

EARLY HISTORY OF COVINGTON.

The first authentic report of a deliberate journey made into what is now Kentucky was made in 1750 by Dr. Thomas Walker. He crossed the Alleghenies and returned home with stories of the great Appalachian coal fields of Eastern Kentucky. Only one year later we have record of an explorer crossing the Licking River at its mouth and, so far as we know, being the first white man to set foot upon what is now our own city of Covington. This man was Christopher Gist, an agent of the Ohio Company. He found most of Kentucky at this time abandoned by the Indians, who had perhaps only one settlement opposite where Portsmouth now stands, with a few towns along the Mississippi River.

A few years before the Revolution broke out Simon Kenton, with some other men, went down the Ohio River, and on their return explored the Licking. Although they did not land, they traveled on two sides of what is now our own city.

During the Revolution, in 1779, Colonel Bowman, of Kentucky County, Virginia (which then embraced the entire present State of Kentucky), led an expedition against the Shawnee Indians. He notified the people accordingly to "plant their corn, and be in readiness to rendezvous at the mouth of the Licking" - where Covington now is. Men from the falls of the Ohio, coming up the river in boats, made it possible for the men from the interior to cross with ease. Each man was allowed a "peck of parched corn apiece" and some "public beef". The results of the expedition were not so successful as anticipated. This spot was again made the place of rendezvous when George Rogers Clark led an expedition against the Indians.

Nearly one thousand volunteers from Kentucky flocked to this place to meet him. Clark gathered his men a second time at the mouth of the Licking to avenge the battle of Blue Licks. They destroyed

