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Photo Courtesy of Kenton County Library

Amos Shinkle was born in 1818 in Brown County, Ohio. As a young man he worked as a cook on a flatboat and by 1836 had saved enough money to buy a boat of his own and go into business for himself. He began by hauling lumber from eastern Kentucky down river to New Orleans. But, because of the long distance and high expenses involved, his venture was doomed to failure.

However, in 1846 he went into partnership with his brother. They abandoned the hauling route and began selling coal to passing steamers. This proved to be a very successful enterprise and both men accumulated enormous profits.

With his newly acquired wealth, Amos began investing in several projects throughout the Cincinnati area. By 1861 he had three steamers, possessed many shares in various turnpikes, and owned a great deal of real estate. He is also credited with building at least forty houses in Covington and Cincinnati. His most profitable business venture, however, was the construction of the Suspension Bridge — a project in which he invested tremendous amounts of both time and money.

Amos Shinkle was not only a financial wizard but a spiritual leader as well. A very pious man, he served as the superintendent of Sunday school for twenty-seven years. He was also responsible for the establishment of the Protestant Children's Home. He died on November 13, 1892.

The Shinkle "castle" (p. 35) was built in 1869, and many gala parties were held there. The edifice was abandoned, however, after Shinkle's death. In 1914 the family donated the property to the Salvation Army for a women's home. It later became the William Booth Memorial Hospital. In 1920 the original structure was demolished and the present day Booth Hospital was erected on the site.

Across the street from Booth Hospital, at 313 East Second Street, is the Shinkle house (bottom left). It is a small Victorian structure which Amos built around 1880.

Another of Shinkle's structures in Covington is "Shinkle's Row" (bottom right). It encompasses the entire northern side of East Second Street between Greenup and Garrard Streets. It was built in the 1860's in old English tradition. Legend holds that the Row was built to house the workers employed in the construction of the nearby Suspension Bridge. It has seven entrances and fifty twelve-foot arched windows. In May of 1974, eight Covington families paid more than \$200,000 for the historic block to insure its preservation.

