Guy's first recording with Chess Records was "First Time I Met The Blues" which he adapted from Little Brother Mongomery. All blues lovers have a personal story of their first experience with this emotional music and how it got them hooked.

I grew up in Cleveland, Ohio, which was a pretty hep city in the 50's with Allan Freed as the major DJ promoting big R & B shows and establishing his Moondog cult. But it was late at night I would listen to WLAC on the radio broadcasting from Nashville with Hoss Allen, Gene Nobles and John R playing this raunchy music that was like no other. In 1959 Samuel Charters published "Country Blues" which I read and reread to savor what little was known about the blues at that time. Then I purchased my first blues LPs of Robert Johnson

and Blind Lemon Jefferson, and it has been downhill ever since, swirling around in the deep blues sea.

As a founding member of the Kentuckiana Blues Society in 1988, I'm known as the "Blues Curmudgeon" and enjoyed an 18-year run of writing a monthly column," I've Got A Mind To Ramble" about the blues for Louisville Music News.

—Keith S. Clements

Wilson Pickett was born in Prattville, Alabama in 1942 and moved to Detroit at age 14 to be with his father. Like many of the great soul singers, he got his start in gospel music. In the early 1960s, when soul music became so popular he began a long string of hit songs including: If you need me, Midnight Hour, Funky Broadway, Everybody needs somebody to



love, Land of 1000 Dances, Mustang Sally, 634-5789, and others. He earned a reputation as one of music's most compelling live performers and was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in

1991. He died in January 2006 of a heart attack. He is in a crypt alongside his mother Lena inside the chapel of the Evergreen Cemetery in Louisville on Preston Highway.

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Thanks go to C. Jerry Abraham (photography) and Eddie Abraham (text).

Cemetery Stewards

By Ellen White

Many small family cemeteries are located on what were farms, but now sit in the midst of neighborhoods. Over the past two summers, I have discovered the locations, visited, and photographed about 30 cemeteries in eastern Jefferson County, providing updates to several of the cemetery listings on the KY GenWeb Project's website.

The contrast between the cemeteries can be striking; some overgrown, with toppled and broken headstones, and opened crypts. One cemetery had no headstones, only a field of grass clippings, and a questionable mound, seemingly coming uncovered. Unfortunately, having a home on the National Register of Historic Places does not guarantee that the family's burying ground will be maintained, as the cemetery is often left out of the historic designation. Although there are two Brown family residences in St. Matthews on the Historic Register, their family cemetery in Brown Park is devastated. Other cemeteries, though, are faring better, taken care of by corporate or neighborhood entities. The Joseph Hite Cemetery in Jeffersontown is maintained by the homeowners' association of the subdivision; the Arterburn and Burks cemeteries, in parking lots of corporate-owned buildings, are quite well-maintained.

KRS 67.680 states that a county may create a county cemetery board, which may apply for grants to restore and maintain nonprofit cemeteries that do not receive perpetual care funds. The statute calls for the county cemetery board to be made up of five volunteer members who meet three times a year. Several counties do, in fact, have a Cemetery Board. Some are under the auspices of a county's Planning and Zoning Office, while others are under a county's historic preservation umbrella.

Jefferson County needs a Cemetery Board to oversee the maintenance of its many historic cemeteries. Any proposal to Metro Council to appoint a Cemetery Board should be boosted by the fact that there are cemeteries with names such as Blankenbaker, Whipps, Rudy, Herr, Ormsby, Oldham, and other names with which members of the Louisville community are familiar. It does not make sense that we can declare their homes as historic properties, name streets after them, yet not maintain their family burial grounds.

If, as has been said, a graveyard is a museum, shouldn't it be cared for and nurtured, just as fine artwork is preserved? If we do not work to maintain and, in some cases, save these burying grounds, what does that say about us as a society?

Ellen White joined the Louisville Historical League in 2015. She is a Sociology major/History minor at U of L. She has a particular interest in cemetery history/preservation and historic house museums. Ellen is a Certified Kentucky Paralegal.



Herr Cemetery #1



Brown-Lawrence Cemetery in Brown Park

Arterburn Cemetery well-maintained



ELIZA CURTIS: I WAS NEVER A SLAVE

By Tia Brown

History holds that Eliza was enslaved to John W. Hundley, who owned a grand plantation complete with a horse farm on the land known today as Bashford Manor. Eliza Curtis ran that home and the business of servitude that operated



within. She tended to the sick and trained a multitude. Through her community, The Wet Woods, she left a legacy of love that is still felt in Louisville's Newburg community and beyond. As remarkable as this sounds, she may have been born free. A certificate of freedom for an Eliza Curtis signed September 11, 1815 and registered in Kentucky is on record at the National Archives. The certificate that was signed by Washington, DC post master, James M. Varnum reads as follows: "I certify that on this day, Eliza Curtis a mulatto woman of about sixteen years of olde, this day produced to me satisfactory evidence of the legality of her freedom." According to the Order Minutes Book 16, Pg. 254, Thomas C. Hundley presented a deed of emancipation to the courts in 1832 and ordered that a correct description of Eliza be recorded. Might the deed being recorded have been the certificate signed in 1815?

An article written in 1913 by Elmore Symmes entitled, Aunt Eliza and her Slaves, links Eliza to Washington by including within a letter written by Eliza's sister, Mary from Washington City in 1823. Elmore Symmes noted that the sisters had been separated eleven years. During that eleven years, how did a "free" Eliza come to be a slave?

The young John W. Hundley was known to be good looking and cunning. One thought is that Hundley, tricked Eliza. A read of John's will reveals he made provision to purchase the freedom of a Daniel Curtis, then enslaved in Mississippi. Was this Eliza's son? Is it possible that she bore other children who were sold or sent to an orphanage? Hundley's will left money and direction to an orphanage to accept not more than five black children at a time.

Despite being separated from her immediate family, possibly seeing children sold off, Eliza never lost hope. She believed in her vision of "The Wet Woods". The community was founded on love and members were embraced as family. Her plantation could be considered an orphanage as the majority of her slaves were children, "some bought and some given her." She raised those children with stern discipline, emphasizing education and service.

Eliza had a spirit of freedom. Neither slave nor master, man nor woman in the Kingdom according to our faith. Her prayer was for all to know freedom, faith and family. In the children she reared and the community she established, that prayer was realized.

Special Thanks: When asked where my interest in Eliza stemmed, my answer is she chose me. Thanks to Dave Morgan at Metro Archives who, through Ray Brundidge, connected me with Cynthia Cook, The Eliza Society and Stephen Brown.

With a background in sales, history seems an unlikely interest for Tia. However, she describes this passion as imagination plus science and sees historical research as a spiritual journey. A Louisville, KY native raised in the Newburg community, Tia's passion for the Eliza Curtis story is personal. Eliza's life opens up discussion topics to include women's rights, race an economics. All of which Tia has a personal interest. Tia attended Bellarmine University where she studied Accounting before transferring to the University of Baltimore (UB). She graduated from UB with a Bachelor's degree in Finance and an MBA specializing in Entrepreneurship. She founded an online ministry where she combines history, art and religion with the purpose of empowering women. www.thecomingwoman.org

Louisville Clock Relocated - Again

By Steve Wiser

The Louisville Clock was dismantled and placed into storage on July 10th. Many LHL members contributed hundreds of volunteer hours to help restore it over the past decade. It was also relocated to Theater Square in the Fall of 2012.

The Clock has had a colorful existence. Created in 1976 by famed local sculptor Barney Bright, it featured five 'racing' figurines from Louisville history: George Rogers Clark, Thomas Jefferson, Daniel Boone, King Louis XVI, and the flamboyant Belle of Louisville. Watching from the bandstand were figurines representing newspaper editor Henry Watterson, filmmaker D W Griffith, actress Mary Anderson, jazz trumpeter Oliver Cooke, and President Zachary Taylor. While the design was enjoyed by all, the mechanism that operated the race was a source of frustration due to its constant breakdown. This though had finally been corrected with the most recent overhaul.

Despite its problems, the Clock was actually very successful. Its goal when built was to bring people to downtown and help revitalize it. It was originally placed in the center of Fourth Street, between Muhammad Ali and Liberty Streets, on the old River City Mall. By 1980, a major development (the Galleria, now known as 4th Street LIVE!) was constructed displacing the Clock to Fourth and Guthrie. When that street was renovated, the Clock was moved to the Fairgrounds, in front of Kentucky Kingdom amusement park. When that site fell into disrepair, the Clock was moved by the Friends of the Louisville Clock to Bowman Field. It sat there for about ten years while restoration work took place. Local businessman Adam Burckle was the main leader of this effort.

Finally, on March 30, 2012, the Clock was moved to Theater Square, which is on Fourth Street, between Broadway and Chestnut Street. Theater Square was created in the early 1980s, but had never became a major activity zone and was a desolate "no man's land" by 2012. The Clock was seen by local civic leaders as a way to re-energize this section of Fourth Street and the Clock's arrival did so in a very major way. Street activity increased, and more stores opened in this district. By 2015, Theater Square was a bustling streetscape, and nearby corporate giant Kindred Healthcare needed to expand its headquarters. To do so, it decided to purchase Theater Square which then led to the displacement once again of the Louisville Clock.



GERMAN CHURCHES IN BUTCHERTOWN??

By Rev. Gordon A. Seiffertt (Contributing Author)

It is a certainty of Louisville history that Butchertown was a German neighborhood. So why are none of the churches in Butchertown (or next door on the Point) identified as "German" in the Louisville city directories during the last half of the nineteenth century? In the directories, churches were listed by affiliation (denomination), with indication of race for the African-American congregations using the usual denotative terms of the era, and with indication of being German (no other nationality or ethnic groups given).

Immediately the response is that St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church was German. It is often referred to as "a German parish." But from its genesis in 1866 through 1900, it has only one German identification (the 1870 Edward's Directory). The previous directories did not identify it as German, nor did the 1871 and following. Before St. Joseph's was established, St. Boniface (1836), Immaculate Conception of Mary (1846), St. Martin's (1853), and St. Peter's (1855) were always identified as German. After St. Joseph's began, St. Anthony (1867) and the previous four were so identified. Perhaps the decision of the directories' editors not to denote St. Joseph's as German derives from the fact that initially the parish served the Irish in the area, until St. Columba was established (1876). For years it was located in Butchertown on Washington just four blocks east of St. Joseph's. Was that indicative of a significant Irish population in German Butchertown?

The most counter-intuitive bit of history is that a daughter congregation of Uptown Protestant churches in Butchertown was a congregation with "English" in its name. The First English Lutheran Church (1872) on Broadway established Third English Lutheran Church on Maiden Lane, a block east of St. Joseph's in the early 1880s. In 1887, Third English was built in the 1600 block of Story. Today's Franklin Street Baptist was planted in 1868 by Walnut

Street Baptist, not the Uptown. It was originally located on "Cabel Street River." Asbury Method-1845. Several additional German, were established

Though the established es in Uptown and on the birthed daughter Gerdirectories) congregations none began a congrega-The Point. German Protincluded Evangelical, Re-Lutheran, and Evangelical Several explanations are was not perceived to have Germans" to support a bers had not migrated to number). The number inhabitants in Butcherolder German-speaking congregations. The churches believed their the mile or more to their

It is a certainty of Louertown was a German were the churches with ries' identifications??



St. Joseph Catholic Church in Butchertown

German Baptist Church in named Pilgrim Baptist, between Main and the ist on the Point dates from churches, none identified as by 1900.

German Protestant churchwest side of downtown man (so identified in the around the expanding city, tion in Butchertown or on estant churches in Uptown formed, Methodist, Baptist, Association congregations. plausible. Butchertown enough of "their kind of new church (their mem-Butchertown in sufficient of German-speaking town did not warrant the churches to plant daughter leadership of the Uptown members could easily walk locations.

isville history that Butchneighborhood. But where "German" in their directo-

DID YOU KNOW?

STEVE WISER



Louisville has had many famous visitors who have either briefly stayed here or lived here, such as Thomas Edison or Abraham Lincoln. One you may not have heard of, though, is Levi Strauss, the famous blue jean manufacturer.



Levi Strauss was born in Buttenheim, Germany, nas and Louis, immigrated to the United States in New York City. Levi joined them in 1847.

In January 1853, Levi relocated to Louisville of 1853, he traveled to San Francisco, where there called "Levi Strauss & Co." In 1873, he style of "work pants" that used rivets as fasten-



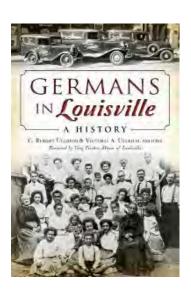
on February 26, 1829. His two brothers, Joand opened a wholesale dry goods company

to sell his brother's supplies. But, in March his sister had settled. He opened a store and his partner, Jacob Davis, patented a new ers. And the rest, as they say, is history!

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ORIGINS OF LOUISVILLE SLUGGER BASEBALL BAT

By Steve Wiser, AIA

Colonel Sanders definitely started Kentucky Fried Chicken; George Garvin Brown definitely started bottling bourbon in bottles; David Jones and Wendell Cherry definitely started Humana. There is no question how these legendary local businesses originated. Not so with the Louisville Slugger bat. As noted on www.SluggerMuseum.com, "There is debate over the origins of the company's first bat . . . according to legend." What does this mean "according to legend?"

In 1884, as the "legend" goes, John Andrew 'Bud' Hillerich approached professional baseball player Louis Rogers 'Pete' Browning after a game in which Browning broke his favorite bat and said he could make Browning a bat that wouldn't break. Browning got 3 hits with Bud's handmade bat in the next game and the Louisville Slugger legend was born. Or was it?

Bud Hillerich was the son of Johann Friederich Hillerich (or, as Americanized: John Fred Hillerich, or just "JF" for short). JF owned a woodworking company that manufactured bed posts, roller skids, tenpins, and butter churns. While his son Bud was a baseball fan, JF was not. Thus, it is easy to understand how Bud is credited with creating the bat "according to legend."

However, while conducting research on another topic, I came across JF's obituary in the Louisville Times, dated January 17, 1924. The elder Hillerich's death notice differs from the company's "legend" as to the origin.

In the obituary, it is stated that it was Peter Browning who first came to Hillerich's woodworking company one day and specifically asked for JF to make some bats, which he did. A few weeks later, Browning returned and said "that bat is a slugger," and ordered more bats. And, per the obituary, Louisville Slugger was born.

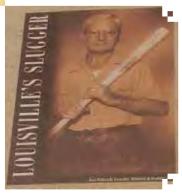
Which story is correct? Bud's version of him asking Browning to make the bat; or, his father's, in which Browning asked JF to make the bat? Would an obituary, written by the Hillerich family, have inaccurate information? Or, would a popular "legend" not be based on fact?



Pete Browning



Slugger Bat Making



Bud Hillerich



Hillerich & Bradsby Company – Home of the Louisville Slugger baseball bat

Further Google research turned up another fascinating article on this topic, which was written by James Applegate in the St. Clair County (Illinois) Historical Society newsletter of September 2005. Applegate is the grand-nephew of Frank Bradsby, whose name is now associated with the bat company: "Hillerich & Bradsby." Bradsby was born in Lebanon, Illinois, which is in St. Clair County.

Applegate's description is very similar to JF's obituary. Per Applegate's article, Browning was walking down the street and seeing Hillerich's woodworking shop, went in, and requested building of a bat.

Applegate's version does not state that JF was not a baseball enthusiast and only through his son Bud's prodding did he make the bat for Browning.

While there may be a discrepancy in whether Bud went to Browning first or Browning went to JF first, if it wasn't for Bud's insistence, Louisville Slugger would not be hitting home runs today.

Of note: Bud's obituary was also checked, but, it did not mention the origins of Louisville Slugger, as had his father's.

Researching history can be challenging in determining the accurate facts. What isn't disputed are JF's and Bud's woodworking skills that have made Louisville Slugger an iconic local business for over 131 years.

Steve Wiser, AIA, is a Louisville architect and historian who has authored numerous Louisville history and architecture books.

IN THE NEWS

A fire in the 100 block of Main Street (north side), sometimes referred to as "Whiskey Row" has destroyed several units. Of greatest concern are the buildings at 111 - 113 and 115 West Main. Structural engineers are determining at this point if the front (facade) portions of the buildingscan be saved. The buildings were slated to be developed into apartments, offices, restaurants and other commercial uses. The section of the block closest to the Second Street bridge, especially the Whiskey Row Lofts being developed by Bill Weyland, seem to have sustained little or no damage.

After much discussion, mayor Greg Fischer announced that the current plans for the Water Company building which sits on the site of the proposed Omni Hotel development will be dismantled, with key architectural elements (facade, portico and a portion of the side walls) to be placed in storage until a plan can be devised to incorporate them into another structure or move them to another area within the central corridor, hopefully as part of another development.

THEN AND NOW



In 1930, 2116 Bardstown Road was the home of the Bardstown Road Pharmacy. (Photo courtesy of Cynthia Cooke)



2116 Bardstown Road today is home to the North End Café restaurant

UPCOMING EVENTS

Summer and Fall LHL sponsored events:

Note: All LHL sponsored events are free to LHL members but non-members will be requested to pay \$5 (a donation) to attend. Other events, as indicated, may also incur a \$5 fee. Times and dates are subject to change. Please check our website www.louisvillehistoricalleague.org or our Facebook page for more details. Any other inquires, please e-mail: LouHist@Hotmail.com

August 16, 2015 - 2 p.m. LHL monthly meeting: Chuck Parrish will talk about his book "Heroes At The Falls." Location: The Water Tower Museum (River Road at Zorn Ave.)
The event is free and open to the public. There could be a fee to tour the museum.

September 20, 2015, 2 p.m. LHL monthly meeting: St. Michael Cemetery, 1153 Charles Avenue (off of Goss, near Eastern Parkway). Expert tour guides include Clyde Crews (LHL co-founder and Kenny Popp of Catholic Cemeteries).

October 25, 2015, 2 p.m. Walking tour of South Floyd Street conducted by Mike Zanone. More details on this event will be posted on the upcoming LHL post card.

November 15, Fenwick Lecture, 2 p.m., time and speaker TBA.

December 6 - 2 p.m. Holiday party at the Peterson - Dumesnil House.

Other notable history events in the area:

2015 Tour and Lecture Schedule of Cave Hill Cemetery. Sponsored by the Cave Hill Heritage Foundation:

Historical Walking Tour of Cave Hill Cemetery: September 13 and November 1. All tours are on Sunday afternoon; Tour time: 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. Tour guide is Steve Wiser, a Louisville architect and historian. Tour cost is \$15 per person. RSVP by calling (502) 451-5630.

Cave Hill Cemetery Twilight Tour: Saturdays, September 12th, and October 10th. Tour time is 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. (note October time is 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.) Tour guide will be Michael Higgs (Cave Hill Heritage Foundation) or Steve Wiser. Limited to 18-20 people on tractor-puller wagon. Tour time is 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. except October which is 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tour cost is \$35 per person. Seating is limited on each tour. RSVP by calling (502) 451-5630.

Civil War Historical Walking Tour: Saturday, October 10. Tour time 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Led by Civil War historian Bryan Bush. Tour cost is \$15 per person. Book and tour is \$35. RSVP by calling (502) 451-5630.

"Art & Artists of Cave Hill" tour will focus on monument design and the prominent artists who are buried in Cave Hill. This tour will occur on October 11, 1-3 p.m. Tour cost is \$15 per person. RSVP by calling (502) 451-5630.

Interactive Bourbon Tour - "A Journey Through Bourbon History at Cave Hill Cemetery" with Kentucky's official Bourbon Historian, Michael Veach on Sunday, September 20th at 1:00 p.m. Tour cost is \$35 per person. RSVP by calling (502) 451-5630.

October 2-4, 2015 the St. James Art Fair (based around St. James Court in Old Louisville) brings over 700 vendors with arts and crafts to this event, which has been held since 1957.

Louisville Cemeteries - St. Matthews Library, 3940 Grandview Ave., Tuesday October 13th, 2:30 p.m. Local historians Steve Wiser and Jack Koppel will discuss Louisville cemeteries (such as Eastern, Portland, Western, Louisville, Calvary, St. Michael, St. Louis, Jewish cemeteries along Preston Street, Anchorage and other smaller cemeteries). They will focus on the history as well as some of the notable individuals buried at these locations. FREE and open to the public. Note: Cave Hill will not be featured in this talk.

October 18, 2015 - 2:30 p.m. Book release party for the History Press publication, Germans In Louisville. There will be an introduction to the book followed by book sales and author signings. Location: The German-American Club, 1840 Lincoln Avenue, Louisville, KY 40213. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. Everyone is welcome.

November 19 (1752) No special events taking place, but this is the birthday of George Rogers Clark, the founder of our city of Louisville. He was born in 1752 in Albemarle County, Virginia, and died at Locust Grove (Jefferson County, Kentucky) on February 13, 1818.

Louisville Historical League—Since 1972

founded by Rev. Clyde Crews and Allan Steinberg

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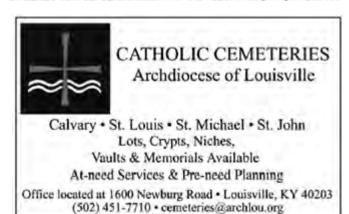
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Comments and suggestions related to this publication: gfalk@aye.net

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The Louisville Historical League *the Archives* is published 4 times a year. Questions or comments should be addressed to Gary Falk, gfalk@aye.net or (502) 962-1040.

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Editors: Steve Wiser, Gary Falk **Design/Layout:** Therese Davis

