

HISTORY MATTERS

Fall Issue 2020

Making *History* Come Alive!

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Christmas at the History Center Open House



December 5th & 6th
AND
December 12th & 13th

1:00 to 5:00pm

The annual Christmas at the History Center is scheduled for December 5th-6th and 12th-13th from 1:00 to 5:00. We have worked closely with the Logan County Health District to be able have the open house as safely as we can in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. That said if conditions worsen, we may have to cancel the open house.

Obviously, the Christmas open house will be a little different this year due to the protocols we need to set in place to follow safety guidelines. Some of these protocols and changes include:

- Visitors must be free of COVID-19 symptoms before entering the History Center.
- Face masks/coverings will be required by all in attendance (with exceptions of children under two years old and people with medical exemptions) in accordance to the state mandate.
- Social distancing will also need to be followed. We will be asking visitors to stay within their family/friend groups (please try to limit your group to six people) and social distance from other groups while walking through the History Center.
- We will have fewer trees in the Museum hallways to allow for more space for visitors. Consequently, we had to make the difficult decision not to have our Kids' Trees this year.
- There will be no Family Crafts.
- We will still have live music but perhaps a little less than in years past.
- There will be restrictions on the number of people allowed in the exhibit rooms, Presidents' Room (refreshments area), Mansion parlors (listening to musicians), etc.
- Restrooms and commonly used areas will be cleaned and sanitized on a regular basis.
- This is not an exhaustive list of the protocols that will be in place. We will have signage up throughout the History Center listing and explaining these and other necessary safety and health measures.

Please keep checking our website – www.loganhistory.org – and our Facebook page for updates on the Christmas open house. Once we have everyone confirmed we will put a schedule of musicians and a list of the tree and room decorators that will be participating in the open house on the website and on Facebook. We hope to see you at the 2020 Christmas at the History Center!



LCHC
LOGAN COUNTY
HISTORY
CENTER

LCHC

LOGAN COUNTY HISTORY CENTER

Logan County History Center
Includes:

The Orr Mansion

The Logan County Museum

The Transportation Museum

Logan County Historical Society

AcuSport Meeting Room

Presidents' Meeting Room

HISTORY CENTER HOURS

Wednesday through Sunday

1:00-4:00 p.m.

ADMISSION BY DONATION

CURATOR/DIRECTOR

K. Todd McCormick

2020 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Brian Harmon	President
Bonnie Hansen	Vice-President
William McCormick	Treasurer
Nikki Smith	Assistant Treasurer
Karen Beasley	Recording Secretary
Cheryl Hawkins	Corresponding Secretary
Nadine Tussing	Trustee (2020)
Mike Yoder	Trustee (2020)
Dan Bratka	Trustee (2020)
Bob Notestine	Trustee (2021)
Bruce Norris	Trustee (2021)
Brian Baker	Trustee (2021)
Doug Chamberlain	Trustee (2022)
Robin Butler	Trustee (2022)
Terri Lamb	Trustee (2022)

SOCIETY'S OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Friday 8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

LOGAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

521 E Columbus Ave.

Bellefontaine, OH 43311-2401

937-593-7557

historycenter@loganhistorical.org

tmccormick@loganhistorical.org

www.loganhistorical.org

CURATOR'S CORNER



Todd McCormick

For this Curator's Corner I have written down some thoughts about 2020. I always tell people that yesterday is history as much as 100 years ago. Perhaps no year has shown this more than 2020. Our yesterdays this year have been full of events and actions that historians will be studying for years to come. Obviously, the COVID-19 pandemic has dominated the year. Most tragically is its toll on human lives. Yet even those not touched by the

coronavirus directly have felt its effect on nearly all aspects of their lives from going (or not going) to school to how we go grocery shopping. Social unrest has brought difficult discussions to the forefront. Hurricanes have seemingly been making landfall week after week or sometimes day after day and forest fires have been raging out west for months. As the year begins to come to an end we are awaiting one of the most anticipated presidential elections in history. 2020 will not be soon forgotten. Let's hope 2021 will be a much better year for all us.

As you read through this newsletter you will see that the Logan County Historical Society/Logan County History Center has been and continues to be affected from the COVID-19 pandemic. We have canceled meetings and programs. We have had to ask organizations that use our meeting rooms to find somewhere else to meet. We've had to cancel annual events like our spring open house and our Halloween KidFest. Young Historians are not meeting this school year (at least for now). We didn't want to do any of these things, but we were either required my state or local guidelines or we just wanted to err on the side of caution for the safety of our visitors, our volunteers and our staff. This said we are hoping to have our Christmas Open House in some manner. We are working with the Logan County Health District to see if this is possible. If we are able to have the Christmas Open House, I'm sure it will be a little different than in past years, but we hope we will be able to continue this event that is not only a Christmas tradition for LCHS/LCHC but also for many of our visitors and participants.

Finally, although they are not leaving us completely, I want to thank Toni and John for their service to the Logan County Historical Society and the History Center. Their time here has greatly shaped and helped build the organization and History Center. They have been wonderful co-workers and more important great friends to me. I will miss seeing them each day. I have told John to be ready because I am going to keep a list of Logan County history questions that I will ask him on the days that he is working! Toni & John – I thank you for all of that you had done for LCHS/LCHC and all that you have done for me.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION



Monthly \$20 Gift Certificate Drawing

June 2020 Winner: Louise Norris

July 2020 Winner: Art Mortimore

August 2020 Winner: Sean Heights



For the first time in nineteen years the Young Historians will not be meeting in person due to the COVID-19 state/local and our own guidelines about hosting meetings. If things change for the better regarding the pandemic and we can safely meet, we will reinstate the Young Historians meetings. In the meantime, I hope to create some projects that the Young Historians can do at home. Stay tuned!

NEW MICROFILM READER

The Archives received wonderful new gifts from anonymous donors. One donor gave money for the purchase a new digital microfilm reader, while the other gave money for a computer to go with the reader. The microfilm reader allows staff, volunteers and patrons to research our microfilm collection much easier and we can now print from the microfilm reader! The donors wanted to dedicate the microfilm reader/computer *"In Honor of Logan County History Center Staff and Volunteers."* We cannot thank our donors enough for their very generous gifts.

THANK YOU!

MEETING NOTICE

October & December LCHS Meetings Canceled

The October and December Society meetings have been canceled due to the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic. With the cancellation of the December carry-in dinner/annual business meeting, including elections of officers and trustees, we will be voting by email/phone. Please see more about the slate of nominees and the voting process found in this newsletter. Once again, we hope that sometime in 2021 we will again be able to hold our meetings and programs.



June 2020 – August 2020

June 2020

July 2020

August 2020

Vincent Plikerd
Scoti Pickrell Bolding

Brian Jones
Kate Brower

Lori Carchedi

HALLOWEEN KIDFEST CANCELED

The 2020 Halloween KidFest has been canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the safety protocols. The state highly recommends that large Halloween events not be held. We knew we could not have kids' crafts and activities and maintain social distancing. Although, this is one of our most beloved events, we made the decision for the safety of the visitors and our volunteers and staff. We hope to have the Halloween KidFest back in 2021.

LOGAN COUNTIANS' CONNECTION TO PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

Back in the Fall 2016 issue of our History Matters newsletter we showed all the U.S. presidents and presidential candidates that had campaigned in Logan County, or in some cases, passed through our area during their whistle-stop train tours. Yet Logan County has other connections to our country's presidential elections. Here are two of those connections.

WILLIAM H. WEST

William H. West came to Bellefontaine in 1850 to study law under William Lawrence. He eventually became Lawrence's partner. Over the next several decades he matched his mentor as an influential person in local, state, and national politics and law.

West was one of the founders of Ohio's Republican Party in 1854. He started *The Logan County Republican*. This was one of the first, if not the first, pro-Republican newspapers in Ohio. West served in the Ohio House of Representatives in 1857 and 1861 and in the Ohio Senate in 1863. From 1865-1867 he served as the Attorney General of Ohio.

In 1871 West was elected to the state Supreme Court. While on the Supreme Court he began losing his eyesight forcing him to resign, but he returned home and continued practicing law. The Republicans nominated West as their candidate for Governor in 1877, and although he lost the election he remained a highly respected man.

WEST'S SPEECH AT THE 1884 REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION

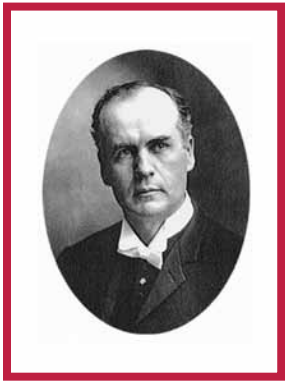
William H. West was probably best known for his speaking ability that earned him the nickname "Blind Man Eloquent." It was with his oratory skills that William H. West made his presence known on the national stage at the 1884 Republican National Convention in Chicago.



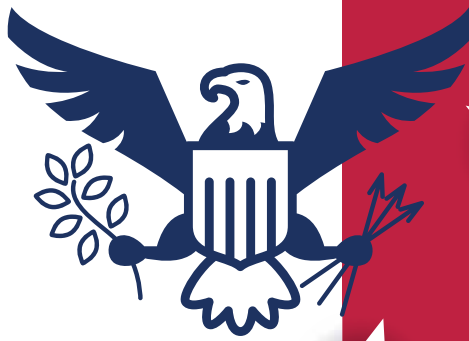
The convention was quite contentious with several candidates vying for the party's nomination for president. West gave the nomination speech for his life-long friend James G. Blaine. This speech is considered by many political scientists and historians as one of the finest political speeches in American history.

It was written that Judge West's "voice rang like a trumpet..." and his cadence was "Biblical." As he neared the end of his speech pleading to those in attendance to nominate Blaine, the fervor of the crowd continue to grow. West was about to end his speech by saying "...I nominate..." but at the moment the crowd's cheering became so loud he could not continue. People climbed on their chairs, threw their hats in the air, waved their canes and umbrellas above their heads and grabbed one another in bear hugs. Finally, a half-hour later Judge West concluded by saying "...James G. Blaine," and the crowd went wild once again. The audience's reaction to West's speech was said to be "...pandemonium universal and all-pervading" and a scene "never equaled and utterly indescribable."

Blaine did receive the Republican Party's nomination for President. He would go on to lose to Grover Cleveland. Had he won, it was understood within the Republican Party that he would have named West the U.S. Attorney General.



LOGAN COUNTY'S PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE



Did you know a native Logan Countian ran for President of the United States ...twice? Rev. Aaron S. Watkins ran on the Prohibition Party's presidential ticket in 1924 and 1928. In addition, he ran as the party's vice-presidential candidate in 1908 and 1912.

Watkins, who was born in Rushsylvania on November 29, 1863, was one of the Prohibition movement's more prominent crusaders. He lectured against the evils of alcohol with Carrie Nation and other leading prohibitionists around the country and even debated the well-known jurist Clarence Darrow.

Rev. Watkins first ran for public office in 1905 when he ran for governor of Ohio for the Prohibition Party. He was in the 1908 gubernatorial race before withdrawing so he could be the party's vice-presidential candidate. Twenty-six years later the Prohibition Party asked him to run once again for governor of Ohio, but Watkins, at 68 years of age, felt he was too old and declined the nomination.

Watkins led a diverse life that included careers in education, law and the ministry. Education was very important to Watkins who earned his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Ohio Northern University. He would go on to receive four Doctorate degrees' in Law, Divinity, Humane Letters and Philosophy.

Watkins taught and was an administrator in public schools, including serving as superintendent of the Quincy schools. He also taught at the college level at his alma mater Ohio Northern and was President of Asbury College in Wilmore, Kentucky.

After leaving the teaching field Watkins practiced law with his brother Wesley Watkins. Then in 1895 he became an ordained minister. Throughout his ministerial career, he served as a pastor for more than a dozen churches in western Ohio. Rev. Aaron S. Watkins died on February 9, 1941 at his home in Rushsylvania.

STAFF CHANGES

The Logan County Historical Society/History Center is undergoing some major changes with our staffing. After nearly 23 years serving as LCHS Administrative-Assistant, Toni McPherson is semi-retiring. However, she will still be part of the staff and organization as our bookkeeper and payroll manager. Toni will work from home about 10 hours per week fulfilling these duties as well as some others. John McPherson is also semi-retiring as Buildings & Grounds Manager, a position he has held full-time since 2011 and started part-time a few years before that. John will work every other day (6 hours/day). He will continue to do the primary cleaning of the History Center, lawn care (along with our caretaker Tim McPherson) and plow the parking lots in the winter. He has backed off the dusting of artifacts and display cases, as well as being the Building Committee chair and our Facebook Manager. At this time, we are hoping these other duties can be absorbed by staff and volunteers. Although, Toni & John will both still be an active part of the staff we will miss their daily presence. We wish Toni and John good luck with their new semi-retirement!

Fortunately, we think we have found a great replacement for the administrative-assistant position with a familiar face. Mary Mortimer has been hired to take over the position. She will be starting the first of October. The position will be Tuesday-Friday 8:00-5:00. Mary has served LCHS in the past as a board member and docent. Mary has already shown a vast skill set and eagerness to learn. She also brings a wealth of knowledge of the Historical Society and History Center and of local history. We know Mary's warm personality will be appreciated by our visitors, members, volunteers and staff. Welcome aboard Mary!

LCHS BOARD OF TRUSTEE ELECTIONS

The COVID-19 continues to affect us in many ways. Since we are still not permitted to hold in-person meetings, including our annual business meeting in December, we are changing the voting process for Board of Trustees elections.

We are placing the slate of officers and trustees in the newsletter and are asking LCHS members to email or call in their votes. We will accept votes until December 9th at 5:00 p.m. You can email at historycenter@loganhistory.org or call (937) 593-7557. Officers are elected for 1-year terms and trustees are elected for 3-year terms.

The slate is as follows:

Officers (2021 term)

- President – Brian Harmon (This will be Brian's second 1-year term)
- Vice-President – Bonnie Hansen
- Treasurer – William McCormick
- Asst. Treasurer – Nikki Smith
- Recording Secretary – Karen Beasley
- Corresponding Secretary – Cheryl Hawkins

Trustees (2021-2023 term)

- Mike Yoder – Currently serving after being appointed to fill an unexpired 2018-2020 term
- Dan Bratka – This will be Dan's second 3-year term
- Rick Reed – This will be Rick's first 3-year term. He is replacing Nadine Tussing who is term limited after serving as trustee for the 2015-2017 and 2018-2020 terms.



June 23, 2020

September 22, 2020

Betsy Ann Forsythe Shoffstall
Schoolbooks, newspaper articles, Rocking Horse made by Noah A. Coover of Lewistown (loan) (Names were incorrect in previous newsletter)

Elaine DeMarsh
Patterns for Cabbage Patch Kids clothing

Don & Susan Corwin
Hawthorn Melody Dairy milk crate, BLHS marching band/Disney World pin, t-shirts, pens and other giveaways from local businesses and organizations

Katharine Pratt Salovaara Brower
Pratt family medical certificates, scanned photos of Pratt family, scanned copies of Pratt family marriage license and certificate

St. Vincent de Paul
Orr Mansion commemorative plate

Mary Jane Cook
Hand painted sugar bowls, quilts, ceramic & china lamb collection and other items that belonged to Edith Glasgow Mitchell (1883-1970) of Belle Center/Richland Twp.

Logan County Libraries
Books, poetry books, booklets written by Logan County authors

Kim Collum
Barbie dolls and accessories, dolls from the "Crissy" collection from Ideal

Judy Headings
Boxes and bags from Dee's, schoolbooks from local one-room schools, needlework collection from the Burkholder family dating back to the late 19th-early 20th century

Virginia M. Hughes
Antique hospital bed table/dental instrument table, shoeshine box

Marcia Moffett
Photographs of the C.H. Gibson Building Mover Co. moving buildings throughout Logan County

Carla Keys
Stereograph cards, photographs/postcards of local one-room schools, schools, churches and other landmarks in Logan County

Bret Stahler
Antioch Shriners booklets, articles, photographs

Shane J. Lile
Diploma from the Lincoln Chiropractic College awarded to Earle C. Corbet who practiced in Zanesfield for nearly 30 years

David Vance
Railroad spikes, local business advertisements, Montgomery Ward & Co. catalog

James Headings
Folding chair from South Union Menonite Church, Fruit Dryer cabinet, milk bottles from Maple Hill Dairy (DeGraff) and Maple Drive Dairy (West Liberty), fence stretcher

Judy Delong Family
Book *A Nickel and a Gallon of Gas* by Don Blake about growing up in Quincy, family letters

Perry Hodies III
Railroad cutting tool, roll of newspaper from the Bellefontaine Examiner, practice drum from the West Mansfield School, organ bellows, Honda Wing magazines, Honda booklets, local business advertisements and giveaways

Karen Zahler
Women's clothing from the 1960s-1980s

Jim & Tam VanNess
Jacket from Dana Glacier Daido, Cookbook produced by the "United Presbyterian Ladies" of Bellefontaine, Marx Tin Litho Train Set from the 1940s

Marcella Stevens
Night dress

Judy Overstreet
Photographs from the old Mill in Huntsville on Cherokee Run. Donor's family owned the mill in the 1860s. Photos date from the 1931

Ralph H. Allen
Digitized postcards of William Orr's silver mine in Idaho, postcards/photos of the Orr family and the Mansion

Diana Kay Mitchell
Certificate and key from the Bellefontaine Mausoleum

Jodi England
Late 1800s-early 1900s farm and church magazines

Robert DeVore
Wooden field or drainage tile from the DeVore family farm in Zane Twp., kerosene gas lamp from Middleburg, Daisy Red Raider BB gun, receipt book from the DeVore Co. General Merchandise in Middleburg, receipt books from the Hamilton Bank in East Liberty

Ralph Wood
BHS Class of 1954 graduation invitation, Indian lake brochures, menus, postcards, family photos, Santal Pepsin Co. tin of Bellefontaine

J.B. Smith
Samuels family records

Shelby Co. Veterans Services
Dog tags of WWII veteran Richard C. Tanger

Items on loan for Fraternal Orders Exhibit

Bret Stahler & Mick Lile
Shriner and Masonic items

Bellefontaine F. & A.M. Lodge 209
Framed 33rd Degree Certificate of Alfred Butler

G. Bruce & Louise Norris
Rushsylvania Lions Club vest, baseball cap and other items

David Booher
Knights Templar Commandery sword, chapeau, certificates and other items of his father, Forest Booher

LOGAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY WELCOMES YOU!

ALL MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE JANUARY 1ST! *All dues paid after October 1st will be applied to 2021's dues.*

NEW MEMBER _____ RENEWAL _____

DUES: Family - \$30 Senior & Student - \$15
Business - \$50 Individual - \$20
Individual Lifetime - \$300

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

I would like to help with
(check as many as apply):

____ **OUTREACH** Committee volunteer

____ **FUNDRAISING** Committee volunteer

____ **LEVY** Committee volunteer

Other volunteering opportunities:

____ **Adult Tours** docent

____ **Student Tours** docent

____ **Reg. Open Hours** tours docent

____ **Open House** docent/volunteer

____ **Halloween KidFest**

____ **Christmas decorating** of museum

____ **Christmas Open House** docent/volunteer

____ **Building** Committee volunteer

____ **Programs** Committee volunteer

____ **Docent** Committee volunteer

____ **Photography** volunteer

____ **Other**, explain _____



NOTICE:

You can pay your dues on our website at www.loganhistory.org using either PayPal or your credit card.

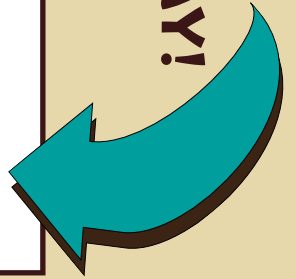
PLEASE SEND YOUR DUES AND/OR DONATIONS TO:

Logan County Historical Society
521 E. Columbus Ave.
Bellefontaine, OH 43311-2401

NOTE: Not sure if you are up to date on your dues? Check the number in the upper right hand corner of this newsletter's address label. If it says, **Life, Comp, or 20**, you are paid up for 2020!

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Homecoming
Family Restaurant
in Bellefontaine at Routes 33 and 68
Weekend Breakfast Buffet!
Seasonal Home Made Dishes
Friday Night ~ All You Can Eat Fish*
All kids meals \$3.99 with drink
Weekday Soup & Salad Bar
Come home to a taste of the past!

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Bellefontaine, OH 43311

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