

MUSEUM MUSES

A NICKELL'S WORTH

Pamela Nickell

Greetings during this very cold winter! I find, however, that I am truly warmed by the enthusiasm for the Society so many of you are expressing, the work of the Board members and volunteers, and the excitement I personally feel.

Something will be missed in the following list no doubt, but we did have our December Open House, even though delayed one week due to weather. There was a steady stream of folks touring the Highland House, enjoying hors d'ouerves and conversation, and patronizing the gift shop. Some of the Board committees

are investigating investments, insurance, needed repairs, fund raising and cost saving measures. Others are planning events for the pleasure and education of our community. For instance, the St. Patrick's brunch will continue and at least eight more events are in the works. The Membership Committee is keeping up with old and new memberships and volunteers. The Scott House committee is assessing needed repairs and creating a plan for future use. Unfortunately, right now, we cannot continue with small group usage of the Scott House until some repairs and the 'plan' are complete. The Board has experi-

enced training for charitable boards from attorneys of the Ohio Attorney General's Office. Society President Mike McCarty has presented to the Highland County Board of Realtors at their request and we hope to have additional invitations. We are awaiting release of the Chaney Estate inheritance which is such a huge blessing. We are receiving business memberships and donations. For instance, MAC Printing donated color printing of our last newsletter.

With all this going on, we need *more* and we need *you*.

Pamela



Highland County Historical Society President Michael McCarty speaking to the Highland County Board of Realtors at their January meeting.

AREA EVENTS



STATEHOOD DAY

Statehood Day will be held February 27 at the Statehouse in Columbus. Ohio became *(continued on page 3)*

RECENT ACQUISITION

Jim Stratton, grandson of Hazel Scott Fenner of Hillsboro, Ohio, recently donated to the Society an exquisite night shirt with matching pantaloons and a day bonnet belonging to his grandmother. The garments, at least from the early 1900s, have intricate embroidery,

tucking and fine stitching.

Hazel was born December 30, 1892 and died February 6, 1982. She was born on Anderson Road near Dunns Chapel Methodist Church and is buried in Dunns Chapel Cemetery on Anderson Road.

We are so pleased to have this donation contributing to the Society's collection of textiles.



HCHS—GET INVOLVED! BE INVOLVED!



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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The following are your Board of Trustees:

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Dr. Lawrence Dukes
Caroyl Reid
John Kellis

2 Year Term:
Michael Shanahan
Vickie Knauff
Michelle Stratton
Pamela Nickell

3 Year Term:
Rose Ryan
Jean Wallis
Lana Daniels
Avery Applegate

Society Officers

Mike McCarty- President
Arlene Huffman-Vice President



BE A
VOLUNTEER!

THE STORY OF A HOME—C. S. Bell’s Beech St. Home

In 1861, Charles S. Bell bought his first Hillsboro home, located at 222 W. Beech St., from Judge John Duvall for \$1050.00. This home, our home, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places under the Bell Thematic Group. Bell's first home is the house he occupied during the early formative years of business and during the time he developed his formula for the steel alloy bell. One of the features of the home, the wrought iron work on the porch, was made by the C. S. Bell Foundry for his home. In the 1940s, brick pillars were installed and covered the bottom portion of the

wrought iron porch posts. In addition, the original clapboard siding was covered with asbestos siding. The privy, or outhouse, was a “three holer”, construction of board and batten siding with a small central gable over the door. (This structure is now a garden shed.)

The house on Oak Street, known as the Bell Mansion, was built about 1883. When he moved to the mansion, Mr. Bell left his daughter, May, behind with servants to care for her in the Beech Street home. Was she an embarrassment to the family as she was considered slow, or did she not want to move? We found scribbles and writing in the closet un-

der the stairway, saying that John Bell murdered and caused the death of 6 year old Pearl (the colored child of a servant). I have misplaced the paper with the dates and exact writings. It looked like something a child would have written.

C. S. Bell sold this Beech Street house in 1899 for \$1600. There is a hitching post in front of the house, one of the few left in Hillsboro.

Nettie Perrin owned the house from 1945-1985 and the home was known as the Perrin Boarding House. It was then rented out until we bought it in 1989. The National Register shows the house being built 1854-1858. I have found deeds as early as 1838.

The National Register description lists this home as a two story, three bay frame house near downtown Hillsboro. “...the house appears to be one of the oldest structures in the immediate vicinity.” “Other than those alterations” (referring to the aforementioned brick pillars and asbestos siding) “which are both reversible since no original fabric was des- (continued on page 4)



SANTA BOB!

As they would be out of town on December 15, Bob and Dorothy Hodson were guests prior to the December 11th Board of Trustees meeting to experience the Museum as it was all dressed up for its Open House. (Due to bad weather, the Open House had been rescheduled from December 8th.) As the meeting commenced, the Chair asked if Bob would say a few words of encouragement. He graciously agreed but he was in for a surprise. Following his welcomed remarks, Paulette Donley, prepared in advance, presented a special "Santa Award" to Bob thanking him for generous guidance to the Society and for "keeping the dream alive."



12/11/21



AREA EVENTS (continued from page 1)

the 17th state on March 1, 1803. The featured speaker will be Erin Moriarty, a native of Cincinnati, a reporter in Columbus and Cleveland, and presently a correspondent for 48 Hours. Registration is \$25, which includes the luncheon with Erin Moriarty. Registration after February 14 will be \$30. To register and for more information, visit www.ohiohistory.org/statehoodday.



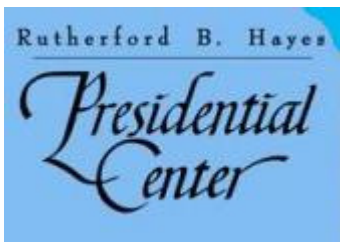
STATEHOOD DAY AT ADENA

The Adena Mansion and Gardens in Chillicothe will host a celebration of the anniversary of Ohio becoming a state on March 1 from 1-4PM at the home of Ohio Governor Thomas Worthington. A special Statehood Day drama featuring local actors will be presented throughout the mansion. The museum and education center will be open too. There is no charge for the event and more details are available at www.adenamansion.com.

HISTORY DAY COMPETITION



The annual state-level completion for the History Day contest will be held Saturday, April 26, 2014 at the Ohio State University in Columbus. History Day is a project for students in grades 6-12 that focuses on a national theme each year. The theme for 2014 is *Rights and Responsibilities in History*. Winners from every state will advance to the finals in Washington D. C. Judges and volunteers are needed for this exciting contest. If you are a teacher, professor, historian and just loves history, contact Mary Bezbatchenko at 800-297-2528 or go to the website at www.ohiohistory.org/education/national-history-day-in-ohio/get-involved to get more information.



The Hayes Presidential Center is focusing on the connection between Hayes and the founding of The Ohio

State University in its new exhibit *Rutherford B. Hayes: Buckeye President*. President Hayes played an instrumental role in the Ohio legislature establishing The Morrill Act of 1862 creating the Ohio Agricultural and Mechanical College, which later become known as The Ohio State University. To learn more about this exhibit visit www.rbhayes.org.



THE PEOPLE'S PRINCESS VISITS THE QUEEN CITY

The Cincinnati Museum is hosting a special exhibit on *Diana, a Celebration* opening February 14 and closing August 17. Included in the collection is Princess Diana's royal wedding gown, 28 gowns and designer dresses as well as family mementos. Go to www.cincymuseum.org for tour information.

HCHS EVENTS

Many wonderful events are being planned for HCHS members. On this page, you can read about our annual St. Patty's Day Brunch—always a great time with wonderful food!

In July, at the Festival of the Bells, there will be a one day special event with artisans and patriotic music.

September 13th we will be having our LOG CAGIN COOKOUT featuring a bean and chili dinner and blue grass music.

Remember that our important Annual Membership Meeting of HCHS will be in October.

November 29th will be our Christmas Open House and Gift Shop Opening.

CHILDREN'S EVENTS

The first part of December we will hold our Children's Tea.

YOUR HELP NEEDED!

Our Children's Committee is involved in helping to promote child education and involvement in the historical society in the hope of building our future.

The Events Committee is involved in planning events to promote the history of Highland County and involvement in the historical society to build awareness and future membership.

Are you interested in either of these committees? Call Shelly Stratton at 937-402-1899 or Lana Daniels at 937-393-6912.

THANK-YOU!



St. Patty's Day Brunch!
March 16 from 11am-2pm
Reservations required by March 10
Call Highland House today! 393-3392
Or use enclosed reservation form!
Freewill donations will be accepted for the brunch.

Highland County Historical Society
155 E Main St
Hillsboro, OH 45133
Phone: 937-393-3392

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Hillsboro, OH
45133
Permit No. 11

ST. PATTY'S DAY BRUNCH!

Call now for
reservations!

See page 3!

Have you renewed your membership? This could be your last newsletter! See insert!

MEMBERSHIP REPORT & CHALLENGE

We were getting organized and the fourth quarter started us off with a bang; fifty-four new members, over 60% renewals and our solid base of life-time members. We expect the renewal rate to continue to grow over the next few months. All three groups had members who donated additional funds to us as did a few non-members, so a big THANKS to all of you.

The membership funds play an important part in supporting the daily operations of Highland House.

Given this background, your participation has motivated us to develop a series of activities to drive the membership throughout 2014. The first event can only be successful with your participation and you don't even need to leave your house. It's named "The Bob Hodson Challenge". Can you guess? A number of those new mem-

bers came from the board of trustees. Bob challenged us to go out and get more than one new member—I won't tell you how many we were to get. All we are asking is for each member to bring in one new member; perhaps a neighbor, a coworker and if all else fails, a relative. The more we grow, the more events and activities we can offer, whether it is an educational program, having fun or programs specifically designed for children. We want to raise the rafters of Highland House and be known as a center of activity in Highland County.

Carol Reid

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

(See enclosed membership application form!)

STORY OF A HOME (continued from page 2)

troyed—the house has retained its integrity. The roof is a gently-pitched gable covered in standing seam metal. The house is irregular in shape: the front section is 2-rooms deep; the 2-story middle portion, to the rear and off to the east side of the front, is box-like and has a shed roof; and the rear portion, again set off to the east side of the middle section, is only one story and has a gable roof. It is not known precisely when these additions were made but the middle section appears to be nearly as old as the front, and the current owner added the rear portion after she acquired the house in 1944.”

“...On the interior, the central hall retains the original stairway with turned balusters, wide handrail and newel post. Other notable interior features include wide plank floors and marbled Victorian fireplaces. On the

whole, the interior has been left intact.”

Diana Rayburn

*Detail of porch
iron work.*

