

History of West Covington

The Town of West Covington, in Kenton County, State of Kentucky, is built on land which once constituted part of the "Ludlow Farm", the greater part of this land was sold off at commissioners sale in lots of from $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 7 acres each, subsequently many of those lots were subdivided into building lots, and streets and alleys were laid off, so as to form a town; this town was known for some time by the name of "Economy", several lots being sold, buildings were erected on many of them, and in the year 1857 there were about 600 inhabitants, but no schools, churches or public improvements of any kind. up to 1858, the inhabitants had to get in and out of the village in the best manner they could, but as lots were being purchased and fenced in, and the sites laid off for streets or county roads were found to be impassable in many places, looking much better on the plats, than they did when the people came to trace the reality on the ground, they were obliged, (in order to cause the property owners, rich and poor, to contribute according to their means to the formation of new roads,) to petition the Legislature of Kentucky to grant a charter to incorporate the "Town of West Covington." This charter was granted in 1858; the trustees named were John Sherick George Stacey, A. Kershaw. John Monahan and William Woods, the two last names were erroneous, the persons meant being Patrick Monahan and Robert R. Woods, an election was held to fill the vacancies

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and Patrick Monahan and J. V. Barton were elected. The officers of the town were to be five Town Trustees having the power of School Trustees - A Police Judge and a Town Marshal, all to be elected by the citizens and a Town Clerk, an Assessor, a Treasurer and a Collector, each to be appointed by the Trustees, the maximum tax was placed at 25 cents annually on each one hundred dollars worth of assessed property. The boundaries of the town were from the boundary of the west of the city of Covington, along the center line of the River Road, westwardly to what is now the eastern line of the city of Ludlow southwardly along said line to its southern termination, thence to a continuation of the northern line line of Forrest Hill property, along said line to the western boundary of Covington, thence, along said boundary to the place of beginning.

The charter was amended in 1860, to give greater jurisdiction to the Police Judge, and to give the Marshal same power as constables have in the district, again in 1869 the charter was amended so as to establish a School Board of five Trustees separate from the Town Council, to permit the tax to be levied at 40 cents on the \$100.00 valuation, and to extend the corporate limits southwardly to the county road leading from Lewisburg to the Catholic cemetery, and northwardly to the Ohio River as it bounds the State of Kentucky. In 1870 the charter was amended, giving the trustees power to levy a tax of 30 cents on the \$100.00 and

To the School Board for schoolhouse repairs and other expenses; In 1874, the charter was amended, giving the trustees power to donate \$150.00 annually to school expenses, and providing that on petition of a majority of property owners on any street, or certain length of street or alley, the trustees may order the grading, paving, macadamizing, curbing guttering, and the making of sidewalks, and charge the expenses of same to the owners of property abutting on such improved street &c. to be paid, and payment to be coerced as in case of other taxes. — also permitting a special tax of 25 cents on the \$100.00 valuation of property for the years 1874, 1875, 1876 and 1877, for the purpose of building a Town Hall with rooms suitable for school purposes and sufficiently large to accommodate all children

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where such streets were imperfectly laid off on the original plats. The only church property in the town at present is a Roman Catholic church and school house, a parochial house for the dwelling of a catholic clergyman, and a residence for the teachers, this school also has two teachers, who are religious sisters of the order of St. Francis, the school is kept up by private subscription; Those schools thought by the members of that religious denomination to be absolutely necessary to the religious and primary instruction of the catholic children of that congregation are of great benefit to those of other religious denominations in as much, that the catholic children are kept there until they are about ten years old, thereby preventing the overcrowding of the district schools, which would in that case require extra teachers, and of course shorten the duration of the school session for want of sufficient funds. on that account the district school sessions amount to few months in the year, being of as long duration as those of the schools in richer districts. There are several groceries, but owing to the proximity of the town to Cincinnati and Covington there are no dry goods or hardware stores, There is one Beer Saloon on the River Road, chiefly patronized by farmers and travellers, and refreshments may be had at three of the groceries; there are 2 or 3 notion stores, and as the town is in a very healthy location there is not a drug store or a doctors office here. The majority of the citizens of this town were always, and are now members of the

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Democratic party, there could be none found more faithful to the Union of the States, at the time when an unfortunate civil war threatened to sever the bonds of the union of those States, and to leave us a prey to the monarchical and imperial powers of Europe, and on the 21st day of June 1861, a meeting was held for the purpose of organizing a military company to be composed of persons devoted and pledged to the support of the Union and Government of the United States of North America. At that meeting John Sherick was appointed chairman and Joseph Ryan (the chronicler of those facts) was secretary, a company was formed, uniforms were purchased, arms procured from the government, and at the time of the raid of the rebel General, Kirby Smith, the company was mustered into the service of the United States as company G. of the 41st Kentucky Regiment - and they did good service principally on picket duty. Subjoined will be found the names of the principal persons who have held public offices in this town from the time of its incorporation.

Town Trustees

For the Year	President	Other Trustees				Town Clerk
1858	J. Sherick	Geo. Stacey	A. Kershaw	Pat. Monahan	J. D. Barton	S. Mallos
1859	Same	Same	R. R. Woods	W ^m Tutty	Jos. Ryan	Same
1860	Same	Same	J. Clare	Same	John Lane	J. Ryan
1861	Same	Same	Pat. Lantry	Thos Hey	F. J. Wicker	Same
1862	Same	H. Kershaw	Jonas Miller	J ⁿ Lane	T. Christiani	J. Ryan
1863	H. Kershaw	J. Clare	Same	W ^m Wilcox	J. Roskopf	J. Ryan
1864	W ^m Whitely	W. Kelly	T. Hayden	R. Dunkinson	R. Wilcox	Same
1865	John Sherick	P. Lantry	R. R. Woods	J. Clare	J. W. Clark	Same
1866	P. Lantry	John Hawley	T. Hayden	J. W. Healy	J. V. King	Same
1867	P. McEvoy	P. Lantry	C. J. Martin	J. W. Healy	W. Whitely	Same
1868	P. Lantry	C. J. Martin	Thos Gow	Same	J. M. Swiney	Same
1869	Bernard Farrell	J ⁿ Kerns	O ^m Feeny	John Hawley	Same	Jos. Ryan
1870	A. McDonald	C. J. Martin	J. W. Clark	Same	Math. Clare	W ^m McDonald
1871	C. J. Martin	H. Bridgman	G. H. Feltman	Same	B. Grady	Same
1872	Same	G. Clark	J. Brown	J. Millechamp	B. Farrell	Same
1873	W. M. Lennan	B. Farrell	M. Hooker	S. McDonald	G. M. Coy	S. Mallos
1874	J. J. Reynolds	B. Farrell	G. Moser	G. P. Humphries	A ^m Dunn	Jos. Ryan
1875	B. Farrell	P. Maguire	S. Mallos	P. Whelan	M. Regan	Same
1876	B. Farrell	Same	G. P. Humphries	W. Lally	Same	Same

The office of Police Judge has been held by S. Mattas from 1858 to 1866, by Joseph Ryan from 1866 to 1870. by J.W. Healy to 1872, by W^m McDonald in 1872, by G.W. McBoy in 1873 and 1874, and by George Goodwin in 1875 and 1876, his term will expire in August 1878.

The office of Town Marshal has been held by B. Geraty in the years 1858 and 1859, 1860 & '61, by P. Lantry in 1862 and 1863, by Thomas Byrne from 1863 to 1873. ten years, by C.T. Bell in 1874 and by James Kerns in 1875 and 1876.

The office of Treasurer has been held by Geo. Stacy. Robt R. Woods, J.W. King, John McSwiney, and for several years by the present Treasurer, Geo. W. Clark.

The Board of School Trustees for the present year are Ohas T. Martin, Jas. J. Reynolds, Byron Hathaway, Michael Bain, and John Hawley.

Officers of Co. G 41st Ky Regt September 1862

Captain George Stacey

1st Lieut. James Martin

2nd " Henry Ranshaw

3rd " John Lane

1st Sergt Wm Wilcox

2nd " Patrick Lantry

3rd " Martin Curry

4th " Jonas Miller

1st Corp^l John W. Healy

2nd " Wm Pearce

3rd " H. B. Weller

4th " John Sherrigh

As the grade of 3rd Lieutenant was not recognized in the United States army. Mr Lane resigned and did duty as Sergeant

Joseph Ryan Company Clerk