



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

Fall 2011 ISSUE



Upcoming Events & Programs

2011 Fall Speakers Series

Commemorating the Civil War Sesquicentennial

Wednesday, October 19, 7:30 p.m., *"Rear Admiral Henry Walke, Chillicothe's Famed Civil War Naval Commander & Artist,"* featuring Mark F. Jenkins, historian & author, Columbus.

Wednesday, November 2, 7:30 P.M., *"Fighting for Freedom: The Story of the United States Colored Troops in the Civil War,"* featuring Anthony L. Gibbs, living history specialist, Columbus. (co-sponsored by the Ohio Humanities Council)

Thursday, November 16, 7:30 p.m., *"The Gettysburg Campaign: A Study in Command,"* featuring Eric J. Wittenberg, historian & award winning Civil War author, Columbus. (co-sponsored by the Ohio Humanities Council)

All three programs are open to the general public free of charge. (Please see page 3 for more details.)

Society Kicks off Membership Drive

Fall ushers in the kickoff of football season, and with it, the Historical Society's 2011 membership drive. Hundreds of recruitment packages are being sent to those in the area who attend or participate in Society activities and programs but have not yet joined, past Society members, and others who are thought to have a strong interest in and see the value of local history.

Memberships provide much needed financial support for virtually everything the Society does, from collecting and preserving historically valuable artifacts and documents, to creating new museum exhibits and hosting a variety of historical programming. In return, members receive a number of attractive benefits and privileges (please see page 7 for details). Current members are encouraged to assist our campaign. If you know of someone who would enjoy being involved in local history efforts and would also value the benefits of joining the Society, please contact us. Your assistance will be appreciated.

2011 Holiday Season Programs

at the

Ross County Heritage Center

Volunteer Appreciation Christmas Banquet
Friday, December 2, 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Open House
Saturday, December 3, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Holiday Junior Member Program
Saturday, December 10, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

2011 Museum Hours

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.

Junior Member Fun



Children ages 6 -12 (above) are put through the manual of arms and other Civil War period military drills during the Society's Summer Junior Member program on July 27.

Welcome New Members

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

Suzan Anderson
Hugh Fullerton
Jennifer Graham & family
Dr. Scott & Kristine McCallum & family
Brian Ratcliffe
Brett & Frances Reisinger & family
Rita Sue Schneider
Christina Stahler

President's Report, by Bob Nelson

As you no doubt have heard, this is the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War and our Society has been active in recognizing this important period in our history.

The special exhibit in the Society's McKell Library features many Civil War documents and items from our collections. We received national recognition for one of the displays in our permanent Civil War exhibit, and we recently acquired two collections of documents and artifacts that include extremely rare handwritten band music books.

Our Spring Speaker Series of three programs was outstanding and very well attended. We are still talking about the exciting performance by living history presenter Michael E. Crutcher, Sr. as he portrayed Frederick Douglass.

I'm sure our Fall Speaker Series will prove to be equally exciting. I encourage and invite you to attend all of the programs in this series and also to visit our very timely exhibits.

Memberships Make Nice Gifts

Memberships to the Ross County Historical Society make thoughtful and inexpensive gifts. 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 at the museum store.

Gift Ideas from the Museum Store

New! *The Civil War Journals of Samuel H. Hurst, 73rd Regiment, OVI*, \$14.95 — a perfect companion to Hurst's *Journal History of the 73rd OVI*, compiled by Patricia Fife Medert.

New! *Camp Chase Fifes & Drums* — authentic Civil War fife and drum music on compact disc — four separate CDs, each with dozens of popular tunes from the period — \$14.95 per CD.

Church & High Streets, Chillicothe, Ohio: The Buildings & the People & Other Miscellaneous Structures, \$39.95 — the sixth in a series of publications on the structural history of Chillicothe's historic district. This 224 page volume covers the history of one of Chillicothe's oldest and well-preserved residential neighborhoods, by Patricia Fife Medert.

Water Street, Chillicothe, Ohio: Its Buildings and Its People, \$39.95 — the fifth in a series of books on the structural history of Chillicothe's historic district, by Patricia Fife Medert.

Homes of the First Ladies: A Guide to Publicly Accessible Homes, Museums, and Related Sites, \$29.95 — an illustrated guide, by William G. Clotworthy.

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.

Director's Report, by Tom Kuhn

You may have noticed that this issue of the *Recorder* has a definite Civil War tilt to it. That is not by accident but by design. 2011 marks the beginning of the 150th anniversary (sesquicentennial) of the conflict, and the historical society is commemorating the event by focusing much of our programming this year on the subject.

The American Civil War, though it occurred a century and a half ago (only two lifetimes), still captures the imagination and fascination of many people and seems as real today as if it happened only a short time ago. Familiarity with its causes, its participants and personalities, and understanding its lasting impact our country seems to be at the heart of what it means to be an American. I have heard it said that more books have been published about the war than any other subject except, maybe, religion. Other historians have joked that there are two parts to the past — the Civil War and everything else. Whatever your point of view, no one can deny its hold on the American psyche.

We hope our focus this year will attract your interest and that you will join us for some of our programs and events. Next year begins the War of 1812 Bicentennial.

Contributions are Appreciated

Generosity and thoughtfulness are two important personal attributes that help to explain the success and longevity of the Ross County Historical Society. Recently, the Society received a \$250 donation from the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee on behalf of donor Gary Wilson — the proceeds to be used for updating a photograph display in our museum's Civil War gallery.

In addition, the Society just received a \$200 from the Chillicothe/Ross Community Foundation on behalf of the Herrnstein Chrysler Fund, care of Bill and Bart Herrnstein — the proceeds to be used to assist area schools in paying for busing expenses for their annual third grade field trips to the Ross County Heritage Center and to Adena Mansion & Gardens.

We thank each of these donors for placing a high value in the Society's mission and for their willingness to support our programs and services.

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 pillow forms and polyester batting from Reva Tripplett and wooden coat hangers from Jean Foor — 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 arrange to pick up your donation.):

1. Hand tools in good condition (all types)
2. Bissell carpet cleaner
3. Electric drill press
4. Electric table saw
5. Metal & plastic storage shelving units

Fall Speakers Series 2011

Ross County Historical Society

45 West Fifth St., Chillicothe

Free & Open to the Public

Commemorating the Civil War Sesquicentennial



Rear Admiral A. Henry Walke: Chillicothe's Famed Civil War Naval Commander & Artist

Featuring Mark F. Jenkins — Historian & Author, Westerville, Ohio

Wednesday, October 19, 7:30 p.m.

Mark Jenkins has been interested in Civil War naval operations since childhood. He has published articles on the subject in *Naval Gazette* and is currently writing the first full-length biography of Rear Admiral Henry Walke. Virginia-born Walke, who lived in Chillicothe, exerted a double influence on the Civil War. He was senior naval officer on the western rivers and in the Atlantic, and he recorded and illustrated his experiences. His sketches and paintings of naval operations form a primary part of our view of those events, and his first-hand account of the river war is a major source of information for its history. Please join us to learn more about this important Civil War figure who called Chillicothe his home.

Fighting for Freedom: The Story of the United States Colored Troops in the Civil War

Featuring Anthony L. Gibbs, Creative Director & Artist for Black History Impressions, Columbus, Ohio.

Co-sponsored by the Ohio Humanities Council Speakers Bureau

Wednesday, November 2, 7:30 p.m.

You have seen the movie *Glory*, now learn the rest of the story about the nearly 200,000 black soldiers who fought for the Union during the Civil War. Their story is a unique chapter in the American conflict. These men were freedom fighters who fought for emancipation and for full citizenship rights. Join us for a fascinating evening as Anthony Gibbs discusses events significant to these men that led up to the Civil War, the role they played in the conflict, and what made them different from the thousands of others who fought and died for freedom and to save the Union.



The Gettysburg Campaign: A Study in Command

Featuring Eric J. Wittenberg, Historian & Award Winning Author on the Civil War, Columbus, Ohio

Co-sponsored by the Ohio Humanities Council Speakers Bureau

Wednesday, November 16, 7:30 p.m.

Eric Wittenberg is a noted authority and an award-winning author of sixteen books and dozens of articles on the Civil War. He is a frequent lecturer and battlefield tour leader, vice president of the Buffington Island Battlefield Preservation Foundation, and sits on the (Ohio) Governor's Advisory Commission on the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War. His talk will focus on the decision-making by the commanders of the Union and Confederate armies during the Gettysburg Campaign. The audience will meet such interesting characters as Robert E. Lee, George Gordon Meade, James Longstreet, Daniel Sickles and others, and will examine the difficult decisions they made.

From the Archives, by Pat Medert

I just completed the transcription and editing of the three Civil War journals kept by Samuel H. Hurst, last commanding officer of the 73rd Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry (O.V.I.) that was raised and mustered into federal service in Chillicothe. It has been printed and is now available for purchase in the museum store.



Hurst was born September 22, 1831, in Union Township in Ross County. Following his graduation from Ohio Wesleyan University in 1854, he taught school and at the same time read for the law. He was admitted to the Ohio Bar in 1858 and opened a law office in Chillicothe. He was elected city solicitor the following year, and in October 1860 won election as Ross County's probate judge. Hurst resigned his office in the fall of 1861 to enlist in the 73rd O.V.I. and raised the first company in the regiment. He was subsequently appointed captain of Company A. In June 1862, he was promoted to major of the regiment and in February 1864 to lieutenant colonel. He was raised to the rank of colonel the following July and was brevetted brigadier general in March 1865.

Hurst published *Journal-History of the Seventy-third Ohio Volunteer Infantry* in 1866. It is a good history of the regiment which was engaged in the battles of Cross Keys, McDowell, 2nd Bull Run, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Lookout Mountain, and numerous others. It took part in the siege of Atlanta and Sherman's march to Savannah. Hurst acknowledged that his information was taken in part from his "private journal." However, in writing the book, he omitted his personal experiences, his private thoughts about the war, politicians, and officers, and his descriptions of the places he saw. The private journal is a significant companion book to the regimental history.

For this article, I selected Hurst's description of Camp Lawton, a Confederate prison camp near Millen, GA, because the excavation of the site by students from Georgia Southern University has recently been in the news. They have unearthed one of the most significant discover-

ies of Civil War artifacts in recent history. The camp was established in October 1864 to hold the Union prisoners that were moved from Andersonville after General Sherman occupied Atlanta. It was only used for about six weeks and was abandoned as the Union Army approached in its march to the sea. The site had not been previously disturbed by archeologists.

The following is taken from Hurst's journal entry for Dec. 3, 1864.

At noon we stop for dinner near Camp Lawton where is a stockade enclosing 40 acres of land in which some thousands of our prisoners were confined after they were taken from Andersonville. I visited the stockade and rode through it examining the "gopher holes" and dirt houses, its arrangement for water, its "dead line," its stocks for punishment, etc., etc.

The stockade was made of pine logs about fifteen inches in diameter, set six feet in the ground and rising sixteen feet above ground. There was a guard or sentinel box on top the stockade about each 100 feet with ladder from the outside. There were arrangements for pitch fires after night on the outside. About 20 or thirty feet from the wall on the inside was a slight frame work, small posts driven in the ground and light lath or rails nailed on top of them, making a slight railing and called the "dead line." Any prisoner who ventured nearer the wall than this line was a sure mark for some sentinel's gun. In the houses which were mostly on one side of the encampment there were pine leaves which the boys had gathered for beds on the ground or rather in the ground, for most of the houses were partly under ground. There were forks and spoons of wood ingeniously whittled out by our boys. There were bones of beef laid away in the cracks of their houses which I supposed were to be boiled for soup in their extremity. There were little fire places the size of an ordinary bucket in which they warmed themselves by splinters of pine that were gathered and used sparingly. I brought away with me some interesting relics of their prison life.

In one tent I found one of our boys lying on the bare ground without bed or covering and almost without clothing—dead. He had been left a corpse when the camp was evacuated or had been too sick to be taken away and had lain there and died alone. His body was rapidly decomposing, and there was no trace left to show who he was. Another one was found in a similar condition in another part of the camp. We covered them silently and passed on thinking in the bitterness of our souls how pitiable, nay damnable, a thing is southern chivalry and thanking God that we had not yet fallen into their hands.

Doubtless this stockade was greatly superior to that at Andersonville where our men died by the hundreds and suffered untold and indescribable miseries. I could not learn how many of our prisoners had been confined here, some said 12,000 and some 5000. There were some 800 or 1000 graves near by where they had put to rest our poor boys! Starved and murdered by their cruelty. They had taken the prisoners away as soon as they heard of Sherman's advance which had then been ten or twelve days.

From the Photo Archives, by Lisa Hess

Elks' Street Fair, 1899

The Elks' Street Fair & Trade Carnival was held in Chillicothe from May 29 through June 3, 1899. In the souvenir booklet, the Elks promise "that the Street Fair will be the most colossal event which ever took place in the city, and a crowning triumph to Chillicothe Lodge, No. 52, B.P.O.E."



The Fair stretched west on Main Street from Paint Street and began with booths advertising local businesses. Farther up the street was the Midway where large false-front buildings lined both sides of the street for 400 feet, giving the appearance of actual foreign streets.



*Entrance to the fair at Main and Paint Streets (top)
Fair midway on west Main Street (bottom)*

The Oriental Theatre offered various entertainments such as "Couchee Couchee" dancing girls dressed in fancy costumes. Turkish musicians playing "their quaint weird music," are accompanied by dancers that are "not sensuous, immoral, repulsive dancers, but marvels of grace and beauty."

The Street of India offered a "Hindoo priest illustrating some of the peculiarities of his religion," performers showing the sports and pastimes of their native land and Indian magicians, sorcerers, "and other stranger people of a stranger land." One could also enjoy a ride on "Jess" the elephant, or on a camel, donkey, or burro imported from the Far East.



Woman takes a ride on a camel at the street fair

The Japanese Theatre had its own type of entertainment. A group of seven performers represented the Japanese nation with spectacular feats of juggling, tumbling and acrobatics. In some daring tricks, children were tossed and juggled.



Sword swallower demonstrating his skills

Continued on page 6



Crowds gather to watch acrobats (Mountain House appears on Carlisle Hill in the background)

There was also a performance by Fillian, the Spiral Ascensionist (below) who climbed a narrow three story spiral tower while walking and balancing on a rolling ball, then turned around and made his way back down the tower.

Neely's Cadet Band of South Salem (below) per-



formed everyday at the Fair and several parades made their way through downtown during the six days. A Grand Masked Carnival ended the festivities on Saturday evening, June 3rd.



Junior Members Contribute Stories of their Civil War Ancestors

At the Junior Member Program in July, a form titled "Tell Us about Your Civil War Relative" was given to the children to complete and return. For doing the additional research into their own family history, they would receive a free one-year membership. Three Junior Members completed the task.

Alison Gossman told us about her great-great-great-uncle Frances Marion Shasteen. Shasteen enlisted at age 18 and served in the 89th Ohio Volunteer Infantry as a Musician. He was captured on September 20, 1863, at Chickamauga, GA, and was sent to Andersonville Prison where he died of starvation. His brother, James also served in the 89th OVI.



Kelby Gossman sent us information on his great-great-great grandfather, John Rittinger (left). At age 17, John ran away from home and enlisted in the 73rd OVI. His father, Jacob, came to get him and took him home because he was a minor. The commander had John arrested for desertion, but he was finally released from service after the matter went to probate court.

Tyson Vickers submitted information about two of his great-great-great-great-uncles in the Lambdin family who fought for the Union. Siler Lambdin (below), of Whitley County, KY, served in Co. A, 8th Kentucky Volunteer Infantry. He was severely wounded in the right arm at the Battle of Stone's River near Murfreesboro, Tennessee, and was saved by his cousin, Jesse Siler, who tied his hat cord around his arm to stop the bleeding. He was taken to a hospital in Nashville where surgeons amputated his right arm at the shoulder.



Tyson's other 5th-great uncle, Evan Lambdin, brother of Siler, served as a Union Army Scout in the Cumberland Gap and Middlesboro area. He was captured and held in stockades at Jacksboro, Tennessee, until his wife, Mary, paid his way out of prison.

Tyson also noted that there were several other members of the Lambdin family who served in the Civil War, including some who fought for the Confederacy.

Recent Acquisitions of the Museum and Library

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

- 55. Printed Material – documents relating to the Sulzbacher Family Reunion, June 10-11, 2011 also, Genealogy and records of the Sulzbacher family; Map – Bicentennial map of the State of Ohio, 2003, donated by Jane Hilty.
- 56. Booklet – *The Civil War Token Journal*, Summer 2001, donated by Donald Erlenkotter.
- 57. Documents – (photocopies) of documents pertaining to the construction and repair of bridges over the canal in Chillicothe, Ohio, donated by Al Heierman.
- 58. Scrapbook – newspaper clippings regarding the local Celebration of the 1938 Sesquicentennial of the Northwest Territory, donated by Nancy Baum.
- 59. Slave Identification Tag – (undocumented) “No 22, Servant, 1832”, stamped in copper, RCHS Purchase.
- 60. Printed Material – “Famous Surveys of the Old Northwest Territory along the River Ohio”, by James L. Williams, 2011, donated by Charles Coutellier.
- 61. Photographs & Negatives – of Mead Central Research, donated by Mead-Westvaco.
- 62. Photograph (copy) – of Corp. Patrick Traynor, Co. C. 73rd, OVI, 1861-1865, donated by Gary Wilson. (see photo at right)
- 63. Book – *How to Know the Wild Flowers*, 1893; Cookbooks – (2) 1946 & 1943, donated by Joy Renner.
- 64. Scrapbook – 1913, donated by Becky Van Voorhis.
- 65. Eyeglasses – 4 pairs, c. 1930, donated by Ronnie Brust.
- 66. Mead Central Research Collection – publications, photographs and other items, donated by Thomas L. Martin.
- 67. Photographs – (2) of Chillicothe Shoe Factory workers, 1930 & 1935, donated by Harold O'Brien.
- 68. Commemorative Medal – “Camp Sherman since 1917, Train To Challenge”, 2011, RCHS Acquisition.
- 69. Board Games – (2) “TV Guide’s TV Game”, 1984 and “Miami Vice: The Game”, 1984, donated by Ronda Vickers.
- 70. Cookbooks – (30) most from local churches and other organizations, 1922-2005, Marilyn Urhig Estate.
- 71. Collection from Civil War musician Simon P. Van Pelt who played a tuba in the 73rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry Band – handwritten music books (4); photographs (5); service medal; Minnie ball and other items, RCHS Purchase.
- 72. Collection from Civil War Musician John D. Stuckey, 73rd OVI – Discharge paper; portraits (4), RCHS Purchase.
- 73. Shoehorn – “Marji’s 14 East 2nd St., Chillicothe, O. 45601”, late 20th century, donated by Jane Hilty.



Above is the music for the tune “Yankee Doodle” found in one of four hand-written music books in the Simon Van Pelt Civil War collection (accession # 71).

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:
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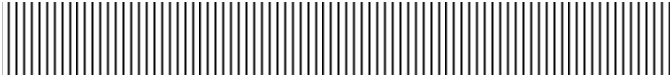
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Ross County Historical Society

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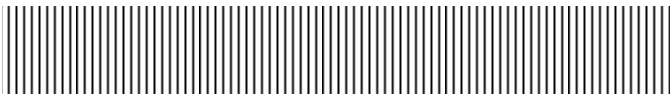
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NEWSLETTER

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THE ROSS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY *RECORDER*

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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
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45 W Fifth Street
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