

From The Friends' Front Porch

Spring 2014

Volume 12, Issue 1

“ECLECTIC” ENCOUNTERS TOUR PLANNED MAY 5-6

When Linda Morgan planned this spring's overnight bus tour, she termed it “Eclectic Encounters.” She chose wisely! This varied and interesting ramble along the Ohio River includes a President's boyhood home; a hotel with one of the country's few revolving restaurants; 1886's new and longest pedestrian suspension bridge in the world; food and dancing at a restaurant modeled after the 400+ year-old Hofbräuhaus in Munich; underground railroad and freedom sites; a famous farmers market; and historic, fascinating commentary during a sternwheeler river cruise. Don't miss this excursion on May 5 and 6! Go on-line (www.friendshomemuseum.org) or call the Museum at 513-897-1607 for reservations.

Front Porch View by Chuck Feicht



As a “newer” resident of the Village, I relish its “throwback” aura, especially the gas station at the corner of Franklin and Main. When it closed for a spell, I worried what might become of it, and began researching its history.

Patsy Baird Creech, in her article “Growing Up In Waynesville” published in Waynesville's First 200 Years, said “My grandfather, Oakley Unglesby, owned the filling station... I distinctly remember Frank Farr, who lived on Third Street, playing a musical instrument while sitting on the concrete retaining wall at the station. Often, other gentlemen would join him in a serenade.”

According to Warren County records, the building was constructed in 1930. Past owners include Erwin and Roy Ellis, Verdis and Nancy Patrick, and Pete and Sandy Stemple. At various times, you

could buy used cars, firewood, snacks, coffee and fresh doughnuts.

The station was built when U.S. Route 42 ran along Main Street. I've been curious how this route became a four-lane highway beginning south of Xenia and ending several miles short of Lebanon. The work was done in the late 1950s, during the Eisenhower administration, when superhighways “cropped up like weeds” along or on top of U.S. routes. It may be that U.S. 42 was an early experiment to test design, engineering, and construction methods.

At any rate, history has come full circle as “Pat's Place” has reopened and U.S. Route 42 is being rebuilt and resurfaced.

Welcome back to living history!



Reopening Reawakens History

2014 Key Dates

February 22	Volunteer Appreciation Event
April 2	Museum opens for season
May 5-6	Eclectic Encounters Ohio River Bus Tour
June 11-13	Yard Sale @ North & Third
June 21	Main Street Ghost Tour
July 19	Main Street Ghost Tour
August 16	Main Street Ghost Tour
October 2-30	Main Street & Quaker Hill Ghost Tours
December 6	Christmas Tour of Homes
December 13	Museum closes for season

Thanks to our Volunteers!

In appreciation for their service, the Museum's volunteers and board members gathered in February at Rick Rieger's LaBarn for a special viewing of the classic movie "Singin' in the Rain."



Museum Featured on WMA Website

A facelift to the Waynesville Shops website, hosted by the Waynesville Merchants Association (WMA), is underway and should be unveiled this spring. Recognizing that the Museum at the Friends Home draws visitors to the Village and its shops, the new website features a full page devoted to the Museum and its attractions – including Ghostly History, Famous & Infamous, and Christmas Home tours. Watch for the new website at <http://www.waynesvilleshops.com>.

Curator's Corner

~ by Dolly McKeehan

I hope by the time you read the newsletter, Mother Nature is being kinder to us and no more snow has fallen. With high hopes, we head into spring with new and refreshed exhibits, new programs, and another bus trip to fantastic and interesting places.

Spring also tends to bring about spring cleaning and we hope you will think of the Museum for items such as vintage clothing and articles, including children's toys and doll furniture; old photos of family and home; vintage costume jewelry; and any item connected to the villages of Waynesville, Corwin, Oregonia, Lytle, and New Burlington. If you are your family's genealogist, please consider leaving a copy of your family's history with the Museum.

We not only display such items at the Museum, but also in a display case at McDonald's for the public and at Quaker Heights Care Community for residents and visitors. Lee Philpott gets lots of feedback from Quaker Heights' employees, and the residents like to watch items being put in the cases so they can reminisce about them.

We are planning to display vintage paintings by local artists up the Museum's staircase walls – we'd be delighted and appreciative if you have paintings by local artists you'd be willing to loan us.

If you have any questions regarding an item for donation, please call me so we might discuss your concerns. We always find ways to highlight and use all the items that folks are good enough to donate to us.

Summer Ghost Walks Return

Based on last year's success, summer ghosts tours will again be offered Saturday evenings on June 21, July 19, and August 15. Tour guides will recount stories that defy explanation, some linked to historically based legends from the area's unique and fascinating past. All of these sightings and experiences have been described by Main Street residents, shop owners and visitors ~ some even occurring during earlier tours. History buffs will enjoy tales of the 215 year-old Village's famous and infamous personalities. Call the Museum or visit the website for details – reservations recommended.

Underground Railroad Research Presentation Available

While Waynesville's application for the Network to Freedom is pending, the Waynesville Underground Railroad Committee remains busy. Presentations of their findings have been made to sixth graders at Waynesville's Middle School, retired schoolteachers in Lebanon, the Dayton Woman's Club, and the Waynesville Historical Society. Contact the Museum if your organization would like to schedule a presentation.

Museum ArtiFact

Run by a volunteer board of 12 trustees, the Museum is a 501(c)(3) organization having no paid employees. Volunteers do all work. We operate on memberships dues, donations, fundraisers and grants. Our 2013 expenses were \$43,545 and our total income was \$42,272. Our programs generated 75% of our income.

Waynesville's Aglow over Holidays

Some of the most historic and notable homes in Waynesville were on display during this year's Christmas Tour of Homes. If you missed the tour, you can still get a glimpse of how they were decorated at <http://www.friendshomemuseum.org/christmas-tour-2013.html>. Thanks to the following residents for opening their homes to the community:

James & Judith Prickett
Pete & Sandy Stemple
Holly Bulach
Larry & Sharon Smith

Bill & Heather Boggeln
Al & Mary Bunker
Dale & Kimberley Kaan
Maureen McDermott

The Museum at the Friends Home, the Red Brick Meeting House, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, and the Firehouse & Lockup were also decorated and open to the public.

Special thanks to Jim Prickett, for the wonderful outdoor lighting display he installs every year in front of his home and at the Museum's corner of Miami and Fourth Streets.

More Museum ArtiFacts.....

- Want to help us use funds more effectively? Send your email to info@friendshomemuseum.org and we'll email you our newsletter.
- Thanks to Warren County Foundation for contributing \$501 for our new publicity brochures.
- We have 143 members. This is the month to renew!
- Bored! Join us March 26 at 9 a.m. for a day of fun and cleanup at the Museum.
- Stay tuned for a future overnight bus tour to Louisville, KY, Churchill Downs, Louisville Slugger Museum, and more!

ANNUAL YARD SALE!! June 11-13 at North & Third Streets



"I think it's about time we have a yard sale."

Have anything you want rid of – drop it off at the garage behind the Museum, or call 937-477-1607 and we'll pick it up!

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
P.O. Box 12
Waynesville, OH 45068



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Thanks to our Business Sponsors

Creekwood Motel
401 S. Main Street

McDonalds
355 S. Main Street

LCNB National Bank
9 N. Main Street

Little Red Shed
85 S. Main Street

Village Family Restaurant
144 S. Main Street

Waynesville Area Chamber of Commerce
10 N. Main Street

Mary L. Cook Library
381 Old Stage Road

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

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