

VOLUME XXVII • ISSUE IV

Messenger



KENTUCKY
GATEWAY
MUSEUM
CENTER

KYGMC

HOME OF THE KSB MINIATURES COLLECTION
& THE OLD POGUE EXPERIENCE

MAYSVILLE, KENTUCKY

FALL/SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2022



*I Do,
I Do*

A Wedding Exhibit

THE VIEW FROM SECOND AND SUTTON



Our Maysville community has seen many pioneers since the days of Simon Kenton but few individuals have impacted our community in more ways than **James Thomas Coe**. Tom Coe was definitely a pioneer of service to others in the same “can do” spirit as the early historical pioneers of the Buffalo Trace region. We are all at a loss following Tom’s passing on August 25, 2022. Tom Coe was a loyal member of the Museum Association and his contributions of time and resources have allowed for our continued growth as an institution. Most importantly is the way Tom lived his Christian faith in his actions, words and service to not only his church but our entire Buffalo Trace community.

Tom Coe served on many boards, foundations and worked on countless projects to make our community a better place to live now and for the future. His influence for good was evidenced in many projects from *Flood Wall Murals*, *Russell Theater*, *Rotary Club* projects to the *March of Dimes*. It was his guiding hands and encouraging words that helped many along the way and allowed for the “best” of Maysville to shine a little brighter.

Tom served *Trinity United Methodist Church* in Maysville in many different roles from boards, committees and the Chancel Choir along with serving as chair of the *Kentucky Annual Conference of the United Methodist Board of Trustees* overseeing all church property in Kentucky. His wisdom and words of encouragement have been truly a blessing to many in our community. It’s often said that our faith is not by words but by actions. However, in Tom’s case he truly was a “wordsmith” with many comments and talks that inspired and his life was one that reflected the best way to

live and give to others.

The *Maysville and Mason County Library, Historical and Scientific Association* which operates the *Kentucky Gateway Museum Center* was honored to have Tom Coe as a Trustee since 2012. Tom was elected the President of the Board of Trustees in 2016. It was my honor to serve with Tom on the Board as a trustee prior to my appointment as the Executive Director of the Museum. His vision was one of optimism and preserving the lasting qualities that make our *The Kentucky Gateway Museum* unique and of service to our community. Tom’s leadership allow for continued growth of our programs and outreach services along with a very consistent understanding of building solid principles for the future of the Association. For the last seven years as the Executive Director, it has been a great honor to have Tom serve as Board of Trustees President.

I have been blessed to have Tom Coe as a friend, mentor and supporter of my projects for many years. He was always one of the first to offer financial support for the arts when I was directing a new season of orchestral, choral and musical activities at *Mason County High School*. During my illness in the summer of 2021, I was physically unable to come into the museum on a daily basis, he called or sent me a text of encouragement every day. He also came into the museum last summer (2021) on a regular basis to assist with the management of the museum activities in my absence. He

was truly an example of a mentor to me in my role with the Museum Center.

From the early beginnings in 1878 from the historic *Wormald Building* to now our five core Museum service areas of *History, Research Library, KSB Miniatures Collection, Old Pogue Experience and Education*, our goal continues to be one of service to our community. It’s the donation of time, funds and items from folks like James Thomas Coe that have allowed our Museum to grow and expand our services to the community.

C.J. Hunter IV,
Executive Director



Miniature of the Month

BY KAYE BROWNING



The Cox Building by Ashby & Jedd

As autumn approaches and we're reminded of everything we love about fall in the Commonwealth, I can't help but think of Maysville's historic Cox Building. It was a little over a decade ago in November that we all watched in horror as fire destroyed the iconic rooftop of one of our city's most beloved landmarks. The 1887 Richardsonian Romanesque brick structure has provided memories for many over the years—housing a post office, hat shop, auto parts store, grocery, toy shop, printery, confectionery, music studio, Masonic temple, funeral parlor and sanitarium. On the bottom level, it was home to Kilgus Drugs, which all locals will attest was an important part of their past. The Cox Building is cherished by the community, myself included, which is why I commissioned Allison Ashby & Steve Jedd to make it in 1/12th scale in 2006.

While the interior of the miniature is what has led many to nostalgic memories, it's the exterior of the scale structure that will go down in history along with the original building. After the fire, when architects found there were no records, diagrams or blueprints to rebuild the fine-angled roof and turret of the Cox Building, they turned to the research and talents of Ashby & Jedd to help restore the original building's historical architecture. They analyzed the Chicago miniaturists' photos and research and measured the 1/12th-scale building's dimensions and roof angles to the most minute degrees. Imagine the architects doing what miniaturists do, but in reverse! It was truly a case of art imitating life and then life imitating art.

Allison describes the commission of the *Cox Building* as *serendipitous*, which it is indeed when you consider that its original design did not include the roof. The initial plan was to create a corner projection of the facades of the Third and Market sides which the Kilgus Drugs room box would then be inserted. Ironically, it was the roof that forced Ashby & Jedd to reconsider. "The geometry of the conical or witch's hat roof made that (design) impossible, so the plan had to be changed," she explains. The resulting miniature proved to be more valuable than anyone ever imagined just four years later when it was used by architects to re-create the original structure's roof.

In building the miniature, Ashby & Jedd used a variety of materials to limit the weight, time commitment and expense. The shingles on the model's witch's hat are natural slate pieces individually cut to fit. The shingles on the rest of the roof were made of asphalt. The roof was framed just as its full-size counterpart.

The authentic-looking exterior is made from real cast and fired miniature bricks—13,000 of them. "Because we did not have access to scaffolding or a hydraulic lift, we based our measurements off the size of one of the full-sized bricks on the actual building," says Allison. "We stood on the street and counted courses of bricks between windows and courses of stone." The "stone" elements were



made by Steve out of basswood, individually numbered, then hand carved and painted by Allison to resemble scaled-down sandstone. Steve also created the windows using the same techniques that were used to build the originals with individual sashes and casings. All in all, it took Ashby & Jedd about a year and a half to complete. The miniature was then installed in November 2007. It remains one of the KSB Miniatures Collection's most popular exhibits and perhaps one of the most noteworthy with a history and story all its own.

CAPTIONS

Top: The Cox Building in 1/12 scale at the KSB Miniatures Collection.
Bottom: Inside Kilgus Drugs, on the first floor of KSB's Cox Building

I Do, I Do

A Wedding Exhibit

By Marla Toncray

I love showcasing the beautiful collection of garments that have been donated to the Museum over the years.

Case in point is our *I Do I Do: A Wedding Exhibit*, which officially opened Labor Day weekend.

This exhibit not only features wedding dresses but also wedding shoes, fans, hats, and even dolls. All of which were used as part of a wedding celebration.

And not all of the dresses are white because, until the wedding of England's Queen Victoria to Prince Albert on Feb. 10, 1840, white wasn't the traditional color for a woman's wedding gown. Typically, it would be her best dress that she would wear for her wedding day.

This exhibit also includes modern day dresses, with the most recent one being worn in October 2021, as well

as a barn wedding scene, which are so popular with couples today.

And the bride isn't the only one highlighted in the exhibit – we have fathers of the bride, mothers of the groom, a bridesmaid, and mothers of the bride, along with trousseau pieces worn after the wedding. You may ask “what is a trousseau?” In modern day terms, a trousseau is the clothing to be worn on the honeymoon and the gifts given to the happy couple to set up housekeeping. There's an information panel in the exhibit that will give you the details of what a traditional trousseau was in days gone by, which is similar to wedding traditions today.

One of my favorite pieces is the satin dress of Ruth Phillips Manning. I remember Mrs. Manning from church, where she was our choir director, so it's very personal for me to see this beautiful gown which she wore for her marriage to Clarence Stephen Manning in 1935.

Another favorite is the gray and burgundy wedding suit worn by Annie Wallingford in 1880, when she married Davis C. Anderson of Cincinnati here in



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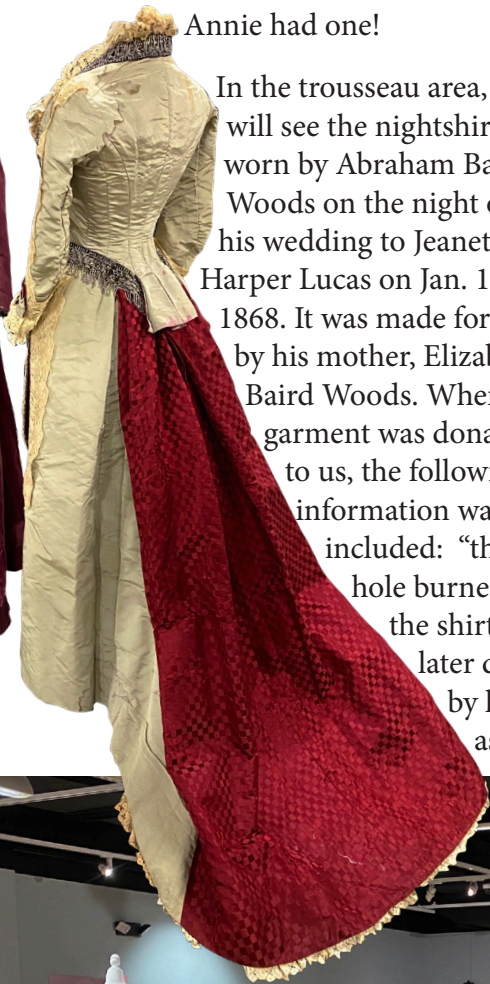
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James T. Clarke J. Kirk Clarke Michael M. Clarke
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Maysville. If you've ever wanted to see a true 16-inch waistline, Annie had one!

In the trousseau area, you will see the nightshirt worn by Abraham Baker Woods on the night of his wedding to Jeanette Harper Lucas on Jan. 14, 1868. It was made for him by his mother, Elizabeth Baird Woods. When the garment was donated to us, the following information was included: "the hole burned in the shirt at a later date by hot ashes



spilled from his pipe was for many years the cause of continuing and bitter reproach by his wife."

Each piece has a story and I hope you will come down to see this fabulous collection of exquisite garments. You just might come across someone you know or knew.

I Do I Do: A Wedding Exhibit is located in the Jean W. Calvert Changing Gallery and will be open until December 31st.



R. Fred Keith
 Attorney at Law
 Certified Public Accountant

KEITH & ASSOCIATES, PLLC

Direct: (859) 292-2468
 Cell: (513) 259-6299
 rkeith@keithlawyers.com
<http://keithlawyers.com/>

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Street Smart Civil War Fashion Show

Sunday, October 2nd at 1:30
Washington Opera Theater



Read On! Robert Hicks' **THE WIDOW OF THE SOUTH**

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MORGAN'S RAIDERS

SEMINAR & PANEL DISCUSSION
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8TH AT 10:30AM

- CALENDAR OF EVENTS**
- 9/21-11/11: "Beyond the Battle: A Civil War History" exhibit at KYGMC Wormald Gallery
 - 9/30: Concert "Songs and Stories from the Civil War Hospital" at the Washington Opera House, 7PM
 - 10/1-10/31: Civil War Scavenger Hunt at the Fleming County Public Library (call for instructions)
 - 10/2: "Street Smart Civil War Fashion Show" at the Washington Opera House, 1:30PM
 - 10/4: "Widow of the South Barbecue Kick Off" on the Lee House Grounds, 6:30PM
 - 10/6: Seminar "Cincinnati in the Civil War" at Kenton Stories With Spirit, 5PM
 - 10/7: Concert "Victorian Era Music" with Nick Denham at the Mason County Public Library, 5PM
 - 10/8: Seminar "Morgan's Raid" with panel discussion at the Kentucky Gateway Museum Center, 10AM
 - 10/11: Civil War Tea at Phillip's Folly, 6:30PM (RSVP at KYGMC, limited seating)
 - 10/12: Seminar "Hankies, Parasols & the Language of Flowers" by Jaclyn Theis at the Mason County Public Library, 5PM
 - 10/13: Seminar "Cemeteries and the Civil War" at the Fleming County Public Library, 6PM
 - 10/15: Meet Albert Sidney Johnston and Bull Nelson at the Albert Sidney Johnston House, Washington, KY, 10-12AM
 - 10/15: Blacksmithing with Keith Caudill at the Mason County Public Library, 2PM
 - 10/21: Civil War Presentation by Bill Foley at the Mason County Public Library, 6PM
 - 10/29: Civil War Reenactments at the Kentucky Gateway Museum Center

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Cox Family Hixson

BY TANDY FLOYD



When you visit the *Wormald Gallery* in the *Kentucky Gateway Museum Center* you are immediately transformed back in time to the earliest parts of Maysville's history. There is a beautiful diorama of Maysville in the back right corner that shows what this section of town looked like from the river. If you count 4 businesses down, you will see the first bookseller of Maysville. *Cox's Bookstore* was one of the first institutions of Maysville. It contained "the largest and best assorted stock of books and stationery in Kentucky outside of the city of Louisville".

John Cox, an Englishman, was persuaded by his son George to come to America. "Determined to seek a home in the 'Western World'", he came to Baltimore in 1817 from Liverpool; spent 18 days moving overland by wagon to Pittsburgh and another 8 moving down the Ohio by flatboat to Limestone, as Maysville was still called. It took 3 days more by wagon to get to Lexington (then, the foremost city of the west).

In 1819, his son George came to Maysville to engage in business, "his only capital being \$50 in money, good health, industry and above all honesty." He opened a small store in a frame house on Front Street, above Market, one half of the house being occupied by his cousin and brother-in-law, Edward Cox, as a bookstore and bindery. Both families lived in the second story of the building.

The sign above Edward's business "attracted the notice and gained the patronage of thousands of steamboat passengers who came up to the soon famous depot of ancient and modern literature, associated with the name of Edward Cox." This brought him orders from all parts of the union. His knowledge of books astonished "at the readiness with which he would turn to an eloquent, a pathetic or humorous passage in any volume which happened to be subject of conversation." It was said that his "acquaintance with books was very extensive and when one of his thousands of patrons would drop in...would put his hand upon a volume which he thought suitable...and he was rarely at fault in the selection. Besides the miscellaneous reader, students of law, physics and divinity soon found an ample stock of standard works unfolding the mysteries of their several professions." He added continually growing stock that afterwards "became known generally as the circulating library from which those who were not able or willing to buy could hire at small expense for one or two weeks such volumes as they desired to read." "The best informed of the old citizens of Mason County were the former patrons of Cox's circulating library."

George started a modest mercantile business in Maysville, which developed into the town's leading dry goods emporium. George Cox was said to be a methodical merchant from the very start. The first items of goods sold in 1819: "May 5, quills, 6 ¼ cents." He paid for articles as he bought them, and when

they were gone, if he had money to replace them, it was evident that he was neither losing money nor getting in debt." He had one price for an article and that was the price first named. "If any line of goods advanced in price, he never advanced the price of those on hand and often sold them for less money than was necessary to replace them." George later managed the dry goods store with the assistance of his two sons, William H. Cox and Lissant Cox. The store was located at 29 West Second and sold fancy staple dry goods, carpets, oil cloths, matings and much more.

William H. Cox remained in the employ of his father some thirteen years, and at the age of twenty-five concluded to engage in business for himself. He Formed a partnership with Madison S. Dimmitt. The firm of *Cox & Dimmitt* began business in 1846, in the storeroom occupied on the west side of Market Street, above Front. "Both partners gave strict attention to their trade, and it is not singular that they soon carved their way to success." Mr. Dimmitt died in 1848, and Mr. Cox conducted the business alone until about 1850, when he formed a partnership with his father, under the name of George Cox & Son. William H. was a union man. "He loaned largely of his means to aid in carrying on the war (Civil) taking in return Government bonds, despite the protests of many of his friends that the bonds would be worthless. He reasoned that if the Government lost, everything was lost, and he would rather sacrifice his fortune in an effort to save his government than to lose it by remaining passive." When told that his opinions would injure his trade, Mr. Cox informed his adviser that his goods were for sale, his principles were not.

Upon the death of William, direction of the business went to his two sons, William Hopkinson and George Lissant. They were the third generation to run the business, who with their Uncle Lissant, continued to make this family establishment "one of Maysville's best-known enterprises". William and George Lissant Cox were in partnership until William retired and took up politics.

William served on the city council, five years of which he served as president of the Board. In 1893 he was Mayor – the first of the city elected under the new Kentucky Constitution of 1891. He was President of the *State National Bank*, a large real estate holder, and director of the *Electric Light and Gas Company* for a while, was an Odd Fellow and Mason, Knight Templar and Shriner. He was a delegate to the *1892 Republican National Convention* and was chosen as Kentucky's representative to the delegation that officially notified Benjamin Harrison for a second term as President of the United States. He represented Mason and Lewis counties in the KY Senate, serving a total of 8 years. In 1907, Cox was elected *Lieutenant Governor of Kentucky*, serving under Governor Augustus E. Wilson.

The brothers, George L. and William Hopkinson began constructing the buildings that Maysville may be most noted for. George Cox built the beautiful high-domed home with stone and shells adorning the third floor under shuttered windows. It is of American Romanesque style and built in 1886 on Third Street. This project also included the construction of the seven contiguous brick homes extending south along the east side of Market Street to Fourth Street, referred to as 'Cox Row'. These row houses are named for the days of the week. The most notable of the project was the Cox Building. It was designed to accommodate



three large storefronts on the ground floor with associated second-story storerooms for each. The upper three stories of the Cox Building were designed explicitly for the use as a Masonic Temple for the *York Rite Knights Templar*. It is of Richardson Romanesque style incorporating 11th and 12th century Southern French, Spanish and Italian Romanesque characters. There is a beautiful 1/12 scale miniature in the *KSB Miniatures Gallery* that depicts it perfectly. In fact, so perfectly that when the Cox Building caught on fire, the architects used the miniature as a guideline to rebuild its roof line.

The Cox family has definitely left its mark on Maysville. Through business, growth of the community and politics, John's descendants have helped put Maysville on the map. He would have been proud of the legacy.

Readers may email questions to Hixson@kygmc.org at Kentucky Gateway Museum Center, Maysville, KY

KYGMCC STAFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

C.J. Hunter IV
director@kygmc.org

MINIATURES CURATOR

Kaye Browning
browningminiatures@kygmc.org

CURATORS

Tandy Floyd, Education Curator
education@kygmc.org

Ben Gallenstein, Collections Curator
collections@kygmc.org

Sue Ellen Grannis, Curator
curator@kygmc.org

Marla Toncray, Exhibits Curator
exhibits@kygmc.org

FINANCE OFFICER

Joyce Weigott
finance@kygmc.org

REGISTRARS

Sharon Art
registrar@kygmc.org

Anne Pollitt
anne@kygmc.org

Valerie Zempter
valerie@kygmc.org

RESEARCH LIBRARIANS

Cay Chamness
cay@kygmc.org

Myra Hardy
myra@kygmc.org

Candice Spangler, Archival Services
archives@kygmc.org

GIFT SHOP & GUEST SERVICES

Tracey Douglas
guestservices@kygmc.org

Jennie Reece
atriumdesk@kygmc.org

BUILDING SERVICES

Liz Smith

MARKETING

Madelyn Clarke
marketing@kygmc.org

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Braden May and Carson Rolph

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