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KENTUCKY  
GATEWAY  
MUSEUM  
CENTER

# Messenger

**KYGMC**

HOME OF THE KSB MINIATURES COLLECTION  
& THE OLD POGUE EXPERIENCE

MAYSVILLE, KENTUCKY

SPRING/MAY 2023



# THE VIEW FROM SECOND AND SUTTON



Greetings from the Gateway Museum celebrating our 145th year of our Association! It's that time of year for graduations, spring flowers, blooming azaleas, trees and family gatherings. It's the start of the summer season of family reunions and vacation trips for many – make sure you make the Museum a stop with your family and friends during this coming summer season. It's a great time to visit and experience your Museum!

We continue to expand our seminar offerings for members and guests in 2023. Beginning in April, we will be starting a new series of Museum Seminars on selected Saturday mornings in the Research Library, coordinated by Cay Chamness. Check the schedule and take time to reflect on many of the special topics, speakers and authors that are a part of the seminar programs in 2023. Ron Bailey's *All Things Maysville* continues in the Still Room in the Limestone Building each Tuesday afternoon from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

This spring, we have a new exhibit on *Banking in the Buffalo Trace* displayed on the second floor of the *Wormald Gallery*. This collection features numerous items related to the many community banks in the Maysville area. The Museum celebrates the Derby with numerous activities and displays from our hat collections to the *Fred Hester Collection of Kentucky Derby Glasses* display in the Calvert Hallway. One of the frequent questions of our Riverboat and out of town guests centers on the Clooney family. Marla Toncray, our exhibits curator, has prepared several cases showcasing the Clooney family in the *Wormald Gallery*.

The *KSB Miniatures Collection* is always changing and featuring the theme *Celebrating Summer* for viewing during the summer months. It seems on every wall of the Museum and the *Old Pogue Experience* there are new updated exhibits, paintings, and historic artifacts on display.

The Board of Trustees welcomes three new individuals in 2023 to serve on the

*Association's Board of Trustees*. Elected as new members on our Association Board include Rod Baker, Ron Bailey, and Adam Hinton. These individuals join Board President Gerry Schumacher along with members Chris Bauer, Robert Boone, Tim Brannon, Kaye Browning, Dan Fannin, and Joe McKay on the Board of Trustees. We appreciate their leadership and willingness to serve our institution as members of our board.

The Museum continues to partner with the *North American Reciprocal Museum Association* to expand your membership benefit to a network of over one thousand museums, galleries, botanical gardens, children's museums, zoos and more across North America. Your *KYGMC Wormald Membership* includes the *NARM* benefit. The cost of the *Wormald Membership* is a regular membership plus \$100.00. Check at the Atrium desk with our staff for additional information. If you are traveling this summer pack your bags and your KYGMC Wormald Membership Card! It's a great benefit for our members and a wonderful way to support your museum.

The Museum's *Atrium Gift Shop* has added new summer and gift merchandise that includes a wide range of greeting cards and books ... check out our shops before your next gift purchase with the proceeds supporting your Museum.

Hope to see you soon in the Museum ....

Remember before tomorrow becomes yesterday ... visit your Museum. Thank you for being a member!

**C.J. Hunter IV,**  
**Executive Director**



# Education Escapades: The Freedom Riders

BY TANDY FLOYD



I had the opportunity to help judge “Frontier History” projects for Kathy Bess’s students at St. Patrick’s School. One of the projects inspired me greatly. Josie Ripato, a seventh grader in Mrs. Bess’s class did a project on *Brown v. Board of Education: Frontier in Racial Equality*. When asking her about her research and what surprised her the most, her reply was that black and white people attended separate schools and that those schools for Blacks were poorer than the schools for white students. They studied out of used books, there were outhouses for bathrooms. In questioning her more, I realized that none of these students, heck, many of these teachers, weren’t even alive when the civil rights movement started. I hadn’t even been born when in 1954, in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that separate is not equal and segregation was illegal. I had never attended a segregated school!

Life in the southern United States was extremely divided. Not only did Black and white people attend separate schools, they sat in separate areas in buses, restaurants and theaters; Even drinking fountains and bathrooms were separated by race and blacks had lesser things.

For several hundreds of years, white people had forced African Americans into slavery. A huge percentage of the blacks who were shipped out of Africa were taken captive by other black Africans for the sole purpose of selling them as slaves to the highest bidder.

After the Civil War, life in the United States changed. The 13th Amendment to the Constitution made slavery in the United States illegal. (Slavery in Great Britain was made illegal in 1807. The same year,

Thomas Jefferson made it illegal to import African slaves into the U. S. It was actually made illegal in the British colony of Massachusetts in 1641. In Denmark-Norway, it was banned in 1803.) African Americans were free. “*White Southerners worried about going from owning black people to being on an equal footing with them. White people were afraid of what would happen to their towns, schools, and churches when people from a different culture joined them.*”

White Southerners found an answer by deciding to keep whites and blacks separate. The Supreme Court supported the idea (*Plessy v. Ferguson*). The Court said “separate but equal” was fair and the South began a life of segregation. They also passed what they called “Jim Crow laws”- state and local statutes that legalized racial segregation. These laws made it difficult for black citizens to vote, get good jobs, or a good education. The laws also kept blacks from protesting their treatment.

By the 1950s, people started working for change. Josie’s project showed her fellow students that *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* ruled by the Supreme Court of the United States, that separate is not equal. Mason County’s Justice Stanley Forman Reed was on the US Supreme Court at the time. There’s a possibly apocryphal story that SCOTUS’ Chief Justice Earl Warren told Reed, “*Stanley, this WILL be a unanimous decision. Forget your Kentucky background.*” All Southern schools must accept students of all races. Not only that, it sparked protests like the bus boycott when Rosa Parks refused to give up her bus seat to a white man. Both Black and white Americans started fighting for equality in schools, jobs, and public places.

The *Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee* (SNCC) was formed. Initially the SNCC continued the focus on sit-ins and boycotts targeting establishments (restaurants, retail stores, theaters) and public amenities maintaining whites-only or segregated facilities. But it was to adopt a new tactic that helped galvanize the movement nationally. Sit-in protests

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would lead to arrests and they followed the example of the *Friendship Nine* in enduring an extended jail time rather than post bail. The “Jail-no-Bail” stand was seen as a moral refusal to accept, and to effectively subsidize, a corrupted constitution-defiant police and judicial system—while at the same time saving the movement money it did not have.

As a way to dramatize that the church, the house of all people, fosters segregation more than any other institution, SNCC students also participated in “kneel-ins”—kneeling in prayer outside of Whites-only churches. Presbyterian churches, targeted because their “ministers lacked the protection and support of a church hierarchy,” were not long indifferent. In August 1960, the 172nd General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church wrote to SNCC: “Laws and customs requiring racial discrimination are, in our judgement, such serious violations of the law of God as to justify peaceful and orderly disobedience or disregard of these laws.”

In 1960, the Supreme Court ordered interstate buses and stations to desegregate (*Boynton v. Virginia*). The South ignored the court’s ruling. People of all ages and

races began to test the segregation rules by joining the *Freedom Riders*.

In May 1961, the first Freedom Riders (seven black and six white) traveled together on interstate buses. They were brutally attacked by mobs of Ku Klux Klansmen in Anniston. Local police stood by. After that, they were assaulted again in Birmingham, Alabama. Undeterred, new Riders traveled on to a savage beating in Montgomery, Alabama, to arrests in Jackson, Mississippi, and to confinement in the Maximum Security (Death Row) Unit of the infamous Mississippi State Penitentiary — Parchman Farm.

Sometimes, God puts you in the right place at the right time. A wonderful man who visited the museum was telling me about Hezekiah Watkins. The man was inviting Mr. Watkins to visit Kentucky and give his personal accounts of becoming a Freedom Rider after being a black child of 13, arrested, and put in Parchman Farm just for being at the bus terminal in Jackson.

The Kentucky Gateway Museum Center is proud to announce that Hezekiah Watkins will give a seminar at the Saint Patrick’s School auditorium on May 11th at 10:00 A.M. The Community is welcome to attend and more information can be obtained by contacting [education@kygmc.org](mailto:education@kygmc.org). KYGMC is grateful to the local friends of education that are helping us bring Mr. Watkins to Maysville. It is wonderful to know that we have so many community members and businesses that see the importance of primary resources in teaching history in such an exciting way.



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# Miniature of the Month: Mother's Day

BY KAYE BROWNING



The month of May brings so much to celebrate, but Mother's Day is especially cherished by me. In fact, the

KSB Miniatures Collection contains many items reminiscent of my mother, Lillian Mitchell Savage. Having the opportunity to remember our mothers in very special ways, especially if they are no longer with us, is part of why I use miniatures in certain settings. In my earlier days of collecting, if I were to find an item in miniature like one my mother collected in full size, it always struck a chord in me.

One such item was the "Merry Wanderer" M.I. Hummel figurine of a perky little boy carrying an umbrella under his arm and a suitcase in his hand. I remember admiring Mom's collectible long before I ever dreamed of having a museum of miniatures. When we knew the museum would become a reality, I asked my mother if I could have the figurine to exhibit, proudly showing her that I had one just like it in miniature. She just beamed! That display is so dear to my



heart now as I see the two items together showing scale along with other furniture and objet d'art items to enhance the setting.

The 1/12th-scale Hummel figure was created by Robert Olszewski, who has a vast body of figurative work culminating in partnerships with Goebel who produced Hummel, Disney and many more. He began

creating miniatures in the '70s after leaving teaching and was selling them at shows. When representatives from Goebel saw his fine-scale work, they asked to see his factory. Imagine their surprise when he walked them to the bedroom closet of his California home and showed them his "studio" where he had singularly produced 14 different figurines and about 4,000 hand-painted replicas between 1977 and 1978. Shortly thereafter,



Robert had a contract and Goebel Miniatures Studios was founded in downtown Camarillo with Robert in charge of design, production and quality control.

Other special pieces reminiscent of my mother are a hobnail claret jug and a beautiful cut crystal lamp by the late Jim Irish, both which can be seen in *Chessington Plaza's* European Dining Room. I bought them at a show in 2007 and was drawn to them immediately because a full-size hobnail jug had sat on Mother's credenza in the dining room and her heirloom Rosenthal cut crystal lamp had adorned a table in our entryway. Jim was a talented glass artisan who worked for Waterford for 30 years before retiring to create cut crystal in miniature. His pieces are stunning and are still sought after at auctions.

There are, of course, other miniatures and many more memories that are fondly recalled every time I see them in the gallery. My hope is that the miniatures, the houses and their scenes also stir warm remembrances for our visitors.

## CAPTIONS

Left: The "Merry Wanderer" M.I. Hummel figurine owned by Lillian Mitchell Savage next to the miniature by Robert Olszewski.

Top-Right: The European Dining Room of *Chessington Plaza* features a hobnail claret jug and a cut crystal lamp in miniature similar to those owned by Kaye Browning's mother.

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