

KYGMCC

Home of the KSB Miniatures Collection
and Old Pogue Experience

Window to the past.

Bridge to the future.



KENTUCKY
GATEWAY
MUSEUM
CENTER

Messenger

VOLUME XXIV

ISSUE I

MAYSVILLE, KENTUCKY

WINTER / JANUARY 2019



HIXSON'S HOARDINGS AND MORE...

HEMP ON THE HORIZON

READ MORE OF THE STORY: WHAT CAUSED THE
CROP'S DECLINE?



ing Room, Main Cross Street.
Maysville, March 8, 1837.—4

MILL STONES.
ONE Pair 4 foot Raccoon Burr Mill Stone warranted to be of a superior quality, be exchanged for Flour at the market price, sold on a credit of one year for \$160.
July 3, 1837. J. D. MILVAIN.

Rope Manufactory.
WILL be manufactured under the direction of Mr. B. COMSTOCK, all the Varieties of Cordage,
In superior order—such as
Grass Dunt Cables and stern fast,
Do. Halter Rope, Clothes and Sacking Cords,
Do. Bed Cords and Plow Lines,
Hemp Bed Cords and Plow Lines,
Do. Trot and Stage Lines,
Do. White Rope and Lash Rope
Do. Packing Yarn,
Do. Sewing Twine,
Do. Bale Rope.
A constant supply of the above articles kept on hand, and can be had either at the Rope Walk, or at our Ware House, and will be sold on as good terms as they can be purchased in the Western country. Orders for any sizes, not on hand, will be furnished at short notice.
Cash will be paid for a few TONS GOOD HEMP.
JANUARY & HUSTON.
Maysville, Feb. 8, 1837.

THE VIEW FROM SECOND AND SUTTON

Our Museum Staff, Trustees and Volunteers would like to wish our Museum Members and Friends a very **Happy New Year 2019!** It's a new year and a time for new beginnings as you discover our many exhibits for the first time or revisit once again the treasures of the Museum Center. It's a time when we have the *Limestone Building* open for the **Old Pogue Experience**. It's a time of expanded educational services with our three new classrooms on the second floor of the *Limestone Building*. It's a full year of old and new exhibits from the *KSB Collection* to displays of historical fabrics, fashions and clothing. It's a time of sharing the treasures of our collections in new historical exhibits of our region. *The Old Pogue Experience* will offer changing exhibits starting in the summer of 2019 along with expanded historical exhibits.

I appreciate your support of the museum by your visits, words of encouragement to our staff, the donation of artifacts, the loaning of objects for our exhibits, the many hours of service from our volunteers and trustees, and your continued financial support during 2018. It's with great expectation that we celebrate the growth of our Museum programs and services as we continue to ask for your financial donations and attendance during 2019 in the Museum Center.

We continue to meet visitors and members from around the world as we celebrate exciting exhibits throughout the Museum Center. This winter's signature exhibit is the new *KSB Miniatures Exhibit: Scaled to Perfection, A Gallery of New Miniatures*. features **Russian Art and Catherine's Palace**. This special KSB Miniatures produced exhibit in the Calvert Gallery will remain open through May 2019.

The new series of exhibits for 2019 begins with our **Wormald Collector's Series** featuring the historical exhibit, **Celebrating Fifty Years of the Ledger-Independent**. This reflective exhibit will be on display starting in late January. It will showcase the history of our newspaper and the many individuals that are and have been a part of recording our local history.

We continue to be very excited to be a part of the **North American Reciprocal Museum Association** with KYGMC **Wormald Members** enjoying reciprocal admission to 1,013 participating institutions across North America. Feel free to check out the many benefits of the Reciprocal Membership with any of the Museum staff members. Members may check the complete list of the NARM member institutions at the association website

at NARMAssociation.org. The **KYGMC Wormald Sustaining Membership** is the regular membership charge plus \$100.00. These donations make it possible to continue our local service mission and programs along with allowing the **KYGMC Wormald Member** free admission to the NARM participating museums.

The feature exhibit of the summer months opening on June 15 is **Mission Aerospace** – a themed maze from MinoTaur Mazes of Seattle, Washington. Featuring in addition to the maze for visitors, additional stations that will show the history of flight, navigation, and NASA's vision for the future. Experience exhibit stations will be showcased dealing with thrust, lift and gyroscopes. The building of rockets and paper airplanes will involve testing them for distance and air dexterity. The exhibit will be in the *Calvert Gallery* until September 15.

It's going to be a great new year! Take some time during the new year and visit your Museum as you rediscover the treasures on Second and Sutton Street. Thank you for being a member and have very Happy New Year!

C.J. Hunter
Executive Director

MARLA'S MUSINGS

By Marla Toncraay

Harriet Johnson...A collector of objects d'art

There are so many treasures just waiting to be discovered in the objects Collection area of the Museum Center.

Stored in a climate controlled environment in the basement of the museum are portable writing desks that would have been used during the owner's travels; an early model of a Remington typewriter; priceless quilts; furniture; maps; and more.

Housed in two archival boxes is the collection of Maysville native Harriet Johnson. Harriet made her way to New York City where she became a collector and connoisseur of artists'

pieces, most specifically snuffboxes.

The collection has a definite theme of royalty since it is filled with coronation cups, snuffboxes, a wine taster and portraits of English and Russian royal families.

So who was Harriet Johnson? She was the ninth child of James A. Johnson and Elizabeth Payne Johnson, born March 27, 1873. Her father was a banker in Maysville with Pearce Wallingford & Company. The family lived on East Third between Market and Court streets.

Continued on inside back page...

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MINIATURES CORNER

By Kaye Browning

Megler Landing is finally on display and I couldn't be happier. One of my new favorites, it's a massive vintage miniature Victorian home that you'll notice immediately upon entering the Calvert Gallery. Created by Pat and Noel Thomas, it's reminiscent of the statuesque homes found in coastal towns of the Pacific Northwest—one of those houses you walk by on the street and so desire to see what it looks like inside!

Part Gothic, part gingerbread, the large green clapboard structure was house #24 for the couple, who had a reputation for not only constructing realistic period-specific dollhouses, but for creating them with an engaging lived-in appeal. Noel and Pat's work was



The living room was designed as a comfortable space where the whole family could congregate and enjoy activities together.



The bedroom features period-specific furniture like the bed and Wooten desk.



Megler Landing is reminiscent of Victorian homes in Astoria, Oregon.

so popular at the time, that the young couple commissioning the house in the late Seventies were told it would be a four-year wait.

During that time, they had a son, Brody, whose name you'll see etched in dust on the garage window, just one of the touches the Thomases added that makes their signature work so special. The beloved Victorian remained in the family for almost four decades. Now, in its new home, I hope each person who views it will feel they are welcome to step inside and explore each and every room, nook and cranny. And there are many—more than a dozen rooms, a basement, an attic, garage with an upstairs area and even a secret room (which I have not found yet).

There were no furnishings other than a cooking stove and kitchen table included with the house, so all pieces are from the collection. One fascinating piece is a Wooten desk by Orvin Fjare. Known as the *king of desks* in the late 1800s, you'll find it in the cove of the upstairs bedroom.



The Thomases etched the original owners' child's name on the window of the garage.

Another room I especially enjoyed furnishing was the living room. Take note of the arm chairs. Remember the crocheted doilies at grandma's house? They are actually called *antimacassars* and came to use in the early 19th century to preserve fabric from the heavy Macassar oil that men used on their hair at the time.

I also love the garage and attic. Truth be known, I adore everything about *Megler*. I feel an emotional connection to the previous owners and to how they felt about the house and hope it depicts the

same feelings they wanted it to portray. I also hope it becomes one of your new favorites, too. So, after exploring, please let me know what you think and if you have any idea of where that secret room may be!

Have a Happy New Year, everyone! Thank you for your support and friendship this past year. I

look forward to seeing you in 2019.

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HIXSON'S HOARDINGS AND MORE...

By Tandy Nash

On December 20th, 2018 the President signed the Farm Bill which deemed hemp a legal agricultural commodity, and products such as hemp-derived cannabidiol (CBD) can no longer be mistaken as controlled substances, like marijuana. Due to the efforts of a bi-partisan group of Congressmen and the support from farm groups such as the American Farm Bureau Federation and the National Farmers Union, as well as state Agriculture Commissioners, "an exciting, emerging, multi-billion-dollar hemp industry is now unleashed, providing economic opportunity to farmers and small businesses all across America." Scientific research has shown CBD, which is safe, non-toxic, and non-addictive, can help with everything from general aches and pains to cancer-related nausea and epilepsy. The Food and Drug Administration made history by approving a drug containing CBD to treat two rare and severe forms of epilepsy. With Hemp classified as a regular agricultural crop, it means growers across America can begin cultivating and selling it, buying federally- subsidized crop insurance, filing for trademarks and advertising their product. This means we will likely start seeing a whole lot more hemp-derived products on store shelves soon.

The settlers of Limestone (Maysville) grew hemp and tobacco for export to New Orleans as their cash crop. Hemp was used to make rope which was used extensively on the river and through the frontier. By the 1830's, Maysville was second only to Louisville in the production of finished hemp products. In 1842 3,000 tons of hemp was raised here and, by 1844, Mason County was the largest hemp market in the United States! It was the staple crop of the county, reaching its highest yield in 1847.

There were warehouses and hemp walks all over the county. The Nicholas Arthur Factory in Maysville used horses to supply the power for his hemp walk and processed 600,000 pounds of rope a year worth \$41,000. One warehouse was on West Third at the site of the new court house. In was built in 1840 "when hemp was king, and Mason County was counted one of the top hemp growing counties in the nation. Built as a hemp storage warehouse, it was owned by one of our town's wealthiest men in those days long ago- a gentleman named Michael Ryan. He built his family home "Riverside" with a huge front porch where it was said he enjoyed sitting and watching riverboats



One of the two remaining Shultz houses (Woodlawn) built for his daughter Catherine on Fleming Road.

float by. Mr. Ryan was a musician and tales were told that the passengers on the boat could often hear him play his flute. "After Ryan's death, the property became the home of Henry Pogue, the owner of Maysville's largest distilleries." The Pogues made improvements to it and decided to call it "Star Terrace", which is on Route 8. In Orloff and Liz Miller's seminar on hemp at KYGMC, they told of a traveler's description of a Mason County hemp farm in the mid-1840's. "Stopping two miles or so short of Washington we diverged to Prospect Hill, the plantation of Judge [Adam] Beatty, who has so much distinguished himself in Kentucky as a writer on agriculture and as a practical

farmer...it embraces 400 acres...The main crop is hemp and we know of no place of anything like this size which is superior to the plantation at Prospect Hill." Beatty had come to Washington in 1802. He married Miss Sally Green, eldest daughter of Capt. John Green. He served in the state senate from 1836-1839, was Vice President of the Kentucky Agricultural Society and President of the Mason County Agricultural Society. Beatty was in the thick of the Hemp Culture Improvement Movement and wrote numerous articles on his theories and practice of farming and particularly his success with growing hemp. His works were widely published, bringing national renown to Beatty and Mason County.



Michael Ryan's hemp warehouse on 3rd & Sutton Streets

Another Mason County mover and shaker at the time was Christian Shultz. Shultz owned a Hemp Bagging Factory, was an entrepreneur, merchant trader and manufacturer. His company made hemp bagging, rope and twine. "It took in 825 tons of hemp valued at \$41,000 and turned it into 870,000 yards of bagging for cotton bales valued at \$130,000 and 23,000 lbs. of twine valued at \$3,000.

Continued on next page...

He had 60 men and 60 women working for him." His beautiful house built on West 2nd later became the C & O Depot and was torn down after the '37 flood. With his fortune, he gave land to his 3 daughters and had houses built on the Fleming Road- 2 of which still stand. "Glenwilde" was built for his daughter Catherine, (Mrs. J.B. Pointz) which is now known as "Woodlawn", "Mound Place" was built for Mrs. J. S. Chenoweth, and the house for his daughter Maria, (Mrs. Charles B. Pearse,) no longer stands. You can still see many homes in the area that were built during the hemp boom. The economic success of the region "was propelled by hemp whether their farms were involved in the actual cultivation of hemp...and like any other economic boom, the hemp boom favored particular neighborhoods as fashionable. For Maysville, that was the wonderful district of Greek Revival houses of the West End."

If you come to the Kentucky Gateway Museum Center you can find maps of Rope Walks, pictures of farmers growing and cutting hemp, items from hemp factories from the area and other wonderful artifacts. There is a Civil War receipt signed by Charles A. Marshall founder of the Maysville Linen Company which was involved in the preparation of linen

made from hemp and flax. (Marshall also experimented with a new type of hemp, called Chinese hemp which yielded better than the commonly used Russian hemp.) There is a letter from Thomas H. Clay to A.M. January & Son in Maysville with information about coils of rope to be sent to New Orleans with "his father's bagging" and a post script with Henry Clay's signature to "put the charges on his account". We even have a copy of Adam Beatty's book.

In 1850, Maysville was the largest hemp port in America and the 2nd largest in the world. Today, Mason County's cultivation has entirely ceased except for a pilot farm out on U.S. 68. As steamboats appeared and the frontier disappeared, demand for hemp declined and the Maysville farmers increased production of other goods, particularly tobacco. Hemp was also very labor intensive. Most of the hemp was produced by smaller farms and was never the central crop in local farmer's production. In 1850, 365 were



A recent side view of the second of the two remaining Shultz houses (named Mound Place due to the Indian mound in the front yard) built for his daughter Mrs. J. S. Chenoweth.

hemp growers or 43% of farmers and in 1860, 98 were hemp growers or 12% of farmers. "The Civil War and end of slavery and slave labor helped to end the Hemp Boom-but as big a problem was the inability to find a way to successfully mechanize hemp processing. Jute from the Phillippines also undermined the market."

Hemp is still used in clothing, biofuels, plastics, personal care, feed and food. During the last several decades, the U.S. has imported all of our hemp. Here's hoping the passage of this bill will bring good things for the New Year.

Marla's Musing's continued...

At the time of her death in 1958, she was most widely known to Maysville citizens as the aunt of Mrs. George Ballou.

Harriet was educated in Maysville during her childhood and then continued her education at private schools in the south before moving to Chicago in 1902 to study commercial art.

According the Public Ledger newspaper at the time of her death in 1958 "before her retirement (in 1949 due to a stroke) Miss Johnson operated an unusual antique shop and also was well known as an interior decorator of distinction. She traveled extensively in Europe for art collectors and through her efforts, several important specimens of snuff boxes and miniatures are now on display at museums in various part of the world."



A garnet snuffbox from Harriett Johnson's collection currently on display.

In 1937, her antique shop was located at 1055 Madison Avenue, New York, New York.

Beginning in 1946, Harriet began donating her collection to the Maysville-Mason County Public Library during construction of the Hunt Building. By 1954, the Library had received the bulk of the collection.

A small sampling of Harriet's collection is on display now in the atrium of the KYGMC and includes such impressive items as a wine taster for Russian Czar Nicholas II. The taster is said to have come from the second floor of the Czar's palace in St. Petersburg.

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**Annual Charter
Dinner**

March 2019

*Details in February's
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