



**E  
R  
N  
S  
T**

Richard Pretlow Ernst was born on February 28, 1858 in Covington, Kentucky. He received his early education in Covington's public schools and at Chickerings Academy in Cincinnati, Ohio. He graduated from high school in 1874 and enrolled in Center College in Danville, Kentucky. Four years later, in 1878, Ernst graduated as valedictorian of his class with a Bachelor of Arts degree.

He then attended law school at the University of Cincinnati and upon receiving his degree, entered the law office of King, Thompson and Maxwell. As time passed Ernst began practicing law in both Ohio and Kentucky. For many years he was a partner in the famous law firm Ernst, Cassatt and Cottle of Cincinnati, and was recognized as one of the best lawyers in the United States.

In 1885 Ernst was elected to Covington's city council. He served in that capacity until 1892 when, despite his being nominated for the office again, he declined to run and had his name withdrawn from the ballot. In 1893 he was appointed Commissioner of the Queen and Crescent Railroad by Judge Taft and served as such for many years.

Besides his political accomplishments on the local level, Ernst also held office on the state level. On November 2, 1920 he managed to nose out a victory for senator over J. Crepps Wickliffe Beckham. Ernst served as senator for one term (1921-1927). He died in 1934.

In 1866 Ernst married Susan Brent of Covington. She bore him two children. The Ernst family lived in Covington at 401 Garrard St. The house dates back to the 1880's and was built in a brick version of Queen Anne. It is likely that the house was designed by noted Cincinnati architect Samuel Hannaford who also designed Music Hall. The walls of the house are trimmed in smooth stone and sit atop a rough limestone foundation. The large brick porch in the front was added to the structure later.

**246882**