

MUSEUM MUSES

Telling Highland County's story for over 50 years!

THE MUSEUM SHOP! YOUR BOOK SOURCE...AND MORE!

A WORD FROM OHIO HUMANITIES

When I joined Ohio Humanities as Executive Director in 2021, I began working with our team to identify untold and untold stories that we could amplify in ways that would encourage meaningful discourse among Ohioans. I was soon introduced to the story of the Lincoln School Marchers and the important role that Hillsboro played in the movement to desegregate America's schools and the overall fight for Civil Rights for Black Americans. I was transfixed. In December, a team from Ohio Humanities met with Kati Burwinkel, members of the Highland County Historical Society and a group of women who, as children, participated in



the two-year long civil rights effort to integrate Hillsboro's elementary schools. During this meeting we discussed how Ohio Humanities could support efforts to ensure that this story is known, embraced and understood by every Ohioan.

Beginning in 2022, Ohio Humanities

will work with Lincoln School alumni and the Highland County Historical Society to preserve and more deeply explore aspects of the Lincoln School story and the impact it had – and continues to have – on Hillsboro, Ohio and the broader United States. We are working to update and prepare for broad distribution the documentary film, Lincoln School Story, which is currently on display at the Historical Society and are exploring other ways in which we can tell this incredible story, including a children's book, an article in the Smithsonian Institution's Folklife Magazine and a student discussion guide for the film.

I am grateful to the Highland County Historical Society for being on the vanguard of preserving this story and for their partnership as we work with the Lincoln School Alumni and Marchers to better understand how their experiences changed our country. I look forward to

spending more time in Hillsboro in the coming months and to continuing to develop the relationships that will bring this story to life in a new way.

Rebecca Asmo
Executive Director
Ohio Humanities

TAKE A RIDE ON THE SHORT LINE



The C&C (Cincinnati & Columbus Traction Company, also known as Hillsboro Short Line and Swing Line) operated from Norwood to Hillsboro from 1906 to 1920. It was a standard gauge system constructed by the Cincinnati & Columbus Traction Company, 1905-1907. It was abandoned east of Owensville in 1919 and then completely in 1920.

It was 53 miles long and came into Hillsboro, circled the court house, stopping at the station on Court Street, then making the return trip. It opened on 22 April 1906.

The company never proved profitable enough to pay a dividend and the property was so badly damaged in the flood of 1913 that the company applied for voluntary receivership. The line experienced a very bad 1918 when it posted a loss of \$21,036 (\$388, 403 in 2022).

Application for abandonment was filed in 1919 and was granted. There was a push by local residents to save the business, but it was not to be. (continued on page 7)



NEWS ITEMS

RENEWING MEMBERS

2021-22 TRUSTEES

- Tara Beery
- Sue Boatman
- Bob Brown
- Sue Honeycutt
- Denny Kirk, Chair
- Jean McKenzie
- Leslie Ramsey
- Steve Roush
- Earl Smith
- Brenda Thompson
- John Willis
- Nancy Wisecup

Society Officers

President: Sandy Shoemaker
 Vice President: Steve Faris

DIRECTOR: VICKI KNAUFF

Historian: Jean Wallis
 Newsletter Editor: John Glaze

Mission

The mission of Highland County Historical Society is to encourage community involvement in the preservation, education and promotion of Highland County history and genealogy for the benefit of all people for present and future generations.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Larry & Rosanne Brubaker
 Carla Dedden

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS:

Nancy Axmacher
 Charles & Judy Ellis
 John & Phyllis Knechtly
 Steve & Rita Neago
 Jane Stowers
 Larry & Carolyn Taubenheim

DONATIONS FOR THE FRIENDS OF GREENWOOD (FOG) PROJECT

Anon
 Lisa Barnhouse
 John Glaze
 Don & Carolyn Hastings
 Roger & Melissa Smith

MEMORIALS

Wendell & Freda Harewood remembers
 Bernard & Harriett Harewood
 Elsie Young.

Midge Ridge honors her friend,
 Pamela Nickell.

CONDOLENCES to these members who lost loved ones recently:

Julie Rittenhouse Bolender Family
 Judge Rocky Coss Family
 John & Phyllis Knechtly Family
 Dale & Myra Phillips Family



- Bill & Carlene Alexander
- Avery Applegate
- Donna Armstrong
- Mark & Brenda Armstrong
- Nancy Axmacher
- Sue Bennett
- Lee & Betty Bishop
- Brad & Tara Boatman
- Ken & Sue Boatman
- Rob & Susan Bright

Bob Brown - HERITAGE

- Cheryl Bucholtz
- Callie Cearley
- Bob & Becky Creamer
- Dwight & Betty Crum
- Connie Cummings
- Richard & Paulette Donley - HERITAGE**
- Charles & Judy Ellis
- Rosalind Engle
- Jim & Karen Faust
- Jean Fawley
- Mary Fetro
- Betty Fox
- Deanna Flinn
- Helen Ford
- Mick & Sandy Ford
- Richard & Nancy Graves
- Don & Carolyn Hastings - HERITAGE**
- Frank & Becky Hedges - CORPORATE**
- Joyce Holt
- Orson & Judy Hornsby
- Tom & Maggi Horst - HERITAGE**
- Amy Huebner
- John & Phyllis Knechtly
- Bob & Cathy Jones
- Patricia Kelch
- John & Carolyn Kellis
- Joyce Kittrell
- Tim & Deb Koehl
- John & Kathy Levo - HERITAGE**
- David Mayer
- Helen McDermott
- Steve & Rita Neago - HERITAGE**
- Elizabeth Odland - HERITAGE**
- Judy Pelfrey
- Jim & Kay Payton
- Shawn Priest
- Roxanna Roberts - HERITAGE**
- Jim & Carol Rooney - HERITAGE**
- Midge Rose - HERITAGE**
- Judy Roush
- Steve & Helen Roush
- Harold & Judy Schmidt
- Tim & Sandy Shoemaker - HERITAGE**
- J. E. Smith
- Ann Siddons - PRESERVATIONIST**
- Sherry Smithson
- Wendell & Joyce Sparks - HERITAGE**
- Jane Stowers
- John & Virginia Studebaker - HERITAGE**
- Larry & Carolyn Taubenheim - HERITAGE**
- Alice Teeters
- Jeremy & Lori Tuttle
- Janis Vosper - HERITAGE**
- Judy Wilcher
- Everett Willis
- David Wirth
- Barb Zumwalde & Dave Tourtelot
- Dale & Elissa Zornes

WHO AM I?



If you guessed
JUDY FRANKLIN
 for last issue's
 mystery child,
 you were correct!

Who is this little lady?
 (Answer next issue)

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!



A nice crowd showed up on New Year's Eve to ring out the old year and ring in the new year! The old C. S. Bell Company Bell rang pure and clear and (hopefully) woke up the neighbors! (You know what a bunch of rowdies the historical society members can be!)

2021 ACQUISITIONS

More than 5,000 items have been cataloged in the Past Perfect software program. There are probably another 4,000 to be done. Not every item brought to the Highland House can be accepted. If an item is not in display condition, it cannot be sent to storage because of limited storage and therefore cannot be accepted. Newspapers are very difficult to preserve as they become brittle and fall apart. The same applies to clothing. Old fabrics fall apart and cannot be sewn back together.

We try to rotate the displays so there are always many items in storage. A box and tissue paper to store one item can range from \$10 to \$20. This is due to common cardboard has a high acid content and therefore is not suitable for storing goods, nor in reframing pictures, etc.

Thanks to the following who generously donated these items to our collection during the past year:

French Haviland & Co. Limoges China
– Judy Bennett Hornsby

Daniel Llords Marionettes – Bob Nickell

Daniel Llords Marionettes – Scott Rogers

Silver pieces – Kay Brown Payton

Three heirloom quilts and Grandfather
Clock – Jane Henry Applegate

Campaign memorabilia – Donna Fite

Miscellaneous items from VietNam
Moving Wall – Veteran's Services

Buford High School programs, etc. –
Bob Hodson

Set of Depression glassware, Patrician
(Spoke) pattern - John Glaze

Bells Opera House items – Tara Beery

Lace tablecloth – Kathy Levo

Miscellaneous items from Japan (from
Weastec officials) and Chad
Shelton

Many books, photos and yearbooks

We appreciate each and every donation!

FOG

Friends of Greenwood

FOG is planning for better weather! Right now we have been concentrating on ordering supplies and equipment for our work restoring, repairing and respecting the graves of Greenwood Cemetery (aka Hillsboro Cemetery). What does that involve? We will be getting equipment to safely lift stones for the purpose of straightening them. Then cleaning will take place to restore them to the beauty of the natural stone. We have many, many stones which are broken and will be repairing these. There is certainly a place for YOUR talents. Go to the HCHS website, click on the FOG link and sign up to be on our email list so you'll know when we will be working.

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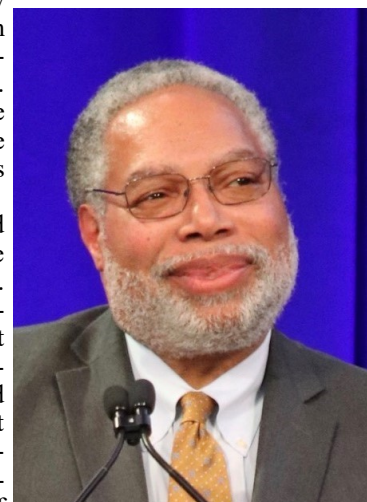


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AFRICAN AMERICAN BURIAL GROUNDS NETWORK ACT

On Tuesday, January 25, 2022, Historical Society members John Glaze and Kati Burwinkel participated in an invitational webinar hosted by Senator Sherrod Brown and Smithsonian Museum Secretary Lonnie Bunch. The webinar was to discuss the African American Burial Grounds Network Act. The Act authorizes the Department of Interior, (the National Park Service), to conduct a thorough look at African American burial grounds across the county. This would allow experts to coordinate research efforts, create a national database, and offer grant funding. The initiative would provide grants and technical assistance to local communities, such as



Lonnie Bunch

ours, to recover and preserve these sites.

During the research for Black History of Highland County, authors Kati Burwinkel, Myra Phillips, and John Glaze became aware of the early Black Settlement of Hansborough. William Hansborough, a white plantation owner in Virginia, began purchasing land in Highland County as early as 1825. Most of the land was in northern Liberty and southern Penn Townships. His son, Peter, a mulatto moved here with his wife and child and other former slaves to the land located off of Wright Road. Once the home of approximately 100 people, the settlement had log homes, a school, church, and cemetery. That cemetery is all that is left of Hansborough and it now sits in grove of trees on private property. Past references to the cemetery note that it is in poor condition.

Cemeteries tell the stories of our past. Access would allow professional archeologists, such as the Columbus based Institute for Research and Learning in Archeology and Bioarcheology, to do a non-invasive study of the cemetery with hand held ground radar to note the number of graves and help restore any graves or stones. This would be at no cost. Most unfortunately, however, permission to enter the property has not been able to be obtained.



Senator Sherrod Brown

Highland County also has the Gist Settlement cemetery that would benefit from this legislation. Several county cemeteries had Black only sections that may also be included. Kati Burwinkel and John Glaze will continue to work with this new legislation in hopes of getting what is needed to preserve this part of our county's history.

Photo credit (L Bunch) by Fuzheado - Own work, CC0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=100327399>; (S Brown) Public Domain Dedication

CALLING FOR PHOTOS!

Tara Beery is researching education in Hillsboro for a future book. She plans to focus on the women's colleges, but am also looking into the public schools. Looking for any photos of the schools, playgrounds, etc. Not just the older photos—she also wants 1950-2000 time period. Recent history needs to be preserved too! Your photos will be scanned and returned unharmed. We can also scan from photo albums without removing the photos if they are permanently attached. We will just request a release signed with permission to use your photos.

THE WOMEN OF HIGHLAND COUNTY

Providing Healing

Promoting Hope

Presented by Debbie Williams

Tuesday, March 22 - 7:00pm

Highland House Museum

Free and open to the public.

(please wear a mask)



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SNEAK PEAK! TARA BEERY'S NEXT BOOK

That's right! Here you have a sneak peak at a book currently being written about Doc Roberds of Belfast. Ed.

On Monday morning, October 7, 1901, thirty-nine year old C. C. Tharr left his home on the Wildwood Road, south of Belfast, with a wagon pulled by a two horse team. He was heading to Hillsboro to pick up a load of phosphate to spread on his fields. Tharr returned to Belfast between five and six o'clock that evening. His thirteen year old son, John Edgar, had been waiting for him in the village for about a half hour with a third horse, which would be needed to haul the wagon over an especially difficult stretch of the rough road leading to the Tharr home. Before leaving Belfast, Tharr went into F. J. Kelly's store to get a match to light his pipe.

It was a slow journey. Jarred by the bumpy ride, the bags of phosphate kept threatening to slide off the side of the wagon and Tharr had to stop frequently to rearrange the load. Dusk soon dissolved into full, dark, night.

They crossed Brush Creek via the covered bridge below Belfast. Once across, Tharr and Edgar paused to hitch the third horse onto the team, as they were approaching the challenging section of road known as Bee Run Hill. Edgar then rode the lead horse while his father

sat on the wagon atop the bags of phosphate.

Tharr's wife, Alice, and his sixteen year old daughter, Pearl, could hear the wagon as it made the short but steep descent from Bee Run Hill, which was about a quarter of a mile



Doc Roberds c. 1905

away from the Tharr home. The wagon then came to an unexpected stop near a ditch on the right, or north, side of the road that was opposite Harrison A. Frazer's fence. Both women heard Tharr snap, "Edgar, can't you keep that horse in the road?"

Just after Tharr said this, a single gunshot rang out from the right side of the road, near his location. At the sound, Edgar turned to his right to look back at the wagon and he heard his father say, "Oh!" At the same time, the three horses bolted in surprise at the sudden crack of gunfire. As the wagon sped along, Edgar heard his

ASSASSINATED.

Wm. Tharr Quarrelled with his Neighbors All Around, and was Pierced by a Bullet, Through and Through.

He First Said he Didn't Know who Did it.—But, Before Death Made a Statement that he Recognized Henry Hart by the Flash of the Gun.

father exclaim, "Somebody shot me back there!"

A doctor was summoned, and, after examining Tharr and finding he was shot in the lower abdomen, Dr. T. W. Roberds announced that the case was hopeless. In those pre-surgery days, there simply was no treatment for a gut shot. C. C. Tharr was going to die, and it was going to be a slow, painful death.

After lingering about 34 hours, Tharr died.

The shooter remains unknown 120 years later. The list of suspects included everyone who lived south of Belfast, and maybe everyone who had ever met the ill-tempered, combative farmer. Just before he died, Tharr suddenly claimed the muzzle flash from the shot had revealed his young neighbor, Henry Hart. This accusation led to two separate murder trials with three defendants, but no answer was ever found to the question of who laid in wait and murdered C. C. Tharr and the case was soon forgotten.

The Tharr murder is one of eight suspicious deaths

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formally investigated by legendary Belfast physician, Dr. T. W. Roberds, when he was Highland County Coroner in 1900 and 1901. The other cases include a worker who got caught in the machinery at Bell's Foundry, a purposeful morphine overdose by a determined young

CRUSHED BY COGS.

Henry Puckett Meets With a Fatal Accident at the C. S. Bell Company's Foundry.

Lived Half an Hour But Did Not Regain Consciousness—Carried \$3000 Life Insurance in the Woodmen—Funeral Wednesday.

34 lady, a woman who killed her illegitimate, inter-racial baby, a nighttime hit and run by carriage, a tragic shooting accident, the electrocution of the tallest man in Highland County, and an elderly gentleman whose efforts to recover his runaway horse proved fatal.

An exploration of these cases, a discussion of Dr. Roberds' life and service, and the full transcription of Dr. Roberds' case files will be presented in **The Coroner Record of Dr. T. W. Roberds, 1900-1901.** This book will be available for purchase sometime later this year at the Highland House Museum Shop.

TIRED OF LIFE,

SO SHE WENT OUT OVER THE MORPHINE ROUTE.

Suicide of Miss Dora Juillard at the Clifton House Last Wednesday Night.

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Busy time ahead for Historical Society build projects!

As rough as the past two years have been for everyone, the Society has to count its blessing for the generosity of our membership and partners. There are four major projects needing attention.

1. The completion of the window replacement project at the museum
2. The remodeling of the three storage rooms / furnace area on the 2nd floor of the museum
3. The brick facade work on the east and west walls above the second floor
4. The renovation of the Peelle Law office building (made possible with a major donation from Bob and Dorothy Hodson) for Society purposes.

The windows have been in the works for over a year. The Building and Grounds Committee utilized \$10,000 of the final funds in the five-year capital campaign to purchase windows for the east side. We conducted a fundraiser a year ago and raised the funds to install those and enough more that we looked for ways to also do the windows on the front side, completing the project.

A grant application was presented to the South Central Power Company Foundation and we were awarded a \$10,000 grant for the nine additional windows. So, with raised funds and the grant, the committee met with Tira Builders this past fall and that project has been scheduled for completion by Brad Tira and his crew this spring.

The renovation of the storage areas on the second floor of Highland House Museum has been a serious need for decades. It just never was in the top priorities for funding. John Glaze, member, newsletter editor and museum shop manager, and museum archivist, made sure we would accomplish this project with a generous \$18,000 donation that was earmarked for the renovation. Thank you John for your long-time dedication to the society. A contract has been let with local contractor, Joel Morris and he should be starting that project in early February with the intention of completion well before the museum opens in May.

The third project is the needed work to rebuild the brick parapet walls including the four chimneys on the east and west ends of the museum building. The Board approved a request to the State Capital Bill for that work. We know the Society has the support of Senator Peterson and Representative Wilkin and the hope is that we can get some funds to finally shore up the outside layer of those walls.

Finally, the purchase of the Peelle Law Building beside the museum offers the Society a very exciting opportunity to create new spaces there and free up additional space needed for displays in the Highland House Museum. The Buildings and Grounds and Executive Committees met with Darin Schweickart of DS2 Architects for design work and those drawing were completed in time to include partial funding from the State Capital budget this fall. The majority of funding has been identified locally for start date of later in 2022. The news space will hold the Society library, ar-

chival areas, office for the Director, work areas, and a public meeting room, all of which will allow for more displays in the museum. Acquiring that property also secured the entire parking lot in the back under Society ownership. This work is being funded by additional monies provided by Bob & Dorothy Hodson as well as a \$25,000 matching grant from John Glaze. The Board was able to carve out funds to meet the match of \$25,000.

All of this proposed work has taken considerable time, energy and benevolence to get to this place. The Board, working committees, and the entire membership expresses thanks to all that helped. The work completed over the past five years and these project combined has brought the Society light years ahead of where we were in 2015 when the planning for these initiative began. Thank You!

John Kellis
Finance Chair &
Capital Campaign Chair

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

We may be a bit late in our wishes, but due to weather and renovations, we were not able to open in February. However, we wanted you to see the beautiful dining room decorations created and designed by Vicki Knauff and Helen Ford. Thanks ladies!



2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS! - HOW WE DID IT!

We seldom think about the small accomplishments as they come our way, but when we look back, in retrospect, we can see that much was accomplished during another year of Covid-19. These accomplishments are not achieved by one person, but rather by the many, working together in harmony to surpass goals.

MAINTENANCE

Trees & stumps removed at Highland House
Garage at Highland House razed
New door built and installed at Carriage House
Parlor floor repaired
Downspouts at Scott House replaced
Passed Building & Fire Inspections

ADMINISTRATION

Several forms updated
Developed brochure on Cabin History
Cataloged about 400 items
Displays rotated
\$10,000 Grant received for window project from South Central Power
Received 2 Covid grants totaling \$18,000

LIBRARY

Labelling every folder in files.
Pictures divided into people

(identified) or places. Items relating to specific families are in labeled folders. In genealogy, goal is to file every article for easy retrieval. Files are created for schools, townships, churches, etc.

EVENTS

St. Patrick's Day Brunch
Children's Spring Tea
Yard Sale
Appraisal Day
Pioneer Day
Hall of Fame Induction
Log Cabin Cookout & Auction
Ghost Walk
Annual Meeting
Veterans Appreciation Night
Veterans Day Ceremony
Christmas Open House
Merry Mercantile Record Setting Year!
Hosted five holiday parties
Lincoln School Project presentation
Book signings for 5 local authors
New Year's Eve bell ringing

PROJECTS

Lincoln School Project continues with Ohio Humanities
Friends of Greenwood (FOG) Project adopted
Reading Room at Scott House expanded

Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does.

William James

You've taken a look at all that HCHS has achieved in the past year. Quite a list of accomplishments! Now, as promised in the title, here's how we did it!

The secret: through the efforts of many! In 2021 we had over 50 volunteers perform the activities necessary to guarantee our success!

We have only one paid employee, our always forward-moving Director. Our volunteers work year round to plan and complete activities on behalf of the historical society. The accomplishments you read about in the preceding article were all fueled by our volunteers who make sure the job is completed.

The volunteer movement begins with our Director, Vicki Knauff. Vicki is designated as a part-time director, however you wouldn't know it! Vicki is the only employee of HCHS. She works countless hours on a huge variety of

activities needed to keep our doors open to the public. She coordinates our day-to-day functions, plans our special events, oversees the administrative functions that come with running a non-profit organization, assures that our community connections runs smoothly...all while keeping an exhaustive schedule to keep things going. Vicki has been tele-commuting since she took the position!

One of Vicki's major obsessions is entering information about all items retained by the historical society into a computer program so that information about each item can be easily accessed when needed. Thus far she has entered over 5000 items into the system. Each item is photographed and descriptive information such as when and who donated the item is entered. Talk about time consuming! She is a woman on a mission!

Many long-term volunteers spend a significant amount of time supporting Vicki in coordination (continued page 8)



Go Green in 2022! St. Patrick's Day Brunch

March 20, 2022 - 11:00—1:00

MENU

Ham	Biscuits & Gravy
Irish Potatoes	Egg Casserole
Mint Brownies	Coffee & Juice

Reservations needed

Call Highland House at 937-393-3392
or Jean Fawley at 937-763-2657

before March 15, 2022. Museum will be open for touring. Come & Enjoy!

DONATIONS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED

MOTHER/DAUGHTER SPRING TEA

April 24, 2022 - 2:00 p.m.
Highland County Historical Society
will host a

Spring Tea for Girls
(age 5 and up)

** Tea * Stories * Games **
** Food * Fun **

Seating is limited.
Please call 937-393-3392 to pick up form. Cost is \$10.00 per person.

Money is due at time of registration.
Deadline to register is April 18.



MUSEUM MUSES

HOW? *(continued)*

dinating the major functions of HCHS. These volunteers spend many hours each month performing tasks such as building and grounds maintenance, managing the museum shop, overseeing finances and exploring funding opportunities, planning special events (including food preparation when required) organizing and maintaining our library/archives and newspaper collection, composing our quarterly newsletter, and handling social media activities. As an organization, we are so fortunate to have volunteers who have enjoyed diverse careers and we are able to take advantage of specific skills our volunteers bring to us. You will learn more about these folks in future newsletters.

Our Board is comprised of members who bring a variety of career capabilities to the historical society. Our common passion is to assure that the history of Highland County is available to our community and preserved for future generations. All Board members are active and generous in volunteering time throughout the year. When there is a special event, a "clean up" day or some other need, our board members (and their families) are there to help out.

In 2021, we had over 50 volunteers contribute their time to our cause. We have volunteers who maintain our paper archives and newsletter collection, who decorate the museum and help with exhibits, who make certain our properties are in good repair (and fix the problem when they are not), who make sure that our finances are secure. We are also fortunate to many volunteers who make history their passion. This is evident in the information and books that are published each year, sharing valuable information with our community.

Highland House Museum was open on Friday and Saturday afternoons, May

through December in 2021. Multiple volunteers are required whenever we are open to serve as greeters, to assist visitors and to operate the museum shop. We are fortunate to have several folks who volunteer on a regular once a month schedule to help out when we are open. In November and December, Highland House opened extended hours to accommodate the Merry Mercantile Gift Shop. Many more volunteers stepped up to work the additional hours.

We are so fortunate to have a roster of volunteers who are energetic, social and great at greeting our visitors from near and far. Volunteering is an enjoyable experience and an opportunity to spend time visiting with other volunteers and visitors. It is a rare week when we don't have visitors from out of our county and often, out of our state! It is always enjoyable to meet new visitors and learn what brings them to our community. It's not unusual to find that volunteers and visitors identify folks they both know, bringing to mind the phrase "it's a small world!" It's very clear that the Highland County Historical Society would not function without our army of volunteers! So many thanks are for your service!

If you would like to contribute your time to help HCHS, we will welcome you. As indicated, volunteering comes in all shapes and sizes. For more information, please contact Highland County Historical Society at (937) 393-3392 (leave a message) or email us at hchistoricalsocie ty@gmail.com.

Sue Honeycutt

Volunteer
Coordinator

DANVILLE'S DISGRACE

The following is from newspaper articles which appeared in The Highland Weekly News and Hillsborough Gazette in the summer of 1880. The articles are shown in their entirety in the book, Black History of Highland County by Kati Burwinkel, Myra Cumberland Phillips, and John Glaze.

It was reported on 29 July 1880 that a group of Ku Klux Klansmen attacked a group of Black Christians attending a week-long religious camp in Danville. On Friday night, KKK members, fueled by hatred and alcohol, made their way to Danville from Hillsboro and began a fight with church members using "clubs, billies, and loaded canes." The church group eventually were able to run off the attacking men.

On Saturday, the paper reported that Gus and Bill Dickman of Danville, and Jake White, Frank Manker and Bill Egging of Hillsboro "paraded the streets until after dark, and made threats that they were going to Danville to clean out the camp meeting." After drinking in a local bar, the men went to the camp after 10 pm when most of the church members were in bed. A crowd of about 40-50 people showed up at the camp to also make threats. The crowd began throwing rocks at the church crowd and despite Rev. Clark's efforts to calm the crowd, the gang began firing guns. In about 5 minutes 50 to 75 shots were fired but the KKK group suffered the most injuries with Bill Dickman shot in the stomach, Frank Manker shot in the head, Jake White beaten and Bill Egging bit on the back of

the head. None of the church group reported injuries.

News of the fight spread through the county like wildfire. The paper states that "many good citizens expressed their regret that the roughs were not all killed outright." On Sunday, however, the roughs gathered once again in Danville to wait for the church group to break camp and head home. As the wagons came into Danville, the roughs saw the church people were armed with double barrel shotguns. The first wagon passed through Danville unmolested but soon the second wagon came into Danville carrying 13 men and women. There were 75 roughs waiting. Moments later, as the wagon sped through Danville, shots were fired from both sides of the street. Again, most injuries were suffered by the roughs.

The papers report that no authorities made any efforts to keep the peace in Danville. Several days later, George Pugh, George Charles, William Boelzner, and Charles Murphy were arrested. Charles and Boelzner were held over and Pugh and Murphy were discharged. Gus Dickman and Frank Manker were also arrested for their role in the Saturday night fight. Dickman died of his injuries. No one was arrested for firing into the wagon as it passed through Danville. The prisoners were held on \$300 bail (about \$8200 in 2022 dollars). There were no further articles found about the court case and a search of court records did not indicate how the case was resolved. Several of the men went to jail later on for other crimes.

MNB Merchants
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Local People / Local Decisions / Local Commitment

INTERACTIVE MEDIA at HIGHLAND HOUSE

A sign of the times in museums these days is to stay up with those times! Today's young folks (I'm including anyone age 50 and below) want to be engaged and actively participate in an experience.

Museums must give visitors an experience they will remember. These need to be not only interesting, but also engaging. These somewhat lofty goals can be achieved and on a budget such as HCHS has.

From the entrance into a museum, guests must feel welcomed and comfortable in being there. Exhibits should be well marked and just enough information provided that the visitor wants to stay and continue their journey. Part and parcel of that experience is to have our wonderful volunteers well-trained not only in museum trivia and knowledge, but also in hospitality. Volunteers should consider that to the visitor walking through our doors, he or she **IS** Highland County Historical Society!

The museum is still in the process of cataloging each item contained within these ancient (to citizens of the United States, at least) brick walls. Once that can be accomplished, it will be much easier to provide information to our volunteers so that they can easily look up information on museum items.

So far, I have not encountered any of our volunteers one could, in any way, shape or form, consider shy and retiring. Rather the opposite is true. Our volunteers are enthusiastic and love to engage the visitors in a friendly, inquiring way. In doing so, the volunteers often report to Vicki who had visited and from what state, as well as their connection to their local historical society and the comments they made on our museum. (In case you are wondering, their comments are always glowing, especially when they realize we are a one-county museum!)

What can we improve? Many things! But it takes manpower! (or, more politically correct, "personpower!") Those

things we would like to accomplish are improved signage in the museum. Many of the existing signs are old, dirty and turning yellow. In addition, displays need to be dusted, some framed pictures have acid-based mounting materials and need to be reframed. Items which have already been catalogued need ID numbers affixed. Those are just a few of the many things needing attention.

By the way, this article did not start as a plea for more volunteers, but it seemed to go that direction, however, now that I've been traveling out in the weeds for a while, I shall return to the news at hand.

Engaging our visitors has already taken the form of the Lincoln School Story film shown continuously in the Humanities Room. In addition, there are three films continuously playing in the Military Room. These are meant to not only get the visitors to stop and watch, but also to provide information about our local history. The Military Room films were produced and created by a volunteer!

If you have visited the second floor, you'll know that our Hall of Fame is nearly full of framed information on some of the inductees. While this is great, the drawback is that some are hung a distance from the viewers so that they can't be easily read. We have a solution, however AND it will engage visitors to have an interactive experience.

With over 65 inductees into the Highland County Hall of Fame, it is easy to see why the old system is no longer working. We actually have more inductees than we have frames on the wall, as, at one point, apparently, no display was created for some inductees. In addition, we have many, many items in storage that could use the space now being eaten up with hard-to-read frames on the wall.

We will be moving to a laptop computer being available to our visitors. Full Hall of Fame

information, including photographs of some items not able to be shown by the current system.

Here is the Main Menu which is displayed first:



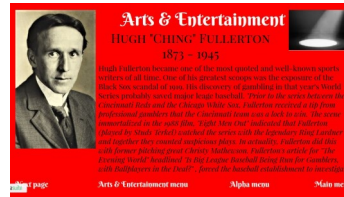
The viewer has only one choice here: "Click to begin."



The next screen presents choices of viewing. Visitors may choose to see all inductees from one of four categories, or they can click on "I would rather see an alphabetical list." Here is the screen (one of two) of the alpha list:



We'll click on Hugh "Ching" Fullerton from this list. Here is his page:

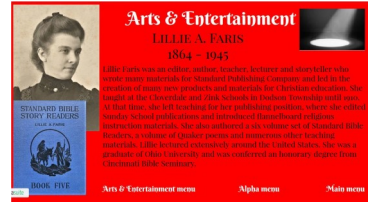


Actually, Ching has two pages, so we click "Next page" to view it. As you can see on the second page, we have present-

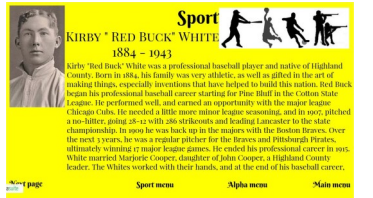


ed our viewer the beginning of one of Ching's newspaper articles when he was asking the question or big league baseball being run for gamblers with dirty players. This was the time when the Chicago White Sox were being called the Black Sox because of such shenanigans.

The red background on Ching's listing gives us a clue that he is in Arts & Entertainment. All listings in A&E will have a red background. Enterprise category is green (think money!), Sport is yellow and Leadership is blue. At the bottom of this page, the viewer may return to the Alpha List, the Arts & Entertainment List or the Main Menu. We go back to the A&E menu and next look at Lillie Faris:



Along with her photo, we have the image of one of the books that this young lady wrote.



Here's Kirby White's listing. You may remember that he was one of our Ghosts a couple years ago and was portrayed by Jeff Beery.

I hope you have enjoyed learning about Highland House Museum's latest venture into making our museum more dynamic, educational and engaging. If you aren't already a volunteer, please read Sue Honeycutt's article to learn more about how you can engage our visitors and be one of the things they remember about their visit to Highland House!

John Glaze

MUSEUM MUSES

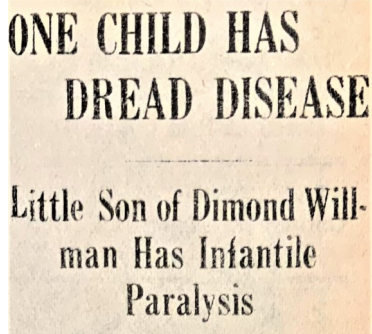
POLIO HITS HIGHLAND COUNTY!

The editor's biggest fear as a child growing up in the 1950s, was contracting polio. Seeing children on television with crutches and braces or, even worse, lying in an iron lung, scared the bejeebers out of me! Commonly shortened to "polio," poliomyelitis is an infectious disease caused by the poliovirus. It affects people differently, but often involves weakness in the legs, but can also present in the muscles of the head, neck and diaphragm. Many people fully recover, but about 2 to 5% of children and 15 to 30% of adults die.

Polio is usually spread from person to person through infected fecal matter entering the mouth, mostly in infected water or food. The polio vaccine is very effective in preventing infection and the CDC recommends polio vaccination boosters for those traveling into countries where the disease is now endemic.

Polio has existed for thousands of years, but was first recognized as a distinct condition by English physician, Mi-

chael Underwood in 1789, and the virus was first identified in 1909 by Austrian immunologist Karl Landsteiner. Major outbreaks started to occur in the late 19th century in Europe and the United States. Then in the 20th century, it became one of the most worrying of childhood diseases. The first polio vaccine was developed by Jonas Salk in the 1950s and soon after, Albert Sabin developed an oral vaccine which has become the world standard.



Meanwhile, in Highland County, on 25 Aug 1927, the News-Herald published a story to put to rest rumors of the dreaded infantile paralysis.

There had been many reports which seemed to be the result of rumors about the death of the daughter of Mrs. Frank Watts being caused by the polio. The actual cause of the girl's death was tubercular meningitis. At

that point, the nearest case to Highland County had occurred in Hamilton County. The gist of the article was to assure the public that there was no cause for alarm.

Unfortunately, by 15 Sep, the news had changed. The situation was proclaimed in the News-Herald:

"Hillsboro has one case of infantile paralysis. David Willman, three-and-a-half-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Diamond Willman, has this dread disease. It was so pronounced Saturday following a consultation between Dr. J. C. Larkin, the boy's physician, and Dr. C. P. Robbins, chief of the division of communicable diseases of the State Board of Health."

The paper reported that the Willman home was put under quarantine as were the homes of all children who had been in contact with the boy after he had taken sick. They were to be quarantined for three weeks. Following this, the Hillsboro Board of Education met and decided to close schools for two weeks, with the understanding that reopening would be affected by any additional cases developing.

It was also reported that the right leg of the Willman child had been affected and was paralyzed from the hip down and he had no use of it. Dr. Larkin said it would be impossible to tell for several weeks what use the boy may eventually have of his leg, it may be very little or he may have full use of it.

Further reporting said: *"Many wild reports and rumors have been circulated since the child was known to*

have infantile paralysis but the exact facts as near as could be learned after a careful and through investigation are given here. Of course, parents are alarmed, that is only natural but it is foolish to listen to every wild tale that is told and believe it."

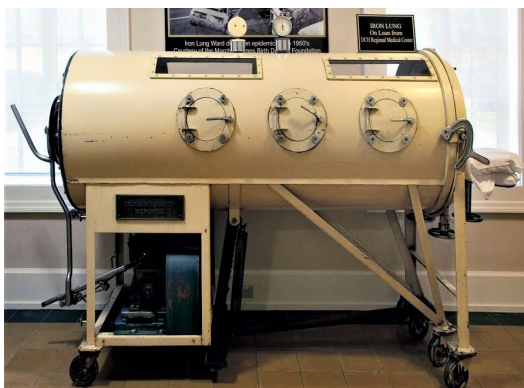
A couple weeks later, it was reported that no new cases had occurred and that David had been improving steadily. He was, by then, able to move his right leg slightly, but it was still too soon to determine the ultimate outcome of the situation. Schools were still planning to open as scheduled. Dr. Nelson stated that the only other communicable disease in the county was a case of diphtheria in Leesburg. The Willman family wanted to express their appreciation for all of the gifts and other kindnesses shown to David and the rest of the family during the trying time.

About a week later, a new case of polio surfaced in Mowrystown to Sarah May Wilson, the 12-year-old daughter of Mrs. Roy Wilson. Her case was less severe and by the time she saw Dr. Nelson, she was able to walk across the room. David Willman was still only to move his leg a small amount.

No other news regarding polio cases was seen in the few weeks following.

Currently, there are few cases worldwide, thanks to the vaccine. In 2011, there were 650 cases, all in Africa and Asia. By 2012, the number had dropped to 162.

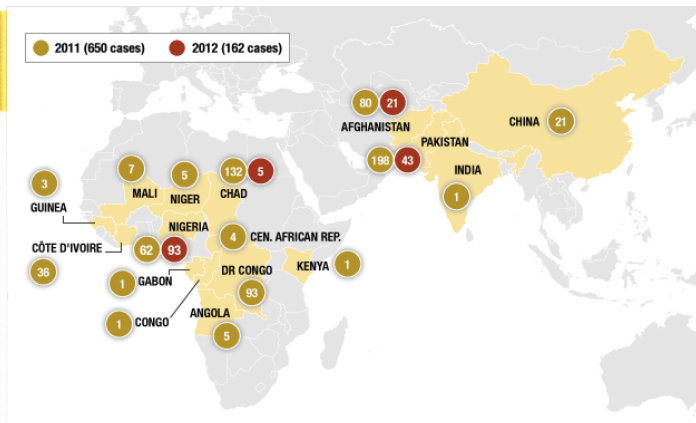
(see map below)



Edward Jones



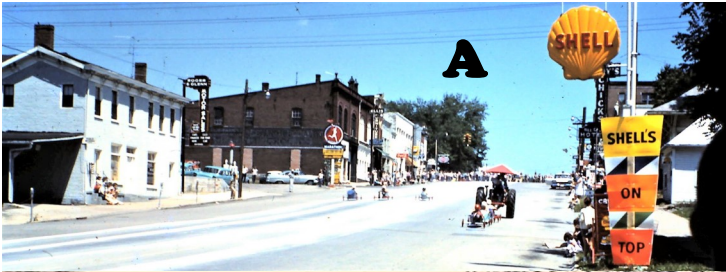
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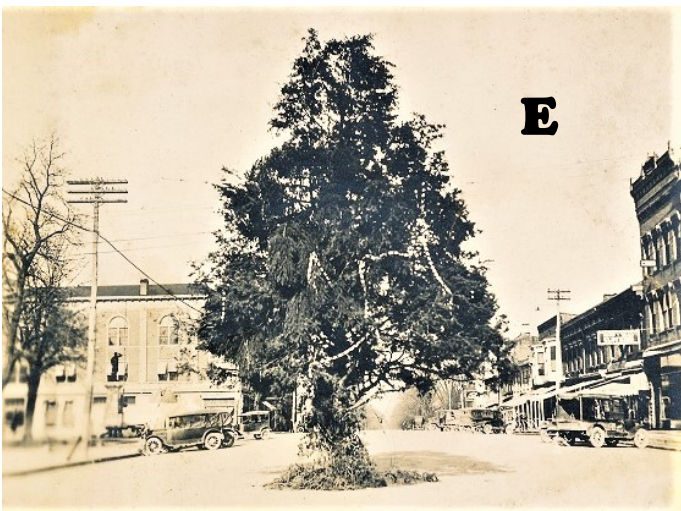
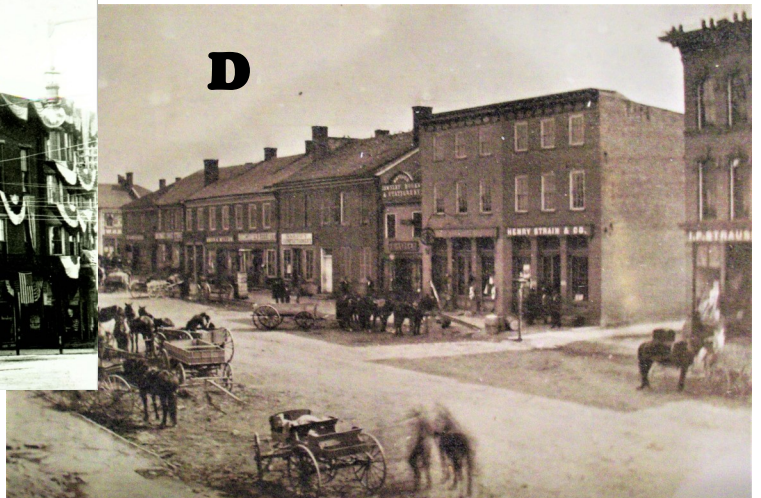
QUIZ TIME!

TRAIN (continued)

Here are five photographs. Try to name the place shown in the photo. If some event seems to be taking place, what is the event? Sorry no hints will be given! You're on your own! (Answers on page 12)



Hillsboro Traction Line car passing over Madeira Trestle
(From: Hilton, George W. and John F. Due, *The Electric Inter-urban Railways in America*. Stanford University Press, 1960)
Some of the problems cited were the lack of Clermont, Brown and Highland Counties to produce agricultural products sufficient for the line to haul. Canned fruit and milk shipments were a staple of the line's freight hauling, but nothing in comparison to what could be produced in the Great Miami Valley.



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BEFORE PHOTOS

*Renovation will be taking place in these areas few people have ever seen!
Would you agree that ts is needed?*



DON'T READ THIS UNTIL YOU'VE TAKEN THE QUIZ ON PAGE 11. Answers to quiz on page 11 - A—West Main Street, Soap Box Derby. Photo taken from close to Albers, looking east. B—North High Street, looking north. House seen on right is current Turner Funeral Home. C—West Main Street during 1907 Centennial Celebration. Strauss Building (on 1st alley) and buildings west to Parker Hotel. D—West Main Street. Strauss Building is barely shown at right of photo, then after alley, buildings east to center of town. Smith Building on corner had not yet been built. E—pre 1928. Christmas Tree in center of 62 and 50, looking north.