

# MUSEUM MUSES

Telling Highland County's story for over 50 years!

## Our Trustees Write! Series

### Our House

In 2026, the Highland County Historical Society will celebrate its 60th year of occupying the Highland House. At this time, we will also finally pass the ownership record of the most prominent residents of the historic building, the mother and daughter duo of Kate and June Doorley. For 59 years, these two ladies ran a popular rooming house and exquisite dining hall at Highland House. But in discussions of the building's history, they have been reduced to almost a footnote, with Peter Ayres, the builder of the home, receiving most of the attention. While Mr. Ayres is certainly deserving of being remembered, the lives of the Doorleys, as well as the unexpectedly compelling life of Eugene Zimmerman, the man from whom they bought the building, are well-worth recounting.

Col. Eugene Zimmerman was born in Vicksburg, Mississippi on December 14, 1845, on a large estate. His Ohio-born father had inherited this property along with a large sum of money, a foundry, and multiple slaves. Following his father's death in 1859, fourteen-year-old Eugene moved to Cincinnati to attend preparatory school. He enlisted in the Union Navy when the Civil War broke out in 1861, despite being only 16 years old. He saw much



E. Zimmerman

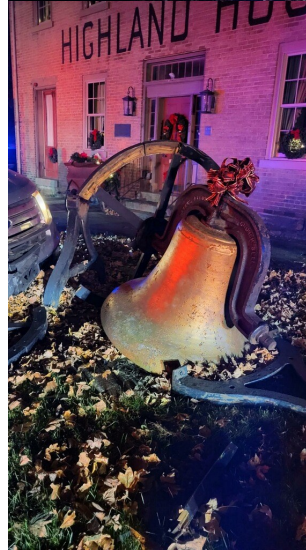
combat during his service, including action against his hometown of Vicksburg. During this battle, his father's home and business were destroyed. At age 19, Eugene was promoted to commander of his own ship, the USS Ouachita.

After the war, Zimmerman returned to Cincinnati  
*(continued page 5)*



### A TALE OF TWO BELLS\*

*\*Or A Tale of Two Accidents*



Our society's beloved #48 C S Bell Co manufactured bell has sat in front Highland House since the 1960s, when Virginia Bell donated it to the Historical Society after its inception. The bell stood the test of time unscathed with a few touch ups in paint for over 65 years before TWO separate vehicle incidents brought the future of the bell into question.

The first incident occurred on the night of 10 November 2022 just before 9:00 pm when an alleged

criminal motorist fleeing Hillsboro Police raced through the intersection, colliding with other vehicles which then hit our bell, knocking it over. The hardware mounting the uprights simply gave out under the pressure and the bell laid to one side. No real damage occurred at the time with exception of the clapper becoming bent when the mass of the bell that was too much for it to take after it contacted the ground, and the wooden wheel was badly damaged.

With help from Justin Harsha of the Harsha Monument Co., Steve Holland and Jason Griffith of G&G Body Shop we were able make repairs and have the bell back upright for the annual  
*(continued page 6)*



SO MUCH GOING ON! Enjoy this great issue!



# ITEMS OF INTEREST

## 2024-25 TRUSTEES

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President: Steve Roush  
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### DIRECTOR: VICKI KNAUFF

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 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!

Kathryn Hapner  
 Sharon Hughes  
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### OUR RENEWING MEMBERS!

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Jim & Dixie Stiegler

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### Janice Vosper – Heritage

Judy Wilcher

Dale & Elissa Zornes

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Nancy Axmacher

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Jim & Dixie Stiegler

### ROBERT HODSON MEMORIALS

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Chuck Collier Family

Richard & Paulette Donley

Jane Stowers

### CONDOLENCES TO:

Larry Addington in the loss of his wife, Peggy.

Beverly Palmer & Tom Wilson in the loss of

her husband and his brother-in-law, Hans.

The family of Hollis Stevenson.

### MANY THANKS TO OUR

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The Historical Society is fortunate to have skilled people who are willing to give their

time to preserve our history:

Don Edwards repaired a dining room table

John King built a coat rack and shelf

Dale Zornes built two coat racks.

**Thank-you to all who work to keep us able to continue to preserve and tell Highland County's History!**

## WHO AM I?



If you guessed  
**DALE ZORNES**  
 for last issue's  
 mystery child,  
 you were correct!

Who is this  
 little man?  
 (Answer next issue)

## A Look Back

I dare say, few of you knew Elizabeth Quinn Ottewill Hynes, but those lucky ones who did were blessed by the experience. B J Hopkins, also a friend of the family, recently gave me a copy of an article which appeared in The Journal, which contains, "News, views and features from the island of Alderney." We thank the folks there for permission to reprint!

From Wikipedia, we learn that Alderney is the northernmost of the inhabited Channel Islands. It is part of the Bailiwick of Guernsey, a British Crown dependency. It is 3 miles Long and 1 1/2 miles wide. The island's area is 3 square miles, making it the third-largest island of the Channel Islands, and the second largest in the Bailiwick. It is around 10 miles to the west of the cape of La Hague on the Cotentin Peninsula, Normandy, in France, 20 miles to the northeast of Guernsey and 60 miles from the south coast of England.

As of March 2021, the island had a population of 2,141; natives are traditionally nicknamed vaques after the cows, or else lapins after the many rabbits seen in the island. Formally, they are known as Ridunians, from the Latin Riduna.



Those of you who were present when Elizabeth spoke at a meeting of HCHS will remember the story of "Curby" which is mentioned in this story.

Elizabeth Quinn Ottewill Hynes, who was known throughout her life by a variety of affectionate names but will be remembered locally as the little lady in a Landrover, died peacefully on 8th July, (2013) aged 97.

Born in Hillsboro, Ohio, USA, she and her brother, Walter had an international childhood, divided between China, America and London, then schooling in Scotland and France. She always talked very fondly of her father and China, where he had been British consul for 30 years, and this multicultural upbringing gave her a lifelong interest in other cultures and a refreshingly open mind.

She had an enduring

love of the native wildlife, particularly skunks and raccoons, and there is many a story about her pet raccoon "Curby," who she managed to get past the bemused British Customs' quarantine in a bizarre scene; demonstrating how he walked "more like a bear than a dog." His early morning walks on Hampstead Heath... and a particularly memorable trip to Telegraph Bay that involved carrying him all the way down in a box, then having a terrible time trying to persuade him to go back up...

Her strength of character and independent spirit can be seen clearly even from the outset in photos of her as a scowling baby, and she had an often fearless approach to life. An early story involved her helping a friend by driving a motorbike across London in a blackout, having never ridden one before, and in another incident, impressed everyone with her ability to waterski for hours on only her first attempt, not realizing until afterwards that she hadn't known how to stop!

She had many happy memories of the house in London that her father retired to which was always full of guests, hospitality, interesting objects and animals. During the war it was a much loved safe house for the many family and friends passing through and various children with overseas parents. She relished her role in the Women's Voluntary Service (WVS) working with refugees, the mobile canteen and doing fire warden duty. Her two girls, Ann and Alison, were brought up in this slightly larger than life manner in a full house, being driven about in her father's big old American Pontiac she'd had shipped over and drove until all the parts fell off. Many people on Alderney will have their own memories of her and she was certainly a familiar sight driving around the island in her Landrover until she was 90, her head just peeping above the steering wheel. Both she and my grandfather, Tony Hynes, loved Al-

derney, having been here since the early 50s. She took an active interest in the many societies here; particularly the Art Club, Animal Welfare, Fortifications and Alderney Society, and ran enameled jewellery classes in the early days. An artist, she painted throughout her life. And experimented with all manner of creative projects and materials, even achieving short-lived notoriety by plaiting old stockings into rugs!

Always beautifully dressed and keen to embrace the new, she could be found wearing elegant neckties and heel ensembles or combat trousers and trainers. Her love of pockets, storage and sense of fun was taken to new heights with her posted scarves surprising us by their secret pockets, given away by the stiff feel of Velcro or an incongruous button! Under her touch tomatoes turned into flowers, avocado skins to bowls...and we always looked forward to receiving post from 'Anma' to see how she would redesign our names, turning the letters into birds, bats, or written with an extra flourish.

She was a veritable cottage industry in the Mignot, when head not buried in the Financial Times, she would be churning out all manner of beautifully crafted knitwear and some rather oversized adult booties. I think the wonderful and long-suffering nursing staff, who looked after her so well these last 5 years, soon realized that although every surface may have been covered it was symptomatic of her interest in life and inspiring creative energy. She was keen to encourage any artistic or enterprising endeavour and, always interested in new ways of doing things, she ordered a laptop, much to everyone's surprise, at the age of 93, and more recently even a digital camera.

She had her own share of personal sadness but managed to rise above every situation through her strong (continued on page 7)

Here is the location.





# PBS!

# BOARD CHAIR

February is **BLACK HISTORY MONTH** and the new Ohio Humanities documentary about the Lincoln School Story is scheduled to be aired in Cincinnati, Dayton and Columbus so far. (schedule below).

The documentary has been greatly expanded to fit the time requirements for airing on PBS and also to include more national significance of what took place right here in Hillsboro. Andrea Torrice, the film maker really did a beautiful job on the current film. We encourage you to watch and contact your friends to do the same.

5 FEB (Mon)	- 10 pm	on 34 HD
6 FEB (Tue)	- 1:30 am	on 34 HD
6 FEB (Tue)	- 10 pm	on 34 PLUS
9 FEB (Fri)	- 9 pm	on 16 HD
16 FEB (Fri)	- 11 pm	on 48 HD
17 FEB (Sat)	- 11:30 pm	on 16 HD
18 FEB (Sun)	- 1 pm	on 34 HD
20 FEB (Tue)	- 9 pm	on 34 HD
21 FEB (Wed)	- 1:30 am	on 34 HD
21 FEB (Wed)	- 9 pm	on 34 PLUS
24 FEB (Sat)	- 3 am	on 34 HD
26 FEB (Mon)	- 5 pm	on 48 HD

*\*check listings to verify times and dates  
16 - WPTD (ThinkTV), Dayton  
34 - WOSU, Columbus  
48 - WCET, Cincinnati*

Please allow me to introduce myself as your new Chairman of the Highland County Historical Society Board of Trustees.

I was born in the Mount Olive community of Highland County's Union Township but raised near Snow Hill in Clinton County. My mother's and father's families trace our Highland County roots to the 1830s.

Following graduation and while attending college I started a 40 year banking career in Leesburg before transferring to Hillsboro. I have enjoyed being involved in the Highland County community through the Jaycees, spending 13 years on Hillsboro City Council and participating in other civic organizations and projects. Probably my proudest times were chairing Hillsboro's Bicentennial Celebration, the Hillsboro 175th celebration and serving as the organizational and first chair of the Festival of the Bells.

My wife, Kathy, and I are Ambassadors for the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Ohio Historic Family Farm Program. Kathy spent over 30 years teaching at Hillsboro High School. Our son, David, is an architect living in New York City, but working for a Portland, OR firm. Daughter, Jennifer, is a graphic designer working for Hydro-Flask and living near Bend, OR. Our daughter-in-law, Carina, works for the National Forest Service. And who can overlook our four legged companion Pete?

My great aunt, Martha Johnson, was a history teacher at Hillsboro High for over 25 years and introduced me to the love of history at an early age. That love has lasted over the

years. It was through Bob Hodson and Pamela Nickell that I was prompted to become involved with the HCHS.

The past board chairs have successfully guided the Society through COVID and several construction projects that disrupted normal operations and even caused museum closures. Therefore I have big shoes to fill. But I can't overlook the devotion and dedication of our director Vicki Knauff and the past boards who guided the Society through those trying times.

I am honored to lead a highly qualified team of member elected trustees who are devoted to lead the Society into the future while keeping an eye on the past. I truly believe the recent naming of a World Heritage Site to the region will provide countless opportunities for the Museum, Society and members to let the world know about Highland County, its history and its citizens.

If you have an interest becoming more involved in the Society, please let Vicki or myself know. We have committee slots and volunteer opportunities open. Through the efforts of our grass root members and trustees working together, 2024 will be a great year.

*John Levo*

## Veteran Banner Project

Deadline for submission:

**1 February**

Forms:  
Vets Service Office  
1575 N High St.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need **YOU** to help us continue our mission of preserving and promoting Highland County history. Please join us in making a difference!

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You make a life by what you give."*

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## Our House (continued)

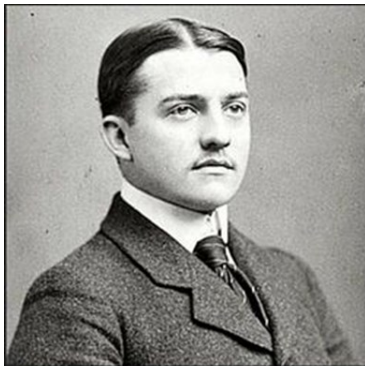
nati as a hero and quickly began to build a fortune that reached into the tens of millions. He started an oil business that he sold to John D. Rockefeller for a large amount of Standard Oil stock, developed considerable interests in coal and iron, had many real estate investments throughout the country, and was vice-president of the Cincinnati, Hamilton, and Dayton Railroad. Eugene Zimmerman was no-nonsense, kept his business dealings quiet, and, despite his multimillionaire status, did not seek attention.

Eugene married Hillsboro's Marietta Evans in 1878. Marietta was the daughter of dentist Dr. Amos Evans and her grandfather, also named Amos Evans, was one of the earliest settlers of Highland County. The couple soon had one daughter, Helena. Unfortunately, after only four years of marriage, Marietta died from peritonitis in 1882. Eugene Zimmerman never remarried.

In the 1890s, Eugene developed an interest in breeding race horses and began buying farmland in Highland County. In 1894, he bought the Hillsboro Fairgrounds for \$7,000 (\$250,000 in 2024). He repaired the horse racing track and planned to use it to train his horses and as a winter headquarters. He bought the Highland House in 1895 for \$6,000 (\$220,000 in 2024), likely to house visiting racing aficionados. Zimmerman visited Hillsboro often during the 1890s, looking after his various properties. He sometimes stayed in the house across the street from

the Scott House, now the Colonial Animal Clinic.

In late 1900, 21-year-old Helena Zimmerman caused a media sensation when she unexpectedly married the 23-year-old, 9th Duke of Manchester, William Angus Drogo Montagu, and became the



The Duke of Manchester  
His Grace, William Montagu, The 9th Duke and 12th Earl of Manchester (3 March 1877 - 9 February 1947)

Duchess of Manchester. The wedding was conducted without the knowledge or approval of either side's parents. Like most European royalty who married a rich American heiress in the 1890s, the duke was in dire financial straits due to proliferate living by both the young duke and his father. A \$35,000 (\$1.3 million in 2024) debt was particularly pressing. Eugene was not in favor of the match (nor was the duke's mother!), but when he learned of the marriage through newspaper reports, he initially tried to speak well of his new son-in-law. It was obvious, however, that he was not impressed with his daughter's choice. He refused to contribute to the financial support of the couple beyond a \$100 (\$3,500 in 2024) per month allowance for his daughter and he absolutely refused to pay off any of his son-in-law's considerable debts. Eugene also had his will carefully re-written to ensure the duke would receive nothing from his estate. After a contentious marriage, Helena and the duke finally divorced in 1931. Helena married another member of British royalty in 1937, Lord Arthur Keith-Falconer, 10th Earl of Kintore. Helena died in England in December, 1971.

(continued page 11)

## Coming in March!



**St. Patrick's  
Day Brunch  
17 March  
11 am - 1 pm  
Highland House**



Helena Zimmerman Montagu Keith-Falconer the Duchess of Manchester then the Countess of Kintore

A TALE (continued)

celebration to ring in 2023.

Disaster struck again on 8 February 2023 when an AEP truck (per the police report) ran the stop light and collided with another vehicle which came to a stop after hitting the bell. This time, more physical damage occurred to parts of the bell itself. The upright on the west side suffered a clean break across the center brace and the east upright bore most of the collision force which shattered it into multiple pieces. The new wheel constructed by Steve Holland was once again shattered and the bell was knocked back to the ground. No one was hurt in either incident to this point besides the bell.

After having a few discussions with a local machinist, it was determined that we needed to fabricate new parts from scratch since the chances of repairing the damaged parts were not good. I approached Corey Richards of Bear Mechanical in Pricetown



and they suggested that they could build new uprights out of steel which would be lighter and stronger. The new uprights resemble the old ones with an updated bronze bushing to help make the bell ring a lot easier. After years of weather exposure, it was decided that the bell also needed a face lift so I reached out to Wes of Coyote Manufacturing outside Highland where the bell and the new uprights were sandblasted and powder-coated black to give the bell and new clean, sharp, low maintenance look.

Steve Holland removed the wheel after the second collision and took it home to make repairs. With help once again from Justin Harsha, Josh Kellis, and me, all of Harsha Monument, as well as Jason Griffith from G&G Body Shop, we were able to have the bell back up in time for the Annual Ringing in the New Year for 2024. The bell stands guard once

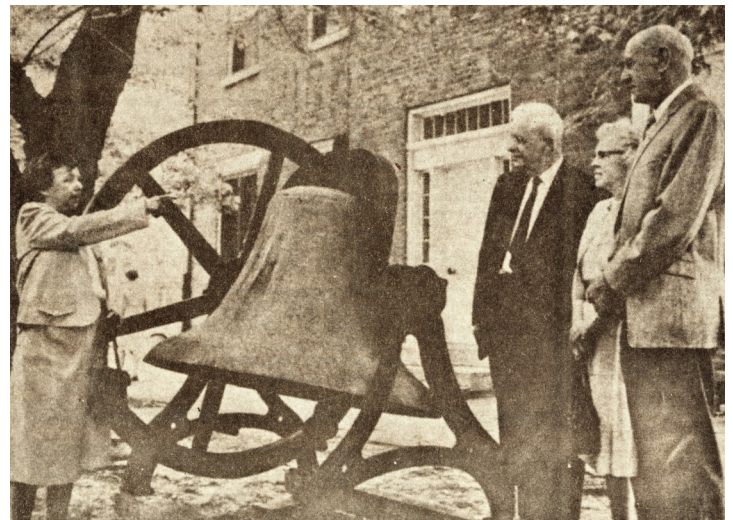
again out front of Highland House for all to see just as it once stood in front of the C S Bell Foundry for many years and for many years to come for all passers-by to enjoy. It

was a monumental task that, in the name of preservation, had to be done.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

The photograph below shows the bell after it had been placed in front of the museum. It is one of the largest ever produced by C S Bell Co. and previously stood for many years in front of the CS Bell Co. Foundry. During WW2, the bell was carried by truck through the streets of Hillsboro to call attention to the War Bond Campaign, as well as on V-J Day in 1945.

Shown in the photo are (l-r): Virginia Bell, Fred Keeler, first President of HCHS, Ruth Carlisle, first Secretary of HCHS and R. Ervin Evans, first Curator of the museum. (info from Highland Guideposts)



John T Willis

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## Children's Room

Every museum seeks to have not only exhibits of historical importance but of interest to a wide variety of visitors of all ages. The philosophy of "something for everyone" is very applicable to the most successful of museums. One of Highland House Museum's most important exhibits is the Lincoln School Story. Others come during the holiday season to peruse and buy from local merchants at the Merry Mercantile and check out the holiday decorations which change each year. While adults enjoy those activities, the very young enjoy another feature of the holiday season at the museum. No, it's not Santa Claus!!

While the museum volunteers decorate the outside and main hallway, individual groups have for years decorated the various rooms. Our thanks go to Lynn Neal, Towne Club, Wayman Chapel Women, Three Arts Club, Country Quilters, Hillsboro Garden Club, Sinking Spring Women, DAR, SOGS, Hillsboro Women's Club, Highland County Retired Teachers and Altrusa. Each group takes the chosen theme for that year and puts their own unique spin on it. We thank them for their time and creativity.

So what captures the very young children's attention? The Children's Room. Yes, the furnishings are child size. Yes, there are antique toys displayed. Yes, there is a Christmas tree with lights and ornaments, but there is something else under the tree that is unique to this room. Altrusa's main interest is to encourage reading at any age but especially in children. Each year they put colorfully wrapped books under the tree and invite the young visitors to take one. The museum volunteers have observed the children's anticipation and excitement as they leave the museum with a wrapped book tucked under their arms, eager to get to the car and unwrap their treasure. During the 2023 holiday season, Altrusa gave out 64 books.

A museum needs to appeal to all ages. These children are too young to appreciate the historical actions of our pioneers and later generations' contributions to the county and the country, but they'll be back and they'll learn.

*Kathy Levo*



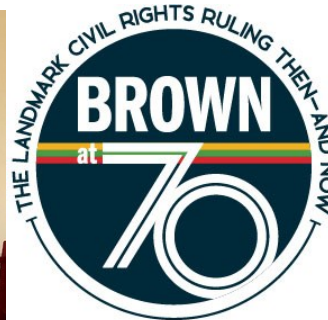
# OHIO HUMANITIES

MUSEUM MUSES

## Updates

SO MUCH going on at Ohio Humanities!

## A Look (cont.)



First, the Lincoln School Story film has become the centerpiece of our "Brown at 70" initiative, which is a series of events designed to commemorate the Brown v. Board of Education decision and the effects it's had on Ohio's communities. This link: <https://www.ohiohumanities.org/brown-70/> has a list of events.



Our main event for this will take place on May 9 at the Lincoln Theater in Columbus. We will screen the film and then we will host a panel discussion filled with experts to discuss the legacy of Brown.

Since word got out (continued on page 10)

sense of duty, determination and creative drive. Never one to complain she kept herself going with incredible self-discipline and revealing only later in life that she maintained an incredibly rigorous daily exercise regime. It was hard not to be in awe of her lively mind and command of names and dates, perhaps honed from years of providing back-up to our grandfather!

Fortunately I was lucky enough to be able to share with her some of my recent Chinese travels, retracing her father's footsteps. When talking with her it was striking how youthful she became when animated. In her own words, "she was a young spirit trapped in an old body." An inspiration to many, she had 97 remarkable years and had just seen in the birth of her 2 newest great grandchildren, both named after her; Elizabeth and Mijoro Quinn.

Like a cat with nine lives, she kept rallying back from the brink so it seems only appropriate to end on her familiar mischievous greeting, "Miaow." She will be sorely missed.

She leaves behind 2 daughters, 5 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren, who would like to thank all the Mignot Memorial Hospital staff, the Connaught, and kind friends who gave her such good care and company.

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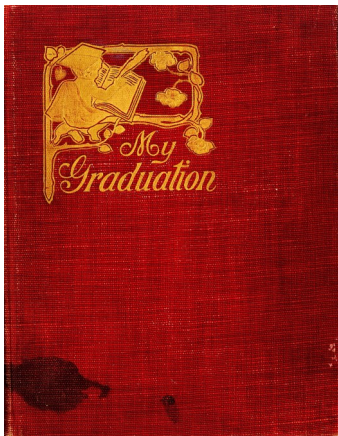
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# MY GRADUATION!

We recently received the donation of this book, "My Graduation," which had been owned by Nellie Mae Brunner of Hillsboro.



The book is about 10.25" x 7.75" x 1" and is hardback with very thick pages, perhaps twice the thickness of card stock. It was sold as an empty book for mementos, meant to be filled in by the graduate. The book, presented to Nellie May by Lewis S. McMeekin, is a great source of information about the members of the HHS Class of 1910.

But first, a bit about Nellie May Brunner, Vice President of the graduating class. She was born 5 November 1891, in Hillsboro, the daughter of Christian Brunner (1861-1951) and Frances Hochberger (1865-1949), both of whom were born in Georgetown, Ohio. The Brunners also had three other children, all boys: Alonzo Grover, Frank H. and Foster Allen.

Most of their time in Hillsboro, the Brunners lived at 120 W. South Street. Christian, or "Chris," as he was known, was a well-known cobbler/shoemaker & repairman in town. He first located at the corner of Court Street and N. High, but soon moved to West Main Street, where he remained for the rest of his career. The first pair of boots he made was for S. Morrison, the Operator of Clifton House (located where the Armory now stands). Chris's career lasted over 65 years.



Most of you will recognize the above picture, which was taken during a parade of the 1907 Centennial Celebration. We are going to zoom in to just the girls, however. (see below) Now you can see the two gals clearly and



they are Rachel Mozelle Trop (later, Elliott) and Nellie Mae Brunner, from left to right. Mozelle was a classmate of Nellie's.

Any time we can learn more about the folks who owned the items that are donated to the museum, we are very pleased. Luckily, with Nellie, we were able to find several photos. Here are the Brunners



on the front porch of their home. The only person identified is Foster Allen (circled).



The above photo shows Christian and Mattie (Douglass) Klumpp, Nellie May, Frances and Chris Brunner. (Chris Brunner's mother's maiden name was Klumpp).

Nellie's book contains the HHS announcement of graduation which included:

>29 May, Sunday evening: the Baccalaureate Service, which was held at First Presbyterian Church. The sermon by Episcopal Priest, Rev. Louis Durr.

>2 June, Thursday evening:

Class Exercises and the Class Play, which were held in Bell's Opera House. The Class Play was The Merchant of Venice Up-To-Date.

>3 June, Friday, Commencement, which was also held at Bell's Opera House. The Commencement address was given by Dr. C. W. Blodgett.

One of the largest graduating classes from Hillsboro High, the Class of 1910 had 33 graduating seniors! Their Class Motto: "We have reached the foothills, yonder are the mountains," Class colors: Green & Gold and Class Flower, the Yellow Rose. The class officers: Willard Wilson, President, Nellie Brunner,

Vice President, Alice Hussey, Secretary and Patton Parks, Treasurer.

Now, on the facing page, you'll see the photo of Hillsboro High as Nellie had pasted it into her book. For those who may not know. This building stood on the block bordered by N. East, E. Beech and E. North Streets. Currently, this is the location of Paint Valley Fire Department and previously Washington School, which was formerly HHS, in its glory days.

Lastly, we present the Class of 1910 posed outside the Hillsboro High School building with names of the class.

## Edward Jones®



**Susan Vaher**  
Financial Advisor

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# GRADUATION *(continued)*

# BANNER YEAR FOR MM

2023 was a banner year for the Merry Mercantile! Not only did we have more crafters, but we also recorded the highest gross income ever. During the months of November and December, our gross sales, adjusted to include only shop items, was \$15,047.52. During this same two month period, we paid out to our consignors, **\$7876.86!**

Another measure which we follow is that of the benefit to **YOU**, our members. That is shown in the chart to the right and it is the amount of discounts taken by our members on their purchases in the Museum Shop throughout the year. 2023 was NOT the

YEAR	DISCOUNT
2014	\$673.21
2015	\$691.74
2016	\$843.80
2017	\$755.71
2018	\$513.31
2019	\$492.06
2020	\$210.45
2021	\$871.92
2022	\$717.82
2023	\$833.90
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,603.92</b>

highest year, which shows that we are selling more to non-members than to members.



*Note: Photo identification from 19 March 1936 reprint of the photo and includes married names in many cases.*

*Class of 1910 Identification - NOTE: Photo taken in 1909 when the members were Juniors. In the picture is Glenn Duke who dropped out in his Senior year, and Mack White who graduated in 1909, completing the four year course in three years. In addition to those in the picture there were three other graduates who joined the class in the Senior year, Truman Stratton, Joseph Evans and Ralph McCafferty. 1st row (l-r): Elizabeth Rockhold, Patton Parkes, Joseph Rodgers, Williard Wilson. 2nd row: Florence Hilton Posey, Penelope Hindman, Carrie Lyle Donohoo, Helen Barrett Haber, Mary Lyle Watts, Mary VanPelt, Alice Hussey Haskell, Glenn Duke. 3rd row: Madge Faris Lowe, Anna Hopkins Kleine, Mabel SmithLarkin, Nellie Brunner, Alice Brouse Hilliard, Mozelle Trop Elliott, Cora Brooksbank. Standing: Marie McMullen, Reuben Hardin, Helen Lemon, Florence Ellifritz, Pauline Parkes Stevenson, Guy Mauntell, Otway Conard, Fay Roads, Halford Conwell, Glen Faris, Henry Strain.*



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MUSEUM MUSES



Article 5.2 of the Historical Society By-laws establishes eight standing

committees along with authorizing the Chairman to establish ad hoc committees when necessary throughout the year.

The standing committees are:

- (1) Budget and Finance
- (2) Buildings and Grounds
- (3) Collections and Exhibits
- (4) Executive
- (5) Events
- (6) Media
- (7) Membership
- (8) Youth & Historical Education.

Standing committee membership consists of at least three individuals with each committee chaired by a HCHS Board Chairman appointed Trustee. Committee members serve for one year and may be reappointed.

In addition to those Trustees appointed to serve on the committees it is desired to have individuals from the general Society membership serve on these committees.

Presently most committees have open slots for non-trustee members to occupy.

Any Society member with an interest in fulfilling the mission of the Society (beyond just paying dues) is urged to contact either Director Knauff or Board Chairman Levo to learn about the opportunities to further serve the Society and learn more about the "behind the scenes" operation of the Society and Museum. Over the years many past Trustees have started as members of the standing committees.

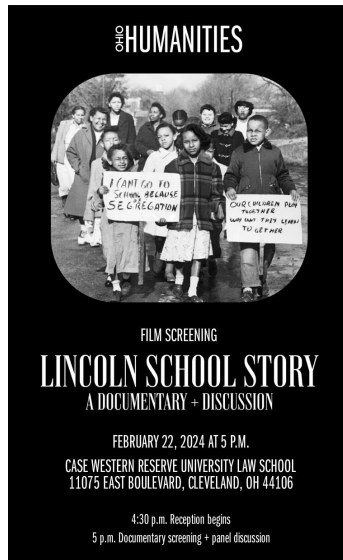
With what appears to be an exciting Museum year, it is expected some short term committees will be needed to organize events and undertake projects. Anyone wishing to consider volunteering to assist on such committees should contact Director Knauff.

Your involvement and input is welcome and desired. Please give this request serious consideration if you want to see the Society grow and prosper as well as offer new programs, exhibits and events.



OHIO HUMANITIES (continued)

that the film will now be airing on PBS, (see related story on page 4) we've heard from many other organizations across the state about screening the film in their communities. So far, we have screenings scheduled in Wilmington, Cincinnati, and Cleveland. We expect to add many more communities across the state over the coming year.



Cleveland advertising

The screening in Wilmington will take place at the Murphy Theater on **Saturday, February 10 at 7PM.** The admission fee is \$5.

We are also working with the AAARC in Hillsboro to screen the film in April. More details on that will be coming in the next month or two! Watch HCHS website and Facebook for details.

*Aaron Rovan, PhD*

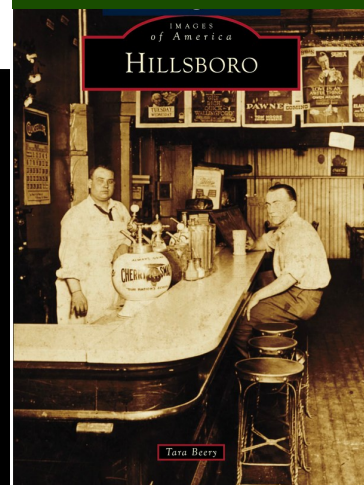


**PRESIDENTIAL ED.**

**20 FEB - 7pm**

**More info on our website!**

**IT'S HERE!**



By the time you receive this newsletter, we fully expect that our latest book, **IMAGES OF AMERICA - HILLSBORO** by Tara Beery will have arrived! Watch for announcements of when we will be open so that you can purchase your copy. We hope to have an author signing very soon also! At the very least, it can be purchased before or after the JEOPARDY event on 20 Feb.

This book contains many seldom-seen photos from Tara Beery's collection and you don't want to miss getting your copy!

Watch Facebook, our website and local media for further updates!

Office Hours By Appointment



**OSLER MEDICAL CENTER**

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1901 was a hard year for Eugene. In addition to the media circus surrounding his daughter and high-borne, deadbeat husband, he also lost a sister and his former father-in-law, Amos Evans, who died in October 1901. From this point, Eugene Zimmerman stopped visiting Hillsboro and basically disappeared from the town's newspapers. He gradually sold off his Highland County properties before his death in December 1914.

Zimmerman sold the Highland House in 1905 to Kate Doorley for \$4,000 (\$140,000 in 2024). Some recent histories of the Highland House declare that Kate was Eugene Zimmerman's daughter, that she ran the hotel for him during his ownership, and that she was referred to as the "Duchess of Winchester". This is completely incorrect, though Eugene might have been more pleased to have the hard-working Kate as a daughter than the frivolous Helena!

Kate Doorley was born Catherine Sullivan in Hillsboro on March 23, 1862. Her parents were Edward and Ellen Sullivan. Her father was an Irish immigrant and her mother was from New York. Kate was the oldest of four children. She married James Doorley on Wednesday, June 15, 1892, at 9am at St. Mary Catholic Church.

James Doorley was born in Ireland in 1860 to Patrick and Ellen Doorley. He was the oldest child of eight children. The Doorley family immigrated to the United States and settled in Hillsboro by 1870. By 1890, James owned and operated Doorley's Saloon on High Street, two doors south of the Masonic Hall. It was a bit of a wild place, with several recorded fights.

The most serious fracas took place in July, 1890. A fight broke out in the saloon between Edward Elliott and Bill Eakin over a card game. While Doorley and several patrons restrained Elliott from hitting Eakin with a billiard cue, another patron summoned the town marshal, John W. Lewis. When the marshal entered through the front

door, Elliott managed to slip out the back. The lawman followed and apprehended Elliott behind the Clifton House, the present site of the Armory. A scuffle ensued and during the struggle, the marshal shot Edward Elliott in the neck, killing him instantly. Marshal Lewis was then arrested. About a year later, after a lengthy trial, Lewis was found not guilty of second-degree murder but was judged to be guilty of manslaughter. He was sentenced to 7 years in the state penitentiary. His case was appealed, but

the Circuit Court upheld the sentence in mid 1892. In January 1893, Governor William McKinley fully pardoned John Lewis after many in Hillsboro petitioned for his release.

A month after his marriage to Kate, James sold his North High Street saloon to Mattie Maher and L. Baum of Portsmouth. James then bought the Stag Saloon on West Main Street from Kramer & Richards and took possession on September 1, 1892. This saloon seems to have been a more refined establishment, with no recorded disturbances, though James Doorley was arrested and fined \$25 (\$850 in 2024) on two occasions in March 1893 for keeping this saloon open after approved hours.

In June 1893, almost exactly a year after James and Kate were married, the Highland Weekly News reported that "James Doorley is happier than a king... It's a beautiful girl". Ellen June Doorley had entered the world. The happiness of the family was short lived, however. Sometime between August 10 and November 23, 1893, James Doorley died at age 32 or 33. No details of his death could be found.

Now a widow with an infant she had to provide for, Kate took June to Chicago in April 1895 with the intent of opening a boarding house. They did not stay in Chicago for long. By the time of the 1900 census, they had returned to Hillsboro and Kate was running a boarding house occupied by her brother, sister, and six boarders.

After she purchased the Highland House in 1905, Kate worked hard to develop it into an elite boarding house. She had an average of 10 boarders through the years and also offered rooms for short-term visitors to Hillsboro. Many of the long-term residents were wealthy older women from the town's oldest, and at one time, most socially prominent families. These women were the eyes and ears of Hillsboro and were the keepers of secrets both past and present. The Press Gazette declared, "Through the years the ladies sitting on chairs strategically placed for a good "bird's eye view" up and down Main Street, weather permitting, were as much of a tradition or landmark as the house itself. Conversations ran the gamut, with emphasis on trips abroad, plays viewed in New York, who was going with whom on East Main and most all the other streets, the stock market, and bridge hands passed and played. The small plot of grass between the sidewalk fronting the Highland House and the street was Hillsboro's replica of the sidewalk cafes of Paris, the boardwalk of Atlantic City."

But it was her dining room that earned Kate, and later June, local fame. Her lunches throughout the week were well attended and her acclaimed Sunday dinners frequently had up to 50 people crowded around the table. Seats were jealously guarded, and Elouise Postle claimed "positions at certain tables could only be had through inheritance." Most of the town's clubs and organizations held their luncheons and dinner meetings at her table. Anne Rhude recalled, "The magnificent walnut and marble sideboard stood on the west side of the dining room reflecting pleasant faces. The hum of voices and the bustle of the waiters, mingled with the tinkle of glassware and the aroma of a memorable repast – thus was Sunday diner at the Highland House Inn". Elouise Postle affectionately recalled "the creak of a certain floorboard in the pantry...[that] heralded a tray-bearer's approach".

June attended Miami University from 1913-1914, where she was in the Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority. During the 1920s and into the 1930s, she lived in Washington DC and worked as a government clerk. She returned to Hillsboro by 1940, and joined her mother at the Highland House.

After a long struggle with heart disease, Kate died at the Highland House on May 7, 1949, at age 87. She left everything to June, including the Highland House. June continued the operation of the boarding house and the dining room with very little change. The tradition of the post-church Sunday dinner continued until 1964.

June had no intention of closing the Highland House, but the state government gave her no choice. A health inspector demanded she completely renovate the kitchen with modern appliances and was especially serious about forbidding the serving of homemade ice cream as long as it was made in the old hand-cranked wooden-bucket freezer. This decree was met with much outrage from Hillsboro. As recounted by Mrs. Postle, Highland House diners "listened with anticipation for that last, muffled squeak-thump from the *(continued page 12)*



Whiskey decanter from Doorley Saloon



June Doorley

# HIGHLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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## 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!

## Our House (continued)

pantry as Sam Collins, the handyman, finished off hand-cranking The World's Most Delectable Dessert." The cost of the mandatory upgrades was enormous, and June refused to change a perfectly serviceable kitchen that had produced excellent food for almost 60 years. Instead, she sold the business to Helen Boyd, who had resided at the Highland House for many years. June's last day cooking was June 1, 1964. Ellen June Doorley died April 4, 1979, in Oakland Nursing Home (now the Laurels) at age 85.

Helen Boyd kept the Highland House running as a boarding house and dining hall, with Mrs. Artie Sliker running the facility for her. Tragically, in March 1965, the 80-year-old Helen committed suicide in her two-room apartment at the Highland House by shooting herself twice in the head with a .22 revolver. Letters left at the scene indicated that she was despondent after developing cancer.

In February 1966, the newly formed Highland County Historical Society purchased the Highland House from the Cincinnati bank that was the executor of Helen's estate. This saved the then 120-year-old building from the wrecking ball, as another interested party wanted to put a gas station on the site. The building has been adopted by the history-minded residents of Highland County who entrust its brick walls to protect the rich heritage of our great county.

### Known Highland House Owners

Prior to 1836	Private Home	Daniel Fall
1836	Private Home	George Tucker
	Private Home	Henry and Ann Turner
Circa 1840	Private Home	Peter Ayres
Circa 1852	Private Home	James and Mary Rosa
Circa 1853	Private Home	Dr. John and Sallie Johnson
Circa 1866	School	Trustees/Highland Institute
Circa 1870	Private Home	J. S. Black
	Private Home	Fred and Emma Steinman
Circa 1878	Hotel	Joseph Gaskill
Circa 1889	Hotel	Samuel Scott & Jane Scott
Circa 1895	Hotel	Col. Eugene Zimmerman
1905	Rooming House/Restaurant	Kate Doorley
1949	Rooming House/Restaurant	Ellen June Doorley
1964	Rooming House/Restaurant	Helen Boyd
1966	Museum	Highland County Historical Society

### Highlights of the building's history

1842-1845	The Highland House is built by Peter Ayres. He lives in it until his death in 1849.
1852-1866	Dr. Johnson adds a double deck porch to the eastern rear section.
1866-1870	The Highland House bought for \$5,250 (\$210,000 in 2024) and was used as a temporary home and dormitory for the Highland Institute while a new building was constructed at the Y intersection of US 50/SR 124. (Chillicothe Ave & E Main St)
1878-1889	Joseph Gaskill enclosed the porches and otherwise enlarged the building to turn it into a hotel. He also built a large livery stable behind the house. He is the one who named the property the Highland House. He was a strict Temperance man, and his establishment served no alcoholic beverages.
1905-1949	Kate Doorley buys the Highland House and runs it until her death.
1949-1964	Kate's daughter, June Doorley, continues the Highland House until being forced by the state to close.
1966	The newly formed Highland County Historical Society buys the Highland House for \$18,000 (\$170,000 in 2024) to prevent its demolition.

Tara Beery