



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

2008 HOLIDAY ISSUE



Upcoming Events & Programs

Christmas Open House at the Franklin House

Saturday, December 6, 2008

The Ross County Historical Society invites you to a holiday open house at the Franklin House Museum, 80 South Paint Street, Chillicothe. See the newly restored interior of this beautiful century old house decorated for the holiday season.

(Please turn to page 3 for further information.)

Holiday Junior Member Program Gifts and Games of the Past

Sunday, December 14, 2008
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. View 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 11. Space is limited.

(Please look for more details on page 4.)

2008 Museum Hours

January — March
Friday & Saturday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
April — December
Tuesday — Sunday 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

(Please see 2008 Holiday Schedule on page 2.)

2008 McKell Library Hours

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

Carriage House to Become Collections Storage Facility



Its roof is sagging and its walls are crumbling. It has stood on its deteriorated foundation for over a century. This once proud carriage house (shown above) on the alley behind the museum has seen better days.

Built in the 1870s, the simple utilitarian structure has been altered numerous times with windows and doors added here and bricked in there, its interior showing the effects of having never been heated in the winter or cooled in the summer. Is this the best place in which to store historical treasures of Ross County? Of course not.

Collections storage space is always at a premium — a situation that has become even more acute in recent years due to an increase in donations of historical material since the construction of the new Ross County Heritage Center in 2003. If the Society hopes to keep up with this growth and properly house and preserve everything that the public so generously donates, then more space must be found. That is why planning is now underway to try to either restore the existing building or replace it with a replica that can be used to properly house much of what is not on exhibit.

At its November meeting, the Society's board of trustees approved a motion by the building and grounds committee to accept a proposal by Dan Marsh Architects to create plans and develop cost estimates that will be used for fund raising efforts to transform a marginally useful corner of the Society's property into a state of the art collection facility. Progress on this very worthwhile project will be reported in coming issues of this newsletter, so please stay tuned.

President's Report, by Pat Medert**Speakers Series Success is a Team Effort**

The Fall Speakers Series just ended, and each of the presentations attracted record-breaking numbers of attendees. The Society has been sponsoring these spring and fall events for the past fourteen years, and Tom Kuhn, our executive director, needs to be recognized for his ability to attract quality speakers who can speak on subjects of interest to our local community.

People who come to hear an interesting program also stay afterwards to enjoy refreshments and friendly conversation. I want to thank the committee members who provide the baked goodies and snacks. Judy Benson chairs this committee and comes up with unique and attractive decorations for the table. She is assisted by Dana Martinko, Emily Marks, Jane Hilty, and Melissa Darby. We appreciate their efforts to make each program so enjoyable.

From the Museum Store

New! ***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. This 210 page volume covers both sides of each street, 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.

Second Street, Chillicothe, Ohio: Its Buildings and Its People, \$39.95 — the second volume in a series covers both sides of Second 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.

Buckeye Blood: Ohio at Gettysburg, \$30.00 — a pictorial history of Ohio's role in the Battle of Gettysburg, including photos & stories of local soldiers, by Richard A. Baumgartner.

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.

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.

Director's Report, by Tom Kuhn

Bequests and donations the Society receives in the memory of those who have recently passed away are placed in a special memorial fund. These gifts are used for the care and preservation of our historical buildings unless a party making such a gift specifically requests that it be used for another purpose.

Recently, our board of trustees established a policy to publicly recognize such bequests and donations (unless directed to do otherwise by the parties making them) by publishing written acknowledgements in this newsletter. As a rule, we do not generally memorialize in any other way. For example, we do not name rooms or exhibit galleries after a person in whose name we have received a gift. We do, however, express our appreciation through a written acknowledgement which the contributor or his or her heirs may use for tax purposes. Such gifts, no matter whether they are large or small, are always greatly appreciated and have made it possible for our organization to keep our wonderful historical buildings in good repair and looking beautiful.

Welcome New Members

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

**Robert Dispennett
Bob & Sharon Ryan
Richard & Laura Whinery
James & Ruhama Proctor
Kate Depugh**

Memorial Gift

The Society gratefully acknowledges the recent bequest of \$5,000 from the estate of the late James T. Hixon. Mr. Hixon was a resident of Ross County and a longtime member and supporter of the Ross County Historical Society. His generous bequest has been placed in the Society's Memorial Fund and will be used for the care and upkeep of the Society's numerous historical buildings. We express our condolences to all of Mr. Hixon's survivors.

2008 Holiday Schedule

The museum will be open during regular hours Tuesday through Sunday, noon to 5:00 p.m. except on the following dates where it will be closed for the holidays:

- ◆ Thanksgiving Day, November 27
- ◆ Christmas Week, December 23 through December 26
- ◆ New Year's Eve, December 31
- ◆ New Year's Day, January 1

COME JOIN US FOR A
CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE



The Ross County Historical Society invites you to a Christmas open house at the Franklin House Museum. See the newly restored interior of this beautiful century old house decorated for the holiday season. All rooms have recently undergone major renovations and are arranged with Franklin family home furnishings and personal items from the mid 19th-century through the mid-20th century. Special features include historical Christmas decorations and the live sounds of "Something Else" flute and cello ensemble performing seasonal and classical music.

AT THE

FRANKLIN HOUSE MUSEUM

80 SOUTH PAINT STREET
CHILlicothe, OHIO
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2008
1:00 TO 5:00 P.M.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

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

◆◆◆
Gifts and Games of the Past
◆◆◆

at the Ross County Heritage Center
45 West Fifth Street, Chillicothe

Sunday, December 14th

1:00 to 4:00 pm

Free to Jr. Members, \$ 10.00 for Non-Members
(The fee includes a one year junior membership.)

Call for Registration—772-1936 — by December 11th



Join us for this program of holiday fun from the days of long ago. 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. View 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. **The Deadline is Thursday, December 11.**

From the Archives, by Pat Medert

The first Christmas card was sent 165 years ago by Sir Henry Cole, of London, England. It had long been the practice for people in this country and in England to send handwritten holiday messages to friends, family, and associates at Christmas time. In 1843, Sir Henry found himself with a long list of individuals to whom he wanted to send greetings. There simply was not enough time to write them by hand. He, therefore, commissioned the artist, John Calcott Horsley, to design a card with a Christmas message that he could simply sign.

One thousand of the cards, which bore the message "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to You," were printed for Cole. They were an instant hit, and in subsequent years, more and more people abandoned their personal notes for printed ones.

Those Americans who adopted the practice had to buy cards that were printed in England. It was not until 1875 that the first Christmas cards were produced in this country. They were made by Louis Prang, a lithographer who had left his native Germany in the early 1850s and in 1856 established his business in Boston.

Thus was begun a tradition that has become a significant part of our celebration of Christmas.

The illustrations on this page are from the large collection of 19th century Christmas cards in the archives.



A German Card



The example above is an 1882 Prang's American Christmas Card by Florence Taber.



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 white cotton sheets and wooden hangers from Betsy Moore. 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)

From the Photo Archives, by Lisa Hess

A LOOK AT SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP



Fertilizer Plant on the Narrows Road c. 1910. Note the dead horse in the back of the wagon.



Hopetown one-room School. The school closed in 1950 but is still standing.



Train near Hopetown, 1915.



Tollgate house on the Columbus Pike (Rt. 23 N), four miles north of Chillicothe, where Edmund & Ann McVey were murdered by Perry Bowsher on October 26, 1877, during a robbery. Pictured is Alice Dean who escaped by hiding under a bed. Perry Bowsher was hanged for the murders in June 1878.



White Star Tavern, home of Adam & Elizabeth Gartner, near the present intersection of Route 159 and Route 23, north of Chillicothe, near the current hospital. This home was built c. 1800, and was once used as a stagecoach stop. It was later owned by the Fischer & Vaughn Families, descendants of the Gartner's. It was razed in 1956, for the widening of U.S. Route 23.



Adam & Elizabeth Gartner, owners of the White Star Tavern.

Recent Acquisitions of the Museum and Library

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

- 53. Spoons — silver, “Boggs”, maker “E. P. Pratt, Chillicothe, Ohio, donated by Darwin Drake.
- 54. Photograph — 73rd O.V.I. reunion, 1889; Photograph Album — Ohio Centennial Celebration, 1903; Flag remnant — 73rd O.V.I., 1865; Program — Dedication of Enderlin Monument, 1917; Rifle – WWI, Lee Enfield, 1916, donated by Wesley M. Hutchins.
- 55. Painting — cloth mural showing 150 years of transportation history, “Transportation 1787-1937”, painted by Tom Durnford and Fred Gardner, 1938, donated by Connie Mattuews.
- 56. Yearbooks — (5) Paint Valley High School, “Copperas”, 1981–85, RCHS Purchase.
- 57. Books — (4) various authors and titles, donated by Al Heierman.
- 58. Perfume Bottle — small metal shell-shaped bottle, donated by Diane Diekroger.
- 59. Book — *America’s Jubilee*, 2001; Book — *Blue Jacket*, 2000, donated by Pat Medert.
- 60. Marriage Certificate — W. Harold Counts and Mary M. Keating, 1943; Membership Certificate — W. Harold Counts, Scabbard and Blade C Company, 1930; Letter — to Mrs. Edward Tiffin Cook from Leola Somers, 1951 and other items, donated by John Grabb.
- 61. Menu — R. H. Lansing & Co., Chillicothe; Postcard — “Turkish Trophies Cigarettes; Photograph — Exhibit of R. H. Lansing & Co., Chillicothe, O., 1899, donated by Jane Hilty.
- 62. Ledger — “Court Docket No. 3”, State of Ohio, Ross County, Union Township, 1867–71, donated by Gina Conaway.
- 63. Collection of School Papers, Booklets and other items of Lisa Uhrig Hess, 1974–84; Photographs — (31) local people, 1978–87, donated by Lisa Hess.
- 64. Raincoat — child’s, c. 1983; Cake Pans — (2) tin, c. 1900, donated by James Bliven.
- 65. Television with radio and phonograph in mahogany cabinet — Stromberg-Carlson, 1954, donated by Patricia A. Patrick.
- 66. Postcard — “Starting on a Morning Hike, Camp Sherman”, Chillicothe, OH, 1918, donated by William A. (Tom) Thomas.
- 67. Book — *The Wares of Chillicothe, Ohio Two Generations*, 2007, partly written and donated by C. Lee Ware.
- 68. Yardstick — advertising, “M. Schachne & Sons, Paint and Main Streets, Chillicothe, Ohio, Department Store since 1887”, donated by Kevin Coleman.
- 69. Magazines — (23) *Life*, *Newsweek*, *U.S. News & World Report*, 1963–2000, donated by Al Heierman.
- 70. Book — *Buckeye Battlefields*, by Edwin A Kramb, copyright 1999, RCHS Acquisition.
- 71. Clothing — 1940s–2000, donated by Lynn H. Carden.
- 72. Booklet — *What a Christmas Gift*, December 16, 1987, donated by Kevin Coleman.
- 73. Phonograph Record — “RCHS presents: Heritage Souvenir #1, Music to Remember”, donated by Athens Co. Historical Society.
- 74. Photograph — Adena Regional Hospital, donated by Janet & Bill Allan.
- 75. Photographs & Negatives — from *Mead Reporter*, 25 year dinners and of Mead Retirees, 1955–69, donated by Mitzi Anderson.
- 76. Books — (2) *George Washington on Leadership*, 2008 and *Southern Storm: Sherman’s March to the Sea*, 2008, donated by Dan Ramey.
- 77. Ledger & Account Book — from Lodge 514 U.O.S.B., donated by Brian Cornish.
- 78. Game Board — with playing pieces, c. 1900; Smith Junior High School Band Jacket & Photo, c. 1990, donated by Terry Fout.

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

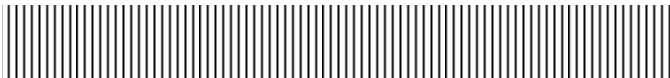
From Whom? _____

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

