THE LOGAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER HISTORY MATTERS

Making History Come Alive!

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ORR MANSION ROOF

Summer Issue 2017

The new tile roof is being installed on the Orr Mansion as we put this newsletter together. The sections that have been completed so far are looking great! This has been a major project for us and one that the LCHS board felt we could not put off any longer. We are fortunate that

Ludowici Roof Tile, the company that made the original tiles Mr. Orr used, is still in business and made the tiles for this project as well. The fact they are still in business speaks for the quality of their work.

Obviously, a project this big comes with a big price tag. Lee's Roofing was awarded the project for \$142,900. We have been fundraising throughout the year to help pay for

the roof. Honda of America, Mfg. was very generous in giving us a \$30,000 grant. We have also been fortunate for the philanthropic culture of our members and the people of Logan County who have donated over \$30,000 towards the roof. The board approved to take out a loan to pay for the rest of the roof.

We want to thank Honda of America and all of you who have donated towards the project. A special thank you to the families of Perry Hodies, Dick Ortli and Judy Castle who have allowed us to

use the money donated in memory of these special people to go towards the roof as well.

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LCHC LOGAN COUNT HISTOR 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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Brian Baker	President	
Brian Harmon	Vice-President	
William McCormick	Treasurer	
Nikki Smith	Assistant Treasurer	
Karen Beasley	Recording Secretary	
Pat Ortli Corresponding Secretary		
Dan Bratka Immediate Past President		
Bonnie Hanson	Trustee (2017)	
Mary Mortimer	Trustee (2017)	
Nadine Tussing	Trustee (2017)	
G. Bruce Norris	Trustee (2018)	
Bob Notestine	Trustee (2018)	
Jim DeLong	Trustee (2018)	
Robin Butler	Trustee (2019)	
Doug Chamberlain	Trustee (2019)	

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@loganhistory.org tmccormick@loganhistory.org www.loganhistory.org





President's Message

Hello everyone. As I write this, spring is well underway and summer is just around the corner! It is that busy time of year for all of us... spring planting, clean up, sporting events, vacation planning. The whole museum staff & many of our volunteers are engaged with young visitors from many of the surrounding schools. You may be aware that the Historical Society sponsors trips to the museum and local landmarks to introduce the students to Logan County history thru the many exhibits in the museum & the actual sites where historical events occurred across our county.

Brian Baker

This year has been another exciting adventure with the completion of the restoration & installation of the Bellefontaine built Wissler Biplane! From the foresight of museum members many years ago to acquire the remains of this great piece of Logan County

Aviation history, generous donations of materials, monies, labor & advise from many members of the community and museum members we have checked off another major completed project! I am sure the students will find this a fun and interesting large attraction to check out. Congratulations to everyone!

During the open house for the viewing of the Wissler prior to being "Hoisted into the Rafters" of the Transportation Museum to its long term home, we discovered word had spread in the Aviation Community of the Wissler and our activity to restore it. There was a large number of aviation enthusiasts from across Ohio in attendance as well as many from the local community.

The comments of those in attendance were all overwhelmingly positive and ranged from disbelief that a small community could have such an incredible museum / facility to "this is the first time we've been to the museum" (even though they live just a couple of miles away!)

So this brings me to the topic I have been pondering... how to bring more visitors into the museum. I speak to so many people that have never visited & don't even know where the museum is located. We are always working on ways to invite more folks to visit & re-visit since exhibits are always changing and we have many "Special Events" throughout the year.

So I ask everyone to spread the word... invite your family, friends, neighbors, co-workers. Tell them about the diverse topics that are displayed from period correct furnishings in the Orr Mansion, how the many rooms in the main portion of the museum tell stories of early school classrooms, military exhibits, the development of telephones, radios & televisions thru the years, farming displays, and also the transportation museum with coverage from horse & buggies, railroad up to current Honda products. Also, let them know what's new... including the Wissler hanging overhead in the Transportation Museum and the upcoming exhibit on Logan County Restaurants through the years!

We are looking to increase our presence on Facebook, as it connects so many people regardless of age, where they live now, etc. John McPherson has done a great job posting information to our page "Logan County History Center" thru the years. I recently asked Brian Harmon to help determine how we can get connected to more people thru Facebook & he completed an excellent analysis! We will be moving to implement improvements based on his findings. So again... pass the word & Like us on Facebook!

In closing, if you have suggestions of how to spread the word, please let us know. Stop in, drop an e-mail (historycenter@loganhistory.org attn. Brian Baker) or snail mail. We always value your opinions!

See you @ the History Center... Brian



April Winner: May Winner: **Jim DeLona George Wackerman**

Orr Mansion Roof

ORR MANSION ROOF DONATIONS

November 2016 - June 2017

LCHS/LCHC DONOR LEVELS

<u>Simon Kenton</u> (\$25,000 & up) Honda of America

Dr. Earl Sloan (\$10,000-\$24,999)

<u>Phebe Haines Sharp</u> (\$5,000-\$9,999) Harold & Barbara Marker

<u>William Orr</u> (\$1,000-\$4,999) Dottie Skidmore Dan & Sara Bratka

Myeerah (\$500-\$999)

REO Club of America, Inc. Gene Kress Brian & Angie Harmon Ted & Carol Kneisley David Keller Barb Hodies Logan County Area Chamber of Commerce/Visitors' Bureau

Isaac Zane (\$100-\$499)

Karen Beasley Beaslev Architecture & Design, LTD Joel & Donna Lehman Karen Campbell Randy & Teresa Marker Robert Easterday Rvan & Valerie Kauffman Me & Company Belletech Corp. James & Marjorie Brickley Dwight W. Fawcett Bill & Judy Verbsky Costin Family Practice, Inc. Barbara M. Stoll Jean Leininger Dee & Ron Ricketts Heintz Family Janet L. Nesbit Jon Hubbard Keith & Emily Krieger Orville & Nadine Tussing Todd & Amv McCormick J Scott & Diane Duff Jim & Shirlev King Bob & Dorothy Notestine

North Side Animal Clinic, Inc. David & Janet Rogers Jill Hultin Terry & Terri Schneider Sally Stephan G. Bruce & Louise Norris Michael & Tracy Brady Larry & Ann Bush Athenian Club Dale & Ruth Haning Charles & Leanna George Jeff Lee Family Gloria Daines Alan Galvez Insurance, LTD. Neer's Sand & Gravel, LLC Judith P. & Cvnce Cooper Margie Dunlap William C. Armstrong **Caroline Notestine** John & Jeanne Stout Randy & Terri Schmidt Susan J. Kildow Bill & Karen Montgomery Libby Zimmerman Barbara Stewart Liberty National Bank Mary Beth Stoltz Phelps Farm, LLC Ray & Kris Swisher Mike & Susan Wallace Charles & Chovce Earick Jim & Roseann Reed Dava Rover John & Sandra Aler Pat Rinehart-Irwin Eli Hochstetler/Hochstetler Lumber Patricia A. Allen Village of Quincy Jim & Pat Sebring Marjorie MacGillvray Jim & Susan Wish David & Marna Salmons Mac & Carol Smith American Solutions for Business Alvin & Janet Whitehead Robert & Lois Stoll Robert E. Devore Michael Schlabach Peoples Savings & Loan Co.

<u>In Memoriam Donations</u>

Perry Hodies Jr. Richard (Dick) Ortli Judy Castle

All-Around Accounting, LLC Smith, Smith, Montgomery & Chamberlain, LLC Rodnev Gillman Jim & Tamara Van Ness Community Storage & Properties, Ltd. Gary & Melony Baker Kenneth Peter & Jenneth Boudrow Pollv McCormick Robert & Janice Quay Amish School Group Brad Kunze Glen Miller & Nancy Cozart Nancy Ledley James L. Sack Dick & Nancy Harmon Robert Barnwell Terry Reeder Philip & Betty Jo Black Judy Grubbs Kathy & Evan Dixon Gary & Joyce Downey William B. McCormick Gilbert Misplon Ed & Lucy Post Becky Shill Pat Allen Elaine DeMarsh Kress & Donna Barton Charles Jr. & Rosemary Barton Rita Maier Robert & Elaine Grubbs Carl & Shirley Arledge John & Carol Torrie Brian Baker/HondaGo Volunteer Program Mrs. Charlot Wade

<u>Under \$100</u>

James P. Ellis Emerson Brown Stephen & Deborah Oberdier David & Peggy Dishop Carole Wagner Marg Montgomery Gene & Martha Marine Ron & Roberta Gratz Sharon Holsberry Steven & Martha Marshall Thomas & Wendy Borchelt Orville & Jane Perry Max & Kristine Gehle Jerry & Joanne Ritter William R. Mitchell Bob & Lori Carnes Rose Mary & Jonathan Snyder Sandra L. McDonald Jeff & Elaine King Nelson Barnes David & Debra Allison Dale Sargent Max E. McGowan Pat & Deborah Ellis Marlene Forsythe & Barb Montgomery Charlie Patrick Lu leininger Cherie Horn Nora Myers Ed & Rosilynn Miller Carol E. Wappelhorst Tami & Katie Kerns Margaret A. Wirick Grace B. Martin Marilvn Elliott Michael & Nancy McGinnis Joanne & Jon Fauley Gary & Susan Shields Charles & Mary Temple Joe & Linda Hughes Tim & Mary Lyden Steve Fry Family Michele L. Nichols Tamara Lynne Fleming Steve Wilson & Michelle Smith Phyllis Young Pat Swanson Frank & Judith Bozman Nathan & Becky Weber Kim & Connie Kress Alan & Carol Souza Nora Myers William & Charlene Walter Robert & Carol Maier Ruth J Dodrill Katherine McClure Pete B Lowe III Judi Risner Judy Ostermyer Leon & Judy Snyder Eastern Star Chapter #459

Leave Your Legacy

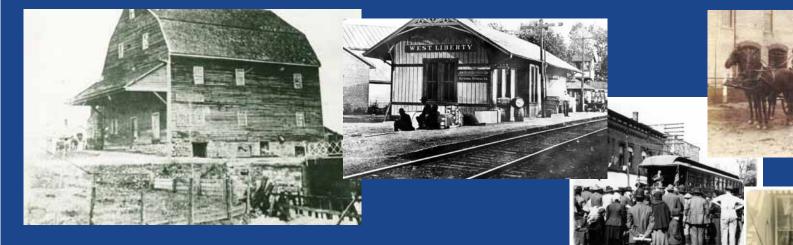
It is never too early to plan ahead and to consider your gift to the Logan County History Center. Whether you think of yourself as rich or poor, or somewhere in between, your gift can make a difference. Even a small amount can have a big impact over time.

If you would like to preserve part of your life forever by sharing with the entire community, please consider donating. If you have any questions please contact Todd at (937) 593-7557 or email at tmccormick@loganhistory.org.

Pre-West Liberty History

West Liberty is Logan County's oldest American village being laid out in 1817, a year before Logan County was officially formed. Over the last two hundred (plus) years West Liberty has witnessed more than its share of interesting history.

West Liberty's rich history goes back much further than 1817. The Shawnee founded three villages in and around the land that now makes up West Liberty – Moluntha's Town, Mackachack and Wapakoneta. These towns were probably founded in the 1760s. The villages were destroyed by Benjamin Logan's Kentucky militia in the fall of 1786 but were rebuilt. American forces once again trekked through West Liberty twenty-five years later as part of General Hull's march through Ohio during the War of 1812.



West Liberty Becomes a Town

The settlers who came to West Liberty after the removal of the American Indians discovered why the Shawnee chose this land for their homes. The area offered several sources of water with the Mad River, Muddy Run and McKees Creek. The network of trails made by the Shawnee and other Indians in the area offered accessibility to the settlers and for trade in and out of the village. Perhaps above all, the land also yielded bountiful crops.

Some of these early settlers to West Liberty included Thomas Baird, John Dunn, Henry Fulton, Samuel Newell, James Walds, Abner Snoddy, Vachal Blaylock and others. Another early settler was John Enoch who built a mill in 1815 that became the commercial center of West Liberty and beyond. Farmers from all over the area brought their grain to Enoch's mill, due in part to the relatively good roads (old Indian trails) that connected West Liberty to surrounding areas.

More merchants soon settled in West Liberty. Hiram M. White owned and operated a store, hotel and tavern, and became active in the young village's politics. Thomas Miller (mill), Ira Reynolds (merchant), R.E. Runkle (merchant), Benjamin Ginn (tailor), John Vaughn (tanner), William Moore and Abner Tharp (wagon makers), along with John Moore and John Williams (blacksmiths) were among West Liberty's earliest businessmen.

West Liberty Thrives, Burns & Thrives again

Throughout much of the 19th century West Liberty rivaled Bellefontaine in terms of commerce. Although the railroad would help make Bellefontaine the commercial and industrial center of Logan County after the Civil War, the railroad also helped West Liberty. The Mad River & Lake Erie Railroad reached West Liberty in 1849. The MR & LE furthered West Liberty as a prosperous trading center, especially in grain and stock by connecting the town to many markets.

The Interurban or electric railroad also influenced the growth and popularity of West Liberty. The Urbana, Bellefontaine & Western Company completed a line through West Liberty in the early 1900s and then were bought out by the Ohio Electric Railroad (OER) and later

by the Cincinnati & Lake Erie Railroad. With trains going upwards of 90 mph, the Interurban allowed residents in West Liberty to hop on the train and get to neighboring towns like Bellefontaine or Urbana or even larger cities like Springfield and Lima in a matter of minutes and the same for visitors to West Liberty. West Liberty thrived as a small town. However, on May 13, 1880, disaster struck the village when a fire destroyed a block of the downtown. Despite the efforts of many residents who formed a bucket brigade, the fire could not be contained. Fire departments from Bellefontaine and Urbana came to the aid of West



Liberty, but many downtown buildings and businesses were destroyed in the fire. After the fire, it was decided the village needed its own fire engine. Although it took eight years, West Liberty had its first fire engine in service in 1888. (Learn more about the history of West Liberty fires and fire departments in the Fire Engine Bay in the Logan County Transportation Museum.)

West Liberty recovered from the 1880 fire. Buildings were rebuilt and businesses reopened. In 1903 West Liberty took a big step towards modernization when Jacob Anstine put a dynamo or generator in the basement of the Enoch Mill. After the mill closed in the evening the water wheel shifted from turning the gears of the mill to turning the generator that in turned produced electricity to give light to the residents of West Liberty.

By its centennial, West Liberty had a population around 1,300. The most recent census shows West Liberty's population at 1,781. It continues to be a thriving village with a number of eclectic shops that are popular with local residents as well as people from Logan County and beyond. In the last couple of decades West Liberty has undergone a revitalization and beautification with new lampposts, signage and brick sidewalks.

West Liberty is proud of its history. Currently, the West Liberty Historical Society is in the process of restoring the village's Town Hall and Opera House. West Liberty will honor and recognize its rich history with a special bicentennial celebration July 6th – 9th, 2017.

Bicentennial 1817-2017



alendar of Events

JULY			
04 History Center CLOSED for Independen			
07 Christmas Committee Meeting	1:30 pm		
08 Building Committee Meeting	8:30 am		
08 DAR Meeting 10:30 am Pres. Rm			
10-16 Visit our booth at the LOGAN COUNTY FAIR!			
12 Ribbon Cutting for Replica Concrete Str			
13 Trustee Meeting	7:00 pm		
15 Family Reunion- Private	12:00 noon Pres. Rm		
26 Genealogy Board Meeting	6:00 pm Pres. Rm		
27 Dorothy Love Seniors Tour	1:00 pm History Center		
AUGUST			
05 Building Committee	8:30 am		
05 BHS Class of 1957 Reunion in Atrium	0.50 am		
05 Buckeye Local Class of 1967 Tour	1:00-4:00 pm		
12 DAR Meeting	10:30 am Pres. Rm		
12 Faith Baptist Church Tour	1:00 pm		
14 Piecemakers Meeting	7:00 pm Pres. Rm		
16 Society Meeting w/Dr. Graber	7:00 pm 7:00 pm		
24 Senior Center Tour	10:30 am		
	10.50 am		
SEPTEMBER			
02 NO Building Committee Meeting- Labor Day Weekend			
04 History Center CLOSED for Labor Day			
09 DAR Meeting	10:30 am Pres. Rm		
11 Piecemakers Meeting	7:00 pm Pres. Rm		
14 Trustee Meeting	7:00 pm		
27 Genealogy Board Meeting	6:00 pm Pres. Rm		
OCTOBER			
06 Society Office CLOSED for Staff Confere	nce		
07 Building Committee	8:30 am		
09 Piecemakers Meeting	7:00 pm Pres. Rm		
14 DAR Meeting	10:30 am Pres. Rm		
14 Genealogy Meeting	4:00 pm		
16-24 Museum CLOSED- KidFest Decorating/Undecorating			
18 Society Meeting w/Janet Blank 7:00 pm			
to bolicely meeting w/bunce bidlik	7.00 pm		

Society Meeting w/Janet Blank 18 1:00-3:00 pm

21 Halloween KidFest



Admission: 1 non-perishable food item per person to go to Logan County Food Banks

KidFest Fun & Trick-or-Treat 1:00-3:00 **Activities including:** ~ Lots of Games & Activities & Spooky Museum Trick-or-Treat ~

Michael Griffin Escape Artist/Magician 3:00-3:45



America's Escape Hero, Michael Griffin

Michael is the only performer in the World that combines his "intensely original magic and impossible escapes", featuring almost 100% audience interaction.

To learn more about Michael Griffin, go to www.escapeguy.com

Escape and Magic Show with

Kids' Costume Contest at 3:45 Costume Contest Categories: Scariest, Cutest, Most Original, Best Overall



August 16, 2017, 7:00 p.m. _

Dr. Harry L. Graber of West Liberty will be the speaker for the Wednesday, August 16th Society Membership meeting. Dr. Graber will talk about his recently published book The Making of a Physician: This Was My Calling. Dr. Graber founded the cardiology department at Mary Rutan Hospital and taught at the Ohio State University. In his book Dr. Graber discusses how genetic and environmental factors influenced his decision to become a doctor and how they directed him in his decisions throughout his career and even how he served his patients as a physician. The book also includes passages by some of Dr. Graber's fellow physicians and doctors he influenced and mentored in the medical field, many of whom practiced and lived in Logan County.

The meeting will begin at 7:00 pm in the AcuSport Meeting Room in the Transportation Museum. Light refreshments will be served.

October 18, 2017, 7:00 p.m. _

Janet Akey Blank will be the speaker at the October Historical Society Membership Meeting. Janet will tell us about her new book, The History of East Liberty, Ohio- One Small Town with Big Character. It is a pictorial history covering 1803 to the present that includes hundreds of photos with captions. Chapter topics included are business, hunting, trapping & fishing, military, landmarks, sports, people, farms & families, events, pride, and interviews with local people.

The meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 18th at 7:00 p.m. in the AcuSport Meeting Room.

We hope you can join us for an evening of local, down home history!

Light refreshments will be served.



June 8, 2017

Don & Susan Corwin Rushsylvania Class of 1936 photo, IOOF necktie

March 8, 2017

Virginia Gregg Lunch pail, tin measuring cup, wooden pull sled

Bruce & Louise Norris Presidential campaign buttons, Bellefontaine Sesquicentennial ribbon, Blue Jacket Festival ribbon, Mayor Richard Vicario Celebration program

> **Eva Godsey** Warranty Deed William Jacobs to Elsie Short, 1936

Betty Hall Book Logan County, Ohio (Logan County Genealogical Society, 1982)

Jeff Huber Shoe Fitting X-Ray machine used at Coulter Shoe House

> Robert M. Blue framed 1919 Logan County Road Map

W. Mark & Jeff Vernon Quincy High School letterman sweater, late 19th/early 20th women's bodices, Dr. A.M. Curl ledger (1916)

> **Billy J. Gay** Early 1900s DeGraff Buckeye newspapers, 1880s-1900s Bellefontaine newspapers

Jay & Kathy King Candy thermometer and powdered sugar sifter from Marie's Candies

> Max & Alicia Wilkins old alarm clock

Monty & Rita Forsythe Check book from The Farmers Bank Lewistown, Ohio

> **Jody Nolin** Kimono or Happi coat

Nikki Smith Her aunt's 1937 Ohio Driver's License

Vince Wallace 1960s Indian Lake brochure, "Midge" Barbie doll, Topo Gigio bobblehead, household items

Steve Marine BHS sports & musical programs, BHS Hi-Life school newspapers

> **Charlotte Potter** Book of Bible verses carried during the Civil War

Ron Pusey West Liberty-Salem High School stadium cushion

OSU-Lima Library photocopy of 1863 letter written by William Sullivan of Bellefontaine

Elaine DeMarsh Lady's hat, photos of LCHS events, exhibits, programs, etc.

Perry Hodies III Framed pictures of the additions to the DeGraff School and the Quincy School by Glendale Zell and Hadley Studios.

Ralph Wood Alaskan Pipeline items from when he did work for the pipeline (on loan)

LOGAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY WELCOMES YOU!

City_____State _____Zip _____

Email

Christmas decorating of museum

____ Building Committee volunteer

_____ Programs Committee volunteer

Christmas Open House docent/volunteer

Halloween KidFest

ALL MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE JANUARY 1ST!

Address

I can help with (check as many as apply):

NEW MEMBER _____

Adult Tours docent

Student Tours docent

Req. Open Hours tours docent

Young Historians Club assistant

Open House docent/volunteer

Name

Phone ____

RENEWAL

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

Docent Committee volunteer

_ Fundraising 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 **17**, *you are paid up for 2017!*

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521 E. Columbus Ave. Bellefontaine, OH 43311

BELURN SERVICE REQUESTED

