

From The Friends' Front Porch

Fall 2009

Volume 7, Issue 2

Annual Meeting August 8th offered good food, fellowship

In accordance with the Museum's by-laws, the annual membership meeting was held Saturday, August 8th. A delicious carry-in dinner displayed the culinary talents of our loyal volunteers and no one went home hungry.

A brief business meeting was held during which Rick Rieger was nominated and elected to join the Board of Trustees and Chad Bridgman was elected vice-chair. Committee reports were given and once again the busy dedication of the Board members was shown:

- Bill Stubbs' financial acumen keeps the Museum operating in the black in these difficult economic times.
- Linda Morgan is working hard to make the Ghostly History Walking Tours even bigger and better (*see article, right*).
- Dolly McKeehan is busy cataloguing and organizing the many new donations she works so diligently to acquire.
- Cyndi Pauwels issues regular press releases and media ads to keep Museum activities in the public eye.
- Bill Jones finalized a grant from the Warren County Convention & Visitors Bureau for ghost tour promotional materials.
- With the help of Chuck Feicht, Chad Bridgman is coordinating the scraping and repainting of the garage and planning a major yard work day for Saturday, November 7th – bring your gloves!
- Samantha McKeehan continues to recruit new volunteers and held a training class on August 29th to initiate them into Museum lore.

Welcome also to Mary Bunker, who joined the Board on August 18th. Trustees meets at 7 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month. Members are always welcome to attend to see how much work is involved in making the Museum the outstanding facility it has become since the doors first opened in 2000.

Ghostly History Walking Tours grow in scope, popularity

Is the SyFy channel's *Ghost Hunters* program the focal point of your television schedule? Are Jason Hawes and Grant Wilson your American idols? Is your ringtone the theme from *Ghost Busters*? Then the Museum has an outing for you! On Saturday, September 19, those interested in exploring the hidden world of paranormal investigation are invited to a hands-on training session with the ghost hunting team from the local non-profit group ParaVizionz (www.paravizionz.com). They are dedicated to "Looking into the Unknown," and are eager to share their expertise with the community.

This unique class begins at the Museum at 7:45 p.m. Instruction will include photography techniques, EMF (electromagnetic frequency) detectors, audio recordings and more. Following the presentation, attendees will test their new skills in a Ghostly History Walking Tour of the Quaker Hill area surrounding the Museum. Each student will receive a 35-mm disposable camera to record their experiences and a debriefing after the tour will allow everyone to share what they found.

Space is limited, and attendees must be 18 or older. For ticket information or for reservations, call 513.897.1607 or visit www.friendshomemuseum.org.

And remember, the regular Ghostly History Walking Tour season begins in October and dates fill quickly. Schedule your hauntingly good time soon – don't miss out!

Thanks & Praise to Those Who Help

Thank you, thank you, from the Museum Board to those members and friends who give of themselves to keep things running smoothly:

- Barry from Hour House Clock Shop, 228 Miami Street, for keeping all our antique clocks on time
- WorkForce One teenagers for preparing the garage to be painted and for general assistance around the home and grounds

Teatime at the Twin Theater with movie tributes, memories



Saturday, May 9th, found the community room at Quaker Heights Care Center decked out in a dazzling array of Technicolor. Ten tables were decorated in tribute to favorite movies including *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, *Gone with the Wind*, *Quiet Man*, *Blue Hawaii*, *Casablanca*, *South Pacific*, *Singin' in the Rain*, *Tuscan Sun*, and *Mickey Mouse*.

Ladies in attendance rivaled the tables' color and style – even a few hats made an appearance! The three-course tea offered a delectable assortment of finger sandwiches and sweets, with the gentlemen of the Museum providing hot water for lots of tea.

An eclectic arrangement of curiosities made the silent auction table a center of attention while Waynesville resident Jim Wardlow shared wonderful reminiscences from his early days working the Twin Theatre on Main Street. The afternoon ended with the delightful musical theatrics of Collins & Finton with everyone singing along to old favorites.

Make plans now to join in the fun next year and mark your calendar for May 15, 2010. Contact Program Chair Linda Morgan at 513.383.0071 or the Museum office at 513.897.1607 for reservations. The tea is one of two major fundraisers held annually to support the Museum and your participation is appreciated.

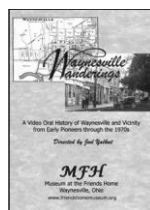


Volunteers are always needed to help with copying, tagging artifacts, cleaning, tours, and for special projects. Come join us! Our work is interesting and we have a great time. Call 513.897.1607 whether you have a few days or a few hours to share. You are most welcome!

Historical Poster display highlights fall exhibit

Waynesville's unique history comes together in a fascinating one-stop trip down memory lane through a coordinated exhibit at the Museum. Forty-one historical posters created for the Waynesville Merchants Association Heritage Day celebration in July will be on display from August 8 until the end of the month.

From the towering Seth Silver Haines home on Third Street to the White Brick Quaker meetinghouse, each volunteer-designed poster highlights a different historical building or home in Waynesville with photos and text. Don't miss this opportunity to follow local history in a compact, visual exhibit!



Don't forget *Waynesville* *Wanderings*

Copies of *Waynesville Wanderings: A Video Oral History of Waynesville and Vicinity from Early Pioneers through the 1970s* are available at the Museum for \$15 each. This collector's item highlights many areas of interest from the history of our area and will serve as a treasured keepsake for many years to come.

Our thanks to the Ohio Humanities Council for their generous funding of this project.

New Saturday Hours!

Beginning with the 2009 season, the Museum is open one extra afternoon per week. Visitors are welcome to tour our three floors of updated exhibit rooms on Sunday, Wednesday and now Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m.

Special hours are always available for small groups. Call the Museum at 513.897.1607 to book your tour today!

Curator's Corner

~ by *Dolly McKeegan*



Once again the summer has flown by and brought new faces to the Museum. Samantha McKeegan has been conducting classes for new volunteers who have come forward to help as tour guides, host or hostesses and office work. Our thanks go to Dave Stubbs and Ginney Haley as new volunteers. We cannot thank these people enough for the gift of their time and talent. The Trustees also welcome two new members to the board: Rick Rieger, who lives near the Spring Valley area with his wife, Sue, and Mary Bunker who lives in Waynesville with her husband, Al. Eula McDermott and George Pauwels both left the Board of Trustees after many years of generous service to the Museum and will be missed.

As we approach our busiest time of the year with the upcoming Ghostly History Walking Tours, followed by the holidays, I am new and returning members and volunteers will continue to be a vital and active part of the Museum family. We strive to preserve our history for future generations but also to enjoy ourselves and our work as we complete the Museum's mission.

Don't forget the Museum is now open Sunday, Wednesday and Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m. every week from April through mid-December.

Finally, we hope you will think of the Museum if your family, church or civic group is looking for an interesting outing. Our guided tours offer a great way to spend a few hours with friends. Reservations can be made by calling the Museum office at 513.897.1607. As always, please feel free to call me if you have any questions or comments on the Museum.

Recent Donations/Acquisitions

- Milton Cook - glass medicine bottle with label from Dr. Stout's office and a Friends Home statement written by Ruth Chandler, no date
- Chuck Feicht - 1904 silver dollar in case
- Lee Philpott - child's metal toy adding machine
- Roy Penwell - large collection of ladies vintage clothing, hats, undergarments and sewing notions
- Dolly McKeegan - eight pieces of crackle glass
- Shirley Ames - framed drawing of the Telegraph Mill by Jane McCulloch
- Sean Perry - Air Force uniform worn during the Iraq War and copy of orders
- Jim Prickett - four copies of the 1972 Miami Gazette
- Rick & Sue Rieger - large collection of lamps, glassware, two microscopes, clothing, hats and vintage Christmas decorations
- Margie Eubanks on behalf of the O'Neill family - Quaker dresses and clothing from the mid-late 1880s, Quaker bonnet, Quaker wedding dress, four quilts from early O'Neill family members
- Amanda Raby - two vintage infant dresses

Thank you all!

Share Your Story, Tell a Tale

Have a story of local historical interest you would like to share? We plan to include one article in each upcoming newsletter. Period pictures and artwork are welcome! Contact newsletter editor Cyndi Pauwels by email: CyndiGuru@GeoTechGurus.com, or phone 937.542.9628, with your ideas.

Work Day set Nov. 7th

Bring your work gloves and gardening tools and spend a fun day with Museum volunteers clearing the grounds for winter! Gather at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, November 7th for coffee and doughnuts, then spend the morning trimming bushes and brush and generally sprucing up the yard around the Museum. Eula McDermott promises lunch in the Red Brick following the chores. Contact Grounds Chair Chad Bridgman for more details.

Historic Warren County publication this fall

The Heritage Advisory Council (HAC) is a collaborative effort among many historic preservation groups in southwest Ohio. It is designed to promote their respective activities in order to foster interest in and appreciation for preservation efforts in its many forms. The non-profit group sponsors joint publicity efforts to support individual facilities and offers fundraising opportunities and educational workshops to help members better meet the challenging goals of historic preservation. Members include local historical societies from Carlisle, Franklin, Harveysburg, Loveland, and Warren County; the Mary L. Cook Public Library with its extensive Ohioana Room local history collection; the Warren County Genealogical Society, and special-interest museums Fort Ancient, the Quaker Heritage Center and the Museum at the Friends Home.

With more than 200 years of history to share, HAC has shouldered the daunting task of publishing *Historic Warren County*. No comprehensive county history has been published since the renowned Beers & Co. effort, *The History of Warren County, Ohio*, in 1882. Of necessity, this current project is but a brief overview of the rich cultural and historical heritage to be discovered here, but HAC members are hopeful it will serve as a springboard for further exploration.

A fall publication date is expected for this full-color coffee table history book that will retail for \$35. The 60-plus pages of text and photos both old and new are supplemented by community sponsor pages highlighting local governments, businesses and organizations. Proceeds from the sale of *Historic Warren County* will benefit the historic preservation efforts of HAC and its member agencies.

Contact the Museum at 513.897.1607 to reserve your copy now!



Preservation efforts at the Old Lock-up

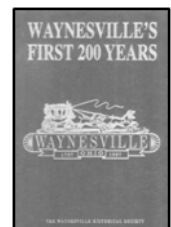
"It was about 1875 when a brick combination firehouse and jail, known as 'The Lock-up' was built on Tyler Street (presently 290 Chapman Street). This was also believed to be the beginning of the organization of a fire department in Waynesville. In 1930, this organization would be known as the Waynesville Fireman's Club and be the beginning of recorded fire records in Waynesville." ~ by Fire Chief Jack R. Gross



In 2004 after years of effort, the Waynesville Caretakers Preservation Club and community members completed restoration of the Old Lock-up. Matching grants through the U.S. Department of the Interior's National Park Service and the Ohio Historical Society, along with the professional expertise of Jeff Wray Architects, Inc., and Architectural Renovation, Inc., brought the building to new life as an interpretive center for the Accommodation Line Scenic Byway which passes through Waynesville. Weather has taken its toll, however, and funds are needed to secure the building's huge front doors from the elements.

Waynesville's Historic Preservation Committee held an open house on Sunday, August 30, to raise the \$3,000 needed for repairs. Donations can be made through Bill Stubbs at Little Red Shed Antiques, 85 South Main Street, 513.897.6326.

The preceding quotation is an excerpt from the book *Waynesville's First 200 Years*, published by the Waynesville Historical Society in 1997. Copies are available at the Little Red Shed Antique Shop (85 South Main; 513.897.6326) and the Waynesville Area Chamber of Commerce.



Calling All Bibliophiles

The John Greenleaf Whittier Book Club meets at the Museum once a month at 7 p.m. This small, friendly, highly-interactive group reads an eclectic mix of member-selected books ranging from the classics to those recently published. Each title must be well-written, have worthwhile content and present a point-of-view that promotes interesting group discussion.

Over the years members have stated that as a result of the varied nature of the books read, they have been introduced to many wonderful new authors. The following books and meeting dates have been selected for the rest of 2009:

- Ten selected short stories by Ernest Hemingway, September 9th
- *Age of Innocence* by Edith Wharton, October 7th
- *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* by Muriel Spark, November 11th
- *Winesburg, Ohio* by Sherwood Anderson, December 9th

The Book Club plans to visit the homes of famous tri-state writers in the coming year. For more information, please contact Linda or Reed Morgan at rlmorgan819@hughes.net or 513-383-0071.

Noteworthy Notes

- The Museum has joined the Internet age! DVDs can be ordered and donations, tour fees and membership can be paid to the Museum online via PayPal. Visit our website at www.friendshomemuseum.org and follow the links to make your payment quickly, easily and securely.
- Interested in saving postage and trees by receiving our newsletter via email? Let us know: info@friendshomemuseum.org. Or, if you'd rather not receive our mailings any longer, let us know that as well (via mail, phone or email) and we will update our mailing list. We never want to be a bother! Thank you for your consideration.

Dulcimer Friends Jam!

The Dulcimer Friends of Caesar's Creek are a loosely-organized group of period music lovers. They meet at the Museum from 7-9 p.m. each second and fourth Tuesday of the month for a spirited jam session. Mountain (lap) and hammer dulcimer, penny whistle, banjo, Bohdran – all old-time instruments, and any skill level, are welcome to join in the fun.

Visit the website at www.dulcimerfriends.org or call 513.683.4344 for more information.



OAHSM Annual Meeting, Conference October 1-3

The Ohio Association of Historical Societies & Museums (OAHSM) will hold its annual meeting in Columbus at the Ohio Historical Center October 1-3. The Ohio Humanities Council, with funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities, is helping sponsor this event.

OAHSM's theme in 2009 is "The Role of Historical Organizations in Shaping and Engaging Communities," and helping attendees to think comprehensively about their communities is the subject of the meeting's keynote address to be presented by Bob Beatty, vice president of programs for the American Association of State and Local History. Workshops include "Summer Camps and Programs 101: Making History Exciting for Kids," "Display on a Dime: Inexpensive Ideas to Show Off Your Collections" and "Writing for Clarity." Other session address such topics as grant writing and fund raising, internships and local history in cyberspace.

OAHSM's annual meeting will also feature a session to help Ohio's local historians think about how they can commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War (2011 – 2015).

The event is organized for OAHSM by the Ohio Historical Society's Local History Office. For more information or to register, visit www.oahsm.org or call 800.858.6878.

~ excerpt from OAHSM press release

MFH

Museum at the Friends Home
Fourth & Miami Streets
P.O. Box 12
Waynesville, OH 45068



Mark your calendar!

~ All events are held at the Museum unless otherwise noted ~

August

- 8: Museum annual meeting with carry-in dinner ~ 6 p.m.
- 29: New volunteer training class ~ 1 p.m.

September

- 3: Museum Board of Trustees meeting ~ 7 p.m.
- 19: MFH Paravizionz Ghost Walkers class ~ 7:45 p.m.

October

- 1: Museum Board of Trustees meeting ~ 7 p.m.
- Select dates: *Ghostly History Walking Tours* ~ Quaker Hill & Main Street, 7:30 p.m.

November

- 5: Museum Board of Trustees meeting ~ 7 p.m.
- 7: Museum work day ~ 8:30 a.m. till ?

December

- 3: Museum Board of Trustees meeting ~ 7 p.m.
- 5 & 6: Christmas in the Village Holiday Open House ~ 1-4 p.m.

~ Visit us on the web: www.friendshomemuseum.org ~

info@friendshomemuseum.org