



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

Winter 2010-11 ISSUE



Upcoming Events & Programs

Holiday Junior Member Program Hands-on Traditions

**Saturday, December 4, 2010
1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
at the Ross County Heritage Center**

Learn tricky Victorian parlor games that will make you think while you are having fun. Make ornaments and gifts to take home for you and your family to enjoy for years to come. See toys and games in the museum collections that were once a child's favorite playthings. Advanced registration is necessary by calling (740) 772-1936 by Thursday, December 2. Space is limited.

(Please look for more details on page 3.)

Christmas Open House at the Museum

**Saturday, December 11, 2010
1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
at the Ross County Heritage Center**

Our popular annual holiday event will feature the traditions of Christmas past. (Please see the accompanying article on this page for more details.)

Christmas Open House to Feature "Scherenschnitte"

Christmas traditions of the Pennsylvania Germans and the Victorian period will highlight this year's Christmas open house at the Ross County Heritage Center. Upon entering the lobby, visitors will be greeted by a ten-foot tall Christmas tree decorated with hundreds of Scherenschnitte, or scissor cut tree ornaments, made by local teacher and artist Bonnie Grove. Bonnie was born and raised in Pennsylvania where she developed a passion for preserving the heritage crafts of the early German immigrants (commonly referred to as "Pennsylvania Dutch") who settled there in the 18th & 19th centuries. She started cutting paper 30 years ago with the dream of creating a Christmas tree completely decorated with her beautiful, delicate and intricately cut paper ornaments. Starting on the first day of January of this year she has cut one design each day to make the 300 ornaments necessary for the project. Her work will create a beautiful Christmas memory for all who see it.



The event will also feature a Victorian Christmas parlor with late 19th and early 20th century holiday decorations and toys from the Society's extensive historical collections. All exhibit galleries, including "Cooking through the Years," "Photos of Occupied Japan," the new Ross County Hall of Fame, and Chillicothe's model railroad, will be open. *(Please see the box to the left for date, time and location.)*

2011 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

2011 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.

Medert Receives Statewide Recognition

We congratulate Society archivist, historian, and past president Pat Medert (at center right) for receiving an individual achievement award at the 2010 meeting of the Ohio Local History Alliance in Dublin, Ohio on October 2. The award recognizes



Pat's many years of effort to preserve Chillicothe's, Ross County's, and Ohio's history through her numerous publications, public programs, her more than 16,000 hours of volunteer work in the Society's McKell Library, and her many years of leadership as the Society's president.

President's Report, by Bob Nelson

What a busy October/November series of events!

Our October 10th ribbon-cutting of three new exhibits and the dedication of our new patio/sitting area were well attended. We especially appreciated the recognition of Evelyn Walker by four of her high school classmates who donated the big tree in the center of the patio. We also thank the local DAR chapter for their donation of five additional trees to beautify the patio area. If you haven't had the opportunity to visit the new exhibits, I would encourage you to do so, as they are quite interesting and very professionally presented.

The Fall Speaker Series was outstanding. Professor Randall Buchman revealed the hoax perpetrated by the Mansfield News that started Abraham Lincoln's climb to the presidency.

Larry and Julia Marple kept us spellbound with their first-person portrayals of President Theodore and Edith Roosevelt and Frank Bullock did the same with his first person portrayal of General William Tecumseh Sherman.

December is shaping up to be just as busy with the annual Volunteer and Staff Appreciation Christmas Banquet, the Holiday Junior Member Program and the Society's Christmas Open House. I am especially looking forward to the special Christmas tree featuring over three hundred hand-cut paper ornaments made by Bonnie Grove. This craft is called "SHERENSCHNITTE" or scissors cuttings in the Pennsylvania German tradition. Bonnie has been preparing these ornaments for over a year and the tree should be spectacular.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Memberships Make Nice Gifts

Memberships to the Ross County Historical Society make thoughtful and inexpensive gifts for the holiday season. Buy them for the history buffs you know by returning the form on page 7. Benefits include free admission to each of our museums and the McKell Library plus discounts with each purchase at the museum store. Membership dues help the Society maintain its collections and make possible free tours for school groups from Ross County.

The Society's Wish List

Donations of everyday items such as tools and other types of equipment help our staff and volunteers complete a multitude of projects. Recently, the Society received cotton sheets from Regina Breiel & Jean Foor; wooden hangers from Dorothy Metters, Leona & Walter Smith, and Kathryn Sullivan; and a Royal Vacuum Cleaner from Dana Martinko. — 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. White cotton sheets (we can never have too many)
2. Cotton towels.
3. Wooden coat hangers (we can never have too many)
4. Professional grade digital camera

Director's Report, by Tom Kuhn

The holiday season is a time to count our blessings and share our thanks and good spirits with all those who have made a difference in our lives over the past year. As director of the historical society, I am acutely aware of how dependant our success is on the thoughtfulness and generosity of those in the community who support us. If you are a regular reader of this newsletter, you know that the most common purpose of this report is to acknowledge and thank those who have lent a hand to make our organization stronger and better.

Recently, the Society has benefited from the generosity of someone who donated his time and materials to make our facility a safer, more secure, place. I would like to thank Robert T. Mossbarger for his hard work in designing and installing handcrafted steel security grates on several windows in the Museum and McKell Library. Assisted by his grandson Caleb, Bob, who operates a small business fabricating decorative and structural ironwork here in Chillicothe, did a superb job, and we are extremely pleased with the result. We wish both gentlemen and their family a Merry Christmas and continued success in the new year. Thank you.

Welcome New Members

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

Connie Carnes

Jo Hamman

John Huffman

Charles Shoemaker

Nancy Korst Smith

Gift Ideas from the Museum Store

New! *Homes of the First Ladies: A Guide to Publicly Accessible Homes, Museums, and Related Sites*, \$29.95 — a complete, illustrated listing and narrative of the places that commemorate and interpret the lives and legacies of America's First Ladies, by William G. Clotworthy.

***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.

***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.

***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.

PLEASE JOIN
The Ross County Historical Society
for the
HOLIDAY JUNIOR MEMBER
PROGRAM



Hands-on Traditions of Christmas Past



at the Ross County Heritage Center
45 West Fifth Street, Chillicothe
Saturday, December 4th
1:00 – 4:00pm

Free to Jr. Members, \$ 10.00 for Non-Members
Fee includes one year's membership

Call for Registration—772-1936 — by December 2nd

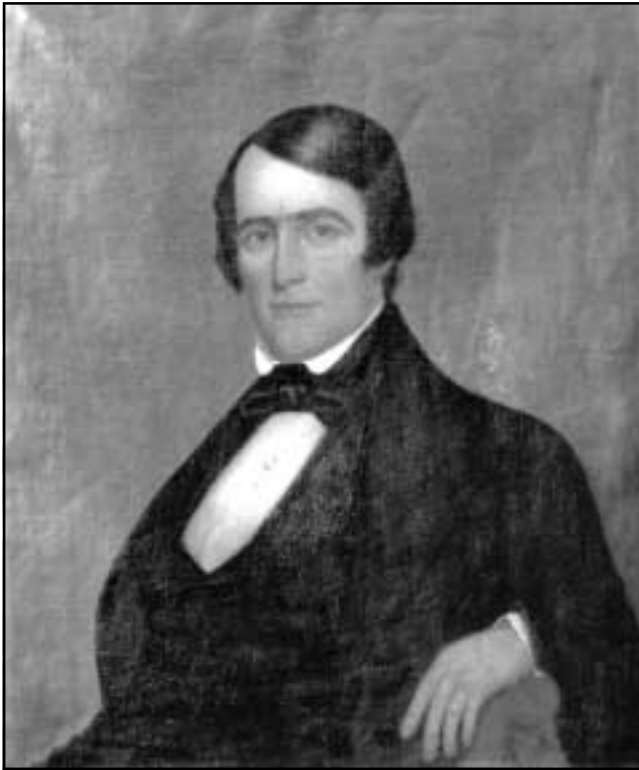


Join us for some holiday fun from the days of long ago. Learn how to make traditional Pennsylvania German scissor-cut paper Christmas ornaments — Scherenschnitte — from local artist and teacher Bonnie Grove (see the example above). Learn tricky Victorian parlor games that will make you think while you are having fun. See toys and games in the museum collections that were once a child's favorite playthings. Then enjoy a cup of hot chocolate and some holiday cookies.

Space is limited for this popular program. Please register early by calling the Historical Society offices 9:00-5:00 weekdays and 12:00-5:00 weekends. **Deadline is Thursday, December 2nd.**

From the Archives, by Pat Medert

On Oct. 20, Professor Randall Buchman presented the first program of the Fall Speakers Series, "Ohio's Role in the Choice of Lincoln." He vividly related the events that took place at the Republican National Convention in 1860 leading up to Abraham Lincoln's nomination as the party's candidate for president. Buchman mentioned that delegate Milton L. Clark, of Chillicothe, was the first to break ranks with the Ohio delegation, who supported the state's governor, Salmon P. Chase, for the nomination, and cast his vote for Lincoln. I thought our readers would like to know more about Mr. Clark's life and career.



The oil portrait of Milton Lee Clark as a young man (above) hangs in the Ross County Museum.

Milton Lee Clark was the son of William and Keturah Brown Clark, and was born April 21, 1817, on a farm in Deerfield Township. His father moved to the Ohio country and settled in Ross County circa 1800. In 1816, he laid out the village of Clarksburg on part of his land. William Clark died when Milton was seven years old, and he received a sporadic education because his help was needed on the farm. At the age of 16, he went to Chillicothe to work in the dry goods store of his brother, Edward. Except for a brief stint in 1837 as a teacher in Clarksburg, Clark worked for dry goods concerns in Chillicothe and Louisville, KY, holding such positions as clerk, bookkeeper, and manager.

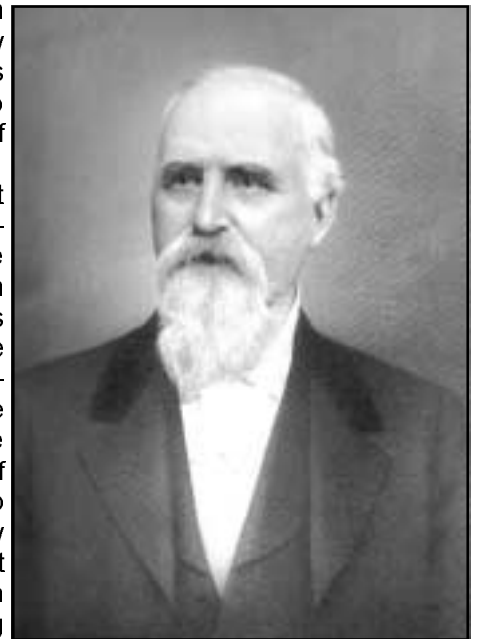
In 1842, Milton decided to change careers and returned to Chillicothe to read for the law in the office of Jonathan T. Woodside. Within two years, he was admitted to the Ohio bar and began practicing law in Chillicothe. He specialized in criminal law and was soon one of the most sought after attorneys in the area. At the same time, he

became interested in politics and became a strong advocate for the Whig Party. At its demise, he embraced the newly organized Republican Party in 1856. His political position was opposite to that of his mentor, Jonathan Woodside, who was a staunch Democrat.*

Clark was elected prosecuting attorney of Ross County in 1845, and after completing two terms, he was elected in 1849 to the Ohio House of Representatives. After one term, he concentrated his efforts on the practice of law and supporting first Whig and then Republican causes and candidates. He was a frequent speaker at party meetings and events. His hard work earned him a position in 1860 as a delegate to the Republican National Convention.

In January 1873, Clark was chosen by the voters of Ross County to represent them at a convention called for the purpose of drafting a new constitution for the State of Ohio. The constitution adopted in 1851 has a provision that calls for a vote of the electorate every twenty years to determine if the existing governing document needs to be rewritten. In October 1851, Ohio voters decided in favor of convening a constitutional convention for that purpose. It took over a year to get the process started and another year for the delegates to complete their work. Clark was chairman of the Committee on Public Debt and Public Works and was actively involved in debating recommended provisions for the new constitution. It was voted on by the people in August 1874 and decisively rejected. No good explanation is given for its defeat, only that various factions were opposed to certain aspects of the document.

The last years of Clark's legal career were spent as a judge. In 1884, he was elected circuit judge and served two six-year terms on the bench. In 1894, he was chosen chief justice of the Ohio Supreme Court by the other circuit judges. He retired in 1896 after losing reelection and died on June 11, 1897, at the age of eighty.



Portrait from a photograph of Clark later in life

*Jonathan Woodside was a gifted orator and was much in demand as a spokesman for the Democratic Party. In 1835, President Andrew Jackson appointed him *charge d'affaires* of the United States at the court of Denmark. Woodside died June 25, 1845, and in 1849, Clark married his daughter, Jane.

From the Photo Archives, by Lisa Hess

Early Air Mail Service

One of the unique collections in the Photo Archives is a group of photos relating to George Conner's work with early air mail delivery. In this collection are images of pilots, planes, plane wrecks, airport hangers, and aerial views.

George Langley Conner was an employee of the United States Post Office Department and served as the Superintendent of the Division of Air Mail Service. He was born in Chillicothe on February 21, 1887, and married Theresa Mary Wagenman. He also worked for the railroad and was a Methodist minister for 36 years after retiring from the Post Office.



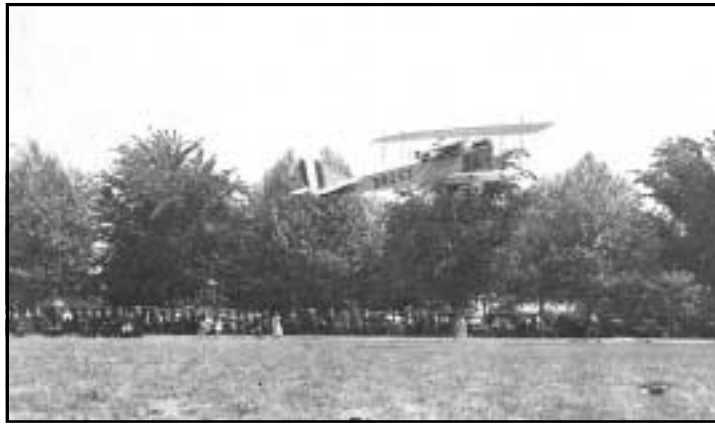
George Langley Conner

The first air mail test flights were performed by Earle L. Ovington in September 1911. The six mile flight from Long Island, New York to Mineola, New York, was run over a period of a week. Ovington never landed the plane, instead he dropped the heavy mail sacks from the air.



Ovington receiving the first bag of mail from Postmaster General, F.H. Hitchcock.

of his abilities but because he was engaged to the daughter of Charles C. McChord, Interstate Commerce Commissioner. McChord had saved the air mail post for the Post Office Department against pressure to contract it out to private companies. On Boyle's first attempt to fly the Washington, D.C. to Philadelphia route, he went the wrong direction and crashed in a field. He was given a second chance to fly the route but this time he ended up over the Atlantic Ocean and then retired in embarrassment.



First plane with mail to leave Washington, D.C. from Poto-mac Park, Lieut. George Boyle as pilot, May 15, 1918

In July 1919, Leon Smith and E. Hamilton "Ham" Lee refused to fly in stormy weather and were fired. In support of Smith and Lee, the rest of the pilots walked off the job. In an article from the *New York Times*,



Leon D. "Windy" Smith

July 26, 1919, the demands of the strikers were that the discharged pilots be reinstated, safer airplanes and equipment, and the right to decline flights in severe weather.



Gilbert G. "Bud" Budwig

Gilbert G. "Bud" Budwig worked as a test pilot flying the New York to Chicago route from April 1 to May 24, 1919. On April 7, his plane went down from engine failure and he landed upside down in a farm field but was unhurt. He co-founded the Queens Aerial Transportation Company in Queens, New York and offered flight instruction, aerial advertising and exhibitions. He later moved to California and became involved in the movie industry and worked with stuntmen performing airplane aerobatics and controlled

(continued on next page...)

(...continued from the previous page)

crashes. Budwig also worked as Director of Air Regulations, U.S. Department of Commerce in Washington D.C. from 1927 to 1933.

Reuben Hollis Fleet served in the National Guard and during World War I, he was Executive Officer for Flying Training, Signal Corps Aviation Section, stationed in Washington, D.C. In May 1918, Fleet was appointed Officer-in-Charge of the Aerial Mail Service and was in charge of setting up the first air mail service between Washington, D.C. and New York. He was later reassigned to the U.S. Flight Test Center at McCook Field in Dayton, Ohio. After acquiring and combining the assets of Dayton-Wright Airplane Company and Gallaudet Aircraft Corporation, he formed Consolidated Aircraft and developed military training planes. He moved his company to San Diego, California, in 1935, and after retirement, he helped fund several community organizations, including the Fleet Space Center and the International Aerospace Hall of Fame.



Airmail Pilot Reuben Fleet with President Woodrow Wilson

Alfred W. Lawson, owner of the Lawson Airplane Company in Milwaukee, contracted with the U.S. government in 1920, to carry mail on three new routes from Pittsburgh to Columbus, Cincinnati and Indianapolis, from New York to Chicago via Harrisburg, Pittsburg and Fort Wayne, and from New York to Atlanta via Washington, Raleigh and

Columbia. Lawson built an airplane that contained a mail room where a clerk could sort mail during the flight. There was an opening in the bottom of the plane through which mail could be dropped to another plane flying below, therefore omitting stops. Lawson also played professional baseball for the Pittsburgh Alleghenys and the Boston Beaneaters in 1890. In the 1920s, he promoted healthy eating and claimed to have found the secret to living to be 200 years old. He later started his own philosophy and religion and founded the unaccredited University of Lawsonomy ("the study of everything") in Des Moines. Lawson also published the first aeronautic magazine, *Fly*, but was considered by some to be a "kook."



Air Mail Plane 177 assigned to Pilot J. P. Murray of the Omaha — Salt Lake City Division at the Omaha hangar, March 18, 1921.



Air mail plane wreck, pilot and location unknown.

These early air mail pilots were brave men who often put their lives in danger. According to the website, *Remember the Air Mail Pioneers*, by Nancy Allison Wright, in 1921, there were twelve deaths of pilots and 1,764 forced landing of planes, half of which were due to mechanical failure and the other half due to weather. During the nine years that the U.S. Postal Service operated the Air Mail Service, there were 32 pilots killed, or one out of every six employees.



Lawson Mail Plane, 1920. Alfred W. Lawson is standing at the top of the ladder.

Recent Acquisitions of the Museum and Library

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

67. Envelope – to “George L. Paul, Battery E. 322 Reg. F.A.N.A. Camp Sherman”, Nov. 22, 1917, envelope given to donor by Richard Barson, donated by Alan Gough.

68. Books – (11) various authors & titles, donated by Jane Hilty.

69. Book – “St. Burkley’s Method for Organ”, copyright 1878, donated by Madaline Ingham.

70. Pillow Sham – “Camp Sherman, Mother, Chillicothe, Ohio”, c. 1918 (pictured at right), donated by Parker Higby .

71. Darning Egg – wooden, 20th century; Laundry soap – “Ivory Flakes”, c. 1970, donated by Jean Foor.

72. Postcards – (8) local images, c. 1910, donated by Melissa Wittrup.

73. Booklet – *History of the Brannon Road, Jessamine County, KY* copyright 1993; Booklet – *A History of The Ash Grove Pike, Catnip Hill Pike and other Byways of Jessamine County, Kentucky*, copyright 2002, donated by Ernestine & Charlie Hamm, Jr.

74. Doll – “Jiggs”, c. 1920 (pictured at right); Shoehorn & Nail File – sterling silver, c. 1900; Toupee – man’s, brown hair, c. 1920’ donated by Karen Shively .

75. Jacket – replica of Nelson Purdum Confederate Shell Jacket, in RCHS collection, 2009, donated by Dan Wambaugh.

76. Photographs – (2) 1913 flood; Newspaper – *Chillicothe Gazette*, 1913 and other items, donated by June Gregg.

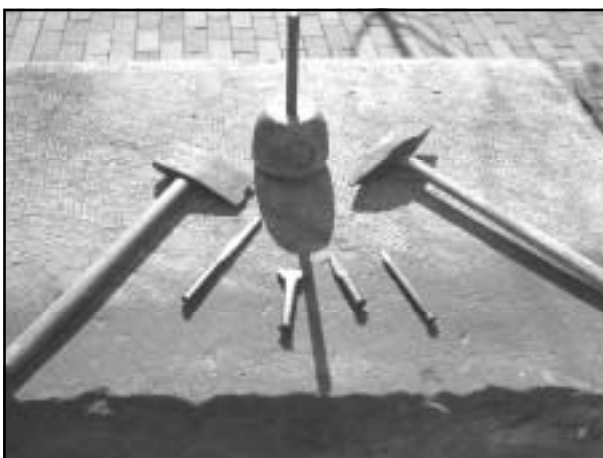
77. Printed Material – Ross County YMCA Building Fund Campaign, 1958; Postcard – covered bridge, Ross County, OH, donated by Hancock Historical Museum.

78. Stone Mason Tools – c. 1889 (pictured below right); Wine Cask – 5 gallon, donated by Joe Betsch.

79. Women’s Clothing & Accessories – 19th and 20th centuries; Child’s Tutu – c. 1940; Glass Paper Weights – with photograph of Walnut St. Methodist Episcopal Church, advertising local businesses on back, c. 1903, donated by Carolyn Riky.

80. Books – (7) Doctrines and Disciplines of various religions 1836 – 1964, donated by Bob Nelson.

81. Children’s Books – c. 2000, donated by Tyson Vickers.



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

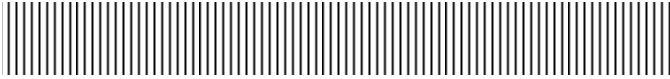
Please make checks payable to:
THE ROSS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 45 West Fifth Street
 Chillicothe, Ohio 45601-3227
 (740) 772-1936

Ross County Historical Society

45 West Fifth Street
Chillicothe, Ohio 45601-3227

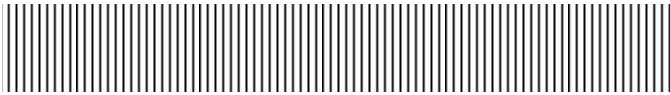
Non-Profit Org.,
U.S. Postage
PAID
Chillicothe, Oh 45601
Permit No. 230

Return Service Requested



NEWSLETTER

DATED MATERIAL • OPEN AT ONCE



Winter 2010-11 — PAGE 8

THE ROSS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY *RECORDER*

Officers and Trustees of the Ross County Historical Society

Bob Nelson..... President
Eric Picciano 1st Vice President
Judy Benson 2nd Vice President
Karen Hoffman..... Secretary
Bob Casari Treasurer
Tom Kuhn..... Executive Director
Tim Barada..... Trustee
Judy Benson Trustee
David Carnes Trustee
Vic Cleary..... Trustee
Richard Enderlin..... Trustee
Chris Harrod..... Trustee
Henry Herrnstein Trustee
Richard Kennedy..... Trustee
Dana Martinko..... Trustee
Julia Pierson..... Trustee
Stan Planton..... 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