

Messenger

KYGMC

HOME OF THE KSB MINIATURES COLLECTION
& THE OLD POGUE EXPERIENCE

MAYSVILLE, KENTUCKY

SPRING/APRIL & MAY 2022



*Special Thanks to
John Klee for his Help
Updating our Timeline!*

THE VIEW FROM SECOND AND SUTTON



Spring is in full bloom at our Museum Center in downtown Maysville. The bulbs and flowering trees are showcasing the cheerful colors of spring! It's a great time to visit the Museum Center and enjoy the many opportunities available to our members and guests. We have been blessed with steady and growing attendance during the winter months of 2022 and are looking forward to new exhibits, the return of our *Museum Seminars* and special museum events during the spring and summer months.

The *March 2022 Charter Reception* celebrating our 144th Anniversary of the Association's Charter was a great event and wonderful time to talk and visit with our many members. The Charter activities are always wonderful moments to honor our past history and share our visions for new programs for our Association. We appreciate the many members, patrons, volunteers and guests who have increased both their attendance and financial support of the Museum Center that have supported our longevity!

One of the most important ways for our friends and patrons to support the Museum is by your annual membership. The membership program for *Annual Memberships*, *Wormald Members* and *Life Members* provide a strong foundation for our financial needs and growth for the Museum's many programs of service to our community. If you are not a member, please consider joining the Association. If you are a member consider the possibility of upgrading your membership to the next level of support. KYGMC offers membership programs for companies and businesses that would like to provide memberships to their staff and employees. Contact the museum office for additional information concerning the business and corporate membership plans.

Annual individual membership is \$30.00 while family membership

(member's spouse and dependents in the household) is \$60.00 per year. We continue to offer student and educator memberships at \$20.00 per year. These membership rates have remained the same for over 10 years and continue to be one of the great values in the Museum community.

Kentucky Gateway Museum's Wormald Society Membership is priced at \$100.00 more than the regular memberships (\$130 individual and \$160 for family) and provides the added benefit to the regular Museum admissions along with membership in the *North American Reciprocal Museum Association (NARM)*, the program for admission to other member Museums. *KYGMC Wormald Members* enjoy membership including free admissions and shop discounts at over 1,000 institutions across North America, including museums throughout Bermuda, Canada, El Salvador, Mexico, and the United States. This reciprocal program is a great benefit if you are traveling. Check the *NARM* web page the next time you are on a vacation or business travel event and see what

Museums are included in the program.

The Association's *Board of Trustees* recently announced the return of the *Life Membership Program* with the proceeds benefiting the Endowment Fund. Members interested in becoming a Life Member may contact the Museum Office for registration forms. Life Membership is \$1,000.00 per individual. Individuals can select one, two or three annual payments for the Life Membership. Life Members will also receive the benefit that includes annual membership to the NARM program with other museums.

Thanks for supporting the Museum Association by your donations, your gifts to the *Sustaining Fund*, and your membership. As always, thank you for helping build the legacy of the *Kentucky Gateway Museum Center*. We look forward to seeing you soon in the Museum Center.

C.J. Hunter IV,
Executive Director

KENTUCKY GATEWAY MUSEUM CENTER MEMBERSHIP

		
Individual:	Family:	Student/Educator:
\$30	\$60	\$20

WORMALD SOCIETY SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP

	
Individual:	Family:
\$130	\$160

Miniature of the Month

BY KAYE BROWNING



Wine Decanter Set by Gerd Felka

It's hard to believe hand-blown glass in miniature is even possible—the art-form in full size is incredibly beautiful and intricate—but German glass artist Gerd Felka accomplishes it in extraordinary detail in fine scale. His ruby colored wine decanter set washed with gold accents in 1/12th scale is prized in the KSB Miniatures Collection, prominently featured in *Spencer House*.

Gerd, a talented glassblower in all scales, has been crafting hand-blown glass since 1964 when he began as an apprentice making laboratory equipment in Thuringia, Germany. Thuringia, where he still resides, is a small state bordering Bavaria known for its lush forests, tall mountains, quaint medieval architecture and glass Christmas ornaments. The festive glass items are said to have originated there almost two centuries ago and today the area remains home to many independent glass blowers and artists.

Gerd continued making laboratory glassware until 1980 and then turned his focus to producing art glass. A decade later, or as Gerd reflects, “after the fall of the Berlin Wall,” he stumbled upon miniature glassware in a museum and started creating 1/12th- and 1/16th-scale glass items. Many of his peers doubted his creative turn at the time since in the entirety of Germany there were only three miniature shops but then again, Thuringia was also famous for making glass eyes for dolls and stuffed animals. Perhaps, Gerd's creation of miniature glassware for dollhouses should have been considered visionary for the artist.



Gerd's fine-scale work to date includes items from his past employ—laboratory equipment such as glass tubes and apothecary bottles; items native to Thuringia—glass Christmas ornaments that are .3 of an inch tall, various glassware, carafes and decanter sets in a wide range of shapes, colors and stoppers, vases and perfume bottles.

The decanter set pictured is an original design of Gerd's. Miniature artist Margarethe Freudenstein who painted Gerd's glassware for many years also helped in the creation. The noted artisan only uses colored glass, not dyed, in his work and the highest quality of gold foil that is virtually weightless, roughly 1/10,000 mm thick. The decanter set is featured in the Great Room of Mulvany & Rogers' *Spencer House* where it brilliantly complements the cranberry silk covered walls.



CAPTIONS

Top: Hand-blown glass wine decanter set in 1/12 scale by Gerd Felka.

Left: The decanter set is featured in the Great Room of *Spencer House*.

All of us at KYGMC would like to extend a *Thank You* to everyone who was able to attend our 2022 Charter Reception! A great time was had by all. We couldn't do it without our wonderful members and supporters!
Here's to 144 years.

Photos by Tim Deever



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MARLA'S MUSINGS: BICENTENNIAL DONATION

By Marla Toncray



It seems not a day goes by that we don't receive a donation from a member of the community, or someone who once had relatives living in Maysville. These donations are evaluated for historical importance to our region and, if so, are then accessioned into our permanent collection of objects and documents.

A recent donation is a booklet published in 1992, for the Bicentennial celebration of Kentucky's statehood. Titled, **Mason County Fact and Folklore**, the booklet was a project of the Mason County Bicentennial Committee, sponsored by the Maysville Community College for the Bicentennial. Jean Calvert and John Klee served as editors of the booklet.

In the section about Moransburg, there is history on the area of Tuckahoe Ridge. The following is taken from that history, which was compiled by Jean Akin.

"A little beyond the top of the hill to the west of Moransburg lies beautiful Tuckahoe Ridge, known for its productive and fertile limestone-based soil. This ridge was named by the Virginians who settled there many years ago after the Tuckahoe section of Virginia from which they came. Many sections of Tuckahoe Ridge offer a spectacular view of the Ohio River Valley.



When the first white man, Christopher Gist, came to Kentucky in March 1751, he traveled this area and found the ridge interlaced with paths of Indians. Pioneers forced by massacres, ambushes, kidnappings, raids, and battles were hesitant to

explore and settle until 1784, when the Indians were subdued.

A number of the pioneer families received land grants on parchment signed by the thumb print of Patrick Henry in blood. One of these land grants was given to Colonel Thomas Colliver. Although, according to Elizabeth Pickett, he preferred to remain in Virginia, he built a palatial home 'to which his younger sons and daughters with their families migrated with slaves, livestock, and domestic gear to claim the crescent-shaped plateau of cane and forest which the patent located for them on the Southern Shore of the Ohio River between Lawrence and Lee Creeks.'

(Elizabeth Pickett Chevalier, *Drivin Woman*, p. 108.)

In 1797 a man by the name of Nathan Sidwell migrated to Kentucky and purchased a large tract of land in the Tuckahoe community on Lee's Creek. There, in 1813, he erected a large corn and flour mill. The basement and lower stories were of stone and the upper stories of wood. He built the mill and made the machinery for it, then raised his own wheat, ground it into flour, hauled it to the river, and shipped it to New Orleans, where it was regarded as the best flour that came to the market. These shipments lasted from 1814 to 1831, by which time it had become known as *Wolf's Mill*. Today, only the mill's stone foundation remains off the Tuckahoe Road.

The village of Tuckahoe consisted of a combined store and post office, a blacksmith shop, a tollgate house, and two residences. The post office and store were run for 28 years by W. L. Holton, who was succeeded by Jim Haggarty, a cripple, who lived across the road with his wife and several children. Holton also collected taxes at the tollgate, an important institution in the early days before roads were built and maintained by the state and federal governments. Those who used the roads paid tolls at the gates that were erected every so many miles, the proceeds being used to keep the roads passable.

Some of the lovely old homes in the Tuckahoe area were Timberlawn, the T. L. Holton place; Foxden, which used to be the S. Walton place; Children's Chance, the Osborne place; the Alice Drake home, which also was the Bacon house near the Tuckahoe and Valley Pikes; and Chisholm, on the T. A. Keith farm. Many prized hogsheads of tobacco left Tuckahoe for markets in Cincinnati."

Help Support Your Museum Center

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Or Call 606-564-5865 for Wormald Member Information

Thank You for Your Support

Education Escapades: Maysville's FIRST City Hall

BY TANDY FLOYD



The first cabin built where Old Washington is now was thought to have been built by Virginian, Johnathon Higgs in 1775. That same year, Simon Kenton and Thomas Williams finally found the cane land Kenton had been looking for. They landed in what would become

Limestone (Maysville), went inland and located a spot by Lawrence Creek and made camp. In 1776, known as the 'Year of the Common Man,' the Virginia Legislature legalized the "Corn patch and Cabin" right of title. That law encouraged settlers to open up the wilderness beyond the Blue Ridge by offering them 400 acres of free land if they built a cabin, planted a patch of corn and registered their claim by January 1, 1779. "In her history of Washington, Kentucky, Mrs. Edna Hunter Best said that Kenton (who guided in early settlers) selected the 'cream of the crop' from those arriving by flatboat, and since many of them accepted his offer to remain in Mason County towns, they became filled with illustrious men." Two of which were a surveyor, Arthur Fox, and a Baptist minister, William Wood, who purchased four hundred acres from Kenton and laid off a town which would become Washington. Originally, it was known as Fox Station and was in Bourbon County until Mason County was formed from Bourbon in 1788. By the following year, Washington became the county seat. This was all before Kentucky became a state!

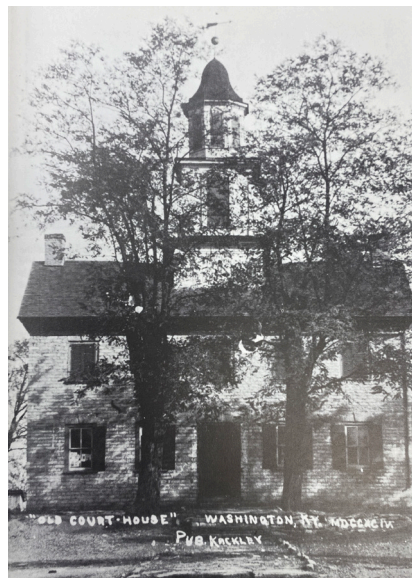
The first Federal Census was taken in 1790 and by that time Washington had a population of 462 and was the second largest town in Kentucky! A Virginia preacher and master stone mason, Lewis Craig, was employed to build the courthouse. The beautiful building made out of limestone "was the most important public place in Mason County for many years." The first Mason County court was held there; the first theatre ever performed west of the Alleghenies took place there. In the years 1797-98, *The Kentucky Palladium*, one of the first papers in the state was published in Washington by Hunter and Beaumont. The first fair in Mason County of record was held in Washington in 1838. "The town flourished as an agricultural center, an educational center, and a cultural center." Those traveling through Washington "found the highest type of pioneer community in full operation."

The walls of the Washington court house were "2ft thick. It was 2 stories high and extending across the whole front of the building was an impressive colonial porch with eight massive stone pillars and paved floor. The cupola for the bell was surmounted by an octagonal tower 25 feet high topped by a weather vane and gilded ball with an arrow showing the bent of the wind (dated 1794)." On one side of the "stately old structure was a long, low brick annex used as the county clerk's office."

There was a migration back to river trade when those that settled in central Kentucky wanted to ship in or out goods from the Ohio River. Maysville started to outgrow Washington and talk grew about moving the county seat. This created deep feelings on both sides. On February 1, 1844 the fight to build a new city hall began. "Too long had the council used the Old Market House. The citizens wanted a



building progressive as was the need. And so, they secured an 'act of assembly authorizing them to raise by taxation a sum not to exceed ten thousand dollars for purpose of erecting, in the city, an edifice to be used as City Hall, and for such other purposes as the council might designate.' The City Hall was erected in 1845. It was built to 'accommodate the travelers on (what is now U.S.) 68.'" "It was built by the people of the city and deeded to the county as a gift. A.M. January gave the most of his time supervising the structure and he put in a very modest bid of \$500, and the county rejected it." The building is believed to have been built by J.G. Natus Mitchell and Stanilaus Mitchell. It is Greek Revival with Doric Columns which are plaster covered. A Flemingsburg blacksmith fashioned the clock of wood in 1850. A Bill to remove the seat of Justice of the county of Mason from Washington to the city of Maysville was introduced in 1847 in the Kentucky House of Representatives. "At the August election, 1,428 votes were cast for moving and 1,194 against-making a majority of 232 favoring the removal."



Maysville's City Hall became the Mason County Hall of Justice on January 22, 1848 when the General Assembly enacted that "the seat of justice for the court of Mason be...removed from the edifice erected on said town and called City Hall, and conveyed to the county, is hereby established as the court house...and the jail lately erected in Maysville, and conveyed to the county, be declared the public jail." The first court held was on May 8, 1848. In the 1920s/early 30s, the court house was electrified. The 1st floor held a police station and council meeting room.

The courthouse in Washington became a school. "Classes were held there for many teachers who had been boarding students in their homes." Then, in 1909, lightning struck the structure and it was destroyed by fire. A plain metal star, part of the weather-vane that came from atop the cupola, was saved and given to circuit Judge John A. Breslin, Jr. A 1959 news article dates the star to 1723, although the true age of the piece is unknown. It is now mounted behind the judge's bench at the "Old" Mason County Courthouse. Calvert and Klee produced a wonderful pair of books- *The Towns of Mason County: Their Past in Pictures & Maysville, Kentucky from Past to Present in Pictures* where you will find pictures of both structures. They can be found in the Museum Gift Shop.

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