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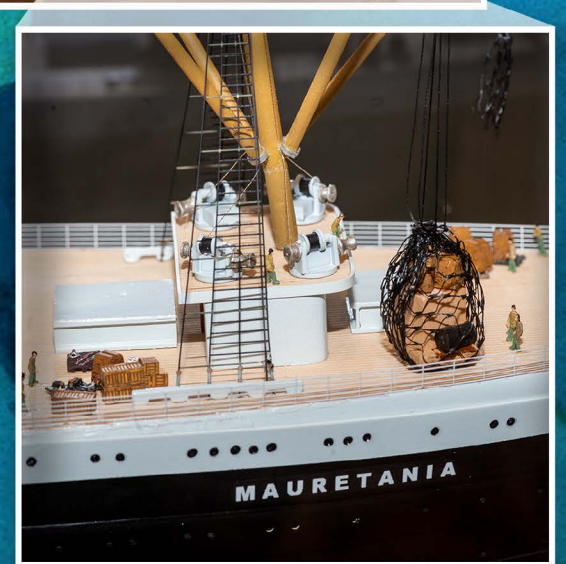
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SUMMER / AUGUST 2020

THE AGE OF THE OCEAN LINER



STEAMSHIPS ON THE
NORTH ATLANTIC BEFORE THE
TRIUMPH OF THE JET

THE VIEW FROM SECOND AND SUTTON

It's not your typical summer – not your typical year – and not your typical Kentucky Gateway Museum viewing of exhibits or education program. The Board of Trustees voted at the Summer Board Meeting to support our Museum's newest initiative of adding a virtual component to our areas of community service and adding a new level of membership for our patrons and members.

During our spring 2020 closure to the public during the early stages of the pandemic, we began the development of our *Kentucky Gateway Virtual Learning Resources* and related web-based learning concepts. *Gateway Learning Resources* are allowing our Museum to develop a component of lessons and exhibit presentations that are on-line and can be used both, in classrooms and for parents in the home setting. We are working with area schools through our contacts with educators and the *Museum's Education Committee* to develop units that are needed to supplement the curriculums of our area schools. The implications of our Museum becoming not only a physical destination but one that could be viewed on any home or classroom computer is both exciting and challenging for our staff and members. We are filming exhibits, seminars, speakers and related information that is requested by teachers to supplement the resources available to both students and parents at home and in the traditional classroom.

The Museum's *Virtual Learning Resources* also includes updating our presentations in the galleries from previously only self-guided or docent lead tours to now include *QR Codes* by exhibits with both written materials and recordings describing various exhibits, paintings, and related displays that allow for a more independent viewing of the galleries. This new use of technology in the Museum is important as we deal with the on-going pandemic situation of social distancing in the galleries and still providing needed explanations of the displays in our galleries. The *QR Codes* can offer both audio and informational text concerning the particular display or exhibit that can be accessed on the guest's smart phone.

This use of technology will enable the Museum's *Gateway Virtual Learning Resources* to become a significant part of our education program and is very exciting while at the same time essential for our growth of the Museum services during these unsettled times in our history. You will notice continued additions to our social media and web page segments of our outreach activities. We will continue to bring our outreach services to our schools and community groups but at the same time add the virtual element to the services of the Museum.

The Board of Trustees at the summer meeting also added a new level of memberships with a Life Membership plan after several years of not having a Life Membership option for membership renewals. Proceeds from the Life Membership will go to the endowment to provide a lasting level of financial commitment to our Museum. This new level along with the Annual Wormald NARM Membership providing admissions to over 2,000 museums in North America gives several exciting options to support your Museum.

Don't miss our newest exhibit this fall, *The Age of the Ocean Liner: Steamships on the North Atlantic Before the Triumph of the Jet* featuring ship models in 1/200 scale from the Ashley and Barbara Ford Collection. Celebrate the Kentucky Derby tradition this fall with the viewing of the Fred Hester Collection of Derby Glasses in the Calvert Hallway Cases. Both the Ford Collection of model ships, trains and planes and the Fred Hester Derby Glasses are two of the newest donations to the permanent Museum Collections.

Thank you for your membership, your donations and attendance at the Museum Center ... Hope to see you soon at the Museum.

C.J. Hunter IV
Executive Director




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MINIATURE OF THE MONTH

By Kaye Browning

The late Orvin Fjare created this incredible Wooten desk in 1/12 scale displayed in the KSB Miniatures Collection. The original desk, popular in the later part of the 19th century, was known as the “king of desks” in its time. Produced by an Indiana company owned by William Wooton, his 1874 patent for a “cabinet office secretary” marked the birth of this utilitarian beauty that would become “an enduring symbol of Victorian business.”

Wooton desks had more than 100 compartments to store records and office supplies. It was a bonafide fast-growing need since the introduction of typewriters and improved fountain pens had increased the amounts of paperwork businesses were producing. And Wooton’s design accommodated it all beautifully and efficiently.



The Wooten desk came in four varieties—Ordinary, Standard, Extra, and Superior—featuring added embellishments with each grade. Prices ranged from \$90 to \$750 (some more) and it’s reported that John D. Rockefeller, Ulysses S. Grant, Joseph Pulitzer and Charles Scribner each owned one. It’s also rumored that a version was commissioned by Queen Victoria.

Orvin’s background is just as interesting. Born in Montana in 1918, the beloved family man, Army pilot, community leader, public speaker, and congressman was a prankster with many hobbies, including photography, horticulture and vinification. He started his miniaturist career by making his wife, Sigrid, the dollhouse she

had always dreamed of. They would be married for 66 years and often traveled to miniatures shows well into their 80s.

Orvin lived to be 93, passing away just two years after Sigrid, but not before sharing his Wooten desk secrets with another Montanan miniaturist, IGMA Fellow Gideon Wolf, who worked closely with Orvin and continues to make the late artisan’s signature secretary along with other Wooton fine-scale reproductions.

The Wooten desk currently resides in Megler Landing.

THE AGE OF THE OCEAN LINER STEAMSHIPS ON THE NORTH ATLANTIC BEFORE THE TRIUMPH OF THE JET



OPENING FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER 8, 2020

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HIXON'S HOARDINGS AND MORE...

By Tandy Nash

Finally! Major League Baseball is set to return! Players were set to report to a version of "spring" training on July 1 with the regular season beginning either July 23 or 24. Our "spring" has turned to summer and amidst the pandemic, baseball with it brings rebirth, new life and the abundant optimism it always has. It has been called a "harbinger of better times" and now, more than ever, we need it.

The Players Association has been working with "a variety of public health experts, infectious disease specialists and technology providers on a comprehensive approach that aims to facilitate a safe return." The majority of Major

"hosting 2 teams of unsigned players who would be paid to remain in shape as potential replacement players, should the need arise during the season." Seven players and 5 staff members of the Phillies and 3 Colorado Rockies players have already tested positive. Recently 2 Reds had tested positive. Players deemed high-risk because of pre-existing conditions will be allowed to opt out of any season and get paid and maintain service time. Players will be tested every other day. Pitchers will use a wet rag to moisten their fingers in lieu of licking them and staff members will be required to wear masks in the dugout.

The earliest mention of English baseball (it was called this and other names) was written by a Puritan Clergyman of Maidstone in 1700 denouncing the populace for Sunday activity. An early illustration shows bases marked by posts four feet high. "It appears in the Little Pretty Pocket-Book, published in England in 1744, in which a verse thus describes the game: Baseball, the ball once struck off, away flies the boy, to the next destend'd post, and then Home with Joy." It seems sure that Revolutionary soldiers played baseball. George Ewing, one of Washington's troops at Valley Forge wrote that they "Exercised in the afternoon, in the intervals played at base" in his journal on April 7, 1778. In a diary entry in 1786 by a Princeton University student, it was posted, "a fine day, played baseball in the campus but am beaten for I miss both catching and striking the ball." In the early 1800s, Native Americans played using a ball made of an elastic hunk of sturgeon's head wrapped in deerskin. And, the N.Y. autobiography of Thurlow Weed stated, "a baseball club of 50 men met every afternoon during the ball playing season. The ball ground, containing some eight or ten acres, known as Mumford's Meadow is now a compact part of the city." Baseball was popular enough in New England for

the city ordinance to be passed against playing it in the streets of Worcester, Massachusetts in 1816. First credit to give a dangerous hitter a walk on four balls rather than pitch to him, was given at Brown University in 1827.

Credit is given to the Knickerbocker Baseball Club of New York City with marking the beginning of modern baseball in America and calls a young bank teller named Andrew Cartwright, the real 'Father of Baseball'. By 1845, official club written rules by Cartwright became the basis for the way the game is played today. Modifications were made. Cartwright abolished one of the two catchers, created the new position of shortstop and inaugurated the rule that the side was out after only 3 outs. He decided flat stones were better than rocks as bases; he initiated a regular batting order with a limit of nine players on a side. Harold Peterson, who wrote for *Sports Illustrated*, concluded "Cartwright may properly be called the inventor of baseball in the



League clubs are expected to conduct training at the ballparks in their primary home cities. The Players Association has been given a schedule to play 60 games. The MLB will have a COVID-19 specific inactive list that players will be placed on if and when they test positive or show symptoms. There will be no set amount of time for players to sit out, unlike the injured list which requires hitters to miss at least 10 days. The MLB has talked to the city of Nashville as a possibility of



sense that the Wright Brothers (rather than Leonardo Da Vinci) invented the airplane." (What about Abner Doubleday- the famous Civil War General who fought for the Union at Fort Sumter and at Gettysburg? - history, debunked!). Being an official organization, the Knickerbockers from the first kept a book to record each game, setting a standard that has made baseball the most meticulously recorded of any sport in the world. "On June 19, 1846, the first match game of baseball was played... between the Knickerbockers and the 'New Yorks'. It is generally conceded that until this

time, the game was not seriously regarded.”

It seems that Mason County **has always** regarded baseball seriously. In 1858, Joe Murch went on to pitch in the leagues for the Memphis Grays. Maysville’s first baseball teams were formed in 1860 with the Maysville Town Ball Club playing Union Town Ball Club of East Maysville.



In the 1890s, Maysville had a powerful amateur baseball team that once challenged the Cincinnati Red Stockings- America’s first professional baseball team. The Maysville team won the three-game series, making local heroes of its players. (Among them was Sam Lever. Maysville manager, Stanley Watson drove to his home in horse and buggy and signed Lever to a contract. Lever later played for the Pittsburgh Pirates in the National League in 1898 as a right-handed pitcher.) (Barry McCormick who played here in 1895 was an original member of the St. Louis Browns who formed in 1902.) When the local team defeated the Reds 4-3. it was claimed Maysville won because the game was played here, so another was scheduled at Cincinnati and Maysville won again. “Some days later, a passenger on a C. & O. train inquired at the [Maysville] depot the name of this village. The answer to his inquiry was ‘ask the Cincinnati Reds.’

Cincinnati had always been the team to aspire to. In 1868, four players for Cincinnati were on salary. Way back, it was unthinkable to accept money to play the game. It was, after all, fun and the thrill of playing the game was enough. (“Even though prohibited, payments were made to good players during the Civil War.”) Then Aaron B. Champion put all players on salary and Cincinnati was forever known as the birthplace of professional baseball. Other teams criticized the commercialism, but all wanted to play “those pros from Cincinnati” whose spectacular skills were legendary everywhere.

In the early 1900’s, the Bluegrass and Ohio State leagues brought professional baseball to Maysville, Cynthiana, Newport and other Kentucky cities. These leagues

were a mixture of local semi-pro players and youngsters signed by major league teams who were sent to leagues like the Bluegrass to get more experience. Casey Stengel was one of those players. He had signed a professional contract in 1910 with the Kansas City Blues in the American Association. When it folded, he was reassigned to Shelbyville in the Bluegrass League, making \$135 a month. Shelbyville had financial problems and on “August 24, 1910, a Maysville group, including J.W. Fitzgerald and Preston Wells, purchased the Shelbyville team and moved it to Maysville.” Maysville’s professional team of 1910 was called the Maysville Rivermen.

Maysville’s businesses offered gifts to players who hit home runs. Stengel was the 1st to hit a home run and received a box of candy and a Duplex Safety-razor outfit. Every year there was fanfare on opening day. In 1911 the season started with a parade featuring league Pres. Dr.

W. C. Ussery. Maysville Mayor J. W. Lee threw out the first pitch and declared the day a business holiday, while 3,000 people packed the ball park to watch Maysville beat Paris. In 1912, the Mt. Olivet band cheered Maysville Rivermen in the league opener. That year, the United States League was formed to compete with the National & American Leagues and Maysville pitchers, Bert Grover and Carl Wellman went on to play for the St. Louis Browns. Teams were still having financial problems, but Maysville, under the direction of Pres. Thomas Russell, was one of the few teams that seemed financially strong. The Augusta band was on hand for the 1913 Opener. Lee Dashner went on to pitch with the Cleveland Indians of the American League and that was the year when the Bluegrass had financial problems and Maysville and Lexington joined the Ohio State League. The Maysville team was renamed the Cubs. Unfortunately, they too, had problems and played their last game on July 22, 1914 beating Huntington 2-1. Tom Russell tried to revive the team as the Maysville Cardinals in 1922, but they folded again in ’24. Amateur teams continued to operate in Cynthiana, Maysville and many other cities, but the heyday of professional baseball in Kentucky was over.

When you walk down the hall to the Calvert Gallery at KYGMC, you will see the early picture of the Maysville Rivermen/Bluegrass League managed by local boy, Harry Kunkel. There are several other pictures of local teams like the William E Gang Co., the field and a baseball card of Maysville player “Shultz” from an Old Mill Cigarette Coupon. There is only one month left to view the baseball pictures in our atrium, but you have the rest of the season to listen to new baseball history being made every day.

Email Questions to Hixson@KYGMC.org @ Kentucky Gateway Museum Center, Maysville, KY



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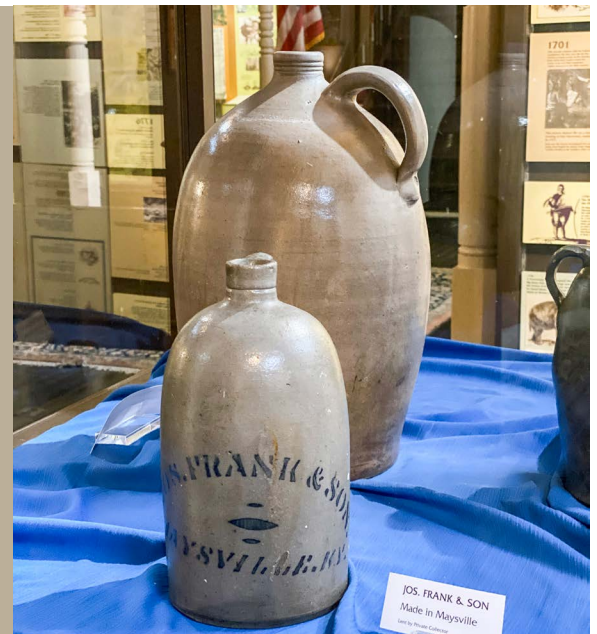
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