

Northern Kentucky Views Presents:

---

# Koch Hotel Will Soon Be Gone

---

Reprinted from

The Falmouth Outlook

---

June 19, 1964

---

[www.nkyviews.com](http://www.nkyviews.com)

# Koch Hotel Will Soon Be Gone But Memory Of Shooting Still Lingers

The old Koch Hotel, known as the commercial men's Headquarters on Main Street in Falmouth in the year 1900, today known as the Russ Ballinger building, and of late purchased by the Fiscal Court to make room for the proposed new Courthouse for Pendleton County, is now coming down.

It is being wrecked by Wallace Norton of Falmouth and Frank Deatherage of Butler who say they have gotten some good lumber and building materials out of the old building. They bid it in for \$1.00 and have been several weeks in wrecking it. The two men have found only .29c in the old building but no old historical documents. But there is a history about the old landmark that we will tell you about briefly this week.

The old place has been owned by several people, the last Russ Ballinger, Falmouth businessman, who sold it for \$9,000. Mr. Ballinger had it as a storage warehouse for his furniture business and in renting apartments. He made kind use of the old place.

When it is gone it will make the front and side yards of the Pendleton County Courthouse more attractive and more spacious. It will breathe new life into the county government because it was said the property stood in the way and some people voted against the new courthouse last year because of it. Now the property will be gone and they have the opportunity to vote for it. It would have had to go anyway.

It is to be hoped that the wrecking of the old building will bring a new building and modernization boom in the downtown section of the county seat. In short, it is good that it is gone, but it will hold many memories.

The old Koch Hotel had a violent past one day in the year 1900, October 1st, to be exact. This is the history about his old building that still lingers today and will never be forgotten by the old timers and those who have lived here all their lives. For it was in this building that Chas. S. Anderson shot

and killed his wife, Mrs. Katie Koch Anderson.

Here is how it all happened. As we said earlier the place was a hotel for men and it was about noon that the owner, Mrs. Margaret Marquardt, (widow of Christian Koch) and her daughter, Mrs. Katie Koch Anderson, and others Minnie Koch, Kitty Conrad, Julia Conrad, and Dennis Conrad, all were in the kitchen preparing for the noon meal. It was County Court Day and there was a large crowd in town and many were expected for dinner. The proprietress, Mrs. Marquardt ran a good hotel. The fee per day was \$2.00.

Katie Anderson had come home to live with her mother and was employed there to help with the operation. She and her husband had not spoken since sometime in the previous June.

About this time Charles Anderson entered the kitchen of the hotel, said a few words to his wife, then grabbed her by the apron, turned her around, and shot her about five times. He then reloaded his pistol and shot at Mrs. Marquardt, saying, "Yes, I've got in for you too." She fortunately ran out of the kitchen unharmed followed by Katie who was reeling and falling.

Wm. E. Bishop, who operated a stable across the street, where the Outlook newspaper plant is today, heard the shots distinctly and ran across the street to see what had happened. Anderson was standing with a pistol in his hand and said, "Bish, don't shoot, I'm already shot." Anderson had turned the gun on himself, wounding but not fatally.

Dr. J. E. Wilson and Dr. J. H. Barbour were called and arrived as Katie was taking her last breaths and found that three bullets had struck her in the stomach and one in the right arm. Anderson had shot himself just above the heart, using his .38 calibre pistol.

Seventeen days later Chas. S. Anderson was indicted for the wilful murder of his wife, Katie Anderson. Feelling was running high and he was transferred to the Cynthiana Jail five days later.

He finally recovered from his gunshot wounds and he was brought to trial in Pendleton Circuit Court before Judge Wm. H. Kimbrough on Jan. 15, 1901. The prosecuting Attorney was (Judge) L. P. Fryer.

The trial lasted four days and the jury found the defendant guilty of wilful murder and fixed his punishment at confinement in the penitentiary for life. Serving on the jury were J. H. Jacobs, Foreman, H. T. Drake, J. H. Sellars, Jeff Lovelace, W. H. Johns, A. S. Cleveland, J. T. Antrobus, Chas. S. Crane, Marion Arnold, John H. Chiles, Jas. Ballinger and Jas. Crawford.

Anderson appealed his case to

## Koch House Has Many Memories

Continued From Page 1

the Court of Appeals on Jan. 22, 1901 and on Jan. 31st, 1901, he was sentenced. It was recalled this week that Anderson served time for the shooting death but later was paroled. He died in the later years. He and his wife had one son, Langhorn Anderson, who died in early life.

Yes, the old Koch hotel is coming down and will soon be gone but this event in Pendleton County history will be long remembered.

Better days are ahead for the old plot of ground that was included in the town square that was given to the county by John Waller founder of Falmouth. It was sold off in later years, as were the other lots. Now the county has bought back and hopes to build its new Courthouse here on this historic spot. The citizens of Pendleton County are being asked to support their county government and vote for a new Courthouse and Jail.

Let us hope that it all comes to pass. So much for the better for this fine county.