



Messenger

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MAYSVILLE, KENTUCKY

SPRING / MARCH 2018

IN THIS EDITION

The View From Sutton Street
Miniatures Corner
Marla's Musings
From the Docent's Desk



2018 KYGMC CHARTER DINNER
TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 2018

We are taking it back to where it started, the riverfront,
where bourbon began its journey!

THE VIEW FROM SUTTON STREET

Spring flowers, trees in bloom and new exhibits mark the special events this spring in the Kentucky Gateway Museum Center. Spring is not only a time of new beginning but a time to reflect and celebrate our historical traditions at the *Kentucky Gateway Museum Center*. One hundred and forty years ago by an act of the *Commonwealth of Kentucky's General Assembly*, our museum association was chartered on March 1, 1878. Our mission continues to grow in service to our community ranging from education programs, several museum galleries showcasing our historical collections, our research library and the *KSB Miniatures Collection*. This time of year we continue to showcase our outreach programs to schools and exchange exhibits with other museums. We continue to see an increase in the number of visitors and members visiting the Museum Center.

The Charter Dinner celebration event to mark our founding and to announce our new exciting plans for 2018, will be on Tuesday, March 20, at the Maysville Events Center on Second Street, with the program and dinner beginning at 6:30 p.m. The program will include the announcement of the *Limestone Project*, our new *B-Line* tourism plans and events for fall of 2018. The *Limestone Project* includes plans for additional museum spaces for exhibits, conference and education classrooms along with welcome areas for groups and individuals visiting Maysville. The *Limestone Project* will



allow the museum to feature exhibits on the early bourbon industry in Limestone/Maysville from farm products, riverboat shipping, the Limestone Road and their effect on the economy of early Kentucky. From our earliest days in the late 1700's to the bourbon tourist visiting the *Old Pogue* in 2018, Maysville continues to welcome visitors from around the world. It is our hope that this exciting expansion will allow us to grow programs to fulfill our mission of service to our community.

The Charter Dinner will also include the unveiling of the newest history painting by Steve White. This painting is one of several that will be featured in our *cARTography Exhibit* featuring early Kentucky maps and paintings of historic scenes of the frontier days in Kentucky by Steve White. Proceeds from the *Charter Dinner* will benefit the Museum's *Limestone/Endowment Project*. Please help us

to continue to build the legacy of the museum with your attendance and support of the *Charter Dinner* celebration.

Members and guests attending the *Charter Dinner* will also be able to enjoy the music of *CloudBurst*, the award winning group which is from the Ashland, Kentucky Chapter of *Barbershop Harmony Society*.

From dinner, fellowship with our Association members, to viewing the newest painting to great music the *Charter Dinner* evening promises to be an evening of particular significance as we both reflect on the past and set new goals and discuss opportunities for the future of the Association.

The Charter Dinner and celebration is only the beginning of a great spring of special museum events. We invite you to spend some time in your museum this month, view the map and art exhibits, the special changing exhibit *Chartering Freedom*, The *cARTography* exhibit, the new spring miniatures on display in the *KSB Gallery* and the always changing items and exhibits featured in the *Wormald Galleries*.

As always we thank you for being a member and building the legacy of the Kentucky Gateway Museum Center.

C.J. Hunter IV
Executive Director

UPCOMING DATES

Tuesday, March 6, 2018

Exhibit Openings: "Treasured Towns Lost in Time" and "Mason County High School Photography"

Saturday, March 17, 2018 at 10:30am

Saturday Seminar – Sustainable Living: Christine Tailor

Saturday, March 24, 2018

Exhibit Opening: *cARTography: the art of map making featuring history paintings by Steve White*

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Charter Dinner

TUESDAY
MARCH 20, 2018

TAKING RESERVATIONS
THROUGH MARCH 13TH



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MINIATURES CORNER

By Kaye Browning

Last month highlighted two offices in miniature of our former presidents, so I thought it only fair to share another exhibit of a politically important person for Women's History Month—Martha Washington.

The vignette in the gallery is a depiction of her bedroom at Mount Vernon, the home she and George shared in Virginia, which is now a museum open to the public. As a child, I studied Martha Washington more than most children my age because she was an ancestor of my family on my father's side. As an adult, I continue to be impressed by her fortitude and accomplishments.

She was actually ahead of her time for a woman. She was able to read and write unlike many women in the early 1700s. She was a 26-year-old widow when she became engaged to the future President and during their marriage performed many selfless acts for her country. As one of the wealthiest women in Virginia at the time, she left her comfortable confines to follow her husband into battle. She spent winters at his encampments where she sewed clothing for soldiers and nursed the sick and dying. She aided the Continental Army at Valley Forge where disease, malnutrition, and exposure killed over 2,500 American soldiers and became



affectionately known as “Lady Washington” for her compassionate ways.

On the home front, she served as an astute hostess, often consulting European standards when planning official affairs and while she excelled at it, she preferred solitude to the fanfare. The five-foot-tall first First Lady was also considered poised and self-assured. And she was quite fashion forward. She ordered bespoke pairs of shoes from London and a peek under her gown at her wedding to George in 1759 would have revealed silk purple pumps covered with sequins and metallic lace.

When I look into the room box



depicting Martha's bedroom at Mount Vernon, I see the many facets of this remarkable woman's life. The bed chamber, itself, reflects her life as the private person she intrinsically was. After her husband's death in 1799 she closed their bedroom and burned the letters they had written to



each other through their 40-plus years together (three were later found). She then moved into the home's third floor for the final two and a half years of her life, much of which was spent in mourning. That is the bedroom you see here and the one in which I see Martha, the mother who outlived four children, two husbands, and



Martha Washington's wedding shoes. *Courtesy of The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association.*

armies of brave men she, herself, attempted to aid. I see her reading, needlepointing, manicuring her nails, and sometimes even dancing in purple shoes. I hope that those who visit the collection will also be prompted by this art form to reflect on the importance of the many women like Martha Washington who made indelible contributions to our country.


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MARLA'S MUSINGS

By Marla Toncray

A new exhibit is under construction at the museum right now and its focus is Maysville's rich history related to the bourbon whiskey industry.

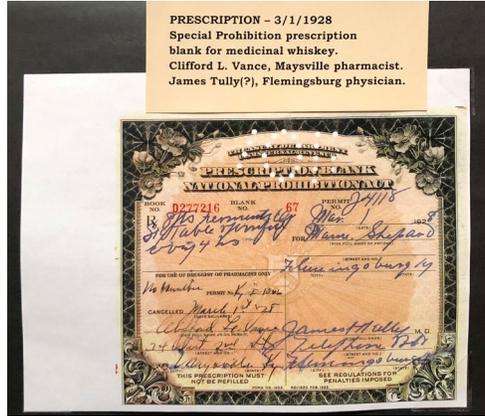
Located upstairs in the Wormald Gallery, the exhibit highlights the H. E. Pogue Distillery, the Poyntz Brothers Distillery and the James H. Rogers Distillery, all of which were located in the west of Maysville known to locals as Plugtown.

Having grown up in Maysville, I never knew how or why Plugtown got its name, but that changed when KYGMC employee Liz Smith gave me a history lesson on the area.

You see in the old days, horses that were broken down or just old were not allowed to be sold in the downtown business district. These horses, known as plug horses, were corralled out on the west end on Blue Run Pike, just past the intersection of West Second Street and Germantown Pike. I'm guessing if someone needed a horse bad enough but didn't have enough money for a new horse, they did their trade with the owners of the plug horses, knowing the quality of what they were buying.

Another tidbit of information for you: Blue Run Pike would later become Kentucky 8 and Germantown Pike became German-town Road, presumably after the turnpike (toll) was removed.

Now, back to the exhibit.



In addition to highlighting the distilleries in town, the exhibit will feature all aspects of the bourbon industry in Maysville. What merchants and retailers sold whiskey under their names; how the Maysville Road (U.S. 68) played a role in moving product into central Kentucky; the role of the Ohio River and transporting goods to

New Orleans; the agricultural aspect of making whiskey; and much more.

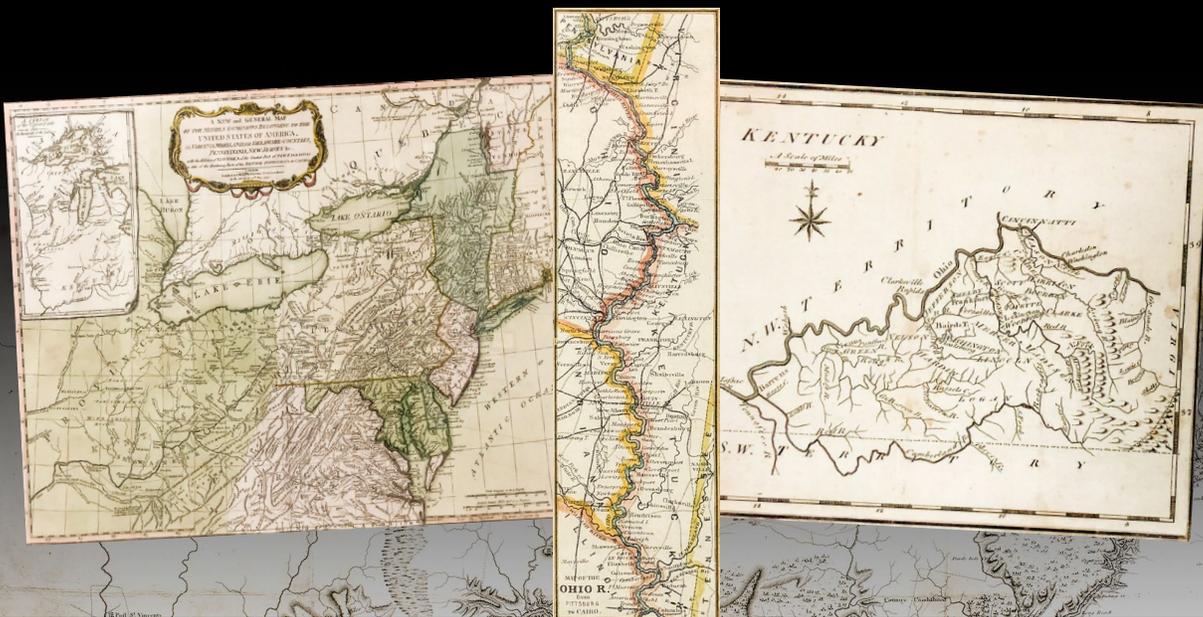
One really neat item on display now is a ladies' whiskey stoneware jug. It was manufactured for the Omar Dodson Wholesale Grocer in town. This jug is embellished with gold lettering and flowers. Since women didn't have as much freedom as men in those days, I'm guessing this pretty jug made it a tad bit more acceptable for them to have a nip once in a while.

In combination to the collection of artifacts owned by the museum, this bourbon exhibit will be greatly enhanced through the generosity of private collectors in the area.

Already on display is a pre-Civil War tavern keg and a primitive still that came out of a house on West Second Street.

This new and exciting exhibit will become a permanent part of the KYGMC collection and will continue to grow as time goes on. We hope you will visit with us from time to time to see what has been added and to learn more about Maysville's Bourbon Whiskey history.

cARTography: the art of map making
featuring history paintings by Steve White



March 24
THRU
02 June



KENTUCKY
GATEWAY
MUSEUM
CENTER

cARTography is an amazing exhibit that focuses on rare and antique maps dating from 1755 to 1866.

Along side these beautiful maps will be original history paintings by artist Steve White. The paintings depict historic scenes from the area, many include Simon Kenton and life in Limestone, *where bourbon began its journey.*

FROM THE DOCENT'S DESK

By Haley May

Maysville, KY is a small, historical town best known for its limestone, bourbon, and southern hospitality. A gem of history was discovered in Mystic, Connecticut that might just bring a new found special spark to the antiquity of Maysville. A portrait of the ship titled "Maysville" allowed historians to uncover a whole new meaning of vessel construction in Mason County and along the Ohio River. Built in 1803-04, it was a fully-rigged, 180 ton sailing ship.

The famous French marine artist, Alexander Montadier was commonly known for artwork during the time period of 1812 and 1848. He constructed immaculate artworks creating immense detail to show his knowledge of the ships and seaports around him. In the midst of that time his painting of the rarely known Maysville at LeHavre, France was pushed to the back with little to none relevance until it uncovered a piece of the past significant to many residents in the Southeast.



The competition to move mass products efficiently Midwest started after the United States acquired the Louisiana Purchase. The first ship constructed on the Ohio River was the New Orleans that originated out of Pittsburgh. Throughout the mid 1800's there were hundreds of shipyards along the bank of the river. The most famous inventor of steamboats in the eastern quadrant of the United States was Robert Fulton, who also receives credit as the original inventor of the steamboat. Cincinnati thereafter became a prominent city hauling into the civil war because of the fast rate production of twenty five steamboats between 1811 and 1825.

Through research of port documents it is estimated that over thirty five ocean-far-

ing ships were designed in Kentucky and Ohio just between the duration of 1800 and 1810. A numerous amount of resources were used in this specific area allowing large vessels such as the Maysville to transition from a foreign product to a natural manufacture for this region. The materials of white oak and white pine were commonly used in production making an approximate thousand mile passage down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. A variety of ships were made consisting of ferry boats, wooden-hulled paddlewheelers, towboats, packets, steel-hulled barges and modern cruise ships.

The production of vessels along the Ohio River wasn't the only thing significant about the history of this culture. The passengers on almost all steamboats consist-

ed of African Americans that led a very different life than others in their lifetime. The public is aware of the horror stories surrounding plantations but oblivious to the lives African Americans led on board. Instead of being held under strict surveillance they were allowed to walk freely amongst the boat and often given the right to go upon shore to gather supplies when docked.

The notion of this culture spread words of freeing songs and ballads that gave a perspective view of hope for others joining the production and expedition. The famous composer, Edwin Pearce Christy composed "Down the River Down the Ohio" that created an enthusiastic and optimistic beat to encourage others to join the river lifestyle.

Saturday Seminars start this month!

Saturday, March 17, 2018 at 10:30am

Start your Spring off right! Learn all about *Sustainable Living* in our first seminar of 2018! Christine Tailer will focus on gardening, seed saving, open pollinated crops, and Ohio River Valley wild edibles.

RESERVE YOUR SEAT TODAY

KYGMC 2018
CHARTER DINNER

TUESDAY
MARCH 20, 2018

Kentucky Gateway Museum Center
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NON-PROFIT
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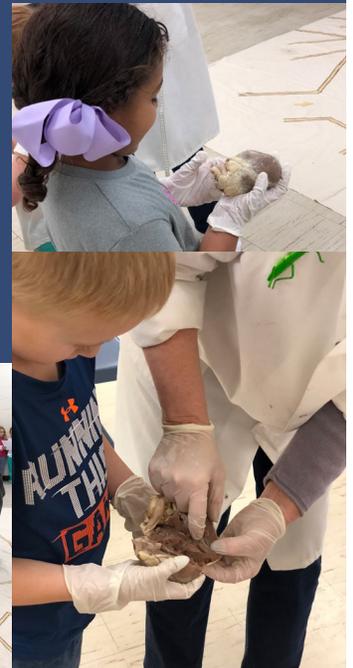


or current resident.



She's at it again!

Tandy Nash is taking the museum to the classroom with the KYGMC Outreach program. Want more information on the sessions available or want to schedule her for your classroom? Call 606-564-5865



KYGMC HOURS

Sun & Mon
Tues-Fri
Saturday

CLOSED
10am-4pm
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