

## **Covalt Station & Post Office**

Did You Know? Jan 2007

### **Covalt Station**

Covalt Station was the first settlement in what is now known as Terrace Park. Abraham Covalt with his party of forty-five men women and children came from Pennsylvania to Columbia and then up the Little Miami River to a place near the river and Mill Creek, somewhat below where St. Thomas Church stands today. Covalt Station was a rather large rectangular fort with blockhouses at the four corners, seventeen cabins against the inner walls and just one entrance. Similar or smaller stations were built all around the Cincinnati area to serve as still needed protection from Indian attacks. There is a discrepancy concerning the date of Covalt Station's founding. Many say 1789 but it may have been 1790. Timothy Covalt, a son of Abraham, gave a deposition when he was 71 years old. It states, "About the year seventeen hundred and ninety he the said Abraham Cavault emigrated with his family to the Northwestern territory and settled at a place on the Little Miami afterward called Covault's Station."

### **Post Office**

The very first post office on land that is now in Terrace Park was established circa 1804. It seems to have had three different names: Charleston, Round Bottom and Round Bottom Mills. Edward Whistler was the first Postmaster followed by Jacob Broadwell, Thomas Reagans and by 1810 John Smith. This post office was probably down in the area where John Smith lived, the Round Bottom area, and was discontinued between 1813 and 1817.

The next post office was established on June 26<sup>th</sup>, 1879 with Emily C. Hendrick as postmaster. By February 16<sup>th</sup>, 1880 Robert Lem(m)on was Postmaster. This post office was discontinued on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1890 and reestablished on June 23<sup>rd</sup> 1891 with Harriet M. Gegner as Postmaster. All this was of course before Terrace Park was incorporated in 1893. Next came Lucius W. Conkling (appointed 8/16/1903), Miss Lillian L. Conkling (10/20/1920), Lulu Tarvin (10/12/1921) and then Lillian Droescher in 1925.

The building (411 Terrace Place) where Harriet Gegner ran the post office was built on Lot #112 of J. W. Sibley's subdivision and was sold to Mrs. Gegner in 1891. She evidently sold books and perhaps other small items besides serving as postmaster and railroad agent. By 1903 the post office moved to the Conkling's grocery store (415 Terrace Place), then briefly to a building across Harvard on what is now the Village Green and then back to 411 Terrace Place where Lulu Tarvin and her two sons and then Mrs. Droescher ran a store as well as the post office. She took the job after her husband's death in 1921 and held it for 25 years.

It was Effie Miller who in 1953 had Walter Gingrich build today's post office (409 Terrace Place) to the Post Office Department's specifications. Door to door mail delivery began on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 1960. Before that everyone had to go to the post office to pick up the mail.



Mrs. Droscher's



409 Terrace Place