

From The Friends' Front Porch

FALL 2015

www.friendshomemuseum.org

Volume 13, Issue 2

New Book Highlights Museum's Haunted Halls Of History

New research by paranormal investigator and author James A. Willis reveals the Museum is host to more unexplained phenomena than previously thought. Museum docents lead tours each year along Waynesville's Main Street and Quaker Hill Historic District, recounting resident, merchant, and visitor paranormal experiences. A happening or two associated with the Museum itself have been told, almost as an afterthought; but recent events have increased the Museum's prominence in our collection of stories.

Mr. Willis recently spent an extended late evening at the Museum, accompanied by sensitive audio and visual equipment to encounter, record and document sounds, voices, and conversations. His experience that night is similar to visits at other Ohio sites such as the MerryGoRound Museum in Sandusky and the Ohio State Reformatory in Mansfield. Mr. Willis's interviews with local people provide perspective and understanding of these phenomena and why they occur.

Whether a believer or skeptic of the paranormal, readers of Mr. Willis's new book - which includes his experiences at the Museum - are likely to be fascinated with his stories and impressed with his credibility. "*Ohio's Historic Haunts: Investigating the Paranormal in the Buckeye State*" will be released October 15, 2015.

Shortly thereafter, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 21, the Museum will host a book sale and signing with Mr. Willis at the Red Brick church (407 High Street). The public is invited.



Pictured above is the Childrens' Room on the second floor of the Museum where paranormal investigators report having been able to communicate with spirits.

Experience Our Museum Tours

If you think of museums and their staff as solemn, sedate, stodgy and stuffy, think again. Our "beyond the walls" tours will treat you to a fun, spirited, enjoyable and educational experience with folks who like history, fun, companionship and good food

- Try our **ghost tours** this October for starts. We offer Main Street and Quaker Historical District tours, and team with the Hammel House for a dinner and tour evening.
- On December 5, plan to participate in the **Holiday Tour of Homes** when Waynesville residents open their festively decorated homes to the public.
- During May 24 to 26, 2016 join us on a **bus excursion to the Amish** area of northern Ohio, the American First Ladies Museum in Canton, the Lodge at Geneva on the Lake, Fairport Harbor Lighthouse and Museum, several wineries, President Garfield's home, and the Cleveland Museum of Art.

View our website at www.friendshomemuseum.org for details and reservations, or call 513-897-1607.



October 14 – 31: Main Street, Quaker Hill, and Hammel House ghost tours on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday evenings

November 21: James Willis "*Ohio's Historic Haunts: Investigating the Paranormal in the Buckeye State*" book signing at Red Brick Meeting House, 4-6 P.M.

December 5: Waynesville Holiday Tour of Homes

December 12: Museum closes for the season

May 24-26: Northeast Ohio Bus Excursion

April 2: Museum opens for the season



View from the Front Porch

~ by Chuck Feicht



Have you ever sat on your front porch and let your mind drift or doze off? Be careful, you might imagine an experience like that described below, which was recorded in the Miami Gazette in 1865.

“Crosswicks, now a cluster of neat but unpretentious houses on the Bellbrook Road a quarter mile North of Waynesville’s Corporation line, was platted in 1821 by James Jennings. The would-be village never was fully settled or developed. Only its name and its most baffling historical moment have lingered.

The following paragraphs appeared in the Miami Gazette, Cincinnati Enquirer and numerous other newspapers as far as Chicago, Ill and beyond:

“Although this is an old-settled neighborhood, and the primitive snakes, in the main, have long since disappeared, except the black garter and rattlesnake, and occasionally some of the other species, we are once in a while greeted by the report of some monster of this uncanny tribe.

For several years it has been reported that the track of one above town, of unusual size, had on different occasions been seen in the dust, where it had crossed the pike. This report made the timid fearful, while the generality of people did not seem to fear or care anything about it, and it has been reserved until yesterday to develop of the most remarkable specimens seen in or out of the snake season, and the story is so well authenticated that the more incredulous of the neighborhood on big snake stories are forced at least to lend an attentive ear.

“About one mile north of this place is a little village called Crosswicks, in which several ... families reside. Among the rest is John Lynch who has two boys, Ed and Joe, ages respectively thirteen and eleven years. These boys were at a small creek on the south side of the village, fishing, yesterday. After sitting on the bank for a short time they heard quite a stir among some old reeds, grass and brush behind them, and on looking around, they saw a huge monster approaching them rapidly. They screamed, and, paralyzed with horror, started to run, and the snake, or whatever it might be – for they never saw aught like it before – came up close to the older one, and suddenly throwing out two long arms, or forelegs, and seized the boy in its slimy embrace, simultaneously producing two more legs, about four feet long, from some mysterious hiding place in its body, and dragged the boy some one-hundred yards down the creek to a large sycamore, twenty-six feet in diameter at the base, hollow, and with a large opening in one side. Through this aperture the monster attempted to enter with the boy, who by this time was almost dead with fright and unable to make any resistance.

Three men, viz.: Rev. Jacob Horn, Geo. Pendleton, and Allen Jordan were quarrying stone a short distance above where the boys were fishing, and hearing their screams, and seeing the creature yanking one off, hurried, in an attempt to rescue the child. They reached the tree soon after the snake, who failing in his first attempt to drag the boy into its den, became alarmed, probably at the outcries of its pursuers, unfastened its fangs and dropped the more than half dead child to the earth. The little fellow was picked up and carried home, and Dr. L.C. Lukens of Waynesville was summoned to attend him.

In the afternoon about sixty men, armed with clubs, dogs, axes, etc. gathered around the sycamore tree and concluded to cut it down and destroy its fearful tenant. They began chopping, when suddenly becoming alarmed for his safety, the formidable snake leaped from the aperture, threw out its fore and hind legs, erected itself about twelve or fourteen feet, and, with the velocity of a racehorse, crossed the creek and ran up a small hill, climbed over a fence breaking it down, and continued north a mile, followed by the pursuers, until he reached a hole in a large hill under a heavy ledge of rocks. Some of the men and dogs were so terrified at the beast’s first appearance that they only thought of getting out of the way. But the braver portion followed this frightful thing, until he made good his retreat under the ground.

It will be watched for and killed if possible. It is described as being thirty to forty feet long, and sixteen inches in diameter, and the legs four feet long and covered with scales as the body, feet, about twelve inches long and shaped like a lizard’s, of black and white color with large yellow spots. Head about sixteen inches wide, with a long forked tongue, and the mouth inside deep red. The hind legs appeared to be used to give an erect position, and its propelling power is in its tail.

Dr. Lukens said this morning, that the boy, his patent, was badly bruised and scratched, horribly frightened and that he lay in convulsions and spasms until three o’clock this morning, when he fell asleep, but frequently awakened with fright and terror, yet the doctor thinks he will recover in a few days.

The forgoing is vouched for the persons whose names are given above, and many more can be given, if necessary.”



MUSEUM MUSINGS

- **Wanted: We really need folks to join our group of ghost story tellers.** All of our stories are documented in a booklet, and in notes for quick reference while giving tours. We're also developing a video for training purposes. If you might be able to do this, or know of someone who would be good at it, let us know. Not sure? Perhaps your starting goal this October could be to master one or two stories to tell along the way with an experienced guide.
- **Also Wanted: Cookies to serve at the Museum for our ghost tour guests.** We'll do these tours on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from October 12 through 29. If you could help us on any of these dates, please let us know at 513-897-1607 or at rlmorgan819@gmail.com.
- 110 years ago, local Friends constructed a new boarding home in Waynesville for the elderly, retired teachers, and others. The boarding home evolved into Quaker Heights Care Community, which now sits just behind the Museum. The original building now houses our Museum, which began in 1999.
- Our annual garage sale netted \$2,612 for the Museum. Thanks to all who participated!
- The Progressive Women's Club donated \$1,000 to the Museum and we are most appreciative.
- Museum officers for the coming year are: Milton Cook, presiding clerk; Chuck Feicht, assistant presiding clerk; Kelly Maloney and Rick Rieger, co-treasurers; and Dolly McKeehan, secretary.
- The Museum welcomes new board members Erin Hartsock and Jim Prickett. They replace Mary Bunker and Di Miller, whose services over the years have been very valuable.
- Anthony Pooler with Lifetime Financial growth recently made a presentation to the board regarding best options for prudent investments of the Museum's endowment fund.
- Recent additions to the Museum's collections include windows from Gray's Barber Shop, donated by Bill Stubbs, and two small Waynesville business cards and a metal match box holder, donated by John Purdum. Bill Stubbs also donated a large box of glass negatives. The negatives came from the home of Ray Mills in Corwin; Ray took many photos of the 1905 homecoming.
- Dolly will attend the Heartland Conference in Michigan in February 2016. Attending such conferences increases the number of bus tours visiting the Museum from throughout the Midwest. In October, Chuck Feicht will attend the Ohio Local History Conference in Worthington.
- **Most folks like history as well as money. We need folks who can share a little bit of the latter for a lot more of the former! Museum membership has normally numbered over 100, but more recently dropped to 86 active memberships. Contributing members are our long-term life-line to preserving the heritage and history of the Waynesville area. If you haven't already, please consider joining using the membership form included in this newsletter.**

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Ever notice this picturesque house by the Museum? It's also historic, as the former home of Charity Lynch. Charity and her husband Isaiah were members of the Society of Friends (i.e. Quakers) and moved with their three little girls from the Bush River area of South Carolina to Waynesville in 1805 to escape the institution of slavery. Initially living on Main Street, they wanted to get away from the taverns, so they built this home on a three and a half acre lot near the White Brick Meeting House on "Quaker Hill." Just as the house was being finished, Isaiah died from typhoid fever. Charity was ill as well, but recovered. But while ill, her children were cared for by Quaker families in Cincinnati where her daughter Mary also died and was buried in a Potter's Field. Desperate for funds, the house was sold at a Sheriff's auction. Charity and her family moved to Cincinnati and later to Springboro and Hamilton. You can read her story in "Quaker Lady: The Story of Charity Lynch and Her People (Oxford, Ohio: The Mississippi Valley Press, 1941), available in the Ohioana Room at the Mary L. Cook Library.

How well do you know your Village's history?

Match the list of Waynesville's famous and infamous personalities with their "achievements"

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1. Willie Anderson
2. Francis Baily
3. Seth Hockett Ellis
4. John Evans
5. James Haines
6. Israel Hopkins Harris
7. William Rion Hoel
8. Coates Kinney
9. Achilles Pugh
10. William Raper
11. J.M. Robb
12. John Stetson
13. Anthony Wayne
14. Francis Williamson

~

_____ His poem "Rain on the Roof" became nationally famous overnight

_____ This former resident has a Colorado mountain and multiple cities named after him

_____ The New York Times reported for ten days on this young man's murderous activities

_____ He camped nearby with his troops and is labeled "the General Schwatzkopf of his day"

_____ False teeth saved the life of this famous abolitionist

_____ The Navy named three destroyers for him due to his bravery, but he was killed spying on his wife

_____ This doctor and his wife predicted your future based on the size & shape of your head

_____ The Village didn't want them, so this man's pearls from the Little Miami River are now at the Smithsonian Institute

_____ He found a cure for drunkenness that was denounced by the AMA as "cruel humbug"

_____ At 21 years of age, he was present for Waynesville's founding, and later became an eminent British astrologer

_____ He underestimated "the power of women," and lost his saloon business due to their protests

_____ He aspired to be President of the United States, but died first after falling from a cherry tree

_____ His huge fortune was made possible by a local relative's \$60 investment

_____ His medication "Hippodrone Liniment" was a cure-all for "almost every painful affliction"

Grade yourself using the answer legend on the last page of this newsletter. Better yet, join us at 2 P.M. in the meeting room at Quaker Heights Care Community on Thursday, September 17 when Chuck Feicht will present his talk on Waynesville's Famous and Infamous personalities.



Dolly McKeehan ~ Curator's Corner

Over the past few seasons, it's become apparent that membership and attendance at various conferences and organizations can bring new ideas to the Museum and increase visibility of our Museum and programs. A good example is the Ohio River National Freedom Corridor, which promotes the history and heritage of the Underground Railroad and the anti-slavery movement throughout the Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky region. In October, the Corridor will host a tri-state conference Oct. 16-18 in Clermont County on the east side of Cincinnati with the help of the National Park Service's Network to Freedom and the Freedom Center in Cincinnati. The conference is open to anyone with an interest in the anti-slavery movement. As a member, I have been asked to be a moderator for the session "Quakers and the UGRR." I will also guide a tour bringing attendees to Waynesville and Wilmington to observe Quaker sites connected to the UGRR movement.

I believe this conference is great exposure for the museum and we should reach a large group of people. This is the Corridor's first conference, but it is planned every year. With a core group from the Quaker Heritage Center, Museum at the Friends Home, Freedom Center, College Hill Historical Society, Rankin House, John P. Parker House, Bracken County Historical Society, Historic New Richmond, Harriet Beecher Stowe Home, and other sites/groups, we feel this will be a good conference. If you would like to see the schedule, please go to the website: ohiorivernationalfreedomcorridor.org.

Also in October, Chuck Feicht will attend the Ohio History Conference in Columbus. Sessions there will focus on topics such as museum branding and promoting, digitizing photo negatives, uncovering early military events, and living history reenactments.

We are blessed to have board trustees and members that treasure the Waynesville area's rich history, and have so much fun working to promote it and make it relevant to our residents and visitors.

We are thankful for our membership, whose time and financial contributions keep our Museum vibrant, relevant, and engaged with the community. If you haven't already, consider joining us to receive free admission and discounts on our overnight bus tours and other events.

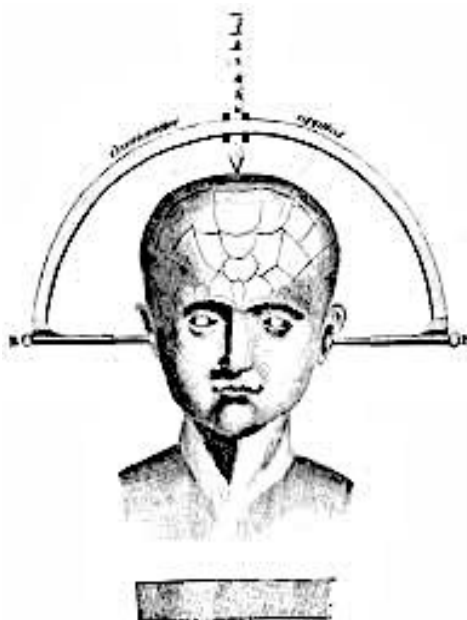
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Early Waynesville Medical Practices

Pictured at the left is a drawing of a patient undergoing a phrenology evaluation, such as was done by Waynesville phrenologists Drs. Francis and Miriam Williamson.

Phrenology was developed by a German physician and was practiced in the U.S. during the 1820s – 1840s. He believed the brain was made up of 27 individual organs that controlled the mind, body and thoughts and determined personality, character and criminal tendencies. Phrenologists would measure the size and shape of the head using a caliper, and use fingertips and palms to feel for enlargements and indentations.

The measurements would be used to predict relationships and behaviors to which a person is prone, predict a child's future life, assess marriage partners, and provide background checks for job applications.



MFH

Museum at the Friends Home
Fourth & Miami Streets

P.O. Box 12
Waynesville, OH 45068



Answers to Page 4 Quiz: 8, 4, 1, 13, 9, 7, 14, 6, 5, 2, 10, 3, 12, 11

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.

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