

The Gruelle's Lasting Raggedy Ann History

*Cynthiana will celebrate its Ninth Annual
Raggedy Ann Festival on April 16, 2011.*

*Raggedy Ann and Andy dolls have been
collected, adored and treasured for generations.*

R. B. Gruelle was born on February 22, 1851 in Cynthiana, Kentucky. He later moved to Arcola, Illinois, where his son Johnny was born, December 24, 1880. Johnny Gruelle grew up to become a well known political cartoonist, illustrator and artist. Around 1908 he began producing features for children. Gruelle created the Raggedy Ann doll in 1915 and he published the first stories in 1918.

When Johnny's daughter, Marcella, became ill and was bedridden, he spent many hours telling stories to entertain her. She died at the age of thirteen, but the stories which were based on Marcella's own dolls became the genesis for Johnny's illustrations and children's books. There are several accounts regarding the origin of the first Raggedy Ann doll. Most believe the first Raggedy Ann was an old handmade rag doll made in Illinois many years before for Johnny Gruelle's mother. The doll was found years later in the attic and after some repairs, it became a new playmate for Marcella.

The festival will feature Raggedy Ann History, Stories and Drawings by Joni Gruelle Wannamaker, Johnny Gruelle's granddaughter and artist. Joni now lives in Arcola, Illinois, where she and her husband, Tom, administer the Johnny Gruelle Raggedy Ann and Andy Museum.

In American Profile, Joni stated, "Many people have told me Raggedy Ann has been their best friend through the years. She's always there for a hug or a smile (Editions: 12.17.00-12.23.00)."

*~Cynthiana~
The Cradle of Raggedy Ann*

Cynthiana, Kentucky
is centrally located in the
Northern Section of the beautiful
Bluegrass Region. You may reach
Cynthiana from the following

I-75 Corridor exits:

Exit 113 at Lexington,
Take US 27 North
(approx. 35 miles)

Exit 126 at Georgetown
Take US 62 East
(approx. 19 miles)

Exit 154 at Williamstown
Take US 36 East
(approx. 32 miles)

RAGGEDY ANN FESTIVAL is sponsored by:

Cynthiana-Harrison County
Chamber of Commerce

Cynthiana Vision

3M

Harrison Memorial Hospital

Edward Jones

James Ingram, CPA

**For further information contact:
Pat Grenier at**

**Chamber of Commerce 859.234.5236
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or

Juanita Ingram 859.234.6841

RAGGEDY ANN FESTIVAL Downtown Cynthiana, KY



**April 16, 2011
9:00 am- 4:00 pm**

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Special Attractions

CYNTHIANA MUSEUM

Stop by the Museum located at 124 South Walnut Street to see their wonderful Raggedy Ann and Andy display!

BOOK SIGNING

At Teaberry Gifts, 108 S. Main Street authors: Chandler McEwan-*O'Toole's Orchard* Nathan Miller-*The Official Librarian; Bessy's Back* will be signing copies of their books.

QUIDDITCH!

Harry Potter fans, check out the Transylvania University's booth for more information and the opportunity to be "sorted" into your house.

CYNTHIANA LIBRARY

Special displays and activities are happening at the library, today. Stop by 104 North Main Street to check out all the great things! Sponsor of this year's coloring contest.

FESTIVAL T-SHIRTS

For a souvenir festival shirt, stop by the Festival Committee tent. Collector pins and flags are also available.

FRIDAY NIGHT'S HIGH TEA

Join us Friday night from **5-7 pm** for a *high tea* at the Chamber of Commerce building 201 South Main Street Tickets are \$15 per person and include a special memento mug.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

9:00 am **Opening Introductions**
*Mayor Steve Moses
*County Judge Alex Barnett

Awards: Coloring Contest & Window Display

10:00 **Morning Entertainment:**

*Irish Step Dancers
Lexington, KY
*Kelly Grenier, Vocalist
*Quidditch Game Demo
Transylvania University

1:00 **Afternoon Entertainment:**

*Turtleman Live Action!
as seen on KET, YouTube,
and soon to be seen on
Animal Planet

* Blue Collar Rebels
Music

4:00 **Closing**

Games, food, music, rides, entertainment, collectibles, animals, artwork, crafts, and more are all available throughout the day.

Special Attractions

Please check out the following shops that participated in the

RAGGEDY ANN Window Decorating Contest

Tay's Cloth Peddler	121 East Pike Street <i>Fabric, Yarn, Patterns, DMC Floss</i>
New to You Boutique	117 East Pike Street <i>Upscale Consignment</i>
Richie Photography	129 East Pike Street <i>Sports/ Action/Special Events</i>
Cozy Cottage	123 East Pike Street <i>Specialized Hair Care</i>
Hicks Insurance	118 East Pike Street <i>Insurance Agency</i>
Happy Tails Pet Salon	114 East Pike Street <i>Pet Salon, Walk-ins Welcome</i>
Seldon Renaker	113 South Walnut Street <i>Victorian Bed & Breakfast</i>
Aurora Info Systems	105 Joe B. Hall Court <i>Certified Computer Technician</i>
Southern Accents	138 South Main Street <i>"The best gifts are tied with heartstrings"</i>
Palmer-Hampton	110 South Main Street <i>Real Estate & Insurance Agency</i>
Douglas Miller	130 South Main Street <i>Commonwealth Attorney</i>
Especially For You	134 South Main Street <i>Traditional Clothing & Gifts</i>
Whalen Jewelers	136 South Main Street <i>Special Order & Repair</i>
Flower Depot	208 South Main Street <i>Floral Design & Novelties</i>
Christian Bookstore	116 South Main Street <i>Bibles, Music, Books, and Gifts</i>
Mane Cuts	109 South Main Street <i>Hair & Nail Salon</i>
Chase Jewelers	206 South Main Street <i>Clocks & Jewelry</i>
Teabery Gifts	108 South Main Street <i>Gifts and Novelties</i>