



**COPPIN**

*Photo Courtesy of Kenton County Library*

John Robert Coppin, one of Covington's leading, influential, and most enterprising citizens, was born on December 24, 1849 in Cincinnati, Ohio. As a young man, he was educated in the Cincinnati public school system and upon graduating, developed an interest in the buying and selling of dry goods.

In February of 1873, Coppin decided to go into business for himself and rented a building in Covington from Captain John Fennessy for a five year term. Located at 607 Madison Avenue, Coppin's California Dry Goods Store soon became a successful enterprise. The store, which was quite small, was run by Coppin and his business partner, Mr. Overman. Together, they slowly but surely made the store a success, and within a few years the California Dry Goods Store became known throughout the area as a place of quality clothing.

When the five-year lease expired, Captain Fennessy sold the building to M. C. Motch, the popular jeweler, for \$7,010. Coppin then moved his business to a larger store at 538 Madison Avenue. Because of the additional space, the owner was able to expand his stock and, with the increase in business dealings, hired twenty-five employees.

In 1875 Coppin married Lizzie R. Egolf of Cincinnati, who bore him four children. In January of 1892 the family made plans to erect a house in Milldale at a cost of about \$12,000. The house, a large, beautifully appointed structure, was located at the present site of the Ninth District School in Latonia.