

# MUSEUM MUSES

Telling Highland County's story for over 50 years!

## History Detective At Work



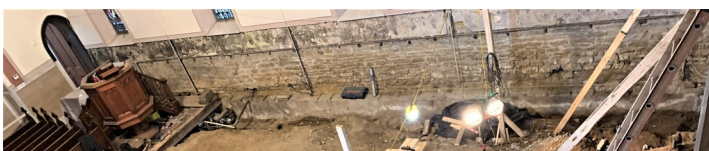
As a regular reader of Museum Muses, you should already be familiar with the continual, lengthy, seemingly never ending work which has been going on at St. Mary's Episcopal Church. (If you need to refresh your memory, refer to 3rd Qtr 2022, page 10.) The work continues and, with the "destruction" phase of the sanctuary project, St. Mary's has been given a great gift! You may think your editor has lost it (again), but, stay with me and I'll explain. In 1915, Rev. Louis E. Durr presented, in memory of his parents, a major upgrade to the sanctuary. (More about that later.) Due to the current project and financial constraints, the removal of the marble side panels has taken place and revealed a look into the history of the sanctuary heretofore unknown by any person living today. We have been able to envision an idea of the look of our sanctuary as it was built in 1854-55. This supplements the information we already knew, or at least suspected.

As I mentioned, Rev. Louis E. Durr, who was priest for 19 years from 1901 to 1920, in memory of his parents, paid for a major upgrade to the sanctuary. He is responsible for all of the marble in the building, including the altar, side panels and the mosaics we see surrounding the altar. We now suspect that, when the side marble slabs were installed, the walls above were replastered, bringing the surface of the walls out about 2 to 3 inches.



Remembering that when the building was constructed, there was no gallery included in the building. There is wainscoting in the foyer of our building currently. I now believe with the current evidence, that originally this wainscoting extended completely around all three walls of the building. When the gallery was built, we assume that the break in the vertical expanse of the panels creating the foyer or vestibule was placed at the same height as that wainscoting.

This next photo shows the sanctuary wall as viewed now. Note the bottom of the current plaster section of the wall. Below that, you see the original wall extending down about 12-14" and below that is the original inner layer of stone. This area was originally covered with the wainscoting the same as currently in the foyer. The photo to the right is a closer view of this area.



Now, how do we know this plastered area was the original wall? If you notice at the top, the newer plaster stands out from the older section. We know that this was not just an initial layer meant only to be covered up by looking at the next photo. Here, you can see that there is a border painted a lighter color than the larger expanse. The border seems to be a cream color with a narrow red border.



You may remember that Chris Duckworth, grandson of Eddie Ayres (pharmacist and son of St. Mary's Sexton, E. B. Ayres, Sr.), gave us a light fixture which family lore said came from St. Mary's. Up until now, we were only relying on the story from the Ayres/Duckworth family. The fixture is designed for two electric light bulbs, as well as a gas burner. When electric was first installed in Hillsboro, as with most places, it might work continually, or it may go out without notice. Therefore, fixtures often were fitted with electric as well as gas. Up until now, we had no proof that the church was ever fitted for this type of lighting. With the opening of the wall, we found conduit for electric inside the wall, as well as gas pipes. We now have a much higher level of confidence that this light, in fact, did come from St. Mary's. (continued on page 12)

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THE MUSEUM OPENS 5 MAY!

**NEWS ITEMS**

**RENEWING MEMBERS**

**2022-23 TRUSTEES**

Tara Beery  
Sue Boatman  
Sue Honeycutt  
John Levo  
Jean McKenzie  
Leslie Ramsey  
Steve Roush  
Earl Smith  
Brenda Thompson  
Debbie Williams  
John Willis  
Dale Zornes

**Society Officers**

President: Steve Faris  
Vice President: Alice Teeters

**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!**

Brent & Rainee Angles  
Nancy Bushelman  
Becky Cluxton  
Linda Hope Doerger  
Nicole Friend  
Caroline Siemers  
Jackie Wilkin

**OUR RENEWING MEMBERS!**

**Donna Armstrong - Heritage**

Bill & Carlene Alexander  
Avery Applegate

**Mark & Brenda Armstrong**

**Lee Bishop – Heritage**  
Brad & Tara Boatman  
Ken & Sue Boatman

**Bob Brown – Heritage**

Larry & Roseanne Brubaker  
Robert & Rebecca Creamer  
Connie Cummings

**Richard & Paulette Donley - Heritage**

Charles & Judy Ellis  
Rosalind Engle  
James & Karen Faust  
Helen Ford  
Mick & Joyce Ford  
Betty Fox

Jay & Mary Hamilton

**Don & Carolyn Hastings – Heritage**

**Frank & Becky Hedges – Corporate**

Joyce Holt  
Orson & Judy Hornsby

**Tom & Maggie Horst - Heritage**

Patricia Kelch  
John & Carolyn Kellis

**John & Phyllis Knechtly – Heritage**

Linda Kramer  
**John & Kathy Levo – Corporate**

**Bernard & Mary Meyers - Heritage**

**Steve & Rita Neago - Heritage**  
Galen & Lynn Neal  
Dave & Cathy Parry

**Susan Parker – Heritage**

Jim & Kay Payton

**Roxanna Roberts - Heritage**

**Jim & Carol Rooney – Heritage**

Steve & Helen Roush

**Ann Siddons – Pioneer**

Harold & Judy Schmidt

**Madeline Smith = Heritage**

**Wendell & Joyce Sparks - Heritage**

James & Dixie Stiegler

Jane Stowers

Jeremy & Lori Tuttle

**Janis Vosper – Heritage**

Judy Wilcher

**Dale & Elissa Zornes - Pioneer**

**HONORARIUM**

Richard & Kristen Pulliam honored his daughter, Vicky Smith and family, Earl & Siobhan.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS:**

Jeff & Tara Beery = Display cases  
Ken & Sue Boatman  
John Glaze  
Frank & Becky Hedges  
James & Dixie Stiegler  
Jane Stowers

**MEMORIALS**

>Gregory & Pauline Rand remembered their friends, Debbie Harsha & Susie Wagoner  
>Sue Honeycutt honored her friend, Wendell Harewood  
>Marshall & Brenda Thompson remembered their friend, Karin Smith

**CONDOLENCES**

to these members who lost loved ones recently:

Lee Bishop – his wife, Betty  
Patty Day – her brother, D Michael Montgomery  
Dianne Fawley – her mother, Judy Wilson  
Richard Graves – his wife, Nancy  
Mary Hamilton – her brother, John "Buck" Wilkin  
Freda Harewood – her husband, Wendell  
Myra Phillips – her husband, Dale  
Jack Smith - his wife, Karin  
Lois Williams - her husband, David  
Byron Wisecup – his wife, Nancy

**WHO AM I?**



If you guessed **VICKY SMITH** for last issue's mystery child, you were correct!

Who is this lad?  
(Answer next issue)



**Ken Boatman**  
Owner

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## CIVIL WAR PENSIONS

Few would need a history lesson regarding the War Between the States, (aka The Civil War, although few found anything about the conflict to be "civil.") From 1861 to 1865, the country was divided with one man sometimes on the opposite side as his brother. After the war was over and the men returned to their homes, some brought injuries which would be with them for the remainder of their lives. Some returned from prisoner of war camps with diseases. Those, as we know all too painfully, were the lucky ones. The number of deaths occurring in the war from 1861 through 1865, about 620,000, would prove to be equal to the fatalities suffered in the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Mexican War, Spanish American War, World War I, World War II and the Korean War combined. I rest my case on the civility of this blot on our country's history.

These deaths often left many widows and orphans. The government compensated those widows with pensions to ease their lives. Even with the men no longer in the home, the common practice was that women seldom worked outside the home.

The federal government led in the provisions of Civil War

pensions for Union soldiers, while the Confederates' pensions were provided by their former confederate states. Each state in the south had their own way of handling pensions, but these systems often mimicked the federal plan. Then in the 1900s, the federal system began paying pensions to former soldiers of the Confederacy.

### QUALIFYING

To qualify for pensions, which began in 1862, the soldier had to be disabled in service and for a widow to qualify that soldier had to die during his time of service. For total disability, the pension was \$8.00 (about \$286 in 2022). In 1890, the Dependent Pension Act provided for veterans even if the disability did not occur during the war. Widows were awarded pensions if their dependent died from any disability.

It wasn't so easy for soldiers of color, however. While they qualified for the pension, the application process sometimes involving traveling and/or hiring lawyers. The pension boards were staffed by white people, which also worked against the Black applicants.

**Hoops** – Veterans had to complete an application detailing his service and disability. There were witness accounts

needed, perhaps a physical exam. Widows and/or dependents had to provide information about the death of their veteran as well as their relationship to the veteran. Just as today with the "ambulance chasing attorneys," there were attorneys who specialized in pension acquisition. Then there were requirements such as proof of marriage, etc.

After a soldier had been killed in action, his wife was expected to

act in a certain way to show she was a grieving widow. This involved dressing in black and mourning for 2½ years. This presented problems for those of lower income and they sometimes resorted to dying their clothing black to fulfill the role. Then, the widow was expected to do all in her power to reclaim the body of her beloved and bring it home for burial.

Let us recall a portion of President Lincoln's 2nd Inaugural Address:

*"With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves, and with all nations"*

Changes in 1901 altered provisions for widows. A remarried widow formerly no longer qualifying for a pension was changed to a remarried widow qualifying if she was widowed again. The laws changed in 1916 to provide that any widow of a veteran honorably discharged could apply for the pension. This allowed some who previously hadn't qualified to be reassessed and approved for pension.

As odd as it may sound, there have been widows of Civil War soldiers who survived into the 21st Century. At least four have been documented. This occurred when a young lady, born in the 20th Century may have married a much older man who had served in the war. The practice was not uncommon, as this marriage led to the possibility of receiving that generous pension. Some of these were a marriage of convenience only, but some couples did live together as husband and wife.

The last of these widows

was Helen Viola Jackson who was born 3 August 1919. As a 17 year old, she married 93 year old James Bolin in 1936. James passed in 1939. Her father had offered her services helping with chores. As means of payment, Bolin offered marriage to the young lady so that she would qualify for pension after his death. There was no public knowledge of their marriage, nor application for the pension as Bolin's daughters threatened to ruin her reputation. The marriage was not revealed until 2017 when she was planning her own funeral with her pastor and the significance of the events were realized. Ms Jackson passed 16 December 2020 at the age of 101. She had never remarried.

### OUR ACQUISITION

Moving on to our recent acquisition, following the death of Carlene Phillips, none of her family requested the Widow's Pension certificate, therefore it was donated to Highland House.

The photo of Certificate No. 767159 text reads:

*"It is hereby certified that in conformity with the laws of the United States Virgie Phillips Widow of David H. Phillips who was a Private, Co. G. 93, Regiment Ohio Infantry a pension at the rate of Twelve dollars per month to commence August 9, 1913 and to continue during her widowhood.*

*"Given at the Department of the Interior this twenty-first day of November one thousand nine hundred and thirteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and thirty-eighth.*

Although the signature is barely readable, it is signed by Frank Knight Lane, who was Secretary of the Interior at that date.

The medal attached in this framing likely wasn't originally attached, but it is a relief of Abraham Lincoln and bears the phrase: *"With malice toward none, with charity for all."*

Next, we wanted to know more about these people, so we *continued on page 4)*



# Civil War Pensions (continued)

researched and found the genealogy of Carlene's ancestry.

As you can see in the chart below, we easily found the information showing that David H. Phillips was Carlene's grandfather. The "Virgie" on

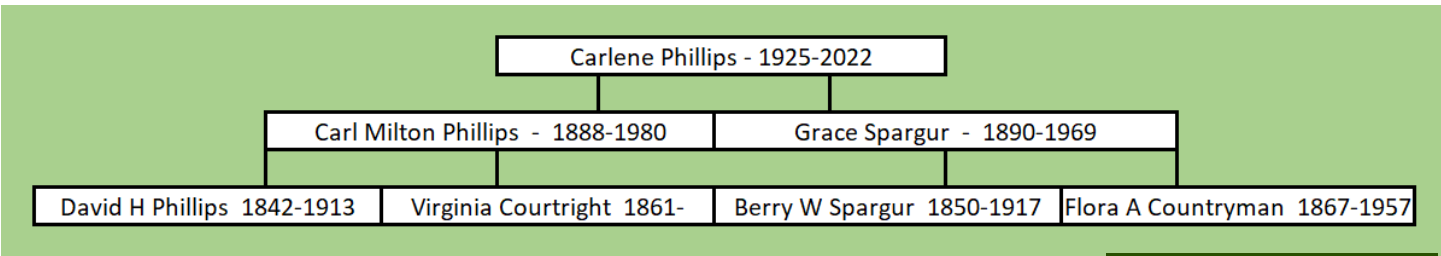
the certificate is his wife, Virginia Courtright Phillips. Their son, Carlene's father, was Carl Milton Phillips. On her maternal side, Carlene's mother was the former Grace Spargur who was the daughter of Berry W

and Flora Alice Countryman Spargur.

So, we have learned much about Carlene's family as well as learning that there is often a story behind each item in your family's possession, if one only

takes the time to dig a wee bit to learn more about it.

We learned that time should be taken when cleaning out relative's belongings. There are gifts to be had if only that precious time is taken.



### NANCY WISECUP

Very sadly, we had to bid goodbye to a well-known volunteer and board member as Nancy J. Wisecup, wife of Byron Wisecup, passed on 25 Nov 2022.

Nancy was born November 6, 1946 in Washington C.H., the daughter of the late Harry and Marvene (Anderson) Seyfang. Beside her parents, Nancy was preceded in

death by a brother, Tim Seyfang.

Nancy was a graduate of Washington C.H. High School; attended Ohio University and the University of Cincinnati receiving a master's degree.

She retired from the Highland County Human Services and after retirement, worked at Southern State Community College. Nancy was often seen around Highland House, serving as a volunteer in the Museum Shop as well as serving as chair of the Hall of Fame Committee.

Nancy is also survived by two sons, Todd Cummings (wife; Grace Chang) and Brett Cummings (wife: Karen Cummings); seven grandchildren, Michael Addington, Chantell Hickman, Tyler Addington, Sophia Cummings, Alex Cummings, Liz Cummings, Matthew Cummings; five great grandchildren, Emmelyn Couch, Aubrey Couch, Evelyn Addington, Will Addington, Scarlett Hickman; sister-in-law, Debbie Seyfang; Nieces, cousins and a many friends inside and outside of HCHS.

Nancy has been remembered by memorial gifts re-

ceived from:

- Michael & Joanna Bambeck
- Lisa Barnhouse
- Beck Basford
- Rocky Coss
- John & Betty Dodds
- Donnie Everetts
- Gary & Rita Fields
- Sue Honeycutt
- Jon & Suzanne Hapner
- Roger & Arlene Huffman
- Melody Johnson
- Jeremy Ratcliff
- Beverly Rhoads
- George & Lana Sakash
- Debra Seyfang
- Earl & Vicky Smith
- Keith & Marsha Sonner
- Wendell & Joyce Sparks
- Carolyn Thomas Thompson
- Marshall & Brenda Thompson
- Towne Club

## GRANTS-2022

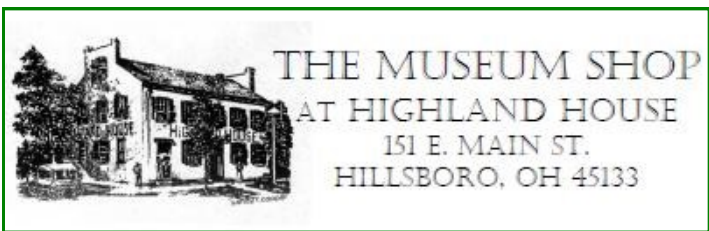
**State of Ohio:** \$77,000 - Cultural and Sports Facilities Projects  
 -\$31,000 for Hodson House  
 -\$46,000 for repair and rebuild of parapet & chimneys on Highland House  
**South Central Power Foundation:** \$10,000 from "Power Up" Grants. This will go to Hodson House renovations.

HCHS extends their sincere appreciation to State Senator Shane Wilkin and State Representative Bob Peterson for their support of the Capital grant and to Lynn Neal for her support of the South Central Power grant.

Thanks, also, to John Kellis for writing the grants.

## 2022 Lincoln School & Black History Events

- Article on BH in Washington Post by Gary Abernathy
  - Interview on Areva Martin (CNN) podcast about BH/LS
  - Presentation Cincinnati Federal Court on LS, livestream Dayton and Columbus
  - Author Carlotta Penn in Hillsboro to meet LS ladies and announce children's book
  - Delta Kapp Gamma presentation Highland House Museum
  - Quaker Tea for LS
  - Quaker Meeting for Lincoln marchers
  - Ohio Humanities in Hillsboro for filming, interviews, photos.
  - Work on film update.
  - Clinton County HS zoom LS presentation
  - Ohio Humanities film debut in Columbus
  - OH Humanities at Highland County HS film debut
  - Presentation on Hansborough HH Museum
- BH=Black History Book HH=Highland House



## P.R.I.D.E. HISTORY

(To round out the long history of Scott House, we asked Kim Fairley to write about the PRIDE group which first took the lead in saving and restoring the beautiful home.)

Around 1985, a group of members of the Highland County Historical Society were concerned about the deterioration of some of the most architecturally and historically significant buildings in Hillsboro. I had been working for the Regional Office of Historic Preservation and listed the East Main Street Historic District and the North High Street Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places. Around the same time, several merchants were refacing their building facades and even tearing down their old buildings. So, several of us thought we needed to start an organization to show the merchants how important it was for Hillsboro to retain its architectural character. We also wanted to show the property owners who were doing the most remodeling that there were more than a couple of old ladies interested in saving these buildings.

Daniel Lords and his partner, Bob Jones, Susie Sharp, Anne Rhude, Virginia and Julie Bare, John Glaze, and I got together to discuss how to create more excitement around saving the historic buildings of Hillsboro. Daniel Lords, a local artist, came up with the name P.R.I.D.E (Progress through Respect, Involvement, Design and Encouragement) and the name seemed to represent what we hoped the group to stand for. We started

with a list of people who would be interested in financially supporting a group like ours.

In talking to our friends, we discovered that most people could see the importance of saving the Scott House, but other smaller structures that were equally significant but not as ornate or architecturally detailed were seen as eyesores and not worth saving.

In an effort to help people see the value in saving these early structures, Susie Sharp and I spoke with Gary Abernathy at the Press Gazette and he agreed to run a weekly article called Town Treasures. Each article featured a house or commercial building that people wouldn't immediately think was important to save. The article provided a current photograph and outlined the architectural and historical importance of the featured building.

This got people talking about the Scott House. The Hillsboro School Board had purchased the building and we'd heard rumblings that they planned to tear it down.

At one of our meetings, we decided to construct a small model of the Scott House which we put together in the garage behind 404 North High Street, and ran in the Festival of Bells Parade, hoping to make people aware of our group and the importance of celebrating the city's history.

*Kim Fairley*  
Michigan

## HELP!!!

For as long as anyone these days can remember, there have been tombstones, (or grave markers, if you prefer) leaning against the west side of Highland House. We would like to find homes for these, but we need help. We have exhausted most sources, such as the McBride Cemetery Book, Find-A-Grave, Ancestry, etc. So, now we come to our readers to assist us.

So far, the homes of these have been located and the stones either on the way to their person or soon will be:

### Hicksite Quaker:

James S Carson  
Bowater Carson  
Huldah Ann Carson  
Boater Carson  
Mary S Carson

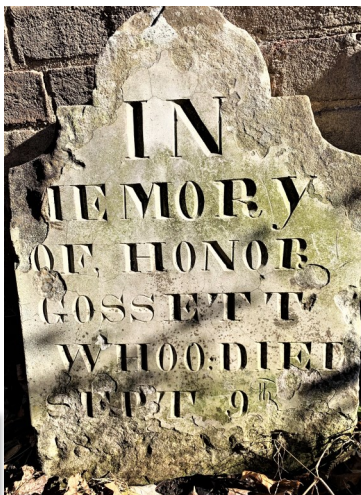
### Lynchburg Masonic:

Henry W Spees

### Hillsboro Cemetery (we believe-parents are buried there)

William Boyd Trimble

Here's where the going gets tricky!



We believe this stone belongs in the Sanders Cemetery (New Market).

Honor Gossett D 9/9/1897?

We have a marker that says, "UB Church" and "1886" which we assume is the date the church was founded or built. Can you confirm that was Hillsboro? Perhaps this should go to the

Methodist Church in Hillsboro?

**Margetta Boutell D 2/6/1864  
36yr old wf of G. W. Boutell.**



**Child of W. S. & C. Stephens  
- D 8/17/1863 4 mo old**



If you know or learn anything about these folks, please call Highland House and help return these stones to their rightful locations.

### Calling All Members!

Members! Here's a **FUN FACT!** Our income from your dues represents **10.4%** of our income. To give you a comparison, our friends at Greenfield Historical Society report that theirs is about **30%**. What does this mean? Well, HCHS has to work much harder on income producing events which takes away from the time we can concentrate on our primary mission.

How can you help? I'm **so glad you asked!** First, if you joined as a **LIFE** member many years ago, please consider an extra yearly contribution. If you have friends, urge them to join HCHS to help us in preserving Highland County's history. There are many other ways you can help. Contact us!

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## GHOST TOWNS of HIGHLAND COUNTY

I recently ran across a website listing Ghost Towns in Ohio:

[The Ohio Ghost Town Gazetteer, and Traveler's Guide; A Twenty-First Century History of Ohio's Ghost Towns](#)

I quickly turned to find Highland County and learned we have listings! Here's what I learned.

#### Amsterdam (New Amsterdam)

Apparently this town was located on the Highland-Ross Counties border in Paint Township. No known remnants of this town.

In the late 1790s, Nathaniel Massie and Jacob and Enoch Smith built a mill at the falls of Paint Creek. Massie built a grist mill, distillery, saw mill and a furnace. The Smith brothers built a saw mill. The town was platted in 1800. Amsterdam developed with many cabins and a few shops. Apparently some with interests in other town locations spread rumors of the location not being healthy. Massie went ahead and looked for another site and founded Bainbridge in 1805. Amsterdam eventually disappeared into history.

#### Clear Creek (Clear Creek Settlement) (Evans Settlement)

Now, we move to Liberty Township, US 62, at intersection of Diamon Dr Liberty Township on US 62 at the in-

tersection Diamon Dr along Clear Creek.

There are no known remnants of this town.

Here we learned that Hugh Evans and Lavinia Simpson Evans came from Washington County, MD. The family had lived in Pennsylvania, then removing to Bourbon County, KY. There more folks joined with the promises and opportunities of a new life for their families. In addition to farming, here was located a blacksmith shop, a wheelwright, (the first in the county and he produced spinning wheels which then made thread for clothes). There was a Methodist church and a school. This community declined in the late 1800s and the location is now part of Hillsboro.

#### Gall – Brushcreek Township Post Office

This town only lasted about ten years. It was located on Sinking Spring Rd at the intersection of N Elmwood Rd along Middle Fork Ohio Brush Creek.

Remnants: Countryman Cemetery on the north side of Sinking Spring Rd

James N. Gall was a teacher, farmer, and ran a general store and post office on the farm where he was born. There was a school James M. Patton, brother-in-law of Gall, was the postmaster until the office was discontinued, being replaced by the Rural Free Delivery (RFD) system in

1905.

#### Honolulu – Salem Township Post Office:

Honolulu was located on SR 134 at the intersection of Murtland Rd. The remnants of Honolulu is a former one-room schoolhouse. At the writing this was a private residence.

Honolulu was a small farming and postal town founded by Elijah Lafferty and Mary Jane (Thomas) Lafferty.

#### Littleton – Salem Township Post Office

Littleton was located at N Ford Rd along North Fork White Oak Creek.

There are no known remnants of Littleton, which was another town like Honolulu, dedicated to farming. There was a post office and a school (Salem Township No. 5). The town was gone by 1903.

#### Sharpsville – Union Township Post Office

Sharpsville was located on Sharpsville Rd along Turtle Creek between Quarry Rd and Bald Knob Rd

There are no known rem-

nants of Sharpsville. James Sharp and Margaret Eloud Sharp, both born in Pennsylvania, were the founders of Sharpsville. There was a saw mill and grist mill on Turtle Creek. John B. Hayes was the first postmaster. There was also a Methodist Church and a school. Daniel Sharp owned a quarry on the old family farm.

#### Sicily – Clay Township Post Office

Sicily was located on Sicily Rd at the intersection of Ellis Rd  
Remnants: Remaining of Sicily is the Huggins Cemetery on private property.

Sicily was founded in the early 1830s by the Huggins family and was platted in 1848 by John N. Huggins. His family assisted slaves who were traveling further north on the Underground Railroad in Brown and Highland Counties. The town had a school (Clay Township No. 8), a steam-powered saw mill, grist mill, carding mill, doctor, and a church congregation, in addition to a post office. Sicily lost all of its businesses as the owners moved away or died. It was barely a town, but was listed on the 1916 Highland County Atlas, but soon faded out of existence.

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

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## MEMORIALS

in Memory of

### BETTY BISHOP

Ken & Sue Boatman  
Larry & Roseanne Brubaker  
Rocky Coss  
Jeff & Teresa Cox  
James & Betty Jo Gee  
Robert & Dorothy Hodson  
Roger & Arlene Huffman  
Beverly Rhoads  
Shirley Swingle



1938 - 2022

## IT'S QUIZ TIME!

## YOU!



Did you grow up in Ohio? You undoubtedly had a class in Ohio History at some point, but how much do you remember? The following questions were constructed with information gleaned from, of all places, a POPCORN BAG! The Steubenville Popcorn Company placed information about Ohio counties on the back of their "County Combo" flavor (Cheddar Cheese and Carmel). To give you a little help, these questions are multiple guess. Answers will be found elsewhere in this issue.

- 1) How many counties are there in Ohio?  
A 66 C 83  
B 76 D 88
- 2) Which was the first county formed and in what year?  
A Franklin in 1790 C Washington in 1788  
B Muskingum in 1785 D Hamilton in 1770
- 3) Which was the last county formed and in what year?  
A Perry in 1860 C Holmes in 1880  
B Noble in 1851 D Erie in 1853
- 4) Which is the most populated county?  
A Cuyahoga C Franklin  
B Summit D Hamilton
- 5) Which is the least populated county?  
A Trumbull C Gallia  
B Erie D Vinton
- 6) Which county is the largest in land mass?  
A Ashtabula C Tuscarawas  
B Cuyahoga D Scioto
- 7) Which county is the smallest in land mass?  
A Stark C Lake  
B Perry D Erie
- 8) Where was the first oil well discovered in North America?  
A Gallia in 1804 C Noble in 1814  
B Athens in 1806 D none-first oil discovery was in Oklahoma
- 9) Where is the Pro Football Hall of Fame?  
A Tuscarawas C Stark  
B Belmont D Darke
- 10) Which county had the first female sheriff?  
A Franklin in 1952 C Summit in 1955  
B Belmont in 1976 D Cuyahoga in 1973

*This is NOT a paid advertisement, but a personal comment on and recommendation of on Steubenville Popcorn ([www.steubenvillepopcorn.com](http://www.steubenvillepopcorn.com)). I admit I've only been to Steubenville once, and, frankly, wasn't very impressed. Now, I was gifted a bag of their popcorn for Christmas and I must say, they have something going for them! Check out their website and see all the flavors available. Prices are VERY reasonable too!*

--Your friendly Editor

Rare there is, a person who doesn't enjoy a good story! Rarer still, a person willing to write a good story! But this is your chance--your moment in the spotlight--your 15 minutes of fame, awaiting the time you sit at your desk, or recline in your chair, laptop in place and you begin writing.

Step up and do a bit of research in a topic in which you are interested and write your findings. Or, you may have a flight of fancy and write down a short story which has been niggling in your mind for years. You may think that your family's history is pretty cool and would make good reading for the HCHS rabble.

At any rate, your ancient editor gets more than his share of practice writing quarter after quarter and wishes to share the joy of written word creation with the membership.

As you read this, I fully imagine you sitting there and thinking that, "No one wants to read the drivel which I would create!!!" Now, there you go--selling yourself short before even attempting to create! That is not the way to proceed--by self-deprecation! The secret of writing, and I don't share this often nor freely, is--(are you ready to read this?) **TO START!**

OK, there it is, I've given away all of my trade secrets. Now you are more than ready to begin creating. You must grab your legal pad, your computer, or a paper grocery bag and begin writing. Don't just think! Just pick a topic you wish to try and start writ-

ing whatever comes to mind, whatever you wish to share. Don't worry about grammar or sentence structure at this point, just get it all on paper or in your computer as quickly as you can. There will be plenty of time later to edit, to chop or to add. You may wish to interject a story within the story, but you can do that later also. Just get started and put it all down.

Then what happens? Well, after you have written it all down, you have several options. You may wish to have a relative or friend go through your stellar creation and give you an opinion on things you may have forgotten; he or she may suggest a change here or there to make your story flow better. Don't be put off by these suggestions! Even the finest writers' works go through an edit by someone else!



So, now is your chance to shine; to prove to yourself that you can do something you previously were convinced that you could not.

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## "You're from Hillsboro?"

***"Oh, you're from Hillsboro, Ohio? I've always wanted to visit your town. My mother was educated in Hillsboro!"***

For many years in the 1800s and early 1900s, this was a common reaction citizens of Hillsboro received when meeting people all over the country. From its very earliest days, Hillsboro was known for its excellent educational opportunities, especially its collegiate level education for young ladies. From 1839 until 1898, there was at least one college-level school in Hillsboro for women and for one nine-year period (1863-1872) there were three separate schools for girls open at the same time.

The opportunity for an excellent education was not exclusive to collegiate girls. A male academy ran from 1827 until 1856 and the public schools were acknowledged to be the best in southern Ohio, thanks in large part to a vigorous screening of prospective teachers.

While Hillsboro enjoyed its lofty reputation for learning, its citizens often resisted spending money to support its schools. As a result, school buildings, both public and

private, were usually old and over-crowded, and sometimes dilapidated. Public schools often had classrooms scattered haphazardly around town wherever space could be found, in both school-owned facilities and in various private rented rooms.

Hillsboro's citizens typically put off building new schools until it was undeniably necessary, and constantly ended up having to build during times of economic troubles. This happened during the Panic of 1857 (a serious early depression), just after the Civil War, and, later, during the depths of the Great Depression.

Despite this lack of financial support and poor infrastructure, the schools thrived thanks to the efforts of many dedicated teachers, board members, and advocates of education. However, five people can be said to be mostly responsible for Hillsboro's academic successes through the 1800s: Allen Trimble, Isaac Sams, and Henry S. Doggett for the public schools, and Rev. Joseph McDowell Mathews and Emilie Grand-Girard for the women's colleges.

Allen Trimble and his extensive family arrived in Hillsboro in 1804, and Allen soon became a civic leader. Trimble was a strong promoter of education through his whole life. In 1814, he brought Robert Elliott, a teacher from Ken-

tucky, to Hillsboro to open a school. While this school initially required students to pay a tuition to attend, it would, in 1825, become the town's first "Common School," which was the term for public schools at the time.

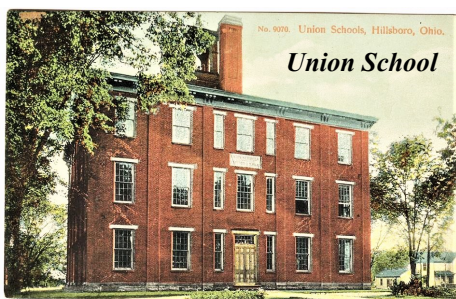
This change came about due to the efforts of Allen Trimble, who, while serving as governor of Ohio, appointed a commission to develop a statewide system of elementary public education. From the work of this commission came the Act of 1825, which created Ohio's public school system. In 1827, Trimble was appointed to be president of the board of trustees for the Hillsboro Academy, which was an advanced school of learning to prepare young men for college. It operated from 1827 until 1853, and Trimble remained as board president for its entire existence. In this position, Trimble was directly responsible for bringing Joseph McDowell Mathews to Hillsboro to serve as the first teacher of the Academy and for enticing Isaac Sams to teach in the Academy and get involved in the town's public schools. Later, in 1847, the Trimble-led Academy Board came to the rescue of the cash-strapped Oakland Female Seminary and in 1860, Trimble would head a

*Highland Institute*



commission which somehow saved the Hillsboro Female College from financial ruin.

The Act of 1825 established the position of School Examiner. The Court of Common Pleas of each Ohio county appointed three qualified individuals to certify public school teachers in their county. These examiners set behavior and appearance standards for prospective teachers and created a test to evaluate their intellectual fitness for the job. English born Professor Isaac Sams was one of the first School Examiners, and he remained in this position for over thirty years. While Sams also served as principal of the Hillsboro Academy for several years, he had a much bigger impact on the public schools as a School Examiner. His vigorous and through examinations were dreaded by applicants, and anyone who appeared before him with dirty clothes or unwashed hands was refused a hearing and received a sharp lecture on the importance of personal grooming. Old or tattered



*Union School*

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*1858 Female Graduating Class*



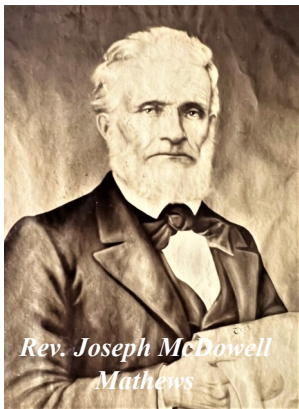


## "You're from Hillsboro?" (continued)

clothes were fine as long as they were clean and tidy. Sams' efforts soon ensured that Highland County had a much higher quality of public-school teachers than the rest of southern Ohio. Sams later served as superintendent of Hillsboro Schools for two years before his advanced age forced him to retire.

Hillsboro Schools fell into disarray prior to the Civil War due to lack of leadership, severe overcrowding, and the overall turbulence of the era. It was not until 1868, with the construction of the Union School and the appointment of Henry S. Doggett as superintendent, that the school began to recover. Doggett served as superintendent for twenty-one years. His long service, as well as that of several long-serving teachers, such as Lewis McKibben and E. G. Smith, gave the school a much-needed stability and the school system flourished for years.

Rev. Joseph McDowell Mathews was brought to Hillsboro to teach the male students of the Hillsboro Academy. While Joseph McDowell Mathews was an excellent scholar and teacher, he was not an impressive physi-



Rev. Joseph McDowell  
Mathews

cal specimen. He had lost most of his voice in his early adulthood, and this, coupled with his slight stature, made it difficult for him to control the boys in his charge. After three-and-a-half years, Mathews left the Academy and became a Methodist preacher. His health catastrophically failed, and he had to leave the ministry.

In 1839, after regaining his strength, Mathews founded the Oakland Female Seminary at the Y intersection of US 50 and State Route 124 east of town. This may have been the first school in Ohio founded for the expressed purpose of providing women a college education, though Oberlin, originally a men's only college, began admitting women two years earlier. Oakland was no finishing school where girls were taught social niceties and frivolous pastimes. Instead, it offered a rigorous curriculum in spartan conditions and provided its students with a true college education which was legitimately equal to that which could be found in contemporary men's colleges. Rev. Mathews ran Oakland until 1856, when he agreed to merge the school into the recently built Hillsboro Female College, located between Main, Walnut, and Oak Streets to the west of town. He had a falling out with the college board in 1859 and briefly left Hillsboro before returning in 1863 and reopening the Oakland Female Seminary. He ran this second Oakland until 1872, when he agreed to return as president of the Hillsboro Female College. He served in

this position until 1877, when his long-term health issues finally forced him to retire. Hillsboro Female College would continue to operate until 1898.

The final historical Hillsboro superstar of education is Emilie Grand-Girard. Emilie (pronounce as Emily by southern Ohioans) and her large, highly refined family arrived in Ohio from France in 1833. Emilie graduated from the Oakland Female Seminary in 1846, then taught at the school until its closure in 1856. The now-closed Hillsboro Academy Board decided to open a different school at the old Oakland site when Rev. Mathews left to run Hillsboro Female College. This school was the Highland Institute.

While Oakland and the early Hillsboro Female College had a very strict code of conduct and the students were forbidden to interact with the public, especially the young men of the town, Miss Grand-Girard gave the Highland Institute a much more relaxed atmosphere. The "Tute Girls" held public receptions, put on plays and musical recitals, and hosted graduation ceremonies that attracted over 1,000 spectators. The Highland Institute ran until 1888, with Emilie in charge for all but the last four years, and with her as a teacher for all but the very last year.

This has been a very brief overview of the main figures



Emilie Grand-Girard

in historical Hillsboro education. A much more expansive study of the Hillsboro Academy, the two Oakland Female Seminaries, and Hillsboro Female College will be available for purchase in the museum gift shop when the Highland House reopens in the spring, and a history of the Hillsboro public schools will be released as soon as it can be completed.

-Tara Beery

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 8 & 11 Feb - Teachers' Mtg
- 1 Mar - Ohio 220th Birthday
- 19 Mar - St. Patrick's Brunch**
- 21 Mar - Women in History**
- 1 Apr - Cabin Fever Event  
*(please support our local artisans)*
- 22 Apr - Arbor Day** *(tree planting at HH & SH)*
- 23 Apr - Children's Tea**
- 24 Apr - Vicki's 10th Anniv.**
- MAY - MUSEUM MONTH**
- 5-6 May - Opening Weekend**
- 2-3 Jun - Yard Sale**
- 24 Jun - Scavenger Hunt**
- 6-8 Jul - Festival of the Bells
- 8 Jul - Pioneer Day**
- 20 Aug - Hall of Fame Induc.**
- 16 Sep - Log Cabin Cookout**
- 24 Sep - Tour of Homes & Historic Buildings**
- 26 Sep - Ghost Walk**
- 10 Oct - Annual Meeting**
- 13 Oct - Haunted Hillsboro**
- 3-4 Nov - Christmas Open House Weekend**
- 10 Nov - Veterans Appreciation
- 11 Nov - Veterans Day Ceremony at HH - 10:30a**
- 25 Nov - Small Business Sat.**
- 26 Nov - Museum Shop Sun.**
- 24 Dec - HH closes for winter**



## Mother/Daughter Spring Tea

Sunday April 23, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

Ages 5 & older

\$10.00 per person (adult or child) due at time of registration. Seating is limited!

Call museum at 937-393-3392.

Deadline is April 16.

\*Tea\* Stories\* Food\* Fun\*



MUSEUM MUSES

2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS!

We strove forward in 2022 and were able to accomplish much! (HH=Highland House; SH=Scott House)

**Maintenance**

- Storage area renovated at HH
- New windows installed at HH
- Roof repair at HH
- New gutters installed at HH
- Downspouts at SH replaced
- Passed Fire Inspections
- Bell repaired at HH
- First floor repaired at SH
- Sewer line repaired at SH

**Administrative**

- Several forms updated
- New By-laws adopted
- Cataloged 42 acquisitions (350 items)
- Displays rotated

**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 Shop – BEST Year Ever!
- Hosted 4 holiday parties
- Lincoln School Project presentation
- Book signings for 5 local authors
- New Year's Eve bell ringing
- Guided Tours
- Small Business Saturday
- Museum Store Sunday
- 2 Bake Sales
- Haunted Hillsboro

**Projects**

- Lincoln School Project continues with Ohio Humanities
- Organization of Library continues
- Reading Room at SH expanded
- Cataloging acquisitions continues

**Educational Programs**

- U. S. Currency Presentation
- Women in History Presentation
- FOG Presentation (how to restore tombstones)
- Ohio Humanities film premier of Lincoln School story

Steve's Comments

Ladies and gentlemen, I hope 2023 is off to a great start for everyone.

As Chairman of the Highland County Board of Trustees this year, I'd like to thank outgoing Chairman Denny Kirk, whose leadership and legal advice were invaluable in so many areas.

I'd also like to say a word of thanks for outgoing board member Bob Brown for his time, leadership, efforts and dedication in moving HCHS forward and preserving and promoting the history of Highland County.

I also extend sincere thanks and appreciation to Nancy Wisecup for serving as Secretary of the Board of Trustees and for her leadership in promoting the Historical Society. We are grateful for her time in serving as the Chair of the Hall of Fame Committee and for all the other projects in which she participated. Sadly, as many of you know, Nancy passed away in November of 2022 at the age of 76 and will be missed by all who knew her.

This year, Leslie Ramsey begins her second term on the

board and will serve as Secretary. John Levo returns to the board after previously serving on the board in years past and will succeed me as Vice Chairman. New to the board this year are Debbie Williams and Dale Zornes, and Earl Smith will continue his role of Treasurer of the board.

Finally, I'd like to thank you for your continued support of the Highland County Historical Society. We have many exciting events coming up at the Highland House in 2023. For starters, our annual St. Patrick's Day Brunch is March 19, Debbie Williams will have a Women in History program on March 21, Children's Tea is April 23, and Opening Weekend at the museum is May 5-6. Stay tuned, and we hope to see you soon!

*Steve Roush*  
Board Chair

**Happy  
10th Anniversary  
Director  
Vicki Knauff!**

**St. Patrick's Day Brunch**

**Sunday March 19, 2023 11:00-1:00**

Menu not yet planned, but plan to attend.

Always a great meal and good time to visit with friends and head into spring!!

Donations are appreciated.



*Answers to Quiz on page 7*

- 1) How many counties are there in Ohio? **D 88**
- 2) Which was the first county formed and in what year? **C Washington in 1788**
- 3) Which was the last county formed and in what year? **C Noble in 1851**
- 4) Which is the most populated county? **A Cuyahoga**
- 5) Which is the least populated county? **D Vinton**
- 6) Which county is the largest in land mass? **A Ashland**
- 7) Which county is the smallest in land mass? **C Lake**
- 8) Where was the first oil well discovered in North America? **C Noble in 1814**
- 9) Where is the Pro Football Hall of Fame? **C Stark**
- 10) Which county had the first female sheriff? **B Belmont**

How did you score? Count your correct answers and compare below:

10 Answers correct: You must be the Governor of Ohio, or a former Miss Ohio in the Miss America contest!

8-9 Answers correct: A true Buckeye through and through! Born here, went to college here, and a tear always comes to your eyes when you hear "Beautiful Ohio"

6-7 Answers correct: Obviously you were a good student in Ohio History class...you probably pulled out a C+ or better!

4-5 Answers correct: Are you sure you live here, or did you leave your heart in San Francisco?

2-3 Answers correct: OK, you obviously slept through Ohio History Class, along with most of your other classes!

0-1 Answer correct: Uh... Perhaps you're planning to move to another state? At least hang your head in shame!!!

# OHIO HUMANITIES

MUSEUM MUSES

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER



Several exciting next steps are in the works for the **Lincoln School Story!** Ohio Humanities is screening the revised documentary across the state, most recently in college classrooms and at the Books by the Banks festival in Cincinnati in November and upcoming at The Works Museum and the Licking County Public Library in Newark in February and April. The film will also be featured, and the marchers honored, at this year's Statehood Day celebration at the Ohio Statehouse on March 2. Fundraising is underway for expanding the film for PBS distribution, and an illustrated children's

book from Daydreamers Press based on the experiences of the marchers will be released to the public in fall 2023.

*Aaron Rován*  
Program Officer

Welcome to a new year and to new trustees, Debbie Williams, Dales Zornes and to returning trustee John Levo. We closed our 2022 with the tragic loss of our friend and board secretary, Nancy Wise-cup. Her wisdom, knowledge, skills and sense of humor will be greatly missed. Nancy was a leader in every way and all of us enjoyed working with her. Our sincere condolences to Byron.

Committees are ready to start work on ideas for new projects, programs, displays and exhibits. Your participation is welcome and I encourage you to join us with your ideas

I am working on pictorial displays of Highland County businesses and another on Historic Homes of Highland County. Paintings and photos of mills and covered bridges will also be on display. A new exhibit on Indigenous Peoples will open in the spring. If you have photos or artifacts that would enhance the displays or exhibits, let me know items can be donated or loaned.

I am very excited about moving my office, conference room and library to Hodson House. The move will provide a more efficient way to complete my administrative duties and will open rooms in Highland House for more exhibits. We are working hard to preserve and promote the history of our beautiful county. Will you join us?

*Vicki*

## HODSON HOUSE RENOVATIONS

Here are a few photos of the work taking place in Hodson House. It is projected to be available for move-in by Spring. Can you help us move? If you'd like to get in on the fun, please call Highland House and volunteer! 937-393-3392! (More on page 12.)



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**Happy  
10th Anniversary  
Director  
Vicki Knauff!**

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

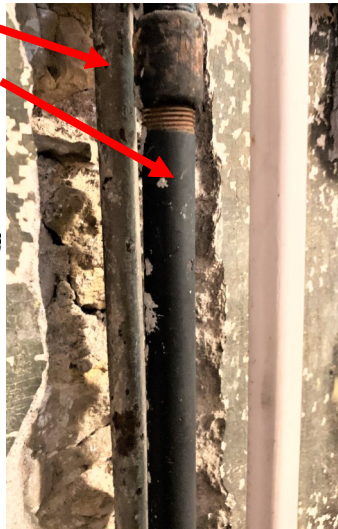
Check the date found beneath your name on the mailing label. This is your membership renewal date. If it falls within the period of this newsletter, your renewal statement is enclosed. Please make any corrections or additions on the form and return it with your payment. Please consider increasing your membership to the next level. Thank you!

## History Detective

## HODSON HOUSE (continued)

Electric conduit

Gas pipe



More discovery has shown that the original wall was green before being covered over. In the photo below, you can see that this (or at least part of it) appears to be wallpaper. Evidence is the difference of color not being in a simple line as a change of color in paint might be, but swirls. Also, viewed up close, the white edge of the vertical line appears to have been torn, also indicating the probability of paper.



What is very certain is the fact that we shall never know the exact facts and can only hope this evidence points to our suppositions as being true. *Editor*

