

From The Friends' Front Porch

Spring 2009

Volume 7, Issue 1

Friends Home, Inc. rescues front porch repair fund

Have you driven past the Museum lately? The building is looking much better these days! Two sides of window repairs have been completed, including the installation of new storms. The urgently needed front porch repairs were completed in the fall and Museum Trustees have been struggling to find funds to pay the bill. Member donations, while gratefully appreciated, covered only a fraction of the \$19,500 expense and we were faced with the prospect of borrowing from the endowment fund to meet the balance.

Thankfully, Friends Home, Incorporated Foundation has come to our rescue. Their \$10,000 donation will cover the balance due and keep the endowment fund intact. continues to accept donations for this ongoing restoration work. The continued support of all our friends and members makes our work worthwhile. Please stop by the Museum to enjoy our progress in person.

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:

- Jim Prickett, for coordinating the repairs to the 1915 Victrola in the downstairs courtyard – it sounds amazing!
- Mike Foley, for his continued assistance with all things legal

New Saturday Hours!

Beginning with the 2009 season, the Museum will be 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!

Museum to host local historians meeting March 28

The Ohio Association of Historical Societies & Museums and the Museum will host a gathering of southwest Ohio history and heritage organizations Saturday, March 28, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Quaker Heights Care Community, 514 High Street.

Under the theme "The Role of Historical Organizations in Shaping and Engaging Communities," presentations will include "The Role of a Historical Organization in Defining a Community's Quality of Life," with Kay Fisher of the Clinton County Historical Society and Pat Williamsen of the Ohio Humanities Council; "Making Connections Through 'History in the Heartland'," with Jack Blosser of Fort Ancient; "Power in Numbers through Heritage Advisory Councils," with Ruth Dobyns of the Wilmington College Quaker Heritage Center; "Expressing Gratitude," with Debbie Stamper of the Clinton County Convention and Visitors Bureau; and "Thinking Outside the Museum Walls in Building Outreach Programs," with J.D. Britton of the Ohio Historical Society.

The meeting concludes with a tour of the 1811 White Brick Quaker Meeting House and the Museum at the Friends Home.

Registration is \$32 (\$25 for OAHSM members), and includes lunch. The meeting is open to the public. Advance registration by March 23 is required. To register, or for more information, call 800.858.6878, e-mail oahsm@ohiohistory.org, or visit www.ohiohistory.org/register.

The Ohio Association of Historical Societies & Museums, organized in 1960 under sponsorship of the Ohio Historical Society, is composed of local historical societies, historic preservation groups, history museums, archives, libraries, and genealogical societies throughout the state involved in collecting, preserving, and interpreting Ohio's history.

~ excerpt from OAHSM press release

Teatime at the Twin Theater at Quaker Heights May 9th

Ladies, dust off your hats and gloves - it's time for tea! The Museum tea party fundraiser will be held Saturday, May 9, from 1 to 3 p.m., at the beautiful Quaker Heights Community Center. Lots of scrumptious delicacies, pots and pots of tea, musical entertainment, and local history comments by Jim Wardlow on Waynesville's Twin Theater, plus the ever-popular silent auction, make for an afternoon you won't want to miss.

Tables of 10 can be reserved for groups and personally decorated in movie themes for a light-hearted competition. Individual tickets are also available at \$15 each. Contact Program Chair Linda Morgan at 513.383.0071, or the Museum office at 513.897.1607, and join the fun!



Don't forget Waynesville Wanderings

Copies of *Waynesville Wanderings: A Video Oral History of Waynesville and Vicinity from Early Pioneers through the 1970s* are still 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.

Ghostly History Walking Tours highlight October

The Museum's popular Ghostly History Walking Tours attracted nearly 800 people to Waynesville in 2008. Add in the Hammel House Ghost & Goblet Dinner tours for over 550, and Board members and volunteer tour guides were kept hopping for the month of October.

These tours play an important role not only in raising funds to keep the Museum doors open, but in getting new visitors through those doors. Tour guests are invited back to the Museum for refreshments after each outing, and guests are always amazed at the treasures they find. "I didn't even know the Museum was here!" is heard far too often, but many of those tour guests come back for later visits, and bring friends!

Waynesville Area Chamber of Commerce and its Executive Director Dawn Schroeder have been instrumental in promoting our ghost tours. We are working with them and with the Warren County Convention and Visitor's Bureau to spread the word and to keep haunted Waynesville at the forefront of fall activities.



While the ghost tours are a big draw during Halloween season, private outings are available year-round for groups of ten or more. And Waynesville has more to offer than ghostly legends! The Museum's repertoire includes: Civil War Soldiers & Early Pioneers; The Famous & Infamous of Main Street; Miami Cemetery and its beautifully landscaped grounds, and the Historic Quaker District, which includes a visit to the White Brick Meetinghouse.

Each tour invites visitors to enjoy the Museum's three floors of fascinating exhibit rooms as well. Call us today at 513.897.1607 to book your group's heritage visit to see all that Waynesville has to offer!

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!

Curator's Corner

~ by *Dolly McKeehan*

As we start a new year at the Museum, I think about all the changes since we opened the doors in 2000, and how a Board of twelve volunteers has made it possible for our community to have a first-class home for local artifacts. It is the passion and dedication of these people, and the support of our members, that will ensure our history will last for generations to come. The faces on the Board have changed a little over the years, but the determination to keep the Museum open and viable has never changed. Young or old, we all believe that the legacy of Waynesville, Corwin, Lytle, Oregonia and the surrounding communities should be protected and made available for all to enjoy. I certainly appreciate their efforts, their confidence in the worth of the Museum's efforts, and their confidence in me to manage our priceless collection.

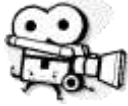
The Museum desperately needs more volunteers to assist with upkeep, tours, outside work and programs. This year we are adding Saturday afternoons to our hours of operation. We will now be open Sunday, Wednesday and Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m. every week from April through mid-December. We could use your help as volunteer docents for 3-hour weekend shifts at the Museum, three times per year. Classes are available to familiarize new guides – we won't turn you loose without preparation! It's a great way to give back to a community whose roots run deep, and whose soil is fertile for new growth and new history to be made.

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. Hours remain 1-4 p.m., with Saturdays added to our traditional Sunday and Wednesday opening, and by appointment. As always, please feel free to call me if you have any questions or comments on the Museum.

Recent Donations/Acquisitions

- Peg Rice - two 1950's era ladies coats
- Milton Cook - 1920's linens, early 1900s ladies skirt from the Cook family, rocking chair, 1940s fox collar and muff, 1920s hand-made lace
- Dolly McKeehan - ladies 1940s hats, Depression glass and salt cellars
- Carl Chaney - 1944 letter from Waynesville
- Mary Lou Brown - two Warren County atlases
- Warren County Historical Society - Dr. Mary L. Cook clothing
- Eugene Johnson - New Burlington photos
- Jim Crane - political items, WW II gas ration stamps, items on Waynesville National Bank
- Margaret Anne Chapman - Chapman/Bailey family photos
- Ross Hollingsworth - Native American artifacts
- Ann Armstrong - ladies under garments
- Mary & Mark Keller - early 1900 photo of child in ornate frame
- Kathy Anderson Carr - ladies wide brim bonnet, 1950s lades hat, 1920s ladies under garments, 1940s ladies slip, 1920s silk dress, 1890s ladies blouse, 1950s ladies scarf, hanger cover
- Dot Fosnaugh - pencil from Franklin Roosevelt's presidency
- Jody Coe Rothwell - 1970 booklet on New Burlington

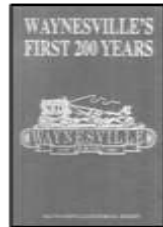
Thank you all!



The Last Picture Show in Waynesville

~ by James S. Wardlow

The following article 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.



The Twin Theatre, located at 109 South Main Street, was a big part of my life for as long as I can remember. The building (in 1997) houses Andres Stuff Store (now Lilly's Corner Mall in 2009), but had its heyday half a century ago, packing the house to see the likes of Tex Ritter and Vivien Leigh on the silver screen.

In 1946 my family moved to Waynesville, allowing me the privilege of attending the Saturday afternoon matinee. Like most ten-year-olds, I loved the excitement of the picture show – almost always a Western geared to attract a whole theatre of youngsters. Before the feature presentation, a cartoon was shown – along with an exciting serial designed to entice the audience back the following week.

When I was thirteen, I was hired by Bob O'Regan, owner of the Twin at that time, as a popcorn boy and ticket taker. Popcorn was ten cents a box, and the penny I received for each box sold made up my entire salary. On week nights, I sold twenty to thirty boxes, and on Saturday nights I sold seventy-five to 100 boxes.

In 1948, the admission increased to forty cents for adults and eighteen cents for children. The Twin also began closing on Wednesday nights instead of Tuesday nights as it had in the past.

Four different movies were offered each week. Westerns with stars like Roy Rogers, Gene Autry and Hopalong Cassidy were shown on Saturdays. Sunday and Monday nights often featured musicals like *The Student Prince*, *State Fair* and *The Al Jolson Story*, with stars like Kathryn Grayson and Jan Powell. Tuesday night dramas featured the likes of

Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman in *Casablanca* or Ray Milland in *Lost Weekend*. Thursday and Friday nights offered movies like *The Babe Ruth Story* with William Bendix and *Going My Way* with Barry Fitzgerald. Newsreels, with current and world events, were shown on Sunday and Monday prior to the movie presentation.

At fourteen I learned to run the projector from Warren LeMay. After Warren left, I shared the projectionist duties with Dick Tatum, who, along with his wife Helen, had purchased the theatre in 1950. My salary as projectionist was fifty cents an hour. Ron Thompson, the new popcorn boy, and I shared additional duties including sweeping the floors, changing the showbills in the glass case at the entrance and locking up after the shows.



By 1951, theatre business was suffering due to the popularity of television and drive-in theatres. On some nights, only a few of the 192 seats were filled. On the Thursday night that the theatre closed in the fall of 1951, only one customer bought a ticket by the 7 p.m. starting time. I called Mr. Tatum at home and he instructed me to refund the customer's money and to lock the door.

At one time I had dreams of becoming a wealthy theatre owner, but that dream died along with the Twin Theatre.

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 our newsletter editor, Cyndi Pauwels, by email: CyndiGuru@GeoTechGurus.com, or phone 937.542.9628, with your ideas.

Calling All Bibliophiles

The Whittier Book Club meets the third or fourth Tuesday of most months at 7 p.m., at the Museum. The March 24th book is *Mohawk* by Richard Russo, who also wrote *Nobody's Fool*. We're always looking for new readers so please join us if you are fascinated by the power of the printed word.



This is a small, highly informal gathering where each member gets a chance to choose a book for the group to read for a given month. Contact Linda Morgan at 513.383.0071 for future dates.

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.



~ Volunteers ~ The Backbone of Your Museum

The 12-member Museum Board of Trustees has a number of standing committees working hard to keep things humming. According to our bylaws, the clerk (chair) of each committee is a Board member, and the committee is staffed with additional volunteers. Which group could use your expertise? Give us a call!

- Executive: Milton Cook, clerk, with Bill Stubbs and Dolly McKeehan
- Financial: Bill Stubbs, clerk, with Milton Cook
- Professional Concerns: Cyndi Pauwels, clerk, volunteers needed
- Membership/Trusteeship: Dolly McKeehan, clerk, with Janet Jones
- Collection/Acquisition: Dolly McKeehan, clerk, with Samantha McKeehan and Lee Philpott
- Programs: Linda Morgan, clerk, with Dot Fosnaugh; volunteers needed
- Publicity: Cyndi Pauwels, clerk, volunteers needed
- Grants: Bill Jones, clerk, with Chuck Feicht and Cyndi Pauwels
- Grounds/Building: Chad Bridgman, clerk, with Bill Stubbs
- Volunteers: Samantha McKeehan, clerk, with Ashley Bridgman

Spring Exhibit Goes Under...wear?

Beginning with our first Saturday opening, April 4, the Museum's first floor rotating exhibit room takes a light-hearted look at undergarments over the years. Stop by for *Fashion Foundations* and marvel at the interesting trip fashion has taken...did we really dress like that?!

Make sure to visit the redesigned '50s room in the basement as well. Linda Morgan and Lee Philpott spent countless hours adding an amazing faux wood finish to the old concrete floor, and the exhibits have been freshened and reorganized. Yes, we do work in the off-season!

Noteworthy Notes

- The Museum is joining the Internet age! Effective October 2008, donations, tour fees and membership can be paid to the Museum online via PayPal. Visit our website at www.friendshomemuseum.org and follow the Donation or Membership links to make your payment quickly and easily.
- 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.



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 ~

March

- 5: Museum Board of Trustees meeting ~ 7 p.m.
- 28: OAHSM Region 8 Meeting ~ 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Quaker Heights

April

- 2: Museum Board of Trustees meeting ~ 7 p.m.
- 4: Season opening ~ regular hours Wednesday, Saturday & Sunday 1-4 p.m.

May

- 7: Museum Board of Trustees meeting ~ 7 p.m.
- 9: *Teatime at the Twin Theater* ~ Quaker Heights Community Care Center 1-3 p.m.

June

- 7: Museum Board of Trustees meeting ~ 7 p.m.
- 26-28: Appalachian Music Festival ~ Bicentennial Park

July

- 2: Museum Board of Trustees meeting ~ 7 p.m.

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

info@friendshomemuseum.org