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# Chronology of Kenton County, Kentucky

by

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## *Kenton County, Kentucky* *Chronological History*

- 1751** - Christopher Gist, Virginia surveyor, crossed the Licking River at "The Point," now downtown Covington.
- 1756** - Mary Ingles, first white woman entered Kenton County as a prisoner of the Mingo Indians.
- 1771** - Simon Kenton, for whom the County is named, passed through this region.
- 1773** - Virginia pioneers passed through what is now Kenton County to the Central Bluegrass.
- 1782** - Indian war parties ascended Licking River and attacked frontier settlements.  
General George Rogers Clark pursued the Indians, led the Kentucky forces over the present U. S. 25 to the mouth of the Licking River, crossed the Ohio River, destroyed the Indian villages, and returned via the mouth of the Licking River.
- 1789** - Kennedy's Ferry across the Ohio River put in operation.
- 1793** - The first permanent settlers, Edmund Rittenhouse and family, came down the Ohio River to "The Point," now Covington.  
River packet service between "The Point" and Pittsburgh was begun.
- 1794** - Campbell County, including what is now Kenton and Boone, was formed.
- 1798** - Boone County was formed.
- 1801** - Kennedy stone house was built.
- 1812** - Mouth of the Licking became the Kentucky base of military operations against the British and Indians.
- 1815** - Covington, named for the Revolutionary hero, General Leonard Covington, platted upon 150 acres of Thomas Kennedy's farm and first lots sold.  
Old Carneal House (Lura Baker Rothier Home) completed.
- 1821** - Carneal Home (Elwood Hall) was completed.
- 1825** - General Lafayette visited Covington.  
First industrial development began.
- 1829** - Cholera epidemic.
- 1830** - The Old Closson House completed.
- 1834** - Charter granted to the city of Covington.  
Mortimer M. Benton chosen first mayor.  
Western Baptist Theological Institute founded.  
A company was incorporated to construct an "artificial" (turnpike) road from Covington through Georgetown, to Lexington.
- 1835** - John G. Carlisle, statesman, was born in Covington.
- 1840** - Kenton County was established by act of the Legislature.  
Second period of expansion in industry and education began.
- 1842** - Independence, seat of Kenton County, was incorporated.  
Trinity Episcopal Church services were held.
- 1846** - Linden Grove Cemetery opened.  
Population of Covington reached 6,000.  
Kentucky Legislature authorized a bridge across the Ohio River.



- 1848** - October 9, Frank Duveneck, American artist, was born.
- 1850** - June 2, Dan Beard, Boy Scout organizer, was born in Cincinnati. Shortly thereafter his family moved to Covington, where he spent all his boyhood days.
- 1851** - Construction on the first railroad out of Kenton County was begun.  
Lexington Pike, now U. S. 25, was begun
- 1853** - First High School was established.  
Wire Suspension Bridge between Covington and Newport was completed at a cost of \$80,000.  
Gas was first used for illumination in Covington
- 1854** - Ludlow was given a city charter.
- 1855** - Turner's Society (Turnverein) was founded in Covington.
- 1856** - Foundation for towers of the Suspension Bridge over the Ohio River were laid.
- 1857** - "Hard Times," business was prostrated.  
Motch Jewelry Co. was established.
- 1858** - February 28, Richard P. Ernst, lawyer, banker and U. S. Senator was born.
- 1860** - First hospital, now St. Elizabeth's, was established.
- 1865** - First National Bank organized - Amos Shinkle, President.
- 1867** - Suspension Bridge over the Ohio opened to traffic.
- 1869** - Highland Cemetery incorporated.  
First high school pupil, Amelia S. Orr, graduated in Covington.
- 1870** - December - Curbstone Club, a unique discussion group with many notable members, was formed.  
Bavarian Brewing Company organized.
- 1871** - German National Bank established, Pike and Main Sts.  
Free delivery of papers and letters was begun.  
Business paralyzed in nationwide panic.
- 1873** - John R. Coppin Company established.
- 1874** - Ohio Scroll & Lumber Co. established.
- 1877** - Covington Art Club formed.
- 1879** - First telephones installed in Covington.
- 1880** - Modern industrial era began with a steady expansion of manufacturing industries.
- 1882** - Latonia Agricultural Association formed.
- 1883** - First race was run at Latonia Race Track.  
H. Eilerman & Sons established.
- 1884** - The "Great Flood," lower Covington was inundated.
- 1886** - Stewart Iron Works Company was organized.
- 1887** - Mother of God Cemetery opened.
- 1888** - Young Men's Christian Association organized.  
Maysville and Big Sandy R. R., now part of the Chesapeake and Ohio R. R., completed from Ashland to Cincinnati.  
Louis Marx & Brothers established.
- 1889** - Waterworks system completed.
- 1894** - St. Mary's Cathedral was begun.
- 1896** - Building and Loan Association organized.
- 1898** - Spanish American War.

- 1900 - Governor William Goebel of Covington assassinated.
- 1901 - Public Library built in Covington.
- 1903 - Kelley-Koett X-Ray Manufacturing Co. established.  
Kenton County Infirmary opened.
- 1909 - Kennedy Stone House demolished by Dr. Louise Southgate, owner. Stone used for surfacing Lexington Pile, US 25.
- 1910 - St. Mary's Cathedral was dedicated.  
John G. Carlisle died.
- 1913 - Present Young Men's Christian Association building was built.
- 1914 - St. Elizabeth's Hospital completed.  
Covington Woman's Club organized.  
Covington Centennial held.
- 1915 - Donaldson Art Sign Company organized.
- 1917 - Kenton County pledges its resources toward winning the war.
- 1918 - German National Bank name changed to People's Liberty Bank.
- 1919 - Frank Duveneck died, January 3.
- 1926 - Booth Memorial Hospital established.
- 1928 - Liberty National Bank merged with People's Saving Bank and Trust Company.
- 1930 - Statite Rubber Products established.  
Kenton County Homemakers, a progressive group of Kenton County women, organized.
- 1935 - Devou Park concerts organized by Covington merchants, Kentucky merchants, Kentucky Post and John R. Walsh.
- 1936 - Waterworks rebuilt and enlarged.  
World War Veterans' Memorial Bridge dedicated.
- 1937 - Ohio River Flood.
- 1939 - Vast throngs gather at Food Show, sponsored by Northern Kentucky Independent Food Dealers' Association.  
Dr. Francis E. Townsend visits Covington.
- 1940 - Kenton County celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary.
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[From L. J. Dooly, editor, *Kenton County Centennial, 1940 - A History of 100 Years of Progress*, 1940.]

"In compiling a history it is always to be regretted that the names of that great group of unknowns who served in the ranks, have been forgotten. This general history of Kenton County is dedicated to them." *L. J. D.*