

From The Friends' Front Porch

Spring 2012

Volume 10, Issue 1

Museum to be Featured in Upcoming Book

Mr. James Willis, author of the very popular book, WEIRD OHIO, will be visiting the museum on March 24th. His intentions are to research the history of our building, listen to our tales of ghostly experiences associated with our building, and then do some ghost hunting himself. All this information is to be incorporated in his new book, GHOSTS OF OHIO, which will be published by the Kent State University Press. We feel honored to be selected because only 20-25 sites will be selected from the whole state of Ohio and each site will have an entire chapter devoted to it.

Get Ready for an Exciting, Encore Performance in 2012!

Success generates excitement. 2011 was a great year for the Museum with another increase in visitors and activities for all ages. Here's a glimpse of what's happening this year. See even more inside.

Getting Started...

17 March ~ Ghost Hunter class, 6:30 p.m., at Red Brick Meeting House

25 March ~ Appreciation Reception, 1-4 p.m. at LaBarn on Houston Road.

Setting the Tone...

7 April ~ Season opening, 1-5 p.m., featuring an exquisite collection of local quilts and textiles, and a new Pioneer Room displaying a realistic log cabin and barn hand-crafted by a local resident.

21 April ~ Summer Ghostly History Tour on Main Street, blending residents' ghostly sightings and experiences with stories about the Village's history. 8 p.m. at the gazebo.

Recovering the Magic...

12 May ~ "Magical Moments" Tea Party, 1-3 p.m., Quaker Heights Care Community, featuring professional magician Sonny Hill.

19 May - Ghostly History Tour, 8 p.m. at the gazebo.

Recalling our heritage...

2 June ~ A new Quaker migration display opens



Early Quaker clothing is displayed in the Museum's permanent display area

and continues through end of the season. This display will highlight the Quakers move from the Carolinas to Ohio.

Settling in for the summer...

17 June, 21 July, 18 August, 15 September ~ Ghostly History Tour, 8 p.m. at the gazebo.

11 August ~ Annual Meeting, 6:00 p.m. at the Museum

Gearing up for Waynesville's busiest days...

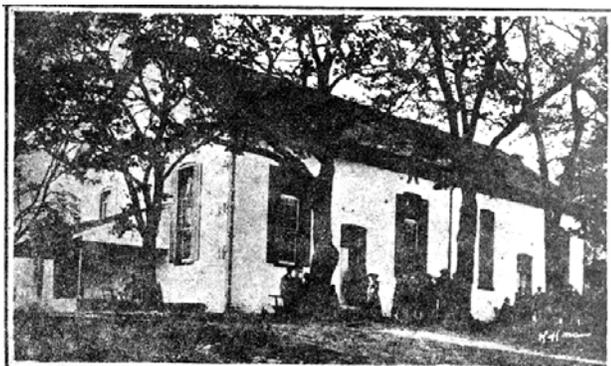
3 to 31 October ~ Main Street and Quaker Hill Ghostly History Tours, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.

Finishing with a flourish...

1 December ~ Christmas Parade of Homes & Museum Holiday Open House.

By Way of Old Highways

A Cincinnati Enquirer article on January 8, 2012 announced pending formation of a new 50-mile Quaker Heritage Scenic Byway in Warren and Clinton Counties. The Museum at the Friends Home, along with the Quaker Historic District and National Register Historic District at Fourth and High Streets in Waynesville, are among 40 locations to be featured. The Byway will commemorate the migration of Quakers from South Carolina to escape slavery and their participation in the underground railroad in the years leading to the Civil War. Scenic Byways are established by the Ohio Department of Transportation to promote tourism and local economic development.



Efforts are also underway to update and revitalize the Accommodation Line Scenic Byway, which follows the route used for stagecoach travelers from Springfield to Cincinnati in the 1820's and 1830's. One of the two founders was John Satterthwaite, a prominent Quaker farmer and businessman from Waynesville. Waynesville was the halfway point where stagecoach teams were rested and changed at the Satterthwaite home while passengers were accommodated at the Holloway Tavern. Both structures are still in use as private residences.

Magical Spring Tea Coming

The Museum at the Friends Home will present a luncheon ladies high tea "Magic Moments" on Saturday, May 12th, at the Quaker Heights Care Community from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.



This will be an afternoon of magic and whimsy when Mr. Sonny Hill, a professional magician, entertains. He will visit each table to astound and amaze attendees with his fabulous talent. Afterwards, he will discuss the history of magic shows in our country. Sonny has spent time in Las Vegas perfecting his craft and is a friend of the Strip's favorite magician, Lance Burton.

Table sponsorship entails selling eight to ten tickets for a table and providing table decorations, china and silverware. Those attending can decorate their tables in whatever magical and whimsy way they choose. There will be a total of 14 tables and they always fill up, so reservations should be made quickly by contacting Linda Morgan: telephone 513-383-0071 or e-mail RLMorgan819@gmail.com.

The luncheon includes an endless supply of tea, served only by men. A silent auction will be also held and donation items are solicited. All proceeds from the \$15 ticket price and the auction support the Museum at the Friends Home.

Curator's Corner

~ by Dolly McKeehan

Welcome back for another exciting year at the museum! Featuring three large and several small new exhibits, we hope that visitors and members alike will enjoy the 2012 season. We strive to bring interesting and exciting exhibits and displays to the public while operating as efficiently as possible. With no paid staff and a growing group of volunteers, we are able to keep our costs to a minimum. One avenue of income we rely on for our general fund is membership dues. While we have some new corporate members this year, our general membership is down. If you haven't already done so, please take a moment to renew your 2012 membership. If you have been receiving our newsletter for a year or more and haven't become a museum member, won't you consider helping us by becoming a new member? We have included a membership form in the newsletter for your convenience.

Front Porch View

~ by Chuck Feicht

Brainstorming Next Decade Ideas

Trustees gathered at the Red Brick on January 11 to generate ideas for the Museum's next decade. Trustees see their challenges as increasing community awareness of the Museum, getting more youth involved, solidifying the financial base, overcoming space limitations, and expanding staff. While the weather may have been cold outside that day, suggestions to meet these challenges were hot and flowing inside. Examples include:

- Sponsoring a large-scale Waynesville homecoming as done initially in 1906
- Establishing junior history programs with schools
- Developing drama classes and conducting historical re-enactments
- Increasing visibility via the internet
- Improving local signage

- Holding public events such as "all you can eat" breakfasts
- Incentivizing involvement with the Museum
- Conducting the popular ghost tours during summer months
- Evaluating potential to refurbish the old schoolhouse

Also contributing to this successful day were Dawn Schroeder, Executive Director of Waynesville's Chamber of Commerce, and Kyle Fields, Member of Village Council and local businessman.

The key to success will be making history entertaining to the public and generating excitement. Got an idea yourself? Tell us about it and earn \$5 off one of our upcoming ghostly history tours.

The following article, notice, advertisement and obituary were taken from Miami Gazette newspapers circa 1900. Museum staff members are beginning to compile such old intriguing items and plan to post them routinely to the Museum's website at www.friendshomemuseum.org. Stay tuned!

Wireless Phones Being Developed!

Sir William Preese's wireless telephone experiments...caused great interest in the electrical world...and has been made the subject of a statement by Dr. Peter Stiens who has been hard at work for years on a system of wireless telephony. In an interview with a representative of the London News Department, Dr. Stiens said: "I have read some account of Sir William Preece's experiments...but I may say that I am not working on Herzian waves at all. My principle is that of using only means of conduction – namely, the earth. I simply send electricity through the earth from one apparatus to another in sympathy with it. No high poles or balloons or anything of that kind is required for my system. My apparatus is small and portable. I cannot, for obvious reasons, just at present tell you about its construction and methods of use..., but I claim that by my invention not only taps but the spoken words, the sound of the human voice, can be heard and that at great distances with excellent results."

Attention! Ladies!

Every lady in Waynesville and Corwin, old and young, large and small, is invited to be at the township hall tomorrow, Thursday...1 o'clock p. m. The call is urgent, important work to be done and must be promptly done. Come one, come all. Bring rakes. By invitation of Wide Awake Club.

No Right to Ugliness

The woman who is lovely in face, form and temper will always have friends, but one who would be attractive must keep her health. If she is weak, sickly and all run down, she will be nervous and irritable. If she has constipation or kidney trouble, her impure blood will cause pimples, skin eruptions, blotches and a wretched complexion. Electric Bitters is the best medicine in the world to regulate stomach, liver and kidneys and to purify the blood. It gives strong nerves, bright eyes, smooth velvety skin, rich complexion. It will make a good looking, charming woman of a run-down invalid. Only 50 cents at Arnold's drug store.



Interior of the Daniel B. Perry drug store at 114 E. Main St.

Example of a 1900 drug store where you might find a product like Electric Bitters

A.P. O'Neal Numbered Among the Dead

Week after week we are called upon to reflect the deaths of some of our citizens. Today we chronicle the death of Abijah P. O'Neal which took place Monday, August 12th, 1895, from the effects of the accident reported in the Gazette of last week. It was understood at the time that his injuries were of no light nature, and his naturally frail constitution, together with his advanced age, excited the gravest fears of his family and friends, and yet all hoped there might be vitality enough in his delicate frame to rally against this combination of unfortunate circumstances, but it was hoping against hope. The violence with which Mr. O'Neal was thrown from his buggy upon the hard pike, last Monday, produced a shock that paralyzed his entire system; he lay helpless from the time he was lifted up and taken to his home until he breathed his last.

The death of Mr. O'Neal has thrown a gloom over the entire community. His whole life had been spent here; he was identified with numerous public interests which brought him in contact with all persons of prominence, his beautiful stock farm and his elegant suburban residence have been pointed to with pride by all who take pleasure in local improvements. He has from its establishment been a member of the board of directors of the Waynesville National Bank; he was one of the original subscribers to the Miami Cemetery Association and served on the board of trustees up to the time of his death.

Mr. O'Neal was born October 26th, 1824, so that had he lived until October next, he would have been seventy one years of age. He was married Jan 4th, 1875 to Miss Annie Fisher, daughter of the late Dr. Elias Fisher, a most estimable lady, who, with a son and daughter, Willie and Martha, both of immature age, survives him. Maggie, an older daughter, died several years ago.

The deceased was a man of quiet, dignified bearing, intelligent, courteous to all and true as steel to his friends. His loss will be sadly felt in both the home circle and in the community. To the widow and the children who mourn the death of a kind and tender husband and father, we extend our sympathies.

Museum Artifacts

Travel along Southern Ohio's Quilt Trail. The Museum will display local quilting art and family histories on April 13 & 14, along with several other museums and historical centers in Warren and Clinton Counties. The Trail ends in Cincinnati at the International Quilt Festival that same weekend. Pick up the trail brochure at the Museum's opening on April 7 & 8 to plan your trek along this trail of tales and textiles.

How to Approach Spring Clean Up. Here's a way to categorize and dispose of unwanted items from your attics, closets, basements and garages this spring.

Trash. Go ahead and trash it.

Useable items. If these items could be sold, but you don't want to bother doing that, donate them to the Museum for sale at our planned garage sale this summer. Once late spring arrives, we'll identify a "hold area" on our website where you can deliver such items.

Historical items. Could be letters, clothing, pictures, newspapers, textiles or unique artifacts from an older era that you'd feel guilty just throwing out. Let someone from the Museum look at them. Call or e-mail us and we'll tell you if we could use them or who else might have interest.

Want a Laugh? Check out the Museum's display at the Waynesville McDonald's!

Uncovering Waynesville's Underground Railroad

Prompted by last year's 150th anniversary of the nation's Civil War, members of the Museum and other local organizations have taken significant steps to research, document and present the workings of the Underground Railroad in the Waynesville area. A new committee was formed in November 2011 to compile a comprehensive history of the Underground Railroad in the Waynesville area including the people involved and over one hundred homes built prior to 1864 that were possibly used in this movement. Recent activities include photographing interiors of the Seth Silver Haines and the Gons-McKay homes. Research is already gaining information about how the old storm sewer/tunnel system in Waynesville may have been used.

The members of the committee are Linda Swartzel, Dolly McKeehan, Jim Prickett, Di Miller, Betty Wilson, Mary Bunker, Yvonne and Paul McKee, Howard and Barbara Doster, and Melissa Janiszewski who is the Ohio History Service Corps Civil War 150 Coordinator for the Southwest Ohio region.

This effort began informally during the past couple of years when the Museum at the Friends Home engaged Waynesville Elementary School third graders with a presentation and walking tour involving the early settlement of Waynesville, focusing on history of the fire and police departments and influence of local Quakers on the Underground Railroad. The children conducted a mock "bucket brigade" to extinguish a "fire" at the Lock Up. From there, the children were escorted on a walking tour of Waynesville; historical buildings were identified (some possibly on the Underground Railroad) as well as those lost during the Fire of 1900. Following a visit to "Quaker Hill", the students played old-fashioned games at the Old Schoolhouse on Fourth Street before heading over to the Museum. Each child was presented a colorful booklet entitled "A Little History Book for Kids," written by Mary Bunker with help from Diana Miller and Rick Rieger. The project involved many Museum board members, Waynesville Elementary School third grade teachers, retired teachers, and the Waynesville fire and police departments.

The Museum Board needs audio-visual equipment to continue developing and showing presentations and to professionally print booklets for the students. The Museum is also looking for anyone interested in helping research this topic, have stories of involved people, and know of possible or known hiding places.

Information gained from this effort will be available at the Mary L. Cook Library and the Museum at the Friends Home.



Viewing an old Waynesville home



Moses Mc Kay house, New Burlington Rd.



Listening attentively at the Lock Up

New Window Project Completed For Waynesville Museum

A project that has been carried out over a four-year period for restoration of nineteen badly deteriorated windows in The Waynesville Area Heritage and Cultural Center at the Friends Home has been completed thanks to a grant of \$12,000 from the Vectren Foundation.

The restorations included 60 new storm windows, sills and glass. All sides of the building have now been restored with more energy efficient windows. The renovation has also added additional protection to the collection within the building.

“This program fits well with the focus of Vectren’s Foundation,” said Colleen Ryan, president of Vectren Energy Delivery of Ohio. “The window upgrades improve the museum’s energy efficiency, while also helping to preserve valuable historical artifacts of the Waynesville area.”

Dolly McKeehan, Museum Curator, also thanks Museum members “as this project could not have been completed without your support.”



Museum Curator Dolly McKeehan and Lynda Hoffman from Vectren shake on a job well-done. Board member Lee Philpott looks out through a new window.

Museum Artifact – Breaking News

The Museum is pleased to announce that it is planning to participate in the Waynesville Merchants Association’s Second Saturday Faire on June 9, July 14, August 11 and September 8. We will be teaming with Caesar Creek Pioneer Village to present costumed story telling of the area’s famous and infamous personalities from earlier eras.

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 ____ Corporate ~ \$50/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: _____

BONUS FOR NEW MEMBERS: Complete and submit this form with payment AND begin work as a volunteer and you’ll be entitled to receive 4 tickets to a 2012 Ghostly History Tour or 2 tickets to the December 2012 Christmas Home Tour.

MFH

Museum at the Friends Home
4th & Miami Streets, P.O. Box 12
Waynesville, OH 45068



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

~ Visit us at: www.friendshomemuseum.org ~ Call us at: 513-897-1607 ~ E-mail us at: info@friendshomemuseum.org

Want to Have Some Fun?

WE GUARANTEE you'll have fun working at the Museum at the Friends Home! Whatever you like to do, there's something you'll be able to do while having a good time.

LIKE WHAT? Almost anything – filing, researching, designing displays, yard work, telling stories, cleaning, building exhibits, cooking, giving tours and presentations, writing, dressing up in costumes, accounting, working with computers, building maintenance, and more. *We even need a new Board member.*

WHY WOULD THIS BE FUN? Because of the people you'd work with. The Museum's volunteers and board members have mastered the art of getting along, enjoying what they do, and laughing at themselves, even while working their tails off to promote the Waynesville area's heritage and culture.

WHAT'S THE CATCH? All you have to do is call the Museum to volunteer and then show up!

GET STARTED HAVING FUN – YOU NEED IT and WE NEED YOU!!