



45 WEST FIFTH STREET
CHILLICOTHE, OHIO 45601
(740) 772-1936
E-Mail: info@rosscountyhistorical.org
Web Site: www.rosscountyhistorical.org

Winter 2009 ISSUE



Upcoming Events & Programs

Annual Meeting

Monday, April 27 — The Ross County Historical Society's 113th annual meeting for Society members will be held at 7:00 p.m. Included will be the annual business meeting with reports from the president, treasurer & director, the election of members to the board of trustees, and the recognition of volunteers. At the conclusion of the business meeting, featured speaker George Kane, Director of Historic Sites & Facilities for the Ohio Historical Society, will discuss the Ohio Historical Society's current plans for the future of the State of Ohio's historic site system which includes Adena State Memorial and other locations in Ross County. Refreshments will be served following the presentation.

2009 Spring Speakers Series

Wednesday, April 22, 7:30 P.M., *Ohio Becomes a State: The Rest of the Story*, featuring Andy Verhoff, Site Manager of the Ohio Historical Society's Campus Martius & the Ohio River Museum, Marietta, Ohio.

Wednesday, May 6, 7:30 P.M., *Boy from Chillicothe: Billy Ireland, Cartoonist of the Columbus Dispatch*, featuring Lucy Shelton Caswell, Curator & Professor, The Ohio State University Cartoon Research Library.

Wednesday, May 20, 7:30 P.M., *An Evening with Abraham Lincoln*, featuring Pete Raymond, Association of Lincoln Presenters, Wooster, Ohio.

All three programs are open to the general public free of charge. Refreshments will be served. Please see page 3 for additional information.

2009 Museum Hours

January — March:

Open to members and group tours by advanced appointment

April — December:

Tuesday — Saturday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed major holidays

2009 McKell Library Hours

1 to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday.
Closed major holidays

A Friendly Reminder

The use of articles, photographs, and other items in the *Recorder* is prohibited without the express written consent of the Board of Trustees of the Ross County Historical Society, 45 W. 5th St. Chillicothe, OH 45601.

Society Mourns the Passing of Evelyn Walker

Of the many people who have contributed to the Ross County Historical Society's success over the past century, few will be missed any more than Evelyn Walker. The Society's librarian for nearly twenty years passed away on December 9th at the age of 77. Evelyn was a graduate of Chillicothe High School and held a Master's Degree in Chemistry from The Ohio State University. She had a lifelong passion for reading and for books which attracted her to volunteer at the Society's McKell Library following her retirement as a professional chemist in the late 1980s. She worked hundreds of hours each year, along with Pat Medert, to organize and catalog the library's immense collection of rare books and papers. Her generous financial contributions helped make possible the many improvements at the McKell Library during the past two decades. Evelyn was also a regular contributor to this newsletter, writing a column titled "From the Library" which featured articles highlighting the many parts of the collection she studied and grew to love.

Upon her passing, Evelyn left her entire estate to the Ross County Historical Society to help fund operations and improvements at both the McKell Library and the Museum. She also leaves behind her many friends here, and elsewhere, who miss her wit, wisdom and friendship.



Welcome New Members

The Society welcomes the following new members since the last issue of the *Recorder*:

Raymond Andrews
Chester Collins
Bruce Landis & Family
Carolyn Bethel
Andrea Digges & Family
Rev. & Mrs. Quenlin Lockwood
Brian Bowen & Family
Ellen Hilsheimer

President's Report, by Pat Medert

I recently lost a good friend and the Society lost a loyal supporter. Evelyn Walker, who volunteered as librarian for the McKell Library and who contributed generously to its operation, died December 9 after a ten-month illness.

Evelyn and I graduated from CHS in 1949, and after graduation went our separate ways. We both returned to Chillicothe in the late 1980s, and both of us got involved in the historical society. In 1990, I asked Evelyn if she would like to enter into a joint project of organizing the book collection which was scattered throughout the various buildings. She readily agreed, and the two of us began an adventure which did not end until her death.

I well remember the excitement of opening box after box of books and gasping at their contents. The process took longer than necessary because we had to stop and discuss the latest finds. Once the books were shelved, we decided the collection should be computerized. Evelyn bought the first computer for the library and then purchased several more as our needs increased and the equipment needed to be updated. She led the way in getting the collection on the internet.

In 1997, major renovations were made to the McKell Library to make it a functioning library. When grants to the project did not cover all the work we wanted to do, Evelyn made up the shortfall. It was through her generosity that the portrait gallery/meeting room and temporary exhibit room were redecorated. Whenever exterior painting and other work needed to be done, she contributed to the budget for the jobs. All of this was done under the guise of an "Anonymous Donor."

During the years that Evelyn and I worked with the books, especially Col. David McKell's collection, we felt that the colonel was looking over our shoulders and often remarked that we believed he would approve of what we were doing. I now feel that Evelyn and the colonel are watching me, and I hope that my efforts will always meet with their approbation.

Memorial Donations

The Society gratefully acknowledges the following people for their memorial donations in memory of Evelyn Walker:

Mary Ruth
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Nelson
Dr. & Mrs. Lewis Coppel
Julia Pierson
Joan Kear
Mr. & Mrs. David R. Medert
Patricia Swanson
Mr. & Mrs. Don Gunlock
Jean Foor
Andy Verhoff
Tom & Leslie Kuhn
David & Lisa Hess
Al & Tonya Dye

The Society gratefully acknowledges the following people for their memorial donations in memory of John Herron:

John Herron, Jr.
Frank Herron & Sandra Urie

Director's Report, by Tom Kuhn

Evelyn Walker's passing in December has been a sorrowful experience for all who knew and worked with her. Few people have cared more and done more for our organization in the sixteen years that I have served as the director than Evelyn. The McKell Library and its wonderful and unique collection of rare books was her passion, and she put her heart and soul into making it a useful asset for all who choose to use it. The Society, in considering an appropriate manner in which to honor her memory, has decided to create a memorial garden & sitting park in Evelyn's name on the grounds behind the Library she loved so much. We thank everyone who has made a contribution in Evelyn's memory. Your gifts will help bring this plan to fruition.

The Society has also been the beneficiary, once again, of a substantial gift of 800 shares of Johnson & Johnson stock from Josephine Collins. This latest act of generosity follows two similar donations Mrs. Collins made in 2008 in memory of her late husband, Rex. Her gifts have been placed in a fund designated for the construction of the Society's proposed Collections Storage & Conservation Facility. We are most grateful for Mrs. Collins' continued support and we thank her on behalf of all our members.

From the Museum Store

New! ***Water Street, Chillicothe, Ohio: Its Buildings and Its People***, \$39.95 — the fifth in a series of publications on the structural history of Chillicothe's downtown historic district. This 224 page volume covers the fascinating history of Chillicothe's original downtown business district, by Patricia Fife Medert.

Heroes of the Western Theater: 33rd Ohio Veteran Volunteer Infantry, \$45.00 — a fascinating, highly detailed history of a famed Ohio Civil War infantry regiment, many of whose members hailed from Ross County, by Lois Lambert.

More Stories from Chillicothe's Past, \$14.95 — a compilation of 108 additional stories on Chillicothe history by Pat Medert which have appeared in the *Chillicothe Gazette* since her first volume *Stories from Chillicothe's Past* was published in 1998.

Fourth, Fifth, & Caldwell Streets, Chillicothe, Ohio: The Buildings and the People, \$39.95 — the fourth in a series of publications on the structural history of Chillicothe's downtown historic district, by Patricia Fife Medert.

Main Street, Chillicothe, Ohio: Its Buildings and Its People, \$39.95 — the third volume in a series covers both sides of Main Street from Mulberry to Walnut Street, by Patricia Fife Medert.

The Rise and Fall of Camp Sherman: Ohio's World War One Soldier Factory, \$4.95 — a reprint of Richard Peck's popular pictorial history of Chillicothe's WWI army training camp.

Chillicothe, Ohio: Frontier Settlement to State Capital, \$14.95 — An illustrated history of Chillicothe's founding and role as Ohio's first capital, by Patricia Medert & Andrew Verhoff.

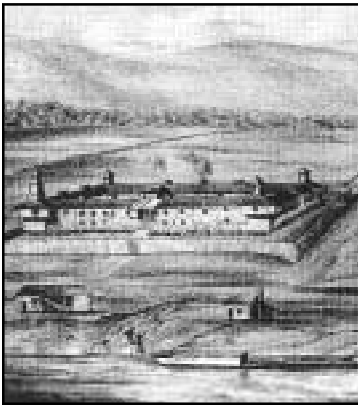
Little Known Tales of Old Chillicothe and Ross County, Ohio, \$20.00 — a group of fascinating short stories about Chillicothe and Ross County, by John R. Grabb.

Ohio and Erie Canal Motor Tour: To Circleville from Chillicothe, \$15.00 — an exploration of the remains of this historic waterway, by Martha Gerber Rittinger.

Society members receive a 10% discount on all purchases.

Spring Speakers Series 2009

Ross County Historical Society
at the Ross County Heritage Center
45 West Fifth St., Chillicothe
Free & Open to the Public



Campus Martius, c. 1788

Ohio Becomes a State: The Rest of the Story

Featuring Andy Verhoff, Site Manager of the Ohio Historical Society's Campus Martius Museum & Ohio River Museum, Marietta, Ohio

Wednesday, April 22, 7:30 p.m.

March 1, 1803 was not a joyous day for everyone in the new state of Ohio. The day was celebrated in Chillicothe, but things were more subdued in Marietta. Find out why in this talk by the site manager of the Campus Martius Museum in Marietta and former curator at the Ross County Historical Society. Having lived and worked in Chillicothe, and now living and working in Marietta, Andy's looked into both sides of Ohio's statehood story. He'll also share his adventures with Marietta's only National Historic Landmark, the towboat *W.P. Snyder Jr.* Come get reacquainted with our old curator, Andy Verhoff, and hear a great presentation.

Boy from Chillicothe: Billy Ireland, Cartoonist of the Columbus Dispatch

Featuring Lucy Shelton Caswell, Associate Professor & Curator, The Ohio State University Cartoon Research Library

Wednesday, May 6, 7:30 p.m.

Chillicothe native Billy Ireland was a self-taught artist hired by the *Columbus Dispatch* right out of high school in 1898. He worked there until his death in 1935 gaining fame throughout the cartoon world. He is most noted for his editorial cartoons and his Sunday feature titled "The Passing Show." Extremely gifted, Billy passed up job offers at several other papers in larger cities so he could remain close to his home town. He published several books and was mentor to other noted cartoonists such as Milton Caniff. His life and work will be chronicled by Lucy Shelton Caswell, author of the book, *Billy Ireland*.



An Evening with Abraham Lincoln

Featuring Pete Raymond, Association of Lincoln Presenters, Wooster, Ohio

Wednesday, May 20, 7:30 p.m.

Pete Raymond, to the delight of all who see him, has an uncanny resemblance to Abraham Lincoln, and his exceptional portrayal brings Honest Abe to life. Raymond's likeness appears on the cover of a book entitled *Land of Lincoln* authored by Andrew Ferguson. The Atlantic/Grove Publishing Company of New York chose Raymond as the one they thought looks most like Lincoln for their cover. He has also been selected to portray Lincoln at several events being hosted at the Ohio State House in 2009 to commemorate Lincoln's 200th birthday. His presentations focus on the 16th president's life as he grew to adulthood, his leadership during the Civil War, and his love of the United States until his untimely and tragic death. Please join us for a visit with the Great Emancipator himself in what is sure to be a delightful evening.

From the Archives, by Pat Medert

The Zoo in Yoctangee Park

I have chosen one of the nearly 300 scrapbooks in the archives to feature in this issue of the *Recorder*. It is one that was kept by William and John Poland and contains newspaper clippings of the minutes of the City Park Board that were published in the *Scioto Gazette*. There are some handwritten entries as well. The time covered is from 1883 to 1914.

William Poland was a member of city council in the 1870s when he proposed transforming the swamp that was once the old bed of the Scioto River into a park. Because of his leadership in this endeavor and his continued work in the park's development, he is known as the "father of Chillicothe's parks." Both he and his son, John, served on the park board.

The three-member board was given \$500 a month to maintain the park. From that amount, they had to pay a superintendent an annual salary of \$420. They raised additional revenue by charging fees for boat rentals, fishing, and entertainments provided by outside groups and levying fines on violations of park rules. In addition, they sold the hay that grew in the park in summer and the ice from the park lake in winter.

In 1884, the board hired well-known landscape architect, Herman Haerlin, to design the park grounds. The minutes are filled with information concerning the planting of trees and flower beds according to his plans. For example, in the fall of 1904, butternut, oak, chestnut, buckeye, beech, hickory, and other nut bearing trees native to this area were planted. Hazelnut bushes for a thicket were also planted. By August 1905, fifty-six varieties of trees had been planted in the park and plans were being made to label each tree. Plantings of trees and shrubs from the Botanical Gardens at Washington, D. C., were added later through the efforts of Congressman Albert Douglas, of Chillicothe.

From the beginning, there were rules and regulations governing the use of the park. In July 1903, the board adopted the following "rules for the government of the park" and specified the following prohibitions:

1. Riding or driving faster than a slow trot.
2. Profane or offensive language or improper conduct.
3. Cutting, writing upon or otherwise defacing or injuring buildings, seats, fences, etc.
4. Defiling walks, lawns, buildings, or closets.
5. Breaking limbs from trees, plucking flowers, or destroying plants.
6. No dogs are allowed in the park.
7. Bicycles must not be used on walks or upon the main roadways to the detriment of visitors. Coasting will not be permitted on either roadways or walks.
8. Intoxicated or other disreputable persons will not be permitted to enter the park at any time under pain of arrest.
9. None but circumspect conduct will be permitted.

Anyone in violation of the rules would be reported by the park superintendent to the mayor.

The rules were not easy to enforce, but the one concerning dogs running in the park proved to be the most problematic. In June 1904, the superintendent was once again ordered to "kill all dogs found in Yoctangee Park, either with the owner or alone." I did not find any future reference to indicate such action was necessary.

Complaints concerning children were also numerous. In July 1903, the superintendent was told to be lenient with the children playing in the park, but he was also advised to prevent them from playing on the tennis courts, pulling flowers or in any manner destroying vegetation. A year later, the superintendent reported that dissolute characters were loafing in Yoctangee Park in the afternoon, saying, "Idle boys dependent on mothers for support, lie around in the park half of the day and annoy ladies who detested boys sprawling on the grass."

Of all the board's activities, the one I found most interesting had to do with the zoo that was located in the park in the early 1900s. It began with the donation of two deer by Richard Enderlin in the spring of 1903. An area of

continued on page 5...



Raccoon cage in Yoctangee Park, c. 1905

...continued from page 4.

the park was fenced off as a corral for the deer, named Dick and Bessie after the donor and his wife. Within a few weeks, Bessie gave birth to a fawn, which Enderlin named Jakie after the hotel proprietor, Jacob Warner.

The arrival of the deer led to other contributions. Before the year was out, there were two ducks, two Mongolian pheasants, six peacocks, and three golden pheasants in the park.

In May 1904, the board accepted a black eagle from Norman Lutz, of Kansas, who made his donation through William B. Mills. Mills raised the money for the eagle cage, which contained a fountain where boys fishing in the lake could place their catch to provide food for the bird. In September, the state game warden notified the board that it was against the law to keep an eagle caged, and the bird would have to be freed. This created a problem because the donor had disabled the eagle to prevent him from flying away, and if he was released, he would not be able to live in the wild. It was not until a year later that their dilemma was resolved. The eagle was given to Mr. Mills, but there is no mention of what he intended to do with it.

Two squirrels were a favorite of the children. It was a sad day when it was discovered that they had burrowed their way out of the cage and escaped. The squirrel pen was rebuilt with a concrete floor.

Six Belgian hares were given to the board, and they were placed on the island where there were no flower beds for them to destroy. A gate was placed on the bridge leading to the island to keep the hares there and to prevent dogs from reaching the island.

The zoo briefly housed two alligators. They escaped by climbing the fence enclosing them. They were recaptured, but the decision was made to send them elsewhere because of the danger to people from free roaming alligators. Three monkeys were offered to the board, but were refused because of the problems involved in providing for them during the winter.

The deer received the most attention at board meetings. A year after Jakie's birth, Bessie had twin fawns



that were given the names Major and Anna. Jakie did not get along with his two siblings, and park officials were afraid he might do them serious harm. George Hunter Smith agreed to give him a home at Adena. The deer corral was divided so that Jakie could be separated from the other deer until Smith could make accommodations for him. When he was unable to find anyone to do the work, the board had to keep Jakie and maintain the separate status. Additional births occurred in 1905, and in the summer of that year, an enlarged deer corral was constructed by volunteer labor from the carpenters' union. Dick, who had grown old and vicious, had to be shot. He was replaced with a two-year-old black tail buck named "George W." for the donor, George W. Hirn.

In the next Recorder I will write about the fate of the Yocotangee Park Zoo.

The Society's Wish List

Donations of everyday (non-collection) items such as tools and other types of equipment help our staff and volunteers complete a multitude of projects. Since the last issue of the Recorder, the Society received hand tools from Eric Picciano — thank you. If you, or anyone you know, has the following items to donate to the Society, please call 772-1936. (We would be happy to make arrangements to pick up your donation.):

1. Power point projector
2. Laptop computer
3. White cotton sheets (we can never have too many)
4. Cotton towels.
5. Wheelchair (for visitors who may need to use one)
6. Wooden coat hangers (we can never have too many)
7. Eight or ten foot aluminum or fiberglass step ladder.



In the fall of 1904, construction began on a cage to house raccoons. John F. Cook, Chillicothe's leading architect, designed a twelve-sided pen around a ginkgo tree. The pen contained a two-story shelter with six rooms in each story and a concrete water basin. The latter was provided because it was believed that raccoons had a habit of washing their food before eating it.

In September 1905, a den was completed for a pair of foxes. The mound covering the burrow was enclosed with a fence. The entry to the burrow was closed during the day so that the animals would be forced to remain outside where they could be seen by visitors.

From the Photo Archives, by Lisa Hess

A LOOK AT TWIN TOWNSHIP, PART I



Twin Township School Picnic and Parade, April 28, 1911. Moon's Band of South Salem provided the music for the crowd of over 700 people.



The Wilburn Family, Residents of Twin Township, 1894. Pictured in back, left to right, are Alpha holding Effie Mae, Charles, Moses, and Nettie. Seated in front are Fred and Tom.



Students of Twin Township School, January 1943. Unidentified.



Jacob Compton and Lida Flesher Compton Home, Slate Mills, c. 1900. Pictured are: Thomas (Jacobs father), Jacob, Lida, and their children, Georgia, Clara, Jean, and Florence.



Compton Blacksmith Shop, Slate Mills, c. 1895. Owned by brothers, Jacob Compton (left) and George Compton (right).

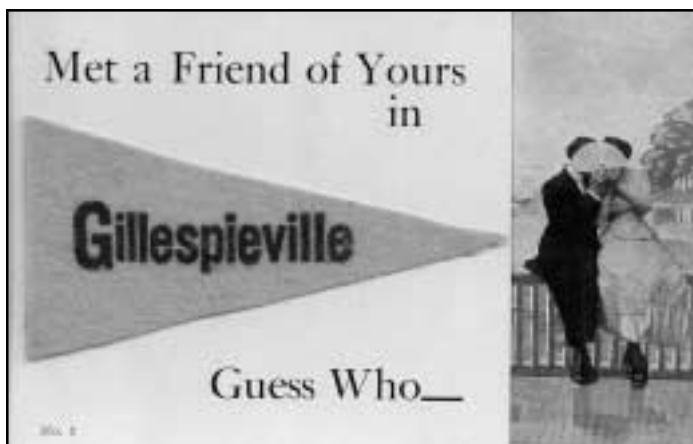


Home of Peter Bisantz and Rebecca Elizabeth Steel Bisantz, on Route 28. The farm is now part of the housing developments near Route 50. Pictured are: Peter, Rebecca and their children Anna & Fred.

Recent Acquisitions of the Museum and Library

(Listed in order received since the last issue of the Recorder)

79. Calendar – “Kingston National Bank 2009”, donated by Emily Marks.
80. Book – *The Federal Valley Railroad Company & Its Ancestors 1845-1945*, 2000, written and donated by David E. Byers.
81. Newspaper Article – from the *Greenfield Times*, Sept. 1970, of the Bainbridge Band, donated by June R. Gregg.
82. Book – *Heroes of the Western Theater: 33rd Ohio Veteran Volunteer Infantry*, 2008, written and donated by Lois Lambert.
83. Photograph – framed, “Co. “K” 330th Inf., N.A., Feb. ‘18, Camp Sherman, O.”, donated by Harold O Brian.
84. Photograph – of Marie Walz, an aspiring actress, 1896, donated by Ruth Ritinger.
85. Yard Signs; Buttons; T-Shirt and other items – from McCain / Palin Presidential Campaign 2008, donated by Tonya Dye.
86. Uncle Sam Costume; Masks and Paper Hats, donated by Betsy Moore.
87. Magazines – (2) *Blue & Gray*, 2008, RCHS Acquisition.
88. Notebook – “Edward Parker Tiffin, His Life, Doctor, Preacher, Statesman Politician,” donated by Julia Pierson.
89. Political Posters – (2) for Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton, 2008, donated by Terry Fout.
90. Postcards – (52) collection of local views, donated by Nick Highland.
91. Postcards – views of Camp Sherman and Chillicothe, Ohio, c. 1918, donated by Patrick T. Stewart.
92. Postcards, Greeting Cards, Business Cards – 19th and 20th century, donated by Margaret Wells Wallen. (*final accession of 2008*)
01. Book – *The Night Before Christmas*, 2002, donated by Jane Hilty. (*first accession of 2009*)
02. Advertising Cards – (2); Photographic Slides – (26) Ohio historic sites & monuments; Magic Lantern slides – (5) historic figures, sites, donated by Dana Martinko.
03. Baseballs – (2) signed by Paints players, given to Margaret Planton while she was Mayor, c. 1998, donated by Margaret Planton.
04. Book – *Der Psalter*, book of psalms in old German, Philadelphia, 1808, donated by Ivan Reed.
05. Programs, Books and other items, donated by Lisa Hess.
06. Toy – Clifford The Big Red Dog with house and other characters, c. 2002, donated by Ronda Vickers.
07. Books – (2) *Gregg Shorthand*, copyright 1929; *Personal Hygiene*, 1913, Anonymous Donor.



The image above is one of the postcards from accession 2008.92. (The village of Londonderry was also called Gillespieville after James Gillespie, an early settler of Liberty Township.)

The Ross County Historical Society Welcomes

New Member Renewal

Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Phone _____
 Date _____

Are you interested in volunteer work?
 Yes ___ No ___

I have enclosed a check made out to the Ross County Historical Society for \$ _____.

() My employer will match this gift.
 Employer's name: _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Junior (12 & under) \$10.()
 Teacher 15.()
 Individual 20.()
 Family 30.()
 Contributing 75.()
 Group/Club or
 Business 100.()

CONTINUING MEMBERSHIP

Life (per person) 500.()
 Patron 750.()
 Benefactor 1,000.()

Your benefits as a member of the Ross County Historical Society include:

- ◆ Quarterly newsletter
- ◆ 10% discount in museum store
- ◆ Free admission for museum visits by member and out-of-town guests
- ◆ Free admission to many Society programs
- ◆ Reduced fees for workshops and special programs

The Ross County Historical Society is a non-profit 501(c)(3) institution. Your gift may be tax deductible

Please make checks payable to:
THE ROSS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

45 West Fifth Street
 Chillicothe, Ohio 45601-3227
 (740) 772-1936

Officers and Trustees of the Ross County Historical Society

- Pat Medert..... President
- Bob Nelson..... 1st Vice President
- Lewis Coppel..... 2nd Vice President
- Karen Hoffman..... Secretary
- Bob Casari..... Treasurer
- Tom Kuhn..... Executive Director
- Gary Argabright..... Trustee
- Judy Benson..... Trustee
- Vic Cleary..... Trustee
- Henry Herrnstein..... Trustee
- Ed Kunzelman..... Trustee
- Dana Martinko..... Trustee
- Erc Picciano..... Trustee
- Julia Pierson..... Trustee
- Stan Planton..... Trustee
- Bob Sigler..... Trustee

The RCHS Welcomes Junior Member...

Name _____ Telephone # _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Birthdate _____ Grade in School _____

Parent/Guardian's Name _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature _____

What are your hobbies? _____

Are your parents members of the Historical Society? - Yes - No

Is this a gift membership? - Yes - No

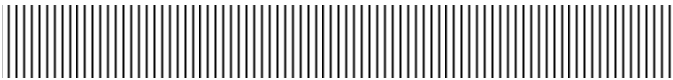
From Whom? _____

Address _____

Please send \$10 with this form to
The Ross County Historical Society
45 W Fifth Street
Chillicothe, OH 45601-3227

Ross County Historical Society
45 West Fifth Street
Chillicothe, Ohio 45601-3227

Non-Profit Org.,
U.S. Postage
PAID
Chillicothe, Oh 45601
Permit No. 230



NEWSLETTER

DATED MATERIAL • OPEN AT ONCE

