

From The Friends' Front Porch

Spring 2015

www.friendshomemuseum.org

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Curator's Corner~ *by Dolly McKeenan*

Modernizing Waynesville's "Modern Marvel"

The Waynesville Area Heritage and Cultural Center is housed in a wonderful building that originally served as a boarding home operated by the Religious Society of Friends.

When completed in 1905 with indoor plumbing and electricity, features not standard then in many homes, the Friends Boarding Home was described in the Miami Gazette as a "modern marvel." Built with poured concrete exterior and interior walls, the plumbing and electrical lines were installed outside of the walls. A positive aspect of this feature was the accessibility of the pipes and electrical conduit.



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Hand-drawn picture of the Museum by 3rd-grader Mira Buchair from Waynesville Elementary School. Third grader students toured the Museum last year.

But despite diligent maintenance and periodic updates through the decades, a major problem occurred during the winter of 2013, when a hot water pipe burst and caused damage to wall photos, three books, and flooring. The heat and steam from the break caused the heat alarms to go off and the fire department responded. Last winter there was a leak in the second floor bathroom that got into the display closet of the Veteran's room. Before that, there was a leak in the Curator's office ceiling. Fortunately, damage from these leaks was minor. But due to the old age of the galvanized pipes and joints, it is only a matter of time before a significant leak with major damage occurs. The Museum is presently assessing the impact and cost of replacing all plumbing. We'll "leak" more information this summer, including the capability to finance the modernization.

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- Remember the Second Union School?
- Looking back to 1899



View from the Front Porch

~ by Chuck Feicht



I thought I heard a sigh one Saturday afternoon while lounging in a rocker on the Museum's front porch. It was my day to serve as docent, there were no visitors at the time, and pleasant weather beckoned me to sit outside. Or maybe it wasn't the weather beckoning, because my attention focused on Waynesville's Second Union School across the street.

What a neat building, I thought. The school was built in 1891 at a cost of \$22,000. It housed all 12 grades until 1915 when the high school grades were moved into what is now the junior high building on Dayton Road. It continued to be used as an elementary school until 1953. A noteworthy feature of the building is the wonderful four-over-two window treatment with 18 pane transoms.

I could almost imagine many of the local folks I know as youngsters walking to school, sitting at attention at their desks, and enjoying recess in the playground. But now the building sits silent, used only for storage, and awaits an uncertain future.

What a contrast, I thought, to the fate of the building upon whose porch I was sitting. For the Friends Boarding Home, built in 1905, found new life as the Waynesville Area Heritage and Cultural Center (more commonly known as the Museum at the Friends Home). What would it take, I wondered, to similarly turn around the fortunes of the old 1891 schoolhouse? Certainly, no one wants to see it deteriorate to the point it must eventually be demolished. Yet benign neglect will assure that.

Then I thought of the Der Dutchman, the burned out wreck still sitting alongside Route 42, where once out-of-town folks found reason to dine, visit and shop in the Village, and where local large groups could gather for meetings, reunions, and such. I envisioned the old Union Schoolhouse serving this purpose and even attracting residents to modern loft apartments crafted out of second floor classrooms. Then envisioning the impracticality and obstacles to this, I arose from my rocker and welcomed a couple that had arrived wanting a tour of the Museum.

It was then that I thought I heard a sigh from the old schoolhouse across the street.



MUSEUM MUSINGS

- The Museum needs one or two four-drawer filing cabinets. We'll be glad to come get them if you've got something we could use.
- We need your dues, if you haven't paid yet. Or if you want to join, we'd be delighted (see form included within this newsletter). If you have previously joined, and are already paid for 2015, THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
- We need someone to tend to our flower gardens and keep them cleared of weeds. If you or an organization you belong to would be willing to help, please let us know at 513-897-1607.
- Wanted: Residents willing to open their holiday-decorated homes to the public for our 2015 Holiday Tour of Homes. Ask homeowners who've participated in the past ~ they'll tell you it's a great experience. Our 2014 tour received great reviews from both visitors and homeowners. We're very thankful to the 171 visitors and the seven homeowners who made our 2014 Christmas Tour of Homes a great success.
- Would you believe nine coach tour companies want to meet with our Museum representative during the Heartland Conference at Chicago in February? Each year we're getting more popular with coach tours from throughout the Midwest.
- We'd like to make visitors out of Waynesville's shoppers, but we're not on Main Street where they are. Folks can't even see the Museum from there and, even if they could, they'd look at the uphill climb and think twice. We're betting that, if we had transportation to and from Main Street, we could interest shoppers in taking a side trip to the Museum. After all, like the antique shops, we specialize in historical artifacts, stories, and displays that illustrate what life was like in small town America in generations past. Got any ideas – or a horse and carriage? Let us know.
- In April, the Museum is pleased that the Warren County Heritage Advisory Council will visit the Museum. For more information about the Council, visit wchsmuseum.org.
- By the time you're reading this, you should have received our annual membership and support request. If not, there's a form in this newsletter you can use. We appreciate your continued support to the Museum.

The Way Things Were Seen in 1899 – Headline Recollections from the August 30, 1899 Waynesville Gazette, Vol. XL. No. 13

Headline: “Women’s Club’s Odd Names”

Synopsis: Did you know the U.S. Department of Labor existed back then? Well it did, and that year it published “an elaborate report on the attitude of women’s clubs towards social economics.” The Pittsburgh Chronicle-Telegraph compiled information on 1,283 women’s clubs with names like: Old Maids, Social Club of Woonsocket, and the Anthony Club (but interestingly there was no corresponding Cleopatra Club).

Headline: “Future of the Horse”

Synopsis: This article pondered “When will it (i.e. the horse) be superceded by electricity in bearing men’s burdens? Further, what about the bicycle, which has already to some extent supplanted the horse, will be in turn shelved, save for purposes of sport. For the future the automobile holds out the promise of a city practically free from the maddening street noises that make modern urban existence more or less a torture.”

Headline: “Getting Even”

“Officer Keegan: Mister Rafferty, Oi love yure daughter, an’ would most respectfully ask you fer her hand in marriage.

Mr. Rafferty: Arrah, ye schnake! One year ago today ye arrested me for droonkeness an’ clubbed me all the way to the station house. Now ye devil, Oi hav me opoportunity to git even. Ye kin hav her!”

Headline: “Rocking Beautifies Women”

Synopsis: “According to an English scientist, it (i.e. rocking) is responsible for the beauty of her lower limbs...makes her instep high, the calf round and full, and it keeps misshappening flesh off.”

Headline: “They Could Not Understand”

Synopsis: A south African colonist watched a steam engine and rail cars pull in and explained to a local farmer how the engine worked. But when the engine started backing up, the farmer’s jaw dropped and he gasped out “I can understand how the engine pulls the cars, but I’m hanged if I know how the cars pull the engine back again!”

Observation Regarding Waynesville’s Seth Hockett Ellis

“Hon. S. H. Ellis has been nominated for governor on the Union Reform ticket. Mr. Ellis is our neighbor, a first class neighbor and a first rate man, and if he’ll just get onto our ticket, we’ll vote for him everytime.”

Tour Indiana's Hidden Gems of History, May 4 & 5

Here's another great overnight tour hosted by the Museum! On Monday, May 4th, the tour departs from for Abe Lincoln's Boyhood National Memorial on the site of Lincoln's Indiana home. Operated by the National Park Service, this is also the burial place of his mother, Nancy Hanks. After a box lunch, you'll arrive at the interesting town of New Harmony, Indiana, founded in 1810 as a utopian community. Although the concept failed, the town of 800 still exists. We will stay at the New Harmony Inn and dine at the five-star Red Geranium Restaurant. Cost of your room, dinner and continental breakfast are included in your tour package. The remainder of the day is yours to enjoy by shopping, exploring or swimming in the hotel's pool. On Tuesday, May 5th, following continental breakfast, a guided walking tour of New Harmony will be led by well-informed local docents. Four-person golf carts will be available to rent for \$20/hour, or a six-person cart for \$30/hour. Lunch will be on your own (i.e., cost not included in package) at the Red Geranium or at other local restaurants in town. Afterwards, the bus will depart for Madison, Indiana where we will visit three sites in the historic district, learning the fascinating history of this old Ohio River town. There'll be a buffet dinner (included) at Clifty Falls Inn at Clifty Falls State Park. The bus will depart from there and arrive back at Waynesville approximately 9:30 p.m. Cost for a single room is \$320 and \$285 for a double room; Museum members will receive a \$10 discount. Deadline for reservations is April 1st, 2015. Call the museum for reservations 513.897.1607, or book your reservations at www.friendshomemuseum.org.

Museum 'ArtiFacts' and Other Random Notes.....

- The local ghost hunting organization Paravizionz is filming a series called "*Haunted Stories*" which will be shown on the TV Middletown cable channel. The series will include an episode at the Museum.
- Look for a future book signing at the Museum. A new book "*Ohio's Historic Haunts: Investigating the Paranormal in the Buckeye State*", by author James A. Willis will be published in 2015 by the Kent State University Press and will include photographs taken at the Museum. The book will be available at the book signing and at Barnes and Nobles bookstores.
- On March 20, 2015 enjoy classroom training from Paravizioni, a local Paranormal Investigations & Research organization. The class begins at 7:30pm in the Red Brick Meeting House (407 High St., Waynesville, OH 45068). Afterwards, the class heads out to Main Street and then to the Museum for some actual hunting (there have been a number of sightings at the Museum). Cookies and hot beverages will be served.
- On Waynesville's Second Saturday evenings, Museum ghost tour guides will recount stories that defy explanation; some linked to historically based legends from the area's unique and fascinating past.



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



www.friendshomemuseum.org

The Museum at the Friends Home

P.O. 12, Waynesville, OH 45068

Membership Opportunities

Student ~ \$10/Year Individual ~ \$25/Year Family ~ \$35/Year
 Additional Donation: \$ _____ (circle one) General Fund ~ Windows ~ Other: _____

Memorial in honor of: _____

Please make checks payable to WAHCC (Waynesville Area Heritage & Cultural Center)

The Museum is dedicated to preserving all aspects of the history and culture of Waynesville, Wayne Township, Massie Township, and other surrounding areas in Warren County. If you would be interested in volunteer opportunities, please feel free to call the Museum at 513.897.1607 for more information.

You are most welcome!

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Charter Life Members do not pay annual dues, but donations are always appreciated, or the membership may be converted to annual in order to provide regular support for the Museum.

Yes! I would like to volunteer in the following areas:

Copying Mailings Research Archiving Cleaning
 Phone Calls Yard Work Painting Tour