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Benjamin F. Graziani was born in Cold Springs, Kentucky on November 16, 1858. His father was killed in 1866 when the steamboat *General Lytle* exploded on the Ohio River. Two years later Benjamin and his widowed mother moved to Covington.

Benjamin was educated in county schools and in 1878 entered law school in Cincinnati, Ohio. Being of limited means, Benjamin worked his way through school as an employee of several local businesses, including the L.C. Hopkins Company, the Turner Littser Company, and Shillito's.

In May of 1844 he graduate from law school and was admitted to the Covington Bar. He opened his own law office and became quite successful, earning as much as \$6,000 a year — a very substantial income for the period. Graziani was a "natural-born" lawyer, possessing the ability to think things through completely, and to speak elegantly. In very little time he earned a statewide reputation as a very capable lawyer. As such, Graziani participated in some of the most interesting cases of the period, namely the Keefer assignment case, the Daveyac and Seiler contest, and other prominent litigations.

On January 6, 1893, Graziani was elected president of the Covington School Board. He was also a member of the I.O.O.F., the Methodist Episcopalian Church, and the Democratic party.

In April of 1895, Graziani was sued by John Quinlan for a sum of \$10,000 for allegedly alienating the affections of Quinlan's wife. Judge R. H. Gray presided over the case: Quinlan was represented by attorneys from the office of Hallam and Dial, and Graziani was represented by the office of Jarvin and Cleary. Quinlan maintained that his home had been ruined because Graziani advised Mrs. Quinlan to file for divorce, and for sustaining "improper relations" with her during the summer of 1894.

Graziani totally denied these charges and proceeded to prove that Quinlan had lived off the shame of his wife for years, and that suit had been filed against him as a result of his refusal to pay \$300 in blackmail to Quinlan. Graziani was acquitted by the jury, and Quinlan, as well as his two principle witnesses, were arrested for perjury and blackmail.

Benjamin retired in his later years and spent the remainder of his life with his wife Anna in their Covington home. The Graziani home is located at 326 East Second Street. It was built by Howell Lewis Lovell in French Victorian style in the late 1870's.