

## *The Gruelle's Lasting Raggedy Ann History*

*Cynthiana will celebrate its Sixth Annual  
Raggedy Ann Festival on April 19, 2008.*

*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

Southeast Telephone

Cynthiana Rotary Club

James Ingram, CPA

Picture This & Moore Photography

Seldon Renaker Inn

**For further information contact:**  
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# **RAGGEDY ANN FESTIVAL Downtown Cynthiana, KY**

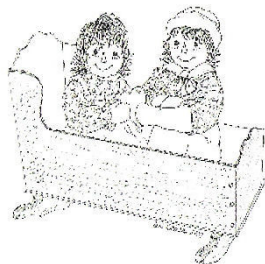


**April 19, 2008  
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 9:00 am Opening Ceremony  
Guest speakers  
A very special presentation  
Coloring Contest Winners Announced
- 10:00 am Sin The` Shaolin Martial Arts –Gordon Burkett
- 10:30am The Magic of David Cottrell
- 11:30 am Raggedy Ann & Andy  
Buggy & Wagon Parade
- 12:00 pm The Tangled Yarn Band
- 12:30 Larry Bowald - singing
- 1:00 pm Harrison County Elementary School Select Choir  
Under the direction of Jennifer Wilson
- 1:30 pm The Magic of David Cottrell
- 2:30pm Alson Cole
- 3:00 pm Jump Rope Contest (Register with Ms. Bell, near stage)
- 3:30 pm The Tangled Yarn Band  
Raffle Drawing  
Closing

*Cynthiana*  
*Cradle of Raggedy Ann*



## Special Attractions

### RAFFLES

We have three wonderful raffles to present this year. Southeast Telephone has put together a basket full of Raggedy Ann merchandise, including dolls, a ceramic tea set, and blanket. We also have been given an original watercolor print by Joni Gruelle Wannamaker. And, Sue Neal, our local Cookie Lee Jewelry consultant, has donated a beautiful heart pendant. Raffle tickets may be purchased at the Raggedy Ann T-shirt Tent.

### RAGGEDY ANDY MADE IT!

November 8, 2007, Rochester, NY "Raggedy Andy's little heart was mended today when, after five long years, he was finally reunited with his famous sister Raggedy Ann in the *National Toy Hall of Fame* in Rochester, New York." (Raggedy Ann was inducted into the Hall in 2002). Thanks for all your help!!!

### AT YOUR REQUEST

Everyone has loved the Raggedy Ann banners put up by the City of Cynthiana. So....after many requests, we have LAWN FLAGS with the same print, for sale. Check them out at the Raggedy Ann T-shirt Tent.

### CUPCAKE ANYONE?

Don't miss the "Cupcake Walk" sponsored by the Seldon Renaker Inn. Just look for Raggedy Ann wearing the Chef's hat! *Yum, Yum!* "Walks" will begin every 15 minutes throughout the day.

### WHY RAGGEDY ANN?

Local historian and genealogist, Charley Feix will be at the Public Library Kentucky Room during the Festival. Check out the wonderful resources and the Raggedy Ann displays our library has to offer.

### WHERE IS RAGGEDY ANN?

Be sure to visit the Raggedy Ann & Andy Corner at the Museum. The Museum will also feature *Trivia* and a *Where's Raggedy* Contests. The Museum is located at 124 South Walnut Street.

### DON'T FEED THE ANIMALS!

Well, maybe....Judy Feedback and Patty Dacci are bringing their wonderful petting zoo to the Raggedy Ann Festival. Look for them in a shady, grassy area of the lawn.

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