
LIBERTY CENTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Issue 20

Spring, 2011

Remembering Sacrifices

As we leave the old year behind us, and as I am stepping down from the Board of Trustees, let us remember the efforts that so many of us have selflessly given to preserve the history of Liberty & Washington townships. Our depot is steadily being restored to its turn-of-the-century appearance, and each year, our historical pageant during the Liberty Center Fall Festival, thanks to Louisa Strock's dedication, teaches the audience about the rich cultural heritage we all share.

We also remember, nationally AND locally, the sacrifices that our families endured during the war of 1812 and the Civil War. 200 years ago at Prairie-du-Masque along the Maumee River, the native Ottawa peoples were dealing with turmoil between the English and Americans—not knowing that their village would become “Damascus” after the war. And 150 years ago in 1861, one would see Texas, OH booming with business, with overland travel on County Road 4A between the canal and the new railroad depot at Washington Station (later, Colton).

During the Civil War anniversary, another important Sesquicentennial will be taking place—very close to home, so read this newsletter to find more details!

Sincerely,

Larry Lanzer, outgoing society president

Annual Treasury Report

The following report is the financial standing of the corporation from January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009:

Balance forward as of 12/31/08 \$2,941

Receipts

Memberships	\$305	
Donations	\$15	
Lifetime Memberships	\$100	
Advertising Sales	\$645	
50/50 Drawing	\$144	
Musical Revue	\$463	
Merchandise	\$1	Total: \$1,673

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Civil War 150

From April 2011 through December of 2015, the United States will be remembering our nation's civil war. Battle re-enactments, beginning with the firing on Fort Sumter will be occurring in chronological order. The Ohio Historical Society has organized the remembrance Ohio's involvement in the war and at home at www.OhioCivilWar150.org.

Locally, historical groups in Defiance, Fulton, Henry and Williams Counties have organized exhibits and events for each year, and they can be seen on schedules at each county library, historical society, and on-line on Facebook. Just type in the keyword, Northwest Ohio Military Events” and plan your journey back in time!



“Uncle Sam” participates in the Liberty Center entry of the Northwest Ohio Volunteer Fireman’s Convention Parade. The Liberty Center Fire Department began in 1908.

The “Liberty Center Experience” on Facebook

If you have ever lived in the Liberty Center School District, you will want to join the Facebook page, “Liberty Center Experience” This group started as a social network of Liberty Center High School Alumni, and is growing to embrace the same preservation goals as The Liberty Center Historical Society. Members share photographs from old Liberty Press articles, school annuals, and private collections of Liberty Center, Colton, and Texas area photographs. Join the discussions about memories of these people and places!

Our group is working with this group to revive the tradition of an Alumni Banquet and combine our historical society's annual meeting in June of 2011 at the Liberty Center High School. Read more news in “The Liberty Press” as the date grows closer.



Before the Liberty Center Tiger High School baseball team, there were the Black Pirates, a men's team made from residents of all ages.

Planning a Birthday Party 1863 - 2013

The Civil War will not have the only sesquicentennial event in the year 2013. During the last two bloody years of the war, land developers in Northwest Ohio were busy along the Toledo & Wabash Railway making financial profits. At that time, stations only existed in Maumee City, Washington Station (Colton) and Napoleon, OH. During 1863, Alphaes Buchanan, whose parents owned a farm at the northeast corner of what is now county road T and State Route 109, registered the first 12 lots that created "Liberty Center". The village of Whitehouse followed suit the following year, creating new mid-points between the three existing station stops.

Our historical society will now start planning the year-long celebration of Liberty Center's Sesquicentennial. A logo, motto, merchandise, and a commemorative booklet will be developed. All area groups are encouraged to incorporate this "birthday" theme into their annual events in 2013.

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President, John Swearingen, Sr., Vice-President, Mary Hill,
Secretary, John Swearingen, Jr., Treasurer, Levern Meyer,
Curator, Marlene Jones, John Eckenrode, and Deane Sherman

Past Contributing Lifetime Members:

Wilma Barlow * Robert Bartels * Dr. Gary Crawford * Jean Creager * Peggy Creager * Dahrel Crum * Jerry Davis * Darlynd Ellinwood * Dale Leininger * RD Rigal * Maude Houts * Arvay Sestrap * Helen Shockey Leopard * Helen McOscar * Orville Minnich * Don Myers * Edna Myers * Helen Spiess * George Wiemken



George Pennock, Maple Street and his fishing partner "Tail"
Circa 1900, Liberty Center, OH

Curatorial Report

Our Curator presents the following items that were donated before January 1, 2011:

2010.1.1-29, Liberty State Bank Collection, Gift of Ms. Charlene Snyder

2011 Acquisitions and Donations will appear in the next newsletter

The Liberty Center Historical Society, Inc. requires that all objects in its collection must be importance to the history of Washington or Liberty Townships, Henry County, Ohio.

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Expenses

Festival Expenses	\$26
Friends of The Library	\$195
OLHA Membership	\$35
Incorporation Renewal	\$25
Insurance	\$401
Postage	\$37
Printing	\$215
Repairs & Maintenance	\$1,244
Utilities	\$1,132
Total:	\$3,310

Balance ending 12/31/09 \$1,304

Thank You Friends!

The Board of Trustees would like to thank former board members, Larry Lanzer, Don Drummond, and Kay Overmier for their many years of dedicated service!

**A Matter of Pride:
2010 Community Review**

We thank the following patrons who helped make the restoration of the depot possible this year:

PREMIUM SPONSORS

Davis Farm Services, Inc.

The Henry County Bank

PLATINUM

B.A. Miller & Sons Trucking, Inc.

Hill Asphalt Paving LLC; Randy Hill

Pisanello's Pizzeria

Railside Market, LLC; Bob Miller

KK Collision, Inc.

Swanton Welding & Machining Co., Inc.

Wright – Habegger Funeral Homes

GOLD

Jennite Company; Bob & Tom Wheeler

O & M Tree Service; Stu Overmier

Robert & Margaret Gyurasics

Mitchell Farm Equipment, Inc.

SILVER

Countryside Flowers & Homestead Design

Dave's Auto Service; Dave Perry

Ken's Carry Out

Trucker's Paradise: M&M Ripke

Circle K Carry Out

Holgate Metal Fab. Inc.

The Sharpe Design; S. Sharpe

This sixteenth annual community performance featured the Liberty Day Chorus, the direction and script guidance of Louisa Strock, storytellers: Dawn Nye, Jim Shambarger, Doris Piercefield, and John Swearingen, Jr., accompanists: Merl Bauman, Patricia Strock, and Louisa Strock, Liberty Center's veterans organizations, the bells of St. Patrick and other guest musicians, Larry Hefflinger, Velma Hull of Centsible Treasures for the Americana display, Kay Showman, Carol Carpenter, and everyone else who gave their talent, time, and energy to the production.

History at Your Fingertips

An article from the Toledo Blade, Sunday, March 7, 2010

In 1854, when the first railroad was built through Liberty and Washington Townships, Samuel Morse's invention had only been 10 years old—ending the need for the "Pony Express". "The telegraph was the Victorian Internet. You're doing the same thing now (texting on cell phones), but it doesn't require the same skills," said Byron Stuckles. Stuckles signed on in 1950 as a telegrapher, earning \$15 a week while being schooled by Roy Engler (who had created Sunshine Children's Home in 1949).

Within four months, Stuckles had found work with the Wabash Railway Company -- transmitting messages about railroad business and telegrams, loading and unloading mail bags, and selling and punching train tickets. Stuckles worked both rural and urban stations in Indiana and northwest Ohio—including Liberty Center. When he quit in 1966, he was general agent for the Norfolk and Western Railway Toledo Terminal. Today, Stuckles lives in Maumee, OH and collects antique telegraph equipment.

Today's cell phone texting abbreviations are not a new invention. Here are some texting Abbreviations used by railway telegraphers for many years:

TNX	= Thanks	PLS	= Please
HR	= Here	MIN	= Wait a minute
GTEM	= Got it (I have it)	MSG	= Message
NM	= No more	GG	= Going
GA	= Go Ahead	C	= See
C EM CMG	= I see them coming	CY	= Copy this down

Please remember to renew your annual membership to The Liberty Center Historical Society, Inc. and send this form to P.O. Box 106 Liberty Center, OH 43532-0106 (*complete below*)

Individual Membership \$5.00
_____ (quantity)

or -

Lifetime Membership \$100.00
_____ (quantity)

Names _____

Address _____

Lifetime Members: Betty Bartels * Kelly Bodenbender * Todd Bodenbender * Carolyn Boge * Francis Brown * Lois Brown * Ken Carpenter * Mike Carpenter * Marianne Carpenter * Robin Carpenter * Cecile Chambers * Daniel Chambers * Elva Clague * Cheryl Crawford * Cinda Creager * Ralph Creager * Bruce Creager * Lucille Crum * Bernadine Drummond * Donald Drummond * Karen Ellinwood * Julia C. Engler * Colleen Spencer Fosnau * Ruben Fuerst * Lori Fuerst * Fr. F.A. Gallagher * Aletha Halvorson * Jack Hill * Mary Hill * Randy Hill * Patty Hill * Karen Howell * Dr. Marvin Jones * Marlene Jones * Cecelia Kern * Charleen Keith * Jack Krueger * Marilyn Krueger * Larry Lanzer * Kaye Lingruen * Don Mickens * Keith Mickens * Sue Mickens * Norma Miller * Rick Miller * Ronda Miller * Sharon Miller * Martha Minnich * Bonnie Mohler * Ted Mohler * Margaret Mueller * Marvin Mueller * Bev Overmier * Milt Overmier * Pam Overmier * James Phillips * Sky Bank * Kay Showman * Charleen Snyder * Robert E. Stickels * Joel Spiess * Hilda L. Spiess * Ronald Spiess * L. Lyle Spiess * Treva Stevens * John Strock * Louisa Strock * Betty Talmage * Mary Weis Vancleve * Kathleen Veigel * Lawrence Warner * Arlene Weak

Renewing Members, 2009 to Present: Hazel Armstrong * Leo & Shirley Barlow * Alfred & Margaret Bollman * Chris & Jennifer Bonner * Susie Bonner * Moe Brubaker * Don & Pat Burgoon * Carl & Cheryl Carter * Catherine Cartledge * Ila Clapp * Marilyn Crum * Belva Daum * Eloise Dierker * John Eckenrode * Jerry & Diane Endicott * Mary Ann Fobare * LeVerne Gerken * Ken & Deb Glanz * Bob & Marge Gyurasics * Michael & Marlene Hamlin * Mark & Laura Hill * Francis & Carolyn Hoyt * Victoria Kamm * Ron & Bernadette Krueger * Tenny & Susan Krugh * Randy Hull * Joe & Linda McOscar * Aunalee Meister * Dorothy Merricle * Roger Meyer * Vern & Mary Meyer * Joan Miller * Herb & Virginia Moore * Blanche Murdock * David & Carol Neiling * Donelda Overmier * Mildred Perry * Ruth Rauch * Leo & Ellen Russell * Ron & Jeanette Saneholtz * Nick & Stephanie Sargent * Mike & Kathy Saunders * Bill & Sharon Sharpe * Deane Sherman * Gareld & Colleen Spiess * Richard E. Stevens * Pat Strock * John Swearingen, Jr. * John & Ruth Swearingen * Harlan Taylor * Carolyn Weis * Roger Weis * Ruth Weirauch * Michael, Karol & John Westhoven * Larry & Janet Weirich * Larry White * Orlo Wiles * Janet Zachrich

P.O. Box 106
Liberty Center, OH 43532-0106

THE LIBERTY CENTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

...working to preserve the history of Washington and Liberty Townships of Henry County, Ohio, including the villages of Liberty Center, Colton, Texas, Damascus, Ratsville, and Fox's Corner