

# From The Friends' Front Porch

SPRING 2016

www.friendshomemuseum.org

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## Museum President's Quaker Family Helped Settle Local Area

Museum President Milton Cook's ancestors were among the earliest settlers of the area. Milton resides in the same home and he farms the same land that has been in his family for several generations.

Prior to Ohio, the Cook family American roots were in South Carolina. But conditions in the south, especially slavery, conflicted with their religious beliefs and values and prompted the family to emigrate. In 1803, Amos and Elizabeth (Townsend) Cook, with eight children, left South Carolina in February and journeyed to Waynesville. Four years later, they obtained deed to land, signed by President Thomas Jefferson and Secretary of State James Madison. They built a home and started farming. Their descendants Abraham and Ruth (Hawkins) Cook, Elisha and Anna (Lyden) Cook, Amos and Ella (Burnet Keys) Cook, and Ernest and Sara (Furnas) Cook, and now Milton Cook have kept the family business and tradition going uninterrupted for over 200 years.

In all likelihood, the family's farming roots go even deeper. From their days in England, the Cook families were large, rural, and adhered to Quaker beliefs, heritage and traditions.

While the Museum at the Friends Home is not a Quaker museum *per se*, Quaker heritage in the United States is significantly rooted in the Waynesville Area and is reflected in the Museum's displays, documents and records.....and in its President.

## Museum Gains Recognition

The Warren County Convention and Visitors Bureau has nominated the Museum at the Friends Home for best historical site recognition in the county they proclaim "Ohio's Largest Playground." Results of voting by the public have not yet been released, but in precious surveys the Museum has competed well with other well-known historic sites in the county.

Cleveland's Fox TV Channel 8 featured the Museum in their "One Tank Trip" series. The clip can be viewed at: <http://www.onetanktrips.com/2013/10/22/ohios-most-haunted-village/>. The Museum's Programs Chair, Linda Morgan, was interviewed for the news clip by "One Tank Trip" presenter Neil Zurcher.

## New Intern to Help Promote Museum

Robert Breen will begin working to help promote Museum events and visitor traffic. Robert obtained an Associate of Arts in Communications and a Digital Marketing Certificate from Sinclair Community College, then followed up by completing a Bachelor of Arts in Communication from the University of Cincinnati.

His availability was facilitated and funded by Ohio's Area 7 Workforce Development Board and the OhioMeansJobs Center in Greene County. The Museum appreciates the support of the following officials who made this possible: John Trott and Michelle Fields from Area 7 and Amy McKinney and Judy Schultz from Greene County OhioMeansJobs.



**Summer Ghost Tours**  
June 18, July 16, August 20  
Meet at Main Street gazebo



**Yard Sale**  
September (date TBD)  
Drop off any donated items to Museum garage



**Ghost Class & Investigation**  
April 2  
Bring cell phone cameras/detection equipment

Ghost tour and class reservations at 513-897-1607 or [www.friendshomemuseum.org](http://www.friendshomemuseum.org)



## Curator's Corner ~ by Dolly McKeehan

Opening day is just around the corner and everyone has been busy cleaning and changing out exhibits. We open on Saturday, April 2 from 1-5 pm.

One of our new exhibits this year is "It's a Man's World". We do not often exhibit items related to men but we are pulling everything out of the archives for the men this year. We hope to see you at the Museum this year.

It takes so many wonderful volunteers to keep the Museum vibrant and engaged. The museum has various volunteer opportunities from Wednesday and Saturday docents, group tour guides, ghost tour guides, cookie crew, genealogy researcher and more. Training classes are offered to all volunteers. Our need is great for a few people who would be interested in serving on one or more of our 11 committees. Our by-laws require that we have no fewer than 3 people per committee, with a trustee chairing each one. Most of these committees do not meet often and the time requirement is minimal but we value the input of our members and sincerely hope that you will consider joining one of the following committees: **Finance, Trusteeship/Membership, Collections/Acquisitions, Education, Publicity, Programs, Grants, Information Technology, Volunteers, Building/Grounds.** If you are thinking about volunteering on a light schedule, joining a committee might just be the way to meet that need and still be involved in what goes on at the Museum.

If you have not yet submitted your membership dues, I encourage you to do so. The income from our membership dues, tours, admissions and programs is our operating fund. We are constantly looking for ways to reduce our overhead and just recently starting changing our light bulbs to LED lighting and we are adding UV film to the windows to reduce the heat/air conditioning costs. All this and so much more with no paid staff. If you have paid your 2016 membership dues, we thank you for your support.



## MUSEUM MUSINGS ~ with Chuck Feicht

Did you know that Hotel Teatro in downtown Denver, Colorado has a Waynesville connection? Even if not, you're probably aware that President Abraham Lincoln appointed Waynesville's John Evans to be Governor of the Territory of Colorado. In 1910, John Evans family home in Colorado was demolished to make way for the corporate headquarters of the Denver Tramway Company. John Evans' oldest son had become president of the Denver Tramway Company and retained two of Denver's up-and-coming architects to design an eight-story office "tower" and an adjacent three-story car barn. The Denver Tramway Company eventually became Denver's present transportation company, RTD. In 1998, after an eighteen-month restoration of the Tramway Tower, Hotel Teatro opened.



Local residents made some great donations to the Museum's collections. A couple literary works are worth specific highlighting. The first is a collection of Tennessee Williams' Letters from 1940 - 1965 to Donald Windham, an American novelist and memoirist. Tennessee Williams grandfather was Reverend Walter E. Dakin from Waynesville. This contribution is from **Marjorie Edwards Smith**, whose ancestors included members of the Dakin family. The second literary contribution came from **Margie Eubanks**. The Annals of Newberry County (South Carolina) is an incredibly readable narration of genealogy, ancestry, family history and court records as well as information about deeds, maps, immigration, military records, newspapers, obituaries, plantations, probate records, slaves, local archives, libraries, museums, churches, cemeteries, and Civil War records. Several excerpts and anecdotes are included on the following page which illustrate, despite old style spellings and expressions, how interesting and readable this document is.

The Museum board and volunteer staff are grateful to local residents who stepped forward to fill vacant positions on the Board of Trustees. **Mark Schutzler, Erin Hartsock, Jim Prickett, and Wanda Downey** have supported the Museum in multiple ways and we will benefit from their increased participation and leadership as board members and committee chairs/members.

*Exerpts from the Annals of Newberry County (South Carolina)*  
By John Belton O'Neill, LL. D. (pub. 1859) and John Abney Chapman A.M. (pub. 1892)

### ***Sound Familiar?***

"One who is heartily tired of the incessant war of politics, and who is sick at heart with the intestine divisions by which this best of all governments is threatened to be rent asunder and cast to the winds."

### ***Didn't You Ever Want to do This?***

"In November, '86, at the election of members of the General Assembly, a gentleman ... was a candidate. He was particularly obnoxious ... It was found, at the poll ... that he was receiving such a number of votes, as would insure his election. To defeat it, a rather heady young man, (afterwards, and to his death, in 1816, a good and respectable citizen,) seized the bag containing the votes, tore it up, and trode the votes in the mud, so that it was impossible any return could be made."

### ***Does this Explain Waynesville's History of Ghosts?***

"Among the German population, until education and improvement pervaded the mass, there was much superstition, such as belief in ghosts, witches and charms."

### ***Sounds Like a Tall Tale***

"In general, Germans are remarkable for truth. They have not as much imagination as the Irish, the English, the French, or the Native Americans. They are, therefore, not as liable to lie. Notwithstanding this, one of the greatest lies I ever heard was ascribed to a Dutchman. He was reported to have said, "I was minding my tadda's sheeps, inside of de field, among dem was a crate pig fighting ram sheep. Along, outside of de fence, comes anoder crate pig fighting ram sheep; they tid make signs mit their heads at one anoder through de fence. I tid let de fence down, and they tid come together, ram, jam, and deir horns did make the fire fly, so that it did set fire to de woods, and burnt up mine tadda's fence — and may be he wash not mad !"

### ***Lawyers Struggled With Their Reputations Even Back Then***

"James was a native of Ireland, and had some very peculiar notions and expressions. I recollect his once telling me when a candidate for the Legislature, "shew me a lawweer wi hair in the palm of his hand, then I'll believe he is an honest man !"

### ***Makes Sense***

"Of him is reported the anecdote, that he was foreman of a jury who tried a man for assault and battery, and who, in their hearing, offered to<sup>^</sup> plead guilty, but for some cause retracted, and went on trial; and notwithstanding his confession, they returned a verdict of "not guilty." Judge Grimkie, in amazement said, "How could you return such a verdict, after his confession?" "Why," said the foreman, "he has always been such a liar we could not believe him."

### ***Florida has Always been Popular***

"I have lately heard, with astonishment, that Ned Turner is still alive in Florida. If so, he must be verging on to 100."

### ***A Woman's Worth***

"He married more persons than any other clergyman; he never would have more than \$1 for his service; 'that was as much as any woman was worth.' This was his jest. For no man ever appreciated more highly woman ... than he did."

### ***Old Style Divorce***

"I remember very well the Bialls who, between 1800 and 1804, removed to the far West. Among them occurred a swap of wives. One fancied the wife of his neighbor, and proposed an exchange; it was agreed to, and executed on the delivery of a jug of rum as boot."

### ***Some Things Never Change***

"In estimating the relative value of human character, there is a vast difference between the standard adopted by the Bible, and that which obtains among men. On the page of profane history, the names of warriors, statesmen, and politicians, occupy a prominent place."

### ***Beware of Homemade Brews***

"The poor culprit, at his request, was decently interred, and he had also made arrangements to have his grave inclosed. The doctors succeeded in disinterring the body, and dissecting it. One of them ... put the bones in a bag, and actually carried them home, more than ten miles, at night. Just as he reached Geo. McKinsey's ... his bag became untied, and he lost a part of the skeleton; he roused McKinsey from his sleep, got a light, and to the horror of the stout farmer gathered up the disjecta membra, (the scattered bones,) and pursued his homeward way. The report got out, that he boiled the bones in Bieller's still, and many a whiskey drinker turned with loathing from the after runs of whiskey there made."



Museum at the Friends Home  
Fourth & Miami Streets

P.O. Box 12  
Waynesville, OH 45068



Become a Friend of  
**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