

From The Friends' Front Porch

Fall 2014

Volume 12, Issue 2

Documents Highlight Fascinating Family Histories

Thanks to papers and documents donated by Marjorie Smith of Springfield, Ohio, the Museum gained a rich history of well-known historic families from Waynesville and the Dayton area – the Dakins, Edwards, Hopkins and Wrights. These families were related through marriage. The Dakins were early farmers in the area whose Quaker ancestors had emigrated from England to New York; the family's Ohio connection traces to a Revolutionary War service land grant near Caesar's Creek. The Edwards were also farmers in the area having arrived with some of the early settlers from North Carolina. The Hopkins family owned businesses in the area, one ancestor was prominent in the War of 1812, another was a preacher, and another helped establish the first meetinghouse in Waynesville in 1808. In addition to an early prominent inventor (see page 2), the Wrights contributed multiple generations of teacher and doctors.

Research Tools Abound at the Burnett Butterworth Library

Whether you're tracking your family's ancestors, or you're just interested in the area's history, your curiosity will be satisfied with the collections available at the Museum's Burnett Butterworth Library.

An example is the newspaper collection of the *Friends Intelligencer* "A Quaker Message" dating from 1872. The publication has roots going back to 1794. The *Intelligencer* became associated with the Hicksites and was in print until 1955. Subsequently, the *Friends Journal* combined this publication with the Orthodox "The Friend" to promote the religious concerns of the Religious Society of Friends and the education and information of its members and others. A 1936 annual subscription to the *Friends Intelligencer* cost \$2.00. The Museum's copies are all originals and require special handling.

The library is named for Burnett Butterworth to recognize his work as a historian, teacher, farmer and community volunteer. He was one of the original incorporators of the Waynesville Area Heritage and Cultural Center.

Holiday Tour of Homes Set! See Page 4.



Ghostly History Walking Tours

Hauntingly scary tours of creepy sites
in historic downtown Waynesville
or the Quaker Historic District
conducted by volunteers from the
Museum at the Friends Home
115 South Fourth Street, Waynesville
Wednesdays, Fridays & Saturdays
through October at 7:30 p.m.
(except Sauerkraut Festival, second week of October)

Reservations required!
Call 513.897.1607

All proceeds benefit the Museum

www.friendshomemuseum.org

For a great evening, get a group together or just come by yourself. Even better, volunteer to lead these tours! We'll train you – at a pace you're comfortable with. You don't have to believe in ghosts – only have a sense of wonder at the experiences our residents and visitors have had. Age? We're not too particular, just be old enough to tell a good story in public and young enough to get from one end of the walk to the other. Give us a call at 513-897-1607 and we'll be happy to convince you and make your fears disappear.

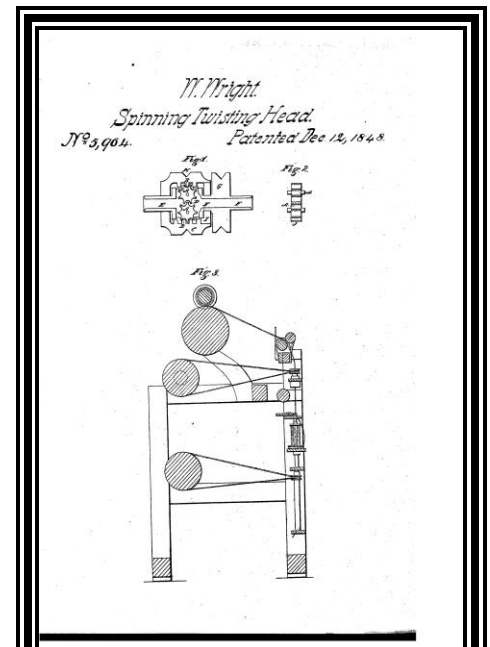
Front Porch View by Chuck Feicht

After I moved to Waynesville in 2005, it didn't take me long to realize that the village abounds in engineers - so much so that I often think I'm the only non-engineer resident. The village's proximity to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base may explain the abundance of engineers. But I'm convinced the Village's propensity for technically minded people actually began much earlier.

When you hear the name Wright, you automatically think of Wilbur & Orville – whose flying machine inaugurated the aviation era. But the papers recently donated by Marjorie Smith (see page 1) show that Wilbur and Orville weren't the first Wright's noted for their inventions. In fact, decades earlier in 1847 an invention of Wendell Wright of this area was cited for its “novelty, simplicity & effective action” and “will bear comparison as an improvement – with the Jenny & Cotton Gin.”

A check of U.S. Patent Office records reveals several credited to Wendell Wright of Cincinnati, Ohio. Among them are:

- An upholstery spring used to attach springs to seats (the drawing looks like the springs you still see in use today).
- A suspender fastening used to keep trousers from falling down.
- A device for opening and closing window blinds.



In his description of the Spinning Twisting Head, Wright stated “I am aware that attempts heretofore have been made to cause the draw rollers to twist the fiber by making them revolve but these have all failed from want of certainty of action, and simplicity of construction which mine possesses in an eminent degree....It is the objective of this invention, to provide such a method of applying the twist and draw, as that the thread shall be transmitted and spun off in a continued and uniform motion.”

I can't say this invention ended up in history books alongside the cotton gin or airplane in importance, but I can say it stands as a testament to the resourcefulness and ingenuity of technical talent for which this area is deservedly noted.

Waynesville Makes Front Page News! The Waynesville Underground Railroad Committee received official notification from the National Park Service of formal acceptance into the Network to Freedom. The certificates will be on display the Mary L. Cook Library and at the Museum. The front page of <http://www.touritz.com> features a walking tour of Waynesville underground railroad sites.

Curator's Corner

~ by *Dolly McKeehan*

Sometimes life gives one an opportunity to learn something new and I had this experience thanks to the generosity of Doug Campbell, who recently retired from the US Air Force Museum as, I believe, head of exhibits. During a recent meeting, Doug spoke with me regarding our museum exhibits and offered encouragement that we are correct in our display and care of artifacts. Then Doug arranged to give me a "behind the scenes" tour at the US Air Force Museum and the opportunity to speak with Lonna McKinley, Museum Manuscript Curator and Krista Strider, Chief, Collections Management. It was amazing to talk shop with these ladies and receive such encouragement and help. I came away from these meetings with a great deal more confidence in our museum's ability to safely care for the items donated. I can not thank Doug Campbell enough for the opportunity to meet with him and all the great people at the US Air Force Museum who took the time to speak with me. Thanks to Doug, we have grown a bit more in the ability to properly care for our history for generations to come.

Miscellaneous Museum Musings:

- The Museum could use one or two four-drawer filing cabinets. We'll be glad to come get them if you've got something we could use.
- The Museum has a section or two of the blue crown railing from the old Waynesville water tower that could be used as a yard decoration. If interested, call the Museum.
- If you have items suitable for our annual yard sale, you can drop them off at the garage behind the Museum on Wednesday or Saturday afternoons through December 6. We have a brand new set of doors that'll open and close easier for you.
- Thanks to Pete and Sandy Stemple for their donation of old weekly Miami Gazette newspapers from the 1800s and 1900s. If you want to get a feel for what life was like back then, these make interesting reading. The August 26, 1914 edition reported: "MAKES FORTUNE IN SUGAR – The Xenia Herald says that H. E. Schmidt, the veteran grocer of Xenia, has made at least \$27,000 by being shrewd enough to buy several car loads of sugar before the price advances." Sweet deal!

*2014 Holiday Tour of
Homes*

Sat, Dec 6, 12-5 pm

Volunteers needed at each home.
Call the Museum if interested.



102 North Main



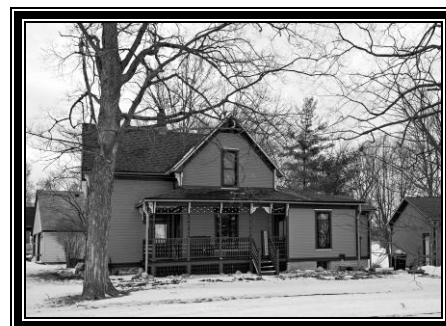
65 South Third



497 Chapman



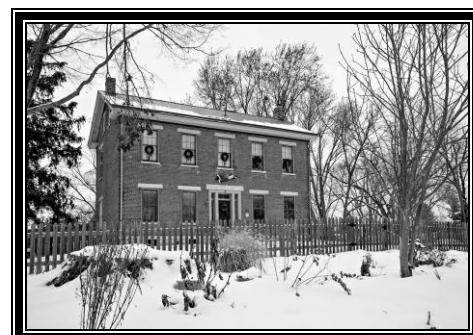
211 South Main



800 Dayton



361 Old Stage



325 Old Stage

Museum 'ArtiFacts' (and Other Random Thoughts).....

The way George Knight saw things in 1847 – “*The present generation has got too fast hold of the idea that the only feasible means of advancement in this world is to scramble over the heads of their fellows.*” And as he described himself in an 1847 letter – “*...I am still rather a naughty boy.*”

The Museum Board is thinking of sponsoring a tour of home gardens, similar to the annual holiday tour of homes. Look for more info in a future newsletter or at www.friendsmuseum.org.

If dilapidated buildings had ghosts, the ghost of the old school house at Fourth and Miami Streets would be wandering the streets moaning “why can’t I be fixed up and open to my former students like the old Friends Boarding House across the street?” The “Old School” was built in 1891 at a cost of \$22,000 on the site of the three-story Union School, built in 1857. 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.

According to “Waynesville’s First 200 Years” published by the Waynesville Historical Society, our local Miami Cemetery includes relatives of George Washington, Betsy Ross, Daniel Boone, William Jennings Bryan, Abraham Lincoln, John Stetson, Tennessee Williams, Annie Oakley, Lowell Thomas, and Wilbur and Orville Wright. The grandfather of Tennessee Williams was a graduate of Waynesville High School.

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



Museum at the Friends Home

Fourth & Miami Streets
P.O. Box 12
Waynesville, OH 45068



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Mark your calendar!

October

**Main Street Ghost Tours
Quaker Hill Ghost Tours**

7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays October 15 through October 31.

Also in October, special ghost-themed dinners are offered at the historic **Hammel House Inn**, followed by our Main Street walking tour. Contact the Hammel House at 513.897.3779 or 888.892.2879 for details and reservations.

All October tours above include a self-guided tour of the Museum at the Friends Home.

December 6

Noon to 5 p.m. Christmas Tour of Homes in Historic Waynesville

