

From The Friends' Front Porch

Autumn 2011

Volume 9, Issue 2

Museum Award and Activities Make for Historic Year

The Warren County Foundation awarded the Museum at the Friends Home its 2011 Emerging Organization Community Service Award. Each year the Foundation recognizes people and organizations in the community who have performed admirable work in improving the community as well as “emerging leaders” whose potential for greatness is yet to come. This award recognizes the Museum’s achievements in promoting and preserving the history of the Waynesville area. On behalf of the many hardworking Museum volunteers, Curator Dolly McKeehan accepted the award during an April 14 banquet at the Manor House in Mason.

Ghosts & Spirits Reawaken Waynesville’s Past

Some of Waynesville’s past residents can’t seem to depart their beloved hometown founded in 1797, perhaps explaining why the Village is named “The Most Haunted Village in Ohio” in author Chris Woodyard’s *Haunted Ohio* books. Throughout October, the Museum at the Friends Home culls the most fascinating and true stories of area lore to delight visitors of all ages during tours of downtown Waynesville and the Quaker Hill area. Tours costing \$10 per person are available on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday evenings from October 12–30. Each one-hour stroll highlights fascinating, historically based legends from the area’s unique past, nearly all stories being first or second-hand accounts of experiences that defy explanation.

For folks wanting to explore the paranormal through their own investigations, the Museum will conduct hands-on training with the ghost hunting team Paravizionz (www.paravizionz.com) on Saturday, September 10. ParaVizionz is a high level paranormal investigations and research team serving Ohio, Indiana and Northern Kentucky. The unique class begins at the Red Brick Meeting House, 407 High Street, at 6:30 p.m. Instruction will include photography techniques, electromagnetic frequency detectors, audio recordings and more. Attendees will test their new skills in a walking tour of the Quaker Hill area surrounding the Museum. Tickets for this special event are \$35 in advance. Space is limited. Attendees under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

Reservations for both tours and class can be made by calling the Museum at 513.897.1607 or visiting www.friendshomemuseum.org. Downtown tour and dinner packages are also available starting October 1st through the Hammel House. Reservations can be made at 513.897.3779 or 888.892.2879.

Holiday Home Tours Return!

Christmas Tour of Homes in Historic Waynesville

Tour Six Historic Homes, Two Churches and a Museum



All decorated for the holidays!

Sunday, November 27, 2011, 1 pm - 6 pm

Advance Tickets Required - Just \$15

Order by phone 513-897-1607 or via website www.friendshomemuseum.org

(Only children age 12 or older, no pets, food or beverages)



Sponsored by

MFH
Museum at the Friends Home



The WARREN County Friends Home, Inc. 115 S. 4th Street, P.O. Box 12, Waynesville, Ohio 45068 513.897.1607
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Note: Two additional homes have been added. The Museum website will be updated with latest tour information.

Civil War Ladies Praised during Spring High Tea

On May 21, 2011 the Museum held its annual Ladies High Tea at the Quaker Heights Retirement Home behind the Museum. The theme of this year's tea was "Remembering Civil War Ladies," highlighting the often overlooked contributions of women during the American Civil War. Often thought of as a "man's war," there were legions of mothers, wives, sisters, daughters and sweethearts who served and sacrificed. Women plowed and harvested; they served as nurses, supply masters and spies. Some followed their husbands from battle to battle; some became soldiers. Guest speaker was Ohio author James Bissland, Associate Professor (Emeritus) from Bowling Green State University. His book "Blood, Tears, & Glory - How Ohioans Won the Civil War" documents the crucial role women played in supporting Civil War forces both at home and in the field. The Collins Connection entertained by replicating some of the memorable songs and music of that era.



Civil War Leader and U.S. President Dines at Museum



Gen. & Mrs. Grant chat with event organizer, Linda Morgan.

Former President and General Ulysses S. Grant and his wife Julia travelled to Waynesville and dined in elegance on Saturday, April 30, 2011 at the Museum at the Friends Home. To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War, the Museum hosted the honorable guests and treated them to a nine-course dinner, prepared by Museum volunteers, in the Home's exquisitely decorated dining room.

Four couples selected via raffle joined the General and his wife and were delighted with the opportunity to discuss the nation's Civil War and the years which followed. General Grant recalled that heroic and daring naval leadership from Waynesville's Captain William Hoel was pivotal to the Union's victory at Vicksburg and earned Hoel the Navy's first-ever promotion of a volunteer to Lieutenant Commander. Dinner guests also relished hearing about the Grant's later recollections, including a post-Presidential tour around the world during which they were humbled by red carpet treatment and expressions of friendship for the United States.

General and Mrs. Grant were portrayed by Mr. and Mrs. George Dauler of the Cleveland area who have been re-enacting such events for over 25 years.

Museum Artifact.....

The Museum will soon have a "new" historic front entry. We're excited to be replacing the current single door and frame with the original double doors, which had been removed years ago and reinstalled inside.

Visit the Museum's New Website

By the time this newsletter reaches you, the Museum will have an exciting new website, the result of over a year's work. You can tour the entire Museum, room by room; view photos of Museum events; shop and pay for tours, books and other products; see photos of all Waynesville Historic Properties; stay current with Museum calendar events; read historic summaries of the Friends Boarding Home; review previous newsletters; become a member; and make a donation. Simply type or click www.friendshomemuseum.org and begin your journey.

Curator's Corner

~ by *Dolly McKeehan*

This spring and summer has been a busy one for the Museum.

- The fourth and final side of windows has been repaired, painted and waiting for new storm windows. The storms are courtesy of Vectren Corporation with their final phase of a multi-year grant of \$12,000. We're REALLY HAPPY to finally get this work done and to see the benefits in our utility bills.
- Thanks to the hard work of Lee Philpott, our Building/Grounds committee chair, the front landscaping looks wonderful. A new sign greets visitors out front. The Museum was awarded a beautification award from the Chamber of Commerce in July.
- It's been a great season so far with visitors. The month of July brought in 75 new visitors! Group tours are picking up with one in May, July and September and two in October.
- Our largest fund-raiser, the Ghostly History Walking Tours, start in October, bringing a large crowd of visitors to the Museum. **We could sure use cookie crew helpers during these tours.** If you can help serve refreshments during the evenings, please give me a call at 513-897-1607 (if I'm not there, I'll respond to your message).
- The Board of Trustees has an opening for anyone interested. Our Board is a "working" board and trustees are asked to host one Saturday every 2-3 months and to help with a committee of their choice. The Board meets at 7 p.m. on the first Thursday of every month. We believe that board meetings should accomplish a lot and also be fun – and we're very successful at both.
- Charlotte VanHoose is a new volunteer who will be helping at the Museum on Wednesdays. Welcome Charlotte! We can always use new volunteers and provide a training class to help you get started. Whatever your interests, skills and abilities, you'll find ways to use them at the Museum.

Front Porch View

~ by *Chuck Feicht*

Museum Prepares New Pioneer Room

When serving in the Air Force during 1983 near Lake Champlain, New York, I learned that local historians viewed turncoat Benedict Arnold as a hero. During early hostilities against the British, Arnold bravely led a small flotilla of make-shift vessels against a fleet of large British warships that intended to split the American colonies in two. Facing unexpected opposition, the British fleet returned to Canada for the winter, giving George Washington desperately needed time to form the Continental Army.

Living in an area so important to early American development sparked my interest in history. That spark became a flame in 2005 after moving to Waynesville and discovering that this area was so pivotal to settlement of the early American "west." Much of that history is documented and displayed within the Museum at the Friends Home.

In a new development, final preparations are underway at the Museum to open a new "Pioneer Settlement" room. This room will highlight donations of early

American replicas, such as an exquisitely handcrafted log cabin and barn, a large hand-made covered wagon, and a Little Miami covered bridge. Other settlement period items will include a child's sled, sewing spindle and similar artifacts.

This new display room will also feature observations and experiences from Francis Baily's "Journal of a Tour in Unsettled Parts of North America in 1796 & 1797." This remarkable young man from England, looking to experience and explore the new United States of America, travelled down the Ohio River with Waynesville's founder Samuel Heighway, documenting the entire journey, its near tragedies, and the early efforts at town-building.

So if you're looking for a way to spark your interest in history, or to turn your spark into a flame, visit Waynesville and its Museum at the Friends Home where history flourishes and invites you to explore it.

Year in Review through Rick Rieger's Camera Lens



Bill Stubbs Narrates Historic Ghost Tours



Chuck Feicht Tells Famous & Infamous Tales



General Grant Recounts Civil War Years



Di Miller Serves Ladies During High Tea



4th of July Parade with Judy Prickett, Samantha McKeehan and Nieces Claire & Sarah Hafner



Ohio Valley Model A Ford Club Tours Museum



Museum Members Visit Underground Railroad Home



Allie Carter & Mary Lemay Record Memories With Bill Stubbs



Exciting Happenings at the Lock Up!

Thanks to area residents' generosity during a September 2010 fundraiser, repairs to the Lock Up have been completed and the old building looks great! A cooperative effort involving the Museum at the Friends Home, Wayne Township and the Village of Waynesville resulted in a new Fire and Police Museum.

Last winter, Di Miller, Dorothy Carter and Mary Bunker researched the early days of the Fire Department, the history of the Engine House, and the cell called the lock up. Dolly McKeehan and Mary Bunker met with the Director of the Cincinnati Fire Museum, toured their facility and came back with many good ideas. This spring, Leanne Foley's Art Club created a mural of the old cell on an interior corner of the building. Efforts are now focused on getting a small replica of the old cell cage.

Before beginning summer vacation, third Graders from Waynesville Elementary learned about the history of the building and the early days of the fire department. They also had fun simulating a bucket brigade as was done throughout the 1800's. New third graders will visit the Museum this September.

During the upcoming winter, historical research of the fire and police departments will continue. Especially needed are old pictures that can be copied for display; originals will be returned to the owners. Contact the Museum if you have items to donate or loan, have historical stories to share, or wish to help create this new Museum.

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 ___ Tours

MFH

Museum at the Friends Home

4th & Miami Streets, P.O. Box 12

Waynesville, OH 45068



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

~ E-mail us at: info@friendshomemuseum.org ~

Mark your calendar!

All events are held at the Museum unless otherwise noted

September

1: Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

10: "Famous & Infamous" Main St. Tour, 2 pm

October

6: Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

12-30: Ghostly History Walking Tours
Wednesdays, Fridays & Saturdays, 7:30 pm

November

3: Board Meeting, 7 pm

27: Christmas Tour of Homes, 1-6 pm

December

1: Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

3: Holiday Open House, 1-5 pm

10: Season Ends – See you next year!

More Museum Artifacts.....

Waynesville's Famous & Infamous are featured in a new Main Street Tour conducted during Second Saturday Faire events. Last tour this year is September 10, starting at 2 p.m. from the gazebo. Cost is \$5 and includes a guarantee you'll learn something you didn't know! Test question – can you name a Waynesville farmer who ran for President, lost to a fellow Ohioan, and died after a fall from a cherry tree?

During the Annual Meeting on August 13, the Museum's Endowment Fund Policy was changed to name Friends Home, Inc. as the recipient of endowment funds should the Museum cease to exist (let's hope that never happens). Museum By-Laws were updated to establish an Information Technology Committee and to include non-Trustee members of the Museum on all committees.