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The mail buggy currently on display in the Transportation Museum.

NEW EXHIBIT: THOUSANDS OF MILES OF HISTORY THROUGH THE MAIL

The History Center recently received this wonderful 1903 mail buggy from West Liberty. Elbe V. Yoder used the buggy to deliver mail to the residents on his R.F.D. Route 2, which we believe was the route north of West Liberty. The Rural Free Delivery system first began in the 1890s as a way for the United States Postal Service to deliver the mail directly to those who lived outside of towns. By 1902, Rural Free Delivery was in use throughout much of the U.S.. Mr. Yoder's five grandchildren donated the buggy: Flora Kay Yoder Martin, Vicki Yoder Headings, Debbie Yoder Andersen, Gloria Yoder Brown, Donna Lou Bratka Erwin, Ann I. Bratka, and Dan W. Bratka. We are thrilled to have the buggy in our collection. It is currently on exhibit at the Transportation Museum in Bellefontaine.

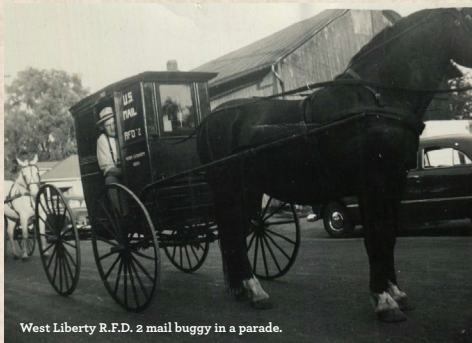
Photos donated by the Yoder grandchildren and West Liberty Historical Society.

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

@LOGANCOUNTYHISTORYCENTER



Elbe V. Yoder pictured with his granddaughters and mail buggy



West Liberty R.F.D. 2 mail buggy in a parade.



Handwritten on back of photo: Grandpa Elbe V. Yoder mail wagon at the top of McKees Creek hill now Oak Hill Med. Center. Early 1900's.

2022 LCHS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

No doubt by now, you've noticed some considerable changes to the newsletter you're reading right now! We recently conducted a survey about what people wanted to see in the newsletter, and even asked if they still wanted to receive it at all. The responses we got back were clear, our membership still values our newsletter! It has served as our primary vehicle for letting our membership know things like what we've been working on at the History

Center, what events are upcoming, what artifacts have been donated recently, and other important membership information. It remains a beloved piece of mail that people still enjoy receiving. So with that, we decided to take a fresh look at how we can evolve it to make it even better. We recently partnered with Elle A. Design in West Liberty to help us reimagine what the newsletter can be, while continuing to provide the content that people look forward to. We hope that the changes with the newsletter will continue to give you important, timely information in a new and fresh format!

Finding new and creative ways to engage with our membership and visitors to the Logan County History Center is an ongoing exercise. As technology continues to change, we must find ways to change with it. The LCHC has worked hard the past few years to build and expand our web presence, and use Facebook to reach out to our supporters. Started by John McPherson, and now continuing on with Mary Mortimer; our digital outreach initiatives continue to grow and evolve. We want our Facebook page to be a great resource for special interest stories about our local history, and also any quick notifications like closures or hour changes.

These two mediums play a crucial role in our outreach initiatives, so that we can bring local history to you in ways we haven't been able to in the past. If you know of someone who would enjoy the newsletter, please invite them to become LCHS members so that they can begin receiving it. And likewise, if you or someone you know hasn't "Liked" us on Facebook yet, don't wait, go "Like and Follow" us now! I promise that you'll enjoy the weekly content we share!

Respectfully,

Brian Harmon

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION MONTHLY \$20 GIFT CERTIFICATE DRAWING

January Louise Norris

February Imogene Van Voorhis

LOGAN COUNTY HISTORY CENTER

521 East Columbus Avenue
Bellefontaine, OH 43311

www.loganhistory.org
(937)593-7557

History Center Hours
Wednesday-Friday
1:00-4:00PM

UPCOMING DOCENT TRAINING SESSIONS

After a two-year break due to the pandemic, we are starting to schedule school tours of the History Center again! Prior to the pandemic every Logan County school district, including West Liberty-Salem, as well as several schools from outside the county, visited the museum and/or took part in the Logan County Landmark field trip or have taken advantage of our traveling programs. In some cases, all three. While not all the schools will take part in the field trips this year, we are very happy we can renew this great relationship with the schools.

Since it has been a couple of years since we have had field trips to the History Center, we decided we should have a training session for our docents/tour guides. Plus, we need more docents and guides for these field trips. We hope some of you reading this article will want to come help or may know someone who would like to be one of our school tour docents. We will be having a **School Group Docent Training Session on Thursday, April 21ST at 10:00AM.**

We need your help so please consider being a school group tour guide.

We will also be having our **“Regular” Docent Training on Wednesday, April 27TH at 6:30PM** for those interested in being docents during the History Center’s normal hours (Wednesday–Sunday 1:00–4:00). We encourage our current and any potential docents to come to this training. We will go over the “nuts & bolts” of how to be docent and then we will divide the docents into teams and go on a scavenger hunt throughout the History Center, so they can learn more about the artifacts and exhibits. It should be lots of fun and even educational!

Please RSVP to either or both docent trainings by calling the office at **(937)593-7557** or email **tmccormick@loganhistory.org**

We need more docents so please bring family and friends who you think would make a great docent!

Upcoming Meetings

APRIL LCHS PROGRAM/MEETING

April 20TH, 2022 | 7:00PM | Mac-A-Cheek Piatt Castle

The Case of the Historic Home

Margaret Piatt will share information and insights gained from an Ohio Humanities funded research project focusing on a cabinet and collection which have been on view in Piatt Castle Mac-A-Cheek since 1916. One result of the project was a publication including articles by two of the consultants and Margaret. She will offer highlights from each article and the research process with scholars, museum educators, local focus groups, and Castle visitors. The project, publication, and this presentation are sponsored by the Mac-A-Cheek Foundation for the Humanities, a nonprofit organization operating all programs at Piatt Castle Mac-A-Cheek.

JUNE LCHS PROGRAM/MEETING

June 15TH, 2022 | 7:00PM | Indian Lake Area Historical Society

For the June 15TH LCHS program we will once again be teaming up with another local historical organization. We will be going to the Indian Lake Area Historical Society and visiting their restored Orchard Island Post Office and then going to their museum. More details will follow on our website www.loganhistory.org and our Facebook page.

2022

Calendar OF Events

APRIL

9TH DAR MEETING

10:30AM AcuSport Room

11TH PIECEMAKERS MEETING

7:00PM AcuSport Room

12TH ATHENIAN CLUB MEETING

7:00PM Transportation Museum

20TH SOCIETY MEETING/PROGRAM

7:00PM Piatt Castle Mac-A-Cheek

21ST SCHOOL GROUP DOCENT TRAINING

10:00AM History Center

24TH FUN, FUNKY & FASCINATING OPEN HOUSE

1:00–5:00PM History Center

25TH YOUNG HISTORIANS MEETING

6:00PM Transportation Museum

27TH DOCENT TRAINING

6:30PM History Center

MAY

1ST–7TH NATIONAL TOURISM WEEK

2ND SCAVENGER HUNT

FREE HOT DOGS

3:00–6:00PM History Center

9TH PIECEMAKERS MEETING

7:00PM AcuSport Rm

10TH ATHENIAN CLUB MEETING

7:00PM Transportation Museum

12TH BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

7:00PM AcuSport Rm

14TH DAR MEETING

10:30AM AcuSport Rm

JUNE

11TH DAR MEETING

10:30AM AcuSport Rm

13TH PIECEMAKERS MEETING

7:00PM AcuSport Rm

14TH ATHENIAN CLUB MEETING

7:00PM Transportation Museum

15TH SOCIETY MEETING/ ILHS PROGRAM

7:00PM Orchard Island Post Office

FUN, FUNKY AND FASCINATING!

THE STORY OF NATIONAL CARNATION DAY

The official flower of Ohio was adopted in 1904 in honor of the 25TH president, William McKinley (1897-1901). William McKinley, an Ohio native, was known as a president who led the country to victory during the Spanish-American War, put protective tariffs in place for American industries, and attempted to keep inflation of silver and gold coins down. Unfortunately, most people remember McKinley for his death, he was assassinated during his second term in 1901.



While McKinley may be remembered for his death, there is a much happier story about McKinley. One of the memorable things about McKinley is that he always wore his favorite flower, a red carnation. He wore the flower on his lapel and loved the flower so much he had them placed around the White House. He believed they brought good luck.

How does this connect to Logan County history? A Bellefontaine native, Lewis Reynolds, found himself in the city McKinley was murdered in a year after the event. In honor of McKinley, Reynolds purchased a pink carnation and placed a black ribbon around it and pinned it to his buttonhole. Other passers-by noticed the flower and ribbon, and when Reynolds returned to Ohio, Ohio politicians planned to make the anniversary of McKinley's birth "National Carnation Day" to honor the former president. On February 3, 1904, the Ohio General Assembly named the scarlet/red carnation as the state flower, in honor of McKinley. Thanks in part to Lewis Reynolds, he helped create a national holiday to honor the former president!



Scan here read about another connection to Logan County and McKinley



Scan here to read more about McKinley and the red carnation

MASTODON'S TOOTH FOUND

Mastodons were elephant-like animals that existed around the early Miocene (23 million to 2.6 million years ago) and lived in various forms through the Pleistocene Epoch (from 2.6 million to 11,700 years ago). Adult mastodons stood about nine feet high at the shoulder and weighed between four and five tons. They are sometimes confused with Woolly Mammoths; however they are quite different. A distinctive characteristic of mastodons was their cone-shaped teeth, caused by their diets. At the Logan County History Center, we are lucky enough to have a few bones from these prehistoric creatures. A femur and jawbone with tooth, as well as an individual tooth are currently on loan and displayed in the Logan County History Center.

Reprinted from an article in the August 9, 1906 West Liberty Banner newspaper.

MASTODON'S TOOTH FOUND

One day last week Eugene Grimes of Monroe township, found a mastodon's tooth in the bed of Mac-A-Cheek Creek on the J.H. Johnson farm. The tooth is an extra large one weighing five pounds and five ounces, and in an excellent state of preservation, the enamel being unbroken and smooth as glass. It is a molar tooth and the conical projections upon the surface are perfect. It is a very rare relic and Mr. Grimes may be able to get a good price for it.



Scan here for image showing difference between a Mastodon vs. Mammoth



Scan here to read an NPS article with images of Mastodon and Mammoth teeth and tusks

Fun, Funky and Fascinating articles written by **Alexis Butterworth**

YOU'VE HEARD OF BIGFOOT... YOU'VE HEARD OF THE LOCHNESS MONSTER... BUT WHAT ABOUT THIS CREATURE SEEN NEAR INDIAN LAKE?

Reprinted from an article in an October 1892 issue of a local newspaper.

A STRANGE BEAST

Two gentlemen from Pittsburgh had rather an extraordinary experience at Indian Lake today. They were wading in the back reservoir in hip boots in quest of duck when they came across a stranded monster something like those spoken of in the Old Testament, only it did not have seven heads. Its head was a cross between a centaur and a bird, having a forehead like a horse and a mouth like a duck, while down its backbone was a sort of an excuse for feathers.

In the excitement of the discovery it made a noise like a duck, only very much louder, and emitted a kind of bloody ooze, in the form of perspiration from its sides.

The boys helped it with poles, while it half helped itself from its position in the mire, and then failed to hold it as it furthered helped itself on more staple ground and into the water.

They report it with six eyes, three on a side, short chubby legs, and eight feet in length, with a girth of about five in the front of the body and three in the back. The boys were very much excited. This is likely what the people were trying to catch in early Spring, when they thought they were after an alligator.

Come read about this creature and other interesting critters at the Fun, Funky, and Fascinating exhibit!



Wissler plane on top of a store in Downtown Bellefontaine

CLARENCE WISSLER: MAN OF FLIGHT AND ESCAPE ARTIST?

Clarence Wissler is a popular figure in the Logan County History Center's Transportation Museum. We have two recreated Wissler planes hanging from the ceiling, as well as images and artifacts from Wissler.

Wissler was born in 1887 to Levi and Sarah Wissler. The Wissler's owned L. & A. Wissler Dry Goods and Carpet House located in downtown Bellefontaine. Clarence had an inquisitive nature, which led to Wissler honing his mechanical skills early in life.

And while we now recognize Wissler as a local aviation pioneer, he took up an unusual career before his pilot years. Wissler became a renowned escape artist and traveled across the U.S.! One of the most famous escape artists, Harry Houdini, was born only 13 years before Wissler and became a

hit during the early 1900s. According to a 1976 Bellefontaine Examiner article, Houdini even performed at the Bellefontaine Opera House! But while Houdini continued this line of work, Wissler found another career path.

In 1915 Clarence Wissler found his true calling in life - human flight. In that year he built a Baby Monoplane on the second floor of his parents' dry goods store. This store was located on south Main Street, where Four Acre Clothing Co., 600 Downtown, and Lofts 110 are today. The Logan County History Center has images of the plane on top of the store!



Scan here to see a Harry Houdini poster currently in the Historic Opera Block



Wissler plane restoration March 8, 2016



Wissler plane restoration March 8, 2016

FUN, FUNKY AND FASCINATING | APRIL 24TH 1:00-5:00PM

FUN, FUNKY *AND* FASCINATING!

THE MYSTERY OF THE BLACK WREATH

There are age-old mysteries that we can never truly explain and may never know the answer to. Logan County has many of these mysteries, but one in particular is very captivating.

Melvin B. Mitchell was born in Galion, Ohio but then moved with his parents to Logan County in the late 1800s. Melvin was employed as a brakeman for the railroad when the Spanish American war began in 1898. The 27-year-old Mitchell enlisted and was stationed at Chickamauga, located in northwestern Georgia, close to the southeastern Tennessee border. Mitchell had a wide circle of friends at Chickamauga and was labeled as an excellent soldier. While Melvin was serving, he unfortunately contracted typhoid fever, which was hard to treat during this time.

Melvin returned to his Bellefontaine home where five of his comrades

from Company F, came to visit him and brought him a brand-new full uniform. Melvin was so touched by their gift that he had his friends take him out of bed and dress him in the uniform. Later he had them hang it in front of his bed so he could admire it.

While Melvin was sick, he only wanted to live long enough “to see the boys come home from the war.” When the visiting members of his company came to his bedside, he thought his prayers had been answered. Melvin passed away peacefully on February 12, 1899, and was laid to rest in his new uniform.

During this time, the practice of mourning was a part of the process when people lost a loved one. Like we still do today at funerals, family and friends wore black clothing. However, during this time people wore black clothing for a longer period of time. One type of fabric that was and is still used today is called crepe. Crepe is “... is a matte, dull, gauze-like fabric that can be layered endlessly and dyed in the deepest of blacks which is emphasized by its matte surface,

without lustre, as desired especially in the first stage of mourning. What makes crepe so distinct is its crimped and almost crisp appearance...” And this fabric plays a part in our story.

After the funeral of Melvin Mitchell, an interesting event occurred. It was reported that “a black satin bow of crepe, yards in length was securely fastened to the door of his bedchamber, and over the crepe a long, bony hand cleverly sketched, in colored chalk pointing upward.” No one knew who or when the black crepe wreath had been placed on the door... and there’s more to the story.



Scan this QR Code to read the rest of the story on our Facebook page



Scan here to read more on mourning fabric and clothing

LOGAN COUNTY HISTORY CENTER

521 East Columbus Avenue
Bellefontaine, OH 43311

www.loganhistory.org
(937)593-7557

History Center Hours
Wednesday–Friday
1:00–4:00PM

Office Hours
Monday–Friday
8:00AM–5:00PM

historycenter@loganhistory.org
tmccormick@loganhistory.org

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

January 2022

Chuck & Diana Gamble
Michael & Mary Ellen Luffy
Warren & Celynn Taylor
Rosilyn Miller
Charles Roberts
Mike Roberts

Rick & Mary Gildow
Mark & Alaina Robinson
Rick & Holly Powers
John Reynolds
Beverly Goff

February 2022

David Ramsey
Linda Kerns

ARTIFACT DONATIONS

Thank You!

Douglas Braden

Photo album of the Logan County Historical Society volunteers, Orr Mansion and Logan County Museum from donor's mother Phyllis, who was a past-president of LCHS and long-time volunteer.

Mick Lile

Sign/cornerstone from the old Logan County Home

Beth & John Marshall

Women's 1960s scarf, The Weight of Words by West Liberty author Sandra Humble Jackson, King and the Cowboy by William Cummins, originally from Lewistown.

Don & Susan Corwin

Mary Rutan Hospital Guild 70TH Anniversary travel mug

Kenny Feasel

Military field telephone

Carl Stonerock

Keystone Moviegraph projector, ca. 1920

Tim & Mary Lyden

A Bicentennial History of West Mansfield and Bokescreek Township 1825-1976

Brad Yoder

Baby cradle used by 5 generations of the Yoder family

Sandy McDonald

Early 1900s photograph of corner of Main Street and Columbus Ave. in Bellefontaine, Combination Atlas Map of Logan County, Ohio 1875 (reprint)

Estate of Sale of Rosa J. Cline

Early 1900s Rushsylvania Record newspapers, misc. newspaper articles, song book

Karen Zahller

Trail of Tears: The Story of the American Indian Removal 1813-1855 and Indian Sign Language

G. Bruce & Louise Norris

TRC Association Membership card & decal, Railroad YMCA stationary, misc. newsletters and papers from local organizations and businesses.

Judy Snyder

1960s ladies clothing

Rachel Kauffman

1940s Nurse's cape of Florence Bucher (nee Yothers)

Loretta M. Kerns

Modern-day area photographs

Robert P. Holderman

Wooden sculptures made by donor of American Indian/Canoe/Settler and a relief carving of the Bickham Bridge

BHS Class of 1967

Wood cut-out of the old Bellefontaine High School building

Other acquisitions

1903 West Liberty Mail Buggy for RFD 2

PLEASE CONSIDER ONE OF OUR GIVING LEVELS:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100-\$499 | Isaac Zane |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500-\$999 | Myeerah |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000-\$4,999 | William Orr |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000-\$9,999 | Phebe Haines Sharp |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000-\$24,999 | Dr. Earl Sloan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25,000 & UP | Simon Kenton |

MEMBERSHIP:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior (55 yrs. and up) | \$15.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student (up to 21 yrs.) | \$15.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$20.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family | \$30.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business | \$50.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Lifetime | \$300.00 |

Donations can be made using PayPal or credit card online by visiting our website at:

www.loganhistory.org

Your donation is tax deductible.

All donations of \$100.00 or more includes a yearly membership.

I am enclosing: \$ _____

Cash Check Card

(Make checks payable to Logan County History Center)

Donations of \$500 and above will go towards the Pillars of History Campaign unless otherwise noted.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State / ZIP Code _____

Home Phone _____

Preferred Email Address _____

Master Card Visa Discover AmEx

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For Master Card, Visa, or Discover, the CID# is the last three digits on the back of your card next to your signature.

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