

MUSEUM MUSES

Telling Highland County's story for over 50 years!

Our Trustees Write!

A new series! With this issue, you'll be reading an article written by one of our Trustees! They are each stepping up to choose a topic of interest, do some research, and present the information for your reading pleasure. If you read one of their stories which you especially appreciate, please reach out with your thanks to him or her!

HISTORY OF THE HILLSBORO RECREATION COMMISSION Richard Shaffer Park

In 1954, a handful of members of the Hillsboro community decided to start a Little League baseball program. The Hillsboro Recreation Commission's roots are traced to the Highland County Fairgrounds. Five Little League teams and, eventually, three Babe Ruth teams were organized and played their first games at the fairgrounds. When the local Little League was organized, Hillsboro High School baseball, a fast-pitch softball league, and an independent league played on a single diamond on the grounds.

Some of Hillsboro's first coaches and organizers included Jake Wagoner, Dick Shaffer, Bob Hamm, Frank Collins, George Boone, Norman DeHass, Jim Carey, Bill Mallory, and Dan Reed.

In 1961, the teams made the move to what is now Shaffer Park when the Highland County Chamber of Commerce bought the land on North High Street for the leagues. This purchase included only the east side of the park where the A league, the Pony League, and girls' diamonds now exist. While the fields were being built, the teams played in the grass where the new Hillsboro Water Treatment plant is located. Meanwhile, volunteer efforts were under way. People who had already put in eight-hour days installed poles and lights every evening. Numerous electricians, carpenters, businessmen, and utility companies contributed to the park's development. The community's efforts never ceased even though a huge flood in 1965 caused by seven inches of rain in two hours. The flood wiped out most of the volunteers' hard work, but construction resumed.

The City of Hillsboro purchased the west side of the park in 1966, which allowed a Babe Ruth and C League diamond to be built. The girls' leagues were formed in the early 1970s and shared the boys' Pony League diamond.

In 1992, after the adult softball association moved to Liberty Park, construction began on the girls' softball complex. Alice Cassner was a special benefactor, and in 1993, the grand opening of Cassner Field was held. Two more softball diamonds were added the next year.

In 1988, the park was named after Richard "Dick" Shaffer, who donated many hours and much hard work to make the park one of the best in Southern Ohio.

In 2008, a major building project was undertaken by now-park director, Bruce Davis. New bathrooms and a new concession stand were constructed on the

third-base side of the Raymond R. Stout Post 129 Field, and an office, umpires' room and press box were built on the first-base side. Most of the money and work on these projects was donated by the local community and businesses.

In 2011, the original two diamonds were named after Dan W. Reed and Frank "Squeak" Collins, who, along with Shaffer, were the first commissioners appointed by the City of Hillsboro.

In the mid 1970s, the Hillsboro Recreation Commission began hosting what was known as the Tournament of Champions, which included tournaments for 10-and-under, 14-and-under, and 16-and-under players. This event drew dozens of teams to Hillsboro each year in late July until the event ceased due to many unforeseen factors in 2018.

The Hillsboro Little League program, which started with eight teams, has impressively grown to include approximately 50 teams. The park now has four baseball diamonds and three softball diamonds and is home to the Hillsboro High School baseball and softball teams and Post 129 Legion Baseball team. To supplement the Post 129 team, a Junior Legion team was added in 2020.

In 2017, seven businesses including Pepsi, Long's Retreat Family Resort, First State Bank, Sherwood Auto and Camper Sales, Adena Health System, Hillsboro Lions Club and South Central Power donated new scoreboards to the park.

Sue Boatman



ITEMS OF INTEREST

2022-23 TRUSTEES

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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!

Jeremy & Toni Carter
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OUR RENEWING MEMBERS!

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CONDOLENCES

to these members who lost loved ones recently:

Condolences to Dorothy Hodson and Max Petzold whose sister and grandmother, Marguerite Springer recently passed away.



The annual Historical Society Yard Sale will take place Friday, June 2 and Saturday,

June 3 from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Highland House Museum at 151 East Main St. Clothing and shoes will not be accepted but good, clean household items, furniture, home décor outside items, antiques and collectibles are welcome. Items may be dropped off at the Museum May 24 through 27 from 1:00-4:00 or call the Museum at 393-3392 for another time. Please do NOT leave items at the door. All proceeds benefit the Historical Society.

WHO AM I?



If you guessed **JOHN T WILLIS** for last issue's mystery child, you were correct!

Who is this lad?
(Answer next issue)



Ken Boatman
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THE HUCKSTER ROUTE *by* Bob Hodson



Income for a young lad was as important back in my youth as it is now. I can't remember ever receiving an allowance from my parents or being handed money, although that must have happened at some point. As mentioned, in my time on the farm, I did have income from my chickens and pigs although I never remember having an account, checking or savings, at a bank. I remember a Scottie Dog bank, but I think that must have been only for change.

I owned a Model "A" Ford that always needed gas as well as repairs, paint and patching for a sometimes leaking roof.

My very first outside income was when a neighbor, Lawrence Matthews, asked me to drive a tractor for him while he was preparing his ground for planting. I must have been about 12 or maybe 13 years of age. I remember proudly accepting \$1.00 for the day's work and also remember the noon meal that included a slice of cured ham and the trimmings prepared by his wife, Mary. My family and the Matthews were good friends. Both were farmers and raised turkeys in addition to the other farm products of the day.

As a side story, tur-

keys were easily susceptible to the disease, "Blackhead." Dad found some medicine he was buying in a can that seemed to do a good job of controlling Blackhead in his turkeys. He was telling Lawrence about his ability to control the disease which, of course, prompted Mr. Matthews to want the same kind of medicine. Dad, for whatever reason, didn't want him to know where he was buying it, so he would remove it from the can and repackage it before giving it to Matthews. I never did figure out why he did it. Maybe it was to have Lawrence think how great of a friend Walt Hodson was to share his discovery.

Even though there was plenty to do on the farm, my dad, realizing that I wasn't really interested in the farm and with my growing need for money, gave me permission to find a part time job.

The first huckster truck that I remember was Johnny



Martin's. He ran it out of his grocery store in Gath, midway between Mowrystown and Buford and the building is still standing. Johnny and his wife, Dorothy, must have purchased the store from Lou Grandjohn, who previously had a grocery store, or her surviving son, John Grandjohn.

A huckster is a person who does door to door sales, a peddler who brought the groceries to the customer instead of their coming to the store.

Johnny's store sold not only groceries but also gasoline (6 gallons for \$1.00), kerosene, purchased chickens and eggs and even had a coin-operated jukebox. My parents, like most of our neighbors, purchased most of their groceries there. There was ample room for those who just wanted to "sit a spell."

Like most boys at 16 years of age, I was always in need of money. It was in 1944 when Johnny asked if I would be interested in driving his huckster route and I was quick to give an affirmative response. Still in high school, I could only do it on Saturdays and through the summer. To drive a truck meant I would need a special license called a chauffeur's license. If a person had a regular driver's license then they were already eligible, for a small fee, to purchase a chauffeur's license. I was plenty proud to receive that registered chauffeur's license badge. I had an old felt hat with the front brim turned up where I fastened the pin in plain sight where everyone could see it.

Johnny took me along with him several times to acquaint me with the scheduled routes, each day traveling in a different direction and set of roads. It was important that the schedule be kept because people were expecting the huckster on specific days and at an anticipated time. Remember, many people in those days had little transportation, so they depended on the huckster. After a few trips, Johnny

turned over the huckster truck to me and I was on my own!

The huckster truck looked much like a bus, although it had windows only in the front. Inside it had an aisle in the center with counters on each side and shelves above and below. Each shelf was equipped with a piece of lath to keep the goods from falling off --very important on those rough gravel roads. There was a door in the back that opened from the inside providing the opportunity to greet and wait on a customer. Steps allowed the customer to step into the truck, especially in inclement weather, but most of the time they stood outside asking for what they wanted to purchase.

The truck was well-filled with all kinds of grocery items such as tobacco, sugar, flour, cornmeal, matches, crackers, canned vegetables, baking supplies, mops, brooms, sometimes some fruit and even a few notions. There was an ice box up front to hold the cheese and lunch meats, with bologna being the most requested. Outside there was a tank that held kerosene (in those days called coal oil) and underneath the truck bed were compartments for any poultry or eggs that was purchased from the customers. Chickens would be weighted outside on a sling scale then put in a coop underneath the truck. After valuing the offered produce or chickens in dollars and cents, it was usually used to purchase groceries, called "trading out." More items than wanted, we had eggs that were far past the term fresh and the chicken most often was an old hen past the time of laying eggs or sick. Johnny said not to argue, but buy them anyway and, if necessary, we could destroy them when we returned to the store.

I soon became acquainted with each customer and what they would most likely want. Chewing tobacco, mostly *Bagpipe* or *Mail Pouch*, was in great demand. I remember one elderly lady who each week wanted a carton, al-

(continued next page)


MUSEUM MUSES

though she called it a “cartoon,” of Bagpipe. Rolled cigarettes were rarely called for, but we had plenty of tobacco for rolling your own. There was never a question about what brand of grocery, for we carried only one kind. Before leaving the store, I would pre-package cheese and meats in various sizes, but would readily cut off a hunk of bologna from the big roll if requested. Some would preorder items for the following week, thus we carried a “want list.” Most seemed to be happy with what we had available including plenty of conversation to sometimes lonely customers. It is probably safe enough now to mention that there was no water on the huckster to wash up after handling the chickens, eggs and kerosene. Rubber gloves were unheard of.

The huckster ran every day except Sunday, regardless of the weather--hot, cold, rain or snow. Most of the roads were narrow and rough which meant driving slowly and with great caution when meeting another vehicle. One spring it had been raining for several days making the road berm especially soft. One day, to share the road with an oncoming truck, I pulled to the side and immediately found myself in deep trouble for the wheels sank down in the mud and slid into the ditch. Imagine a huckster truck lying nearly on its side with one whole side of groceries in the middle of the aisle. Fortunately, I was close to a house that had a crank up phone and, as soon as the four-

party line was free, I called Johnny with an explanation and a plea for help. I feared what he might say upon his arrival, but he was understanding and quickly resolved the situation by asking a local farmer to use his steel-wheeled tractor to pull the truck out of the ditch. It was a day never forgotten.

Those days were during WWII and there was rationing for such consumer items as sugar, processed food, coffee, cheese and meat. The Office of Price Administration (OPA) froze most prices on practically all everyday goods, including sugar and coffee. Therefore, to sell some items it was important to receive a customer's authorized ration stamps. By 1944, ration coins (blue and red) were given back as change. The women had to be careful that they didn't overspend their allotment and they made certain that I gave back the correct change. We had no cash register aboard the huckster, so an order pad and cash drawer sufficed.

When the day was over on the route, there was still plenty to do upon returning to home base. The eggs and chickens had to be unloaded and then transfer the unsold icebox items back to the store refrigeration. It wasn't at all uncommon to return on a below freezing day to find the chickens frozen, never to cackle nor crow again. The truck then needed to be restocked for the following day, adding the canned and other dry goods and refilling the kerosene tank. Filling the truck fuel tank, checking the radiator water and

the oil and sweeping out the truck was the final work for the day. Before leaving the next morning, ice needed to be put in the icebox followed by the meat and cheese that had to be kept cool--hardly meeting today's standards.

I drove the huckster truck from early 1944 through 1945 on Saturdays and during the summer months. I learned many life lessons working on the huckster route. I cherish the memories and often wish I could thank those who made it all possible. I was rewarded in many ways, but none more than from my Wednesday route. That day included Sicily Road, south of Buford. I always looked forward to that afternoon because when I stopped in front of a little white frame house, more than the mother came out to greet me. Her pretty daughter came along and would climb up into my truck and, sitting in the passenger side, would ride with me on part of my route. It was a road where I eventually turned around and returned, again stopping at that farm house and letting her off. Before long, I was back at that home far more often than Wednesdays because that pretty girl, Dorothy Ellis, became my wife in 1946. We will celebrate our 77th Anniversary on May 25, 2023.

Bob Hodson

From the unpublished autobiography, Reflections by Robert A. "Bob" Hodson.

Huckster (cont)

HISTORY DAY

Highland District Library
(Hillsboro location)
Has Announced

HISTORY DAY

to be held
20 May
10am until 2pm

ABRAHAM LINCOLN IMPERSONATOR

WOMEN OF HIGHLAND COUNTY PRESENTATION
with Debbie Williams

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Black History Sponsors Scholarship



When Black History of Highland County was first printed, it was decided that every dollar collected on sales of the books would go toward a scholarship to be awarded by the African American Awareness Research Council. The organization holds an annual program during Black History Month each year. This year's was held 18 February at Church of the Nazarene.

AAARC also honors a Black citizen for the accomplishments of his or her life. This year Dr. Craig McKinney was the honoree. In his career, he has trained and worked at many well known health centers in the United States and since 2018, has served as a general surgeon at Highland District Hospital.

The speaker for the afternoon was George Ford who presented a history of the C. R. Patterson & Sons Company of Greenfield. The Pattersons had the only Black owned automobile company in the US and possibly in the world. They were inducted into the Automotive Hall of Fame last year.

Hillsboro High School Principal Joe Turner presented the three 2022-23 AAARC scholarship recipients with a ceremonial check. These were: Kyah Chaney, HHS, Zachary Ison, HHS and Destyne Turner, Wilmington High School. Each student received \$500.

AAARC members are Arlene Cole, president; Sherry Young, vice president; Jennifer West, secretary; Terri Smith, treasurer; Lee Smith, historian;

Aaron Cole, biographer; Pam Anderson, Shawn Captain and Turner, historians; and Roberts, library consultant. Associate members include Eleanor Cumberland, Hurd Scott Latimer, Maurice Cole, Barbara Cole, Shane Anderson and Sandy Kniffley



WHERE DID THAT EXPRESSION COME FROM?

I recently happened upon an interesting and fun podcast dabbling in the history of language. **A Way With Words** is an hour-long podcast that explores the history of language including familiar expressions, regional dialect, slang, word origins and the evolution of language across the United States.

This weekly podcast is presented with humor and encourages input from the listening audience. The presenters, Martha Barnette and Grant Barrett are authors and linguistic experts. Martha also happens to be from western Kentucky. She is the author of reader-friendly books on word origins. Grant is an American lexicographer* and linguist specializing in slang and new words. He has also worked to produce multiple dictionaries.

A good portion of the podcast focuses on phone calls from listeners across the country who make inquiries about the origin of old sayings, family expressions, regional dialects and so forth. The hosts respond with information about the history of the word/ language/ phrase, etc., frequently touching on regional dialect or colloquialisms from across the United States. For example, someone from Arizona was curious about the expression "what are the odds." Another listener from Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio asks why some couples refer to each other as Mother and Father? Is this a regional saying?

The hosts share information about books they have enjoyed, pertaining to all things language. They also make recommendations for further researching the history of the topic discussed. Frequently, the Quiz Guy makes an appearance with word-related quizzes.

(continued on page 9)

Highland House Repairs

Repair work on the parapets is taking place.



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STATEHOOD DAY - 2 MARCH 2023

Many of us attended the Statehood Day Celebration on 2 March. Statehood Day, celebrating Ohio History and Historical Preservation efforts, was held at the Ohio State Capitol in Columbus. The focus was on attendees, awards given and about unveiling of the 250 Semiquincentennial Ohio Emblem.



Cameron Fontana, taking a selfie with the crowd.

Cameron Fontana, ABC Channel 6 host and reporter was the Master of Ceremonies. Megan Wood, CEO and Executive Director of Ohio History Connection was also present to assist. Honored guests included Governor and Mrs. Mike DeWine, as well as the current Miss Ohio. We were also honored by the presence of President and Mrs. Rutherford B. Hayes as well as President and Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant.

There were many vendors and organizations set up in the Rotunda and the Main Event floor with lots of information available about their organizations. A delicious light breakfast was provided also.

Part of the ceremony

included the unveiling of Ohio's Emblem for the United States Semiquincentennial, which will be celebrated in 2026. (In case that term is new to you, it indicates the 250 year mark.) In addition, the Semiquincentennial committee presented information on the billboards they are placing around the state and lots of printed information containing suggestions for Ohio residents on ideas for celebrating the event.

The main event of the day was the presentation of the Ohio History Leadership Award to five well-deserving individuals and groups. The award itself is a wooden copy of the 250th logo.

Those receiving Awards included: **Kathy Nelson**, who passed in 2022. Mrs. Nelson documented the statewide Underground Railroad system. The Award was accepted by her daughter, Amanda Nelson.

Friends of Joseph Barker Jr. House, Jack Haessly accepted the award with the entire group of volunteers standing. The home is one of the most significant in Washington County and is located just outside Marietta. The land was owned by the US Army Corps of Engineers and the house was scheduled for demolition, but was saved and given, along with a few acres of land, to the Friends group. It is in the process of restora-

tion now.

Lincoln School Marchers, represented by Kati Burwinkel, who accepted the medallion on stage while the whole group stood and donned their medallions.



Ulysses S. Grant Homestead Association, for the 200 year anniversary for Brown and

Clermont Counties, Stan Purdy accepted the award while the entire group stood. April 27 is US Grant Day.

Ohio Statehouse Museum, represented by Chris Matheny, Historical Site Manager and Associate Deputy Director of the Ohio State House Museum Education Center. (Chris has also authored two books.)

Following the awards tours of the State House were available and award recipients were available for conversations. The Lincoln School documentary was shown every half hour in the Worthington Room with several marchers available to answer questions.

If you would like to view the complete ceremony, it is available on the Ohio Channel:

<https://ohiochannel.org/video/statehood-day-2023-celebration>

(This is one continuous entry without any spaces.)

(Continued next page)



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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period. Recent history needs to be preserved too! Your photos will be scanned and returned unharmed. We can also scan from photo albums without removing the photos if they are permanently attached. We will just request a release signed with permission to use your photos. **UPDATE: Tara has heard from exactly NONE of you! Come on, folks! Let's share!**

Where Does That Expression? (cont.)

A Way With Words is broadcast via many established podcast hubs. The show is also available through National Public Radio (NPR) and on the show's website: waywordradio.org. Log onto the website to listen to past podcasts and to subscribe for future podcasts.

Have you a favorite podcast about history related themes which you enjoy? Please let us know so that we may share with all of our members!

Sue Honeycutt

**definition: lexicographer-a person who compiles dictionaries*

STATEHOOD DAY (cont.)

The day was lots of fun and it was interesting meeting new people, and our Governor DeWine!

Right - Gov & Mrs. DeWine with President (partially hidden) & Mrs. Grant.

Below is a photo of several Lincoln Marchers with a Garin Veris from Chillicothe. Mr. Veris is a former NFL player for the New England Patriots. He lives in Chillicothe.

Photos courtesy of Kiley Kinnard of Ohio Humanities, John Glaze and the author. Thanks to all!

Myra Phillips



BAKE SALE!



BAKE SALE

The planning committee has scheduled a fund-raising bake sale during this year's Pioneer Day on Saturday July 8th. We have been successful in past years raising funds for the Society and everyone seems to really enjoy helping with the event. For those who are always there to bake items for the sale, I want to express my sincere appreciation.

If anyone has a recipe that they would like to bake for people to enjoy, the committee would like to offer that chance. We ask that a list of the ingredients is included, per Highland County Health Department. This helps people avoid items to which they may be allergic.

Anyone interested in donating time and/or baked goods to the project, please contact Carolyn Kellis at (937) 393-1332 or (513) 304-2183 (cell).

See everyone at Pioneer Day and to the bake sale!



NEWS!

Hall of Fame Nominations Are Open

Hall of Fame nomination forms will be available on our website:

www.hchistoricalsociety.weebly.com or you can get a form at the Highland House or any of the Highland County libraries on May 1. Nominations are due by June 1, 2023.

The Induction Ceremony will take place Sunday, August 20 at 2pm at the Presbyterian Church followed with refreshments at the Highland House.

Lynchburg Covered Bridge Ceremony

The Village of Lynchburg cordially invites you to a ribbon cutting ceremony for the newly renovated Covered Bridge on Saturday, June 3 at 10:30. The Lynchburg Historical Society will present a Journey "Through the Decades" where costumed guests will represent different decades. A light lunch will follow.

Parking on the Clinton County side will enable you to walk through the bridge to see the fabulous renovation work. Bring your lawn chair and enjoy a day of Lynchburg history, classic vehicles and renewing friendships.

Volunteers Needed

"You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give."

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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The Highland Weekly News,

Devoted to News, Politics, Literature, Agriculture, Manufactures, and the General Interests of Highland County.

VOL. 44—NO. 19.

HILLSBOROUGH, HIGHLAND COUNTY, OHIO, THURSDAY, JULY 29, 1880.

WHOLE NO. 2905.

Danville's Disgrace

It was reported on 29 Jul 1880 that a group of Ku Klux Klansmen attacked a group of Black Christians, many from Wilmington, meeting at the Danville Campground for a weekend event. Other than in the headline, the KKK is not otherwise mentioned, however. You will find it clear that the newspaper thought little of the attackers nor of their methods. *The Highland Weekly News* commented on an article which appeared in an Alabama newspaper, *The Selma Argus*. The *Argus* was in business from 1869 until 1882 and was merged with other newspapers through the years.

The initial story, which appeared in the *Highland Weekly News* on 29 July 1880, reported:

"Our county--Highland County, in the center of which is situated the beautiful, refined and intellectual city of Hillsboro, known far and wide as the "Model Town" of the state--was the scene of outrage, bloodshed and violence last Saturday night and Sabbath, that would disgrace even the darkest corners of South Carolina

and Louisville. The battle-cry was sounded, and the battle raged, and still the strong arm of the law interfered not. We blush for the good name of our county, when such a state of affairs is allowed to exist, but still it is some satisfaction to reflect that the scene of the disgrace was located at Danville, that "dark corner" of the county, to which the vile conduct of a portion of the inhabitants has given such a bad reputation--a town that during the war for the Union resisted the draft and gave vent to such rebel utterances that the Government was compelled to interfere and arrest some of its citizens, and which has since been frequently the scene of immorality and vice, on the part of a few of the citizens, which have brought the whole community into bad odor, not withstanding the fact that it contains many good and peaceable people, who are not responsible for its bad name."

There had been meeting at the campground in Danville for a week to ten days, a group of Black Baptists, mostly from the Wilmington area.

What Happened?

A few men from Fairview and Allensburg areas appeared at the campgrounds on Friday while the camp meeting was in progress. They

began disturbing the congregation by swearing and using foul language. Black policemen who were part of the camping group got into the fray and worsted the roughs who had come to the camp to cause trouble. The weapons were clubs, billies and loaded canes. After the disturbance, the meeting continued

On Saturday, Dickman's Gang appeared at the camp. The gang had been in Hillsborough boasting that they were going to Danville to clean out the camp meeting. They started at Koch's Saloon and later appeared at Dr. Gage's in Danville trying to get a drink and boasting of their threats that they were going to break up the camp meeting.

About 10:30pm, the Gang appeared at the camp grounds where most of the folks had retired for the night, and immediately began the fight. The campers were prepared, having sent to Hillsborough for men to act as special policemen. The roughs were made up of 40-50 men and had spent some time threatening the campers and promising there would be further trouble later that night.

The camp meeting broke up on Sunday and most began their homeward journey in mid-afternoon. All had to pass through Danville to reach the road back to Wilmington. The first wagon passed without incident, but the second wagon with 13 men and women was attacked as soon as it turned the corner into Danville.

"About 75 roughs were congregated on the corner, and it commenced, it is reported, by a man named Roush, from Fairview, throwing a rock into the wagon, which struck police-

man Bryant on the head. Bryant retaliated by firing into the crowd, when the crowd from both sides of the street began firing and throwing stones into the wagon. The driver whipped his horses into a run, the women and children screamed and the roughs yelled, some of them running out into the street and taking deliberate aim before they fired. When the wagon reached the next corner, it ran into another crowd of roughs, who poured in another volley, and the whole crowd started after the wagon, pursuing it some distance out of town. A gentleman who witnessed the mob, says the air was black with stones and brickbats, and declares the firing came from both sides of the street. When the wagon passed Dickman's house he ran out and began throwing stones at it. Whether he fired or not we cannot learn; but a responsible gentleman who saw him says he will tell all he knows if placed on the witness-stand. The number of shots fired Sunday is variously estimated, all the way from 40 to 200, and yet nobody was shot."

The Wounded

Bill Dickman was reported to be in a very precarious condition and the attending doctor gave him only a 50% chance of surviving. The *News* reported that the campers came back to Hillsborough to provide names of the roughs who had attacked them. *"It would rejoice all good citizens of the county, and the courts would be justified in giving them the full extent of the law."*

Gus Dickman's Story

In an interesting comparison, Gus Dickman, one of the central figures in the roughs, was interviewed by a reporter with the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, and we learn what

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DANVILLE'S DISGRACE - 1880 (continued)

appears to be a flight of fancy. ing a religious meeting.

He reported that, indeed, the group had gone to Dr. Gage's saloon to get a drink, but he would not serve them liquor. They then called for lemonade and were told he had no lemons. Dickman then told that the group went on to the camp ground, not to raise a fuss, but were quietly walking to the refreshment stand when "some colored man raised a yell like an Indian and commenced firing on his party, and they merely defended themselves."

When Dr. Gage was interviewed, he reported that the roughs did come to the saloon but, after being refused liquor, did not request lemonade. "He said they were swearing that they were going to 'kill the d----- niggers,'" "

The *News* found great fault with the Constable of Danville, as well as the Justice of the Peace, commenting that they could not have helped knowing of the impending danger of a riot and yet made no preparations to keep the peace. "Such gross neglect of duty on the part of sworn officers of the law, is shameful, to say the least of it."

What Happened?

Four of the men were arrested and, on Friday and Saturday following the incident, were examined before Mayor Beeson. Because the Mayor's office was not large enough to accommodate the crowd, the trial was moved to the Court House. Gov. Hart appeared for the defendants and Prosecuting Attorney Jno. T. Hire, assisted by James Foraker, of Cincinnati, appeared for the State. The charge against them was disturb-

Two of the men, George Charles and William Boelzner were bound over to Common Pleas Court. Bail was set at \$150 each (that is over \$4438.76 in 2023 dollars), which was paid and they were released. The other two men were discharged.

Gus Dickman and Frank Manker were also arrested and charged with riot. Their bail was \$200 (\$5918.35 in 2023). Warrants were also issued for Bill Dickman, Jake White and Bill Egging on the same charge. Bill Dickman was dead and Jake White was unable to be moved. Bill Egging had jumped the country. No one had yet been arrested for the trouble experienced on Sunday when the campers were heading home, but the investigation was beginning to turn up some names. Ulric Sloane, Esq. was hired by the defendants and Attorney Hire will prosecute for the State. P. C. Landess was arraigned and charged with assault and battery on James Bryant at the Danville Camp Grounds. He plead guilty and was fined a total of \$10.50 (\$310.71 in 2023). (All reported in 8 Aug 1880 issue of the *News*.)

Meanwhile, in Selma, AL, the *Selma Argus* picked up the story and added their own take to the matter, politicizing it quite a bit. The *Highland Weekly News* reporter reprinted the article and added his own take on the matter. That part of the story is available in [Black History of Highland County, Ohio](#), should you wish to read it.

By 2 Sep 1880, we read that after several postponements for various reasons, the case was heard before Mayor Beeson in the Court House. The affidavit, sworn out by A. G. Mallory, the Wilmington preacher, against Gus Dickman, William Dickman, Jake White, Frank Manker, William Egging and others, charging them with riotously disturbing a religious meeting by throwing stones, swearing and shooting.

The State presented its case with many witnesses giving testimony. After the State rested, the Defense moved for the case to be discharged, submitting the motion without presenting any evidence. Mayor Beeson ruled against the motion and the defendants were bound over to Probate Court with bail set at \$300 (\$8877.53 in 2023).

In a related story, Bill Egging, who had originally skipped the area avoiding arrest, was taken into custody at the Sabina Fair and transferred to Hillsborough.

Regarding "the rest of the story," I searched both the *Highland Weekly Press* and the *Hillsboro Gazette* to find the outcome of the trial, but without success. In addition, when at the Clerk of Courts, we attempted to locate the information, to no avail.

Hopefully, "to be continued!"

HELP WANTED

The HCHS Membership Committee is looking for an additional one or two individuals who have a desire to become more involved with the Society through a different type of volunteer position. Such individuals should have a desire to promote and share Highland County's history with others by way of a membership in the Society. Individuals should be able to "think outside of the box" or be "rainmakers" to contribute to the development of a healthy membership campaign program with a goal to achieve a 300 membership count by year's end. Age and/or lack of committee experience is not a factor. The Committee meets monthly in advance of normal Board meetings.

If interested learning more about the openings, contact Director Knauff, Membership Chairman John Levo (937-393-4951) or other Committee members Leslie Ramsey, Siobahn Smith or John Willis.

John Levo

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Highland House Opens June 2

Due to renovations at the Hodson House and the ensuing move the opening of the Museum will be delayed until June 2. The Museum will be open Fridays and Saturdays from 1-4pm each weekend.

Join us to see new exhibits and a temporary display recognizing the 150th anniversary of the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU).

2-3 Jun - 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



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MUSEUM MUSES

NEW BOOKS BY TARA BEERY!

During its early history, Hillsboro was well known for its many educational opportunities. From 1827 to 1898, Hillsboro was the home of four institutions of higher learning and home to an exceptional public school system for even longer. Now, the history of these schools has been compiled into two separate volumes, A History of Public Education in Hillsboro, Ohio, 1808 to 2023, and A History of Higher Education in Hillsboro, Ohio, 1827-2023. These books explore the founding of the schools, the life histories of the people who were primarily responsible for the educational excellence of each school, and how each school grew and developed over time.

In A History of Higher Education in Hillsboro, Ohio, 1827-2023, the reader will meet Isaac Sams, an energetic and charismatic Napoleonic War veteran who controlled his students with quirky behavior and a booming voice, but who also basically had no rules within his classroom. There is Rev. Joseph McDowell Mathews, who was

almost the complete opposite of Sams. Small, reserved, and sickly, and capable of speaking in no more than a whisper, Mathews imposed a myriad of oppressive rules upon his students with the goal of making them constantly concentrate on their rigorous course of study. Emilie Grand-Girard, a well-born Frenchwoman with a preoccupation with missionary work, who, despite being a student of Rev. Mathews and a teacher in his school for well over a decade (or maybe precisely because of this experience!), founded a competing institute that was practically a party school compared to Mathew's somber Female Seminary. All three of these teachers were beloved by their students to an unusual degree, and all three were celebrated and honored long after their deaths by these students and the citizens of Hillsboro. There is also the sad example of Allen Trimble Thompson, eldest son of later Temperance Crusader Eliza Jane Thompson, who was made president of Hillsboro Female College at the age of only 26, but who was fired after 18 months and succumbed due to the effects of "demon rum" a few years later. More recent history is also included, including how one of the college buildings was used during the Cold War to help an insurance company survive an atomic bomb attack and the admittedly somewhat dry, but important history of the founding of Southern State Community College.

In A History of Public Education in Hillsboro, Ohio, 1808 to 2023, Isaac



A History of Public Education in Hillsboro, Ohio 1808 to 2023



Tara Beery

MNB Merchants National Bank

Steve's Comments

Do you follow Highland County Historical Society on Facebook? If not, I humbly suggest that you do. Our page has more than 2,000 followers and 2,000 folks who "like" the page.

I like it too! The page gives a great look at the past - and the future. The past, as in historic photos, events, advertisements, buildings, articles and so forth, and it looks toward the future, as far as upcoming events, new attractions at the museum and more.

So, if you haven't

already, hit that "Like" button on our HCHS page. You'll be glad you did!

Spring has sprung and summer is on the way, so if you haven't checked out the Highland House Museum lately, I'd invite you to do so, and keep an eye out for upcoming HCHS events in Museum Muses and online. As always, we thank you for your continued support of Highland County Historical Society, and we hope to see you soon!

Steve Roush Board Chair



So, do you think you know more than a 5th grader? That's a take-off on a game show which used to be popular. But, how much do you REALLY know about Hillsboro and Highland County History? Maybe more than the average citizen? Maybe more than your neighbor?

Well, although we are hard at work concentrating on moving certain portions of Highland House to Hodson House, we have in the back of our minds an exciting JEOPARDY contest just to test the mettle of our citizens! This will involve categories to do with aspects of our history and geography. We will permit teams to participate, or, for those who like to "go it alone," single competitors will also be permitted. Teams have advantages of more breadth of knowledge, but sometimes, the team will move more slowly than an individual.

The primary requirement is that, whether individual or team, everyone must have a lot of fun participating or viewing! Be sure to "stay tuned" to find out when this event will take place. In the meantime, talk to friends, family or just acquaintances to build YOUR team. You'll need to have a great team name also...something fun and descriptive of your team's personalities!

Sam's reign of terror over prospective Highland County teachers is explored, as are the many different school buildings that housed students over the years. The amazing successes of long-time superintendent Henry Doggett will be seen, along with his abrupt, alcohol-fueled fall from grace. Special attention is paid to the more recent history of the public schools, including a mostly balanced recap of the contentious 1990s battle over building the current elementary school and (continued on page 12)

A History of Higher Education in Hillsboro, Ohio 1827 to 2023



Tara Beery

OHIO HUMANITIES



**Carlotta Penn,
PhD**



Dr. Carlotta Penn is Senior Director of Partnerships and Engagement for the Office of Equity, Diversity, and Global Engagement in the College of Education and Human Ecology at The Ohio State University. She holds a PhD in Education and an MA in Comparative Studies from Ohio State University, a BA in Mass Communication from Wright State University, and spent several years as an English language educator in local and global contexts.

Carlotta is also a children's book author and the founder of Daydreamers Press, an independent publishing company based in Columbus that curates books, media, and related programming, especially for children, that explore the legacy of Black storytelling, art, and advocacy. Her works include Dream A Rainbow, The Turtle With An Afro, The Turtle With an Afro: A Star is Born!, Bright Boy ABCs, and Race, Justice, and Activism in Literacy Instruction.

“The Lincoln School story is ultimately one about perseverance and victory in the face of a big challenge. The struggle for justice is paramount, but we can also think about the struggle to make any dream come true.”
-Carlotta Penn

BRANDING - what does that mean?

Branding - *noun* The promoting of a product or service by identifying it with a particular brand.

“Branding.” Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/branding>. Accessed 21 Apr. 2023.

Take a good look at the “brand” above. What do you see? What you don’t see there is an additional line of text which appears below that brand on their letterhead:

Sharing stories. Sparking conversations. Inspiring ideas.

That is what Ohio Humanities is all about and a big part of the reason we have entrusted to them the **Lincoln School Story!** Now, take another look at their “brand.” What do you see upon a second look? I see **HUMAN TIES**, allowing the gray “I” to recede to the background. When you read the information which has to do with human ties, you get a better understanding of what Ohio Humanities is all about! If you are on their mailing list, you should have recently receiving a letter featuring the **LINCOLN SCHOOL STORY** and Myra Cumberland Phillips’ quote.



“I never sat down and explained it all to my boys until after this film came out. I didn’t think they would be interested. I never did explain it to them when they were little. I just would say, ‘You better get an education.’”
-Myra Cumberland Phillips

Here’s the most exciting part. You may already know that Ohio State University’s **Dr. Carlotta Penn**, is writing a children’s book about the Lincoln School Story. This letter outlines a fundraising project.

“If you make a special gift to support the Lincoln School Marchers Project, you will have the opportunity to be recognized in the initiatives made possible through your gift.”

- ◆ **If you give \$250 or more**, your name or the name of someone special to you will be included in the children’s book that is due out this fall.
- ◆ **If you give \$1,000 or more**, your name will appear in the credits of the broadcast-length film.”

What a marvelous way to honor or memorialize a mother, now that Mother’s Day is approaching! You may have had a very special teacher in your life and would like to honor or memorialize him or her. If you would like to donate in this way, or would like to get more information on the project, please contact:

Scarlett Rebman, Director of Advancement
614-461-7802
srebman@ohiohumanities.org

NOTE: information in this article as well as the article about Carlotta Penn courtesy of Ohio Humanities, Rebecca Brown Asmo, Executive Director

SIDE BAR

HCHS has never had a “BRAND” - a symbol or other visual presentation which immediately identifies our organization and points out what we are about. We have gone 58 years without presenting to everyone exactly who we are. Well, that is changing. Your editor provided the Trustees with information about branding and several ideas on how to get help with that project. It’s not something one completes in a few hours, nor in a few days or weeks. The process is all encompassing, involving identifying not only a symbol (Think of the CBS “eye” or NCB Bank’s lower case symbol of ncb in specific colors or Southern State’s open book logo.) This process will identify our entire look: the font we use, the official colors and a symbol which should be what we put out to the public as our identity. The process has just begun, but keep your eye out for the changes you will begin to see!

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!

The Cabin in Spring



New Books by Tara Beery *(continued)*

high school. A few pages also explore the history of Hillsboro's two private religious schools that were started in the 1990s.

Both books include many photographs and both have extensive appendixes that include many lists of that should be useful for students of local history and those doing genealogical research. These lists include:

- ◆ All HHS graduates from 1873-1902
- ◆ HHS Valedictorians
- ◆ Public School teachers from 1866-1902
- ◆ Superintendents from 1851-2023
- ◆ School Board members from 1851-2023
- ◆ Public School Principals
- ◆ Band Directors
- ◆ Football and Basketball coaches
- ◆ Prom and Homecoming royalty
- ◆ Team athletic championships
- ◆ HHS State Champions
- ◆ HHS Track and Field records
- ◆ Every graduate of the Oakland Female Seminary
- ◆ Every student who attended the original
- ◆ Oakland Female Seminary from 1839-1856
- ◆ All teachers of the original Oakland Female Seminary
- ◆ Most graduates of the Hillsboro Female College/
Hillsboro College/Highland Institute
- ◆ A few letters written to or by students from the colleges
- ◆ Students, teachers and board members of the colleges
for assorted years

Both books are available to purchase in the Highland House Museum Gift Shop. The cost is \$20 each and all proceeds go to the Highland County Historical Society.