

VOLUME XXVIII • ISSUE V



KENTUCKY
GATEWAY
MUSEUM
CENTER

Messenger

KYGMC

HOME OF THE KSB MINIATURES COLLECTION
& THE OLD POGUE EXPERIENCE

MAYSVILLE, KENTUCKY

FEBRUARY & MARCH 2023

**A Little of This,
A Little of That:**

*Selections from the
Collection*



THE VIEW FROM SECOND AND SUTTON



Winter greetings from Second and Sutton Streets in historic downtown Maysville. The Museum is busy with staff, trustees and

volunteers preparing numerous special exhibits that will be on display this winter and spring at the Museum Center. The new year is a great time to express our appreciation for the support of members, patrons and guests that continue to support and fund the Museum Center. As we enter into this new beginning of 2023, it's a great time to discover our many exhibits and library reference materials for the first time or revisit once again the treasures of KYGMC

We are excited to report that in 2022 the Museum Center had over 20,000 guests and students served by our various programs and activities. This marks only the second time in our history (first was 2019) that our total number of attendees was over 20,000 adults and students.

We are excited to start the new year with sharing the treasures of our collections and the history of our region in 4 new historical exhibits. *The Wormald Buildings Historical Gallery* of changing exhibits is currently showcasing the rich and varied aspects of our African-American history with a KYGMC produced exhibit, **Remembering Our Region's African-American History**, curated by Dr. Cheryl French. The exhibits on African-American history will be on display until April 1. *The Wormald Galleries* on both the first and second floor feature the exhibit, **Vintage Weaponry**, with numerous historical guns, swords and related

armaments from our Museum Collection. The weaponry exhibit will be open until May 27. Working in collaboration with volunteers from St. Patrick Church in Maysville during the month of February will feature several cases for **Celebrating 175 Years of St. Patrick's Parish** in Maysville.

Our featured exhibit, **A Little of This, A Little of That: Selections from the Collection**, will be in the Calvert Gallery from February 1 to August 31. This is an interesting and intriguing look at some of the unique items in the Museum collection that tell our Maysville story. The exhibit was curated by Marla Toncray with the support of numerous museum volunteers and staff members. Visitors will need to take their time as they walk through this unusual look at the history of our corner of the world as told by items from our collection.

The Old Pogue Experience continues to bring visitors from around the world to see the many items documenting our rich Bourbon history. **The KSB Miniatures Gallery** is ever changing with new miniature scenes and displays from Kaye Browning's vast miniatures collection. The KSB Miniatures staff change the displays each season, currently featuring the exhibits of **Hearts and Flowers** with new artistic works for members and guests.

Mark your calendars for 2 very special spring events, our **Charter Celebration** and **Derby Day** at the Museum. To celebrate our storied history since 1878, we will be having our **Charter Reception on Thursday evening, March 23**. Plan on spending some time



on Saturday, May 6 in the Museum as we join together to enjoy Derby Day in downtown Maysville. Plan on wearing your finest Derby Hat and checking out the Museum's *Kentucky Derby Glasses* from collections of Fred Hester.

It's with great expectation that we celebrate the growth of our Museum's programs and services in 2023. I appreciate your support of the museum by your visits, words of encouragement to our staff, financial donations and the many hours of service from our Museum's volunteers and trustees.

It's going to be a great new year!

Take some time and visit your Museum as you rediscover the treasures on Second and Sutton Street. *Before tomorrow becomes yesterday ... we hope to see you soon at the Kentucky Gateway Museum Center*. Thank you for being a member and have a very blessed year 2023.

C.J. Hunter IV,
Executive Director



An Exciting New Year

BY KAYE BROWNING



A new year always brings hope and excitement for what it may bring, but I was taken by surprise when it brought me an honor I never expected to receive. The Governor's Awards in the Arts chosen by the Kentucky Arts Council selected me as their Milner Award recipient in recognition of those "who have made extraordinary and significant contributions to the arts in Kentucky." I was humbled to say the least.

She was so proud of his accomplishments as an author, so this has a double meaning for me.

Perhaps most important is that receiving the Milner Award is a milestone for artisans in the miniatures' world. As you know, recognition of miniatures as an art form has been a goal of mine for many years. The Kentucky Arts Council has made that happen. My thanks to them on behalf of all miniaturists, from Kentucky and across the globe.

Another goal close to my heart, education in regard to miniatures, has been realized thanks to our historical displays and special programs. Miniatures teach us profoundly and visually what life was like in the past allowing viewers to connect in a deeper way when they take in the exhibits. It's witnessed in the hundreds of school children's faces as they explore the gallery every year. In addition, our hands-on workshops have enlightened students of all ages. Museum scouts create 1/12-scale photo albums as they learn about genealogy and in our IGMA classes, adults are taught valuable skills by master artisans from around the world.

To me, the arts, in whatever form, are all about communication and connectivity. They transcend all languages. Thank you to everyone at the museum—staff, volunteers, members and visitors who continue to help make this possible. You have all contributed to this award.

CAPTIONS:

Left: Kaye accepting the Milner Award from Governor Andy Beshear (right) and Secretary of Kentucky Tourism, Arts & Heritage Cabinet, Mike Berry (left).

PHOTO: Caroline Reece

Below: Kaye with Maysville Mayor Debra Cotterill, who nominated her for the award.

PHOTO: Caroline Reece



Governor Beshear, along with those from the Kentucky Arts Council, presented the awards in Frankfort at the Kentucky State Capitol in January. A few friends and family, museum staff members, Director of Maysville Main Street Caroline Reece, Tourism Director for Maysville & Mason County Katelyn Baily and Maysville Mayor Debra Cotterill, who nominated me, all went along for the trip to share in my excitement. And exciting it was!

My passion for collecting highly detailed 1/12-scale artistry has brought much joy to me over the years, and watching the joy the KSB Miniatures Collection has brought to visitors from 50 states and 37 countries is truly thrilling. I'm overwhelmed that I have received this distinction for doing what I love and to know that I stand with other recipients such as Jesse Stuart, my favorite poet, and Robert Penn Warren. I was introduced to Mr. Warren in 1959 by his sister who was also my high school French teacher.



Marla's Musings: A Little of This, A Little of That

By Marla Toncray

Wow, it has been a busy January here at KYGMC! There are four new exhibits now open for your enjoyment located throughout the museum.



In the *Wormald Gallery*, visitors will enjoy viewing the *Vintage Weaponry, Celebrating 175 Years of St. Patrick's Parish*, and *Remembering Our Region's African-American History* exhibits.

A special thanks to our volunteer curators Dr. Cheryl French, Valerie Bennett-Jones and Carol Bennett for their African-American exhibit and Charlene Boggs, Maurita Owens and Gayle McKay for their help with the St. Patrick exhibit.

While coming up with a concept for the *Jean Calvert Gallery*, I decided it would be interesting and fun to dig into our collection and showcase items that are rarely, if ever, on display. So, the concept of the theme was set, and we have entitled it *A Little of This, A Little of That: Selections from the Collection*.

And just as the name implies, you will see an eclectic variety of our collection, all of which have been donated to us over the years.



Sometimes as a curator, one can get "tunnel vision" on what we think our audience will want to see. In fact, that's what happened to me while moving the items from the basement to the gallery.

I had enlisted the help of several member volunteers to help with this move and without their help, it wouldn't have been set up as smoothly or creatively without them. Many thanks to Peter Chamness, Jerry and Connie Dixon, Mary and David Doyle, Mike Breslin, Jerry Long and Trevor Lawrence.

It was Peter, Mike, Jerry, David and Jerry in fact that convinced me to display Robert Roe's model of the Nautilus, the submarine from Jules Verne's book, *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*.

I just didn't get the appeal when they discovered the model downstairs, but I finally came to my senses and realized, this was what our members wanted to see, so if they want it, so will someone else. I hope you



will enjoy seeing it also.....you can't miss it.

We have also pulled out portraits that were donated to us in 2022 and have never been displayed before. These are Mr. and Mrs. James H. Hall, owners of the Hall Plough Factory, and Colonel Duvall Payne, one of Augusta's most distinguished citizens and the man for whom the Payne Cemetery in Augusta is named.

There is a taxi cab license plate from 1949-1950; the sign for the Maysville Younger Women's Club, which met on Thursday's at the Harbeson; a blown glass walking stick that made its way from New Orleans to Maysville via steamboat



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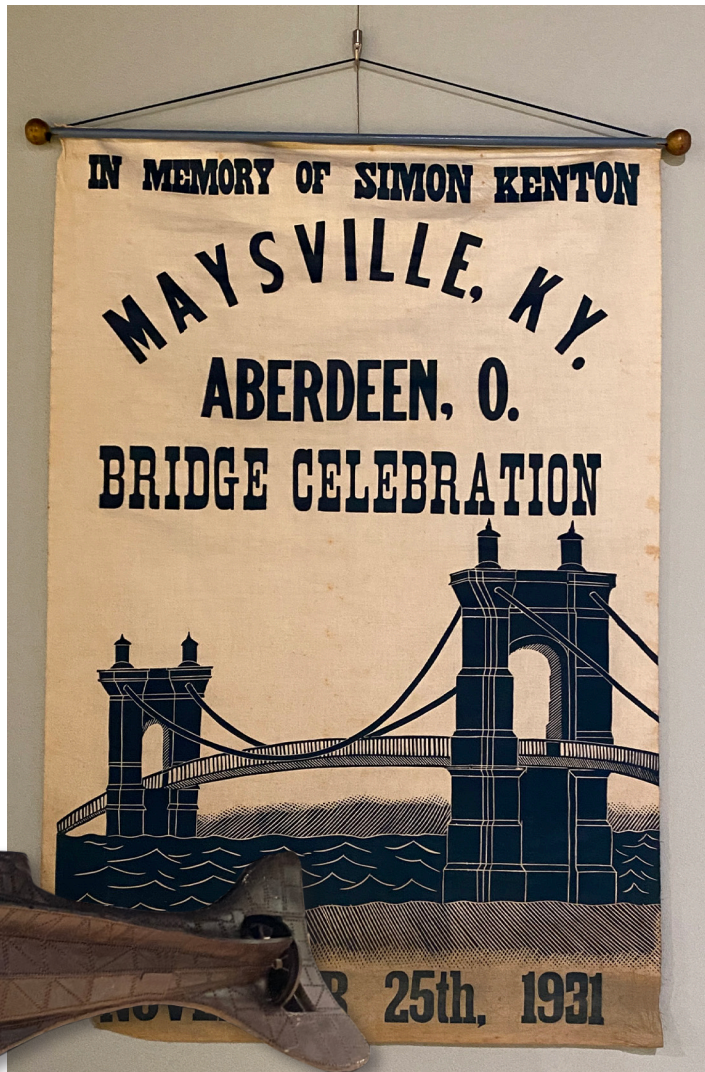
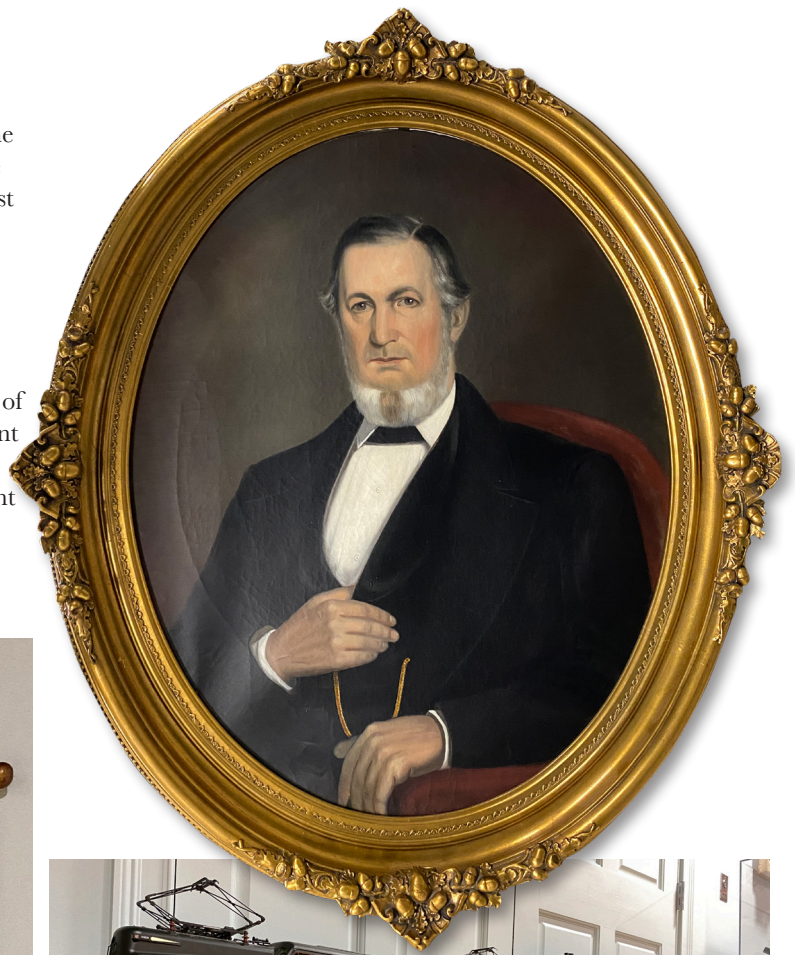
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following the Civil War; a West Point Military uniform; an old washing machine; a cream separator; and several items from the Maysville Fire Department, including the bell which used to be on the Lady of the Lake firetruck when the department was first known as the Neptune Fire Company.

Mike Denham's chair from the Kentucky House of Representatives is on display, along with a variety of old trunks and an expandable dress form.

One of my favorite items is the old broom hanging on the wall of the gallery. It came from the original Merz Brothers Department store and the unusual length of the broom is due to the fact it needed to reach heights of up to 12 feet, so the ceilings and light fixtures of the store could be cleaned.

Please come by and check out all that's going on here at the museum....it's never a dull moment.



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WE ALSO WELCOMED VISITORS FROM 20 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES:
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Thank You for Your Support

Education Escapades: Simon Kenton and the History of Limestone

BY TANDY FLOYD



When the mist is over the Ohio River, Maysville looks magically remote from reality and unaffected by time. It's as if, out of the fog you could see frontiersmen canoeing down the river to find the cane-lands.

In 1770, George Washington, while on a visit to the Ohio Valley, observed that the Ohio was navigable, even over dams and riffles at the heads of numerous islands, by boats rowed and set up with poles and with canoes which made twenty miles daily against the current and with it a good deal more. Benjamin Franklin pointed out the possibility of drawing from the Ohio Valley naval stores and raw materials for the 'manufactories' of Europe, as well as the possibility of supplying the West Indies, the Floridas, and Mexico with lumber and provisions, particularly flour and corn from the same source.

The English had taken permanent possession of the Ohio Valley, and traders, accompanied in some instance by actual settlers, began to reach the upper Ohio in considerable numbers, stationing themselves along the Monongahela and in the vicinity of Fort Pitt. Private individuals and firms were making active preparations to participate in the Indian trade on the Ohio which resulted in opening up the entire Ohio Valley to free and uninterrupted trade with the English.

As early as 1765, a boat yard at Pittsburgh was established for fabrication of galley bateaux and other craft. In a short time, 65 boats had been completed; 300 rivermen were navigating the Ohio; and merchandise valued at 50,000 English pounds was finding a market in the interior. Settlers looking for a new life and favorable conditions turned to Kentucky.

The following years opened the Ohio River to the few and hardy who blazed the trail for Anglo-Saxon occupancy of the Ohio Valley. The names of these few are legion. Colonel George Croghan, in 1765; Captain Henry Gordon, who followed a year later; Samuel Harrod and Michael Stoner in 1767. Down the winding Ohio they plotted every pitfall, noted every danger, and in 1771, one, more daring, more visionary than had been his predecessor made his way into what is known now as Mason County. Simon Kenton - the father of Mason County. At just 16 years of age, Kenton had listened to stories from a man called Yeager who had been captured by Indians when he was young and had lived with them long enough to have learned the languages. He had told Kenton about his coming down the Ohio looking for the Cane-lands.

Limestone received its early name in 1773. A company of 9 men, including Captain Thomas Young, Capt. John Hedges and Lawrence Darnell, came down the Ohio from Pittsburgh. One of the party had heard of the landing at the mouth of Limestone Creek and guided the adventurous party into the cove. Here the company camped several days, on the exact spot Maysville was later to cover. Captain Hedges called the site Limestone. The name spread among other parties attempting the down river voyage. It became a by-word and ultimate destination. At the same time, the party made a number of exploring forays on one of which Lawrence Darnell came upon a creek he immediately named Lawrence. That name, too, has lasted long after memory of its author has grown dim and perished.

The Revolutionary period in America marked the beginning of a new era in transportation history of the Ohio Valley. The dugout held on somewhat longer than the Canoe, particularly on the lower Ohio. Great

numbers again began to float their heavily laden canoes down the Ohio to the mouth of Limestone Creek. The pilot, guardian and advisor to most of these companies was the still youthful Simon Kenton.

Pittsburgh needed a suitable boat for large families, most of them with household goods, farming implements and domestic animals. The flatboat became the favorite of moving families. These were rectangular structures boarded up at both sides to a height of from two to three feet. The poorer sort had no covering but were provided with a shed in the rear for horses and cattle and a cabin forward for the use of the owner and his family. Others, those used for short trips, were partly covered and were called Kentucky boats or broadhorns. Those used for longer trips were known as New Orleans boats and were covered throughout their entire length. Propelled by "sweeps" alongside, a long oar astern, which served as a rudder and by a short oar in front known as a "gouger." Sails and oars were sometimes used. Main reliance was on the current. Each was equipped with a "hawser" - a strong rope which was made fast to a tree or stump on shore to whip it over sandbars and riffles.



The year 1780 found the immediate Valley of the Ohio little more than a wilderness. At its head under the guns of Fort Pitt, nestled the hundred or more cabins called Pittsburgh. The site of what is now Wheeling, was occupied by a fort and a few log cabins. Farther down, on a flat spread out at the foot of a low range of hills, were some huts that marked the site of what is now Cincinnati; still farther down, at 'The Falls', were the 3 streets and a cluster of cabins that already bore the name of Louisville, the only place on the lower Ohio that could boast a store; a fort had been built at the mouth of the Great Miami; some rude dwellings marked the present site of Clarksville; and the location of Limestone, now Maysville had been determined. In 1778 the Kentucky district contained less than 200 residents.

In 1783, one of the first Kentucky flatboats to leave the colonies for the wilderness, brought the first actual settlers of Mason County. On board were 41 passengers: Kenton and his family with others like Law, Berry, Whitehouse, Metcalf, Griffith, McGraw, the Berry's cat and 19 horses. This year would mark Maysville as a riverport where Limestone Landing welcomed the first permanent settlers to this part of Kentucky and where many others found a safe landing place from which to push on into the interior. In 1784, Kenton had built the first Station in Mason County. And, out of the mist, most of the settlers entering this region came down the headwaters of the Ohio.

If there are lessons or educational standards that you would like KYGMC to address in order to enhance your units of study, please email education@kygmc.org or call Tandy Floyd at 606-564-5865. You will be surprised at the activities and artifacts we can provide!

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