



Louisville Historical League INC
Founded 1972

In residence at the Peterson-Dumesnil House
P.O. Box 6061 • Louisville, Kentucky 40206
www.LouisvilleHistoricalLeague.org

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UPCOMING HISTORY TALKS & TOURS:

January 16th, Saturday—10:30 AM: Alexander Hamilton Society, St. Matthews Library, 3940 Grandview Ave. Speaker Dr. Aaron Hoffman of Bellarmine University and Bob Shay, former Bellarmine professor, will debate the philosophical and historical aspects of the Declaration of Independence.

January 17th, Sunday—2 PM: “Annual Meeting” Louisville Historical League, New Athletic Building of Presentation Academy, Fourth & Breckinridge Streets.

February 6th, Saturday—10 to 11 AM: “Louisville’s Lincoln: Local Influences that Altered American History”, talk by Steve Wiser, at Farmington (3033 Bardstown Road), 10 am to 11 AM. Cost: \$10



February 20th, Saturday—10:30 AM: Alexander Hamilton Society, St. Matthews Library, 3940 Grandview Ave. Speaker Dick Ernst will review the book: *Biography of John Jay*.

February 21st, Sunday—2 PM: Louisville Historical League meeting, Western Library, 10th and Chestnut Sts. Talk by Walter Hutchins on African American history.

March 20, Saturday— 10:30 AM: Alexander Hamilton Society, Brandeis College of Law, University of Louisville. Major symposium. Watch for more details!

March 21, Sunday:—2 PM: Louisville Historical League meeting. Tentative location: Churchill Downs. Watch for more details!

April 18th, Sunday—2 PM: Louisville Historical League meeting. Walking tour of Portland neighborhood by Rick Bell. Watch for more details!



2010 ANNUAL MEETING Steve Wiser, ATA

The League will begin its 38th year by holding our annual meeting at the Presentation Academy new Arts and Athletic Center, at Fourth and Breckinridge, south of Broadway near Old Louisville neighborhood. This new facility is a wonderful blend of old-style and new design, which is meriting much praise.

The Annual meeting will be on Sunday, January 17th, 2009, at 2 pm. It should last about an hour. We will bestow awards for Founder's, Heritage / Preservation, and New Landmark. Awards for this year are as follows:

Founders: Ed Hamilton, sculptor. Mr. Hamilton's latest artistic addition to our city is the Lincoln Memorial, which has received wide acclaim. He has also designed the York statue on the Belvedere among numerous other monuments. Mr. Hamilton has been sculpting Louisville history for over 35 years.

Heritage / Preservation:

- **Louisville Architecture** book by Sam Thomas: Mr. Thomas's new work is of epic proportions and contributes greatly to our city's heritage. He has written many local history books that are now legendary in nature. Mr. Thomas received the League's Founder's Award in 1993.
- **Cynthia Cooke:** Ms. Cooke has been a passionate advocate for preservation and history all of her life. She has restored a historic home that is now the Bashford Manor Bed and Breakfast.
- **Billy Hertz:** Mr. Hertz has been a pioneer in inner city revitalization and helped re-energize the East Market Street district.
- **Phenix Investments:** their development "The Bellamy" has breathed new life into the depressed Park Hill section and they saved the landmark American Standard Building.

New Landmarks:

1. Annual Meeting
2. Preservation Pts
3. Activity Recap +
4. Looking Back
5. Historic Markers
6. Zachary Taylor Bday
7. Membership
8. LHL Talks & Tours

- Presentation Academy for their wonderful new Arts and Athletic Center.
- Louisville Free Public Library for the Newburg Library.
- Louisville Fire Department for their two new fire houses in Butchertown and Portland neighborhoods.
- Underhill Associates for the Westport Village commercial center at Lyndon Lane and Westport Road.

The Annual Meeting is free and open to the general public. We hope all League members will be able to attend!

PRESERVATION POINTS:

Marianne Zickuhr, Preservation Louisville, Inc., Executive Director

Preservation Louisville hosted its first annual "Local Author's Book Fair" on Saturday, December 12th, at the Peterson-Dumesnil House in Crescent Hill. The book fair featured a panel discussion by authors such as Sam Thomas, Steve Wiser, Gary Falk, Rick Bell and Bryan Bush. After the panel discussion all the authors were available for questions and book signings. Carmichael's bookstore was a sponsor of the event and donated a portion of the proceeds back to Preservation Louisville.

Preservation Louisville celebrated the holidays with two days of Victorian Holiday tours at the Brennan House historic home, an 1868 Italianate, Victorian Mansion on 6th street in downtown. The decorations, refreshments and sounds of holiday carols filled the historic home with holiday cheer.

Preservation Louisville, Inc. is co-sponsoring Historic Preservation Tax Credit Workshops. These workshops will be held quarterly and meant to help property owners learn how to utilize the historic preservation tax credit. Preservation Louisville, along with the Kentucky Heritage Council, will work with the workshop participants on how to properly finish the three-part application for the historic preservation tax credit.

Advance registration is required! This is a hands-on, active learning workshop and class size is limited! Please register online at www.preservationlouisville.org or by calling (502) 540-5146.

WHEN: Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
January 23rd, 2010
Registration Fee \$25

WHERE: The Brennan House Historic Home
631 South Fifth Street
Louisville, Kentucky 40202

The Brennan House (1868) is a Victorian mansion in downtown Louisville that is filled with an entirely original family collection. It is listed on the National Register and is a local landmark. The building is the headquarters of Preservation Louisville, Inc. a 501 (C)(3) charitable non-profit organization.

As Metro Louisville's citywide non-profit historic preservation organization, Preservation Louisville works in partnership with local, state and national organizations to promote the preservation of our community's historic resources through education and advocacy. Preservation Louisville also provides education, technical information and resources. For more information, www.preservationlouisville.org.



Preservation Book Fair was held on Saturday, December 12, 2009. Participating were the following local historians: (Left to Right): Tom Owen, Bryan Bush, Sam Thomas, Steve Wiser, Rick Bell, and Gary Falk.

Louisville History Book Spotlight

Buy the following Louisville history books, DVDs, etc., to find out more on our city! These items are available at local bookstores.

Fontaine Ferry Park DVD by Jerry Rice, \$16.95: Relive your fun memories at Louisville's famous amusement park! For more info, email: jerryr40201@yahoo.com

Louisville Remembered book by Gary Falk, \$19.99: Featuring the city's manufacturing and business heritage. For more info, email: GFalk@Aye.net

Louisville Tapestry: People & Places who helped create America's Most Livable City book by Steve Wiser, \$14.95. History of Louisville's development (parks, architecture, etc.) For more info, email: WiserAIA@Hotmail.com

Louisville: A Post Card Pictorial History, by John Findling \$21.99: Vintage post cards that illustrate the city's heritage. For more info, email: jfindlin@us.edu

To JOIN, RENEW, OR GIVE A GIFT . . .

Mail this form to: Louisville Historical League, Inc.
In residence at the Peterson-Dumesnil House
P.O. Box 6061
Louisville, KY 40206
www.louisvillehistoricalleague.com

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The League thanks you for your interest!

Your membership dues are tax-deductible.

2010 DUES ARE NOW DUE! Please send in your payment for your 2010 dues today. Just clip out the Renewal Form contained in this newsletter and mail in. Thank you for your continued membership!

LIFETIME MEMBER OFFER: If you are a Lifetime member, then please buy one of the League's decorative pins! And, as a special incentive, when you buy a pin for \$5 dollars, you will receive a \$1 Zachary Taylor coin! So, for \$5, you will receive \$6 of items for \$4 value! Both of these items will be keepsake mementos and wonderful souvenirs of Louisville history. We will be offering this LHL pin and Zachary Taylor coin deal at upcoming League events. And, if you are not a Lifetime member, you can also take advantage of this deal as well!

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JAMES M. WAGNER

WEBSITE:

If you are ever wondering about the status of an upcoming event or wanting to do some Louisville history research, then click on our website. We always keep the latest meeting data on the website and our "Resource" webpage contains some great links to assist you in tracking down whatever data you are seeking on Louisville history. Another feature of the website are photos of all our great events. So, if you miss a meeting, click on the website to view how it turned out!

2009 League Activity Recap

2009 was a busy and productive year for the League. While our dues are very modest, our membership gets to see and do a lot of fun and interesting things. Here is a brief summary of the League's 2009 activities.

We started the year at the Scottish Rite Temple in January, which is one of our favorite locations. It is one of Louisville's hidden architectural jewels. Our annual awards were bestowed at this event, with our Founder's Award going to Bill and Carol Butler. The Butler's book publishing company has produced many popular local history books and their legacy will endure for generations. It was especially poignant since Bill would later lose his valiant fight with cancer later in the year.

For February, to help commemorate Abraham Lincoln's birthday bicentennial, the League held a lecture by John Kleber at Adventist Church at Baxter and Cherokee Road. John delivered a thorough talk on Lincoln and his Kentucky connections. As Lincoln rode out to Farmington in 1841, he passed by this location. Also, on this day, Board members Steve Wisner and Bryan Bush led a tour of nearby Cave Hill Cemetery and its connections to Lincoln.

March had another popular lecture by Tom Owen on neighborhood history. His talk was held at Gilda's Club on Bardstown Road at Rogers Street.

The April event was a wet and soggy visit to Blackacre Nature Preserve on Taylorsville Road near the Snyder Freeway.

In May, the League went to the Brennan House on Fifth near Chestnut to hear a talk on preservation by our co-founder Allan Steinberg as well as Preservation Louisville's Bob Griffith.

June was our ice cream social and was held at the Little Loom House on Kenwood Hill Drive near Iroquois Park. This event celebrated Mildred Hill's 150th birthday. Mildred and her sister Patti wrote the world famous "Happy Birthday Song".

There was no event in July, but in August we gathered at Memorial Auditorium (Kentucky and Fourth Streets) to hear Board member Bryan Bush talk about legendary civic booster James Guthrie.

In September, we ventured to the newly renovated and enlarged McAlpine Lock and Dam. River historian (and LHL Board member) Chuck Parrish gave a talk on river and lock history.

October took us to the Landmarks Commission (444 S. Fifth Street) for a talk on the landmarks process by Board member David Marchal. Also in October, Bryan Bush led a fascinating tour of center Louisville and civil war related activities which occurred here.

November was our "Fenwick Lecture". National preservationist Donovan Rypkema gave a wonderful talk on "Preservation: the Core of Sustainability". Zachary Taylor's 225 birthday was on Nov. 24th, and the League partnered with Stock Yard Banks to recognize him as well as debut the U. S. mint \$1 coin that honors him.

Then, in December, we closed out the year as we have for many years with our traditional Holiday Party at the Peterson Dumesnil House. If you'd like to view photos of all these events, then go to our website www.Louisville-HistoricalLeague.org and click on the "2009 Event Photos" link.

It was indeed a fun and fascinating year, and we look forward to an equally as exciting 2010 with more places to go for our League members!

April



October



FORT-ON-SHORE UPDATE

On December 1, 2009 we received word from the Kentucky Historical Society that the Roadside Marker to designate the site of Fort-On-Shore has been approved. This location was the original settlement on the mainland (of what was to become Louisville) by George Rogers Clark and the settlers of Corn Island.

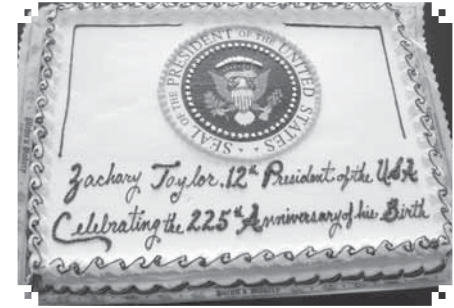
Located on the south side of Rowan Street just west of downtown, the location had been marked by a plaque and fountain (placed in 1912) by the Sons of the American Revolution. The League and the SAR have campaigned vigorously to have a roadside marker placed at this location.

ZACHARY TAYLOR 225 BIRTHDAY AND \$1 COIN EVENT

On Tuesday, November 24, 2009, the League in conjunction with Stock Yards Bank held a birthday celebration for President Zachary Taylor at the Stock Yards Branch Bank at Rudy Lane and Brownsboro Road. This location is just a half block from the National Cemetery where Taylor is buried as well as near his family home 'Springfield'.

Also, this celebration helped mark the distribution by the U. S. mint the new \$1 coin in honor of Taylor's presidency. About 30 people attended.

While Taylor's presidency was cut short by illness, he is best remembered by his heroism in the Mexican War. The southwest U. S. (New Mexico, Arizona, and California) was added to the country following Taylor's victory.



Patrick Lovett—Directs the Kentucky National Cemetery Complex and oversees Zachary Taylor National Cemetery
Dr. William Gist—Owns "Springfield", Taylor's boyhood home



Marsha Theiss Hicks, related to Zachary Taylor on his mother's side
Jim Evans



Dr. William Gist & his wife Barbara
They currently own Zachary Taylor's boyhood home "Springfield" at 5608 Apache Road.



Neil Lancaster, Senior Vice President for Stock Yards Bank
Jill Cooper, Banking Manager at the Windy Hills branch of Stock Yards Bank.



Ken and Tillie Machtolff
Donna Peak
Louisville Historical League members



Ja Hillebrand, President, Stock Yards Bank
Kenny Karem, Member, Louisville Historical League
They are holding the new Zachary Taylor \$1 coin.

LOOKING BACK . . .

Gary Falk

With the new year upon us, it is a time to reflect on the state of historic preservation; after all, reflection is what our movement is all about.

Local author and historian Sam Thomas mentioned in a recent presentation that of all the precious architecture that existed in Louisville up to the year 1900, nearly two-thirds has vanished. For much of it we even lack photographic evidence.

Undoubtedly the period of greatest loss for historic preservation was between 1950 and the early 1970s. With the new era brought about by the victory in World War II, the country enjoyed a period of exuberance for the future. A defacto *out with the old* and *in with the new* attitude prevailed. Urban renewal programs were gaining momentum. Much of it was cloaked in what was referred to as “slum clearance” projects. After all, doesn’t it make sense to clear out those blemished areas of the city? All the while, developers were finding new opportunities with grand schemes to replace all of this so-called blight (remember the Galleria?). The preservation movement was in its infancy, caught in a sort-of cultural lag, unaware of what the consequences of demolition would be. The pendulum had swung so far beyond the center that the objective was almost a draconian reinvention of the city—especially the central core. When one beautiful downtown building was being razed in the early 1970s, headlines appeared in the newspaper that reflected this attitude. *Ornate, old, on the way out* was how it read. At a local Urban Renewal Commission meeting it was suggested that the old Board of Trade Building at Third and Main have its façade incorporated into a new building. One person spoke up saying that “reassembling the façade on the front of a new building would be like putting a Model T radiator on a ‘72 Mark IV”. Thankfully, the Urban Renewal Commission is a bygone entity.

The group Preservation Alliance emerged from the ashes of the building rubble. The alliance was a consortium of local individuals with noble intentions but lacking a strategy at the time. They quickly learned, however, that to make preservation work, you must have far more than well-meaning citizens – you must coalesce the movers and shakers of the city with convincing evidence that an appreciation of the past is vital for the future. Saving historic properties becomes a united effort between the captains of industry, politicians and interested citizens. Even the developers can be brought on board to incorporate this great architecture into a theme that can include the old with the new. Today, the Henry Clay Hotel, Glassworks and the incorporation of the Coleman Building façade into the new downtown Marriott Hotel are but a few examples.

So, we lick our wounds over what has been lost and move forward with a sense of optimism toward the future. Society seems to be friendlier toward historic preservation. Safeguards are in place, especially within the overlay districts of the city. We now have a review process with required guidelines concerning demolition.

With groups like Preservation Louisville and the Louisville Historical League we may not win every battle, but the balance is on our side. The pendulum has moved back toward the center.

Resource: Louisville Courier-Journal, April 18, May 16, 1972.

Then and Now



The John G. Epping Bottling Company had a presence in Louisville exceeding 100 years. This advertisement lists some of the soft drinks which they made



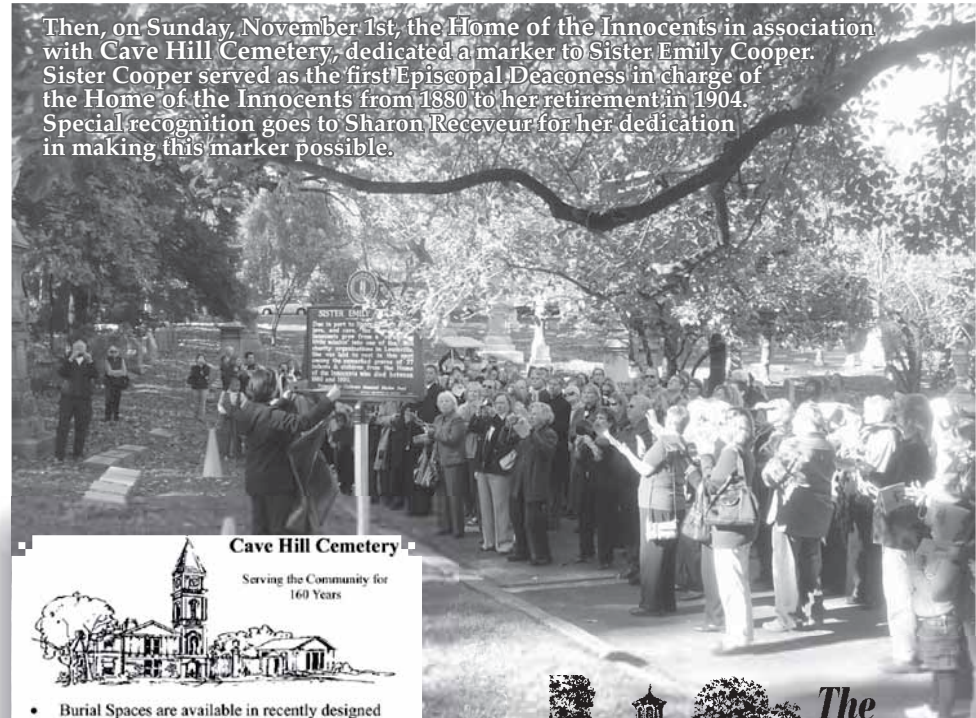
This building located on the SW corner of Broadway and Logan was headquarters to Epping although they occupied several buildings in that corridor. The building is now part of Office Resources, Inc. The entrance has a tile base with the Epping name.

Sources: Wall advertisement from *Images of America: Louisville*, by James C. Anderson & Donna M. Neary, Arcadia Press, 2001

NEW HISTORIC ROADSIDE MARKERS

Several new Kentucky historic roadside markers were recently added in Jefferson County.

On Monday, October 19th, at Kenwood Drive and Kenwood Hill Road, the Little Loomhouse and the Kentucky Historical Society unveiled a historic highway marker honoring Lou Tate and the Little Loomhouse, as well as Mildred and Patty Hill and the Happy Birthday Song. Thanks to Stefanie Buzan and Rosemary McCandless for their contribution to this effort.



Then, on Sunday, November 1st, the Home of the Innocents in association with Cave Hill Cemetery, dedicated a marker to Sister Emily Cooper. Sister Cooper served as the first Episcopal Deaconess in charge of the Home of the Innocents from 1880 to her retirement in 1904. Special recognition goes to Sharon Receveur for her dedication in making this marker possible.



- Burial Spaces are available in recently designed sections and older Victorian Era sections.
- Cremation options include an indoor Columbarium, rustic Boulder Niches, outdoor Niches and Benches, and the beautiful Twin Lakes Scattering Garden.
- Ask for information about our newest additions: Mausoleum Crypt spaces for above ground entombment and our lakeside Quarry Funeral Chapel.
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Please visit our website at cavehillcemetery.com



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