

MUSEUM MUSES

Telling Highland County's story for over 50 years!

Our Trustees Write! Series

Gen. Daniel Webster McCoy

Daniel Webster McCoy is a name mostly unknown to students of Highland County history. Like so many others of his era, Dan's accomplishments have been forgotten by all but a few dedicated Civil War aficionados. But the story of his life is worth recounting



Daniel was born in Rainsboro on August 6, 1841. His family was described as "poor but respectable". His father, John, was a farmer/blacksmith/carpenter. His mother, Phoebe, died when McCoy was ten years old. Without her influence, Dan, in the words of the Highland Weekly News, "grew up rather wild and frolicsome, although not inclined to be positively vicious."

Daniel enlisted in Company I of the 24th Ohio Volunteer Infantry as a 3rd Sergeant on June 14, 1861, when he was 19 years old. This regiment was known for its daring and its tendency to be the leading advance of its brigade. After fighting ten battles/skirmishes, Daniel and the 24th took part in the Battle of Stones River/Second Battle of Murfreesboro on December 31, 1862 to January 2, 1863. During this bloody conflict, the regiment lost almost all of its officers. Company I's captain had one of his legs shot off, leaving the twenty-year-old Dan McCoy in command. Later in the battle Daniel took a bullet in his left knee, but the injury was not serious and he continued to fight until the battle ended. Following this battle, he was promoted to 1st lieutenant and remained in command of his company.

On September 19, 1863, the 24th OVI was part of the second deadliest battle of the Civil War - the Battle of Chickamauga in Georgia. It would prove to be the only battle in which the 24th Ohio was on the losing side. Over three days of fighting, roughly 4,000 men had been killed and about 25,000 were wounded. During this battle, Daniel McCoy had nine bullets pass through various parts of his clothes without striking his body, but a tenth bullet struck him in the right leg. This time the wound was serious, and the surgeons wanted to amputate, but Dan refused, saying that his youth and a vigorous constitution would save the limb.

After a four-month convalescence, Daniel was again able to walk with the aid of crutches, though he was often in considerable pain. While travelling to Chattanooga to return to duty with the 24th OVI, he happened to meet Col. Beckworth, the Chief Commissary of the Military Division of the Mississippi. This unit was responsible for supplying food for the Military Division of the Mississippi, an administrative division that controlled all Union military operations in the Western

A TYPICAL DAY IN A LATE NINETEENTH CENTURY SCHOOL

Schools in the late 1800's were very often a one room schoolhouse. The building was very often the center of the community, because it was not only used as a school, but also for church services, Christmas events, dances, and lectures. Teachers were taken care of by families in the area either by providing meals or a place to live.

The school day would usually begin around 8 a.m. Many students walked more than a mile to arrive at the school. Some of the more fortunate ones were able to ride a horse or a pony. The older students were assigned to bring in wood for the stove and water for drinking and handwashing. When everything was in order the day would begin as follows:

- >The students formed two lines, boys in one, girls in the other.
- >The teacher rang the bell and stood by the door to greet the children.
- >The girls entered first and placed their coats on hooks and their lunch pails on a shelf. They then stood by their desks while the boys did the same.
- >After the teacher went to the front of the room, the Pledge of Allegiance was spoken, followed by the Lord's Prayer.
- >The role was then taken, and the teacher would explain the assignments for each grade level.
- >Reading was the first subject to be taught. Students would be asked to read a passage by grade level.
- >A short break was then taken for "privy privileges."
- >Arithmetic was the next subject taught. The younger students worked on slate boards while the older students recited oral math drills.
- >The last subject taught before lunch was penmanship.

Students were then dismissed by rows to retrieve their lunch pails and a cup of water. If the weather permitted, the children ate outside. If not, they ate at their desks. Once lunch was over, the students were given some time to play before they helped carry in more firewood and water. At the end of the hour, the teacher rang the bell, and the lining up process was repeated.

The afternoon session began with a grammar and spelling lesson which was followed by a history lesson after which a short recess and another privy break.

The last coursework of the day was a geography lesson. Once that was completed, the slate boards were cleaned, the books were put away and any necessary announcements were made.

The teacher then assigned chores for the next day, and row by row, students collected their coats and lunch pails, returning to their seats to wait for dismissal.

Once again, the teacher stood by the door to say good-bye to the students as they left. Had any students misbehaved during the day, the teacher might keep them behind to help clean up the classroom, by sweeping the



ITEMS OF INTEREST from Director, Vicki Knauff

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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.

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

Highland House Hours

Highland House Museum will opening Friday, May 3 at 1pm and then will be open each Friday and Saturday, 1-4pm, henceforth until November when hours and days will be expanded.

The Wine Walk will be held Saturday, May 4 from 1-5:30.

The newly renovated and relocated SCHOOL ROOM of the 1800s will be open with displays of one-room schools in the county, class photos, desks, slates and McGuffey readers that were used in the classroom years ago.

Our VINTAGE WEDDINGS exhibit will open June 8 will displays of vintage wedding gowns. Don’t miss this exciting new exhibit.

WHO AM I?



If you guessed **EARL SMITH** for last issue’s mystery child, you were correct!

Who is this little lady?
(Answer next issue)

Farewell to Jean

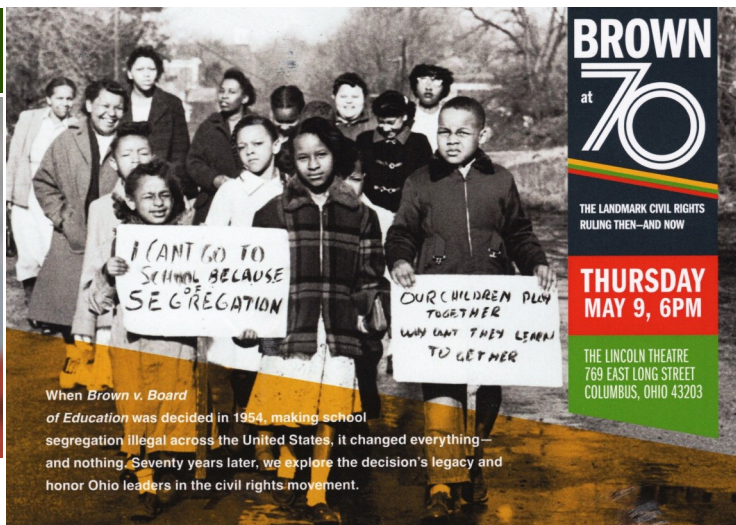


As most of you know, Jean Fawley passed away recently. Jean was instrumental in raising thousands of dollars for the Historical Society. She and John King planned the St. Patrick's Day Brunch and the Log Cabin Cookout. Jean was a wonderful cook, creative, hard-working and willing to help in many other events.

The Mother-Daughter Tea was one of her favorite events and she would spend hours planning and making the afternoon a memorable event for the little girls.

I will forever treasure Jean's memory but most of all her friendship.

Vicki Krauff



When *Brown v. Board of Education* was decided in 1954, making school segregation illegal across the United States, it changed everything—and nothing. Seventy years later, we explore the decision's legacy and honor Ohio leaders in the civil rights movement.

When *Brown v. Board of Education* was decided in 1954, making school segregation illegal across the United States, it changed everything—and nothing. Communities everywhere became battlegrounds for testing the limits of the decision, in the courts and on the streets.

Seventy years later, we're still grappling with its legacy. Join Ohio Humanities on Thursday, May 9, 2024, from 6:00-8:00pm at Columbus' historic Lincoln Theatre to explore the decision's legacy and honor Ohio leaders in the civil rights movement. The event will feature a screening of *The Lincoln School Story*, panel discussion, and performances from the Grammy-nominated Central State University Chorus.

(from Ohio Humanities Website)

The Lincoln School Project Committee of HCHS hopes to have a good turnout in Columbus for this program. There are

many other programs related to Brown which will be offered during the month. See the list in the box on this page.

What about the **LINCOLN THEATRE**? First opened in 1928, the Lincoln Theatre is a landmark in African-American and jazz history. From the Lincoln Theatre's website: "In the 1930s and '40s, downtown Columbus' near east side was home to an affluent African-American business and entertainment district, known today as the King-Lincoln District. At the time, segregation actually fueled the commercial and cultural development of the area, as African-American consumers could only patronize the African-American businesses in the neighborhood. As a result, a thriving, self-sufficient community developed which celebrated its cultural heritage and created its own opportunity.

"James Albert "Al" Jackson, a very successful African-American real estate owner and entrepreneur, and

his partner James "Ernie" Williams built, owned, and operated the District's Empress Theatre, the Empress Soda Grill, and the Crystal Slipper Ballroom. According to oral history, Jackson was angered by the purchase of the nearby Vernon Theatre by a white-owned theatre chain with a 'No Admission to Negroes' policy, and decided to build a grand and beautiful theatre especially for Columbus' African-American population.

"Jackson and Williams debuted the Lincoln Theatre, originally named the Ogden Theatre and Ballroom, on Thanksgiving Day 1928. Developed, designed, constructed, and managed entirely by African-Americans, the Lincoln Theatre quickly became the place to see and be seen. Its rich, Egyptian Revival-style décor boasted architectural details inspired by the Temple of Karnak, including massive, ornately gilded stage pillars and a vibrant symbol of Isis above the proscenium arch.

"Not long after the theatre's celebrated opening, a precocious, three-year-old Sammy Davis Jr. spontaneously debuted his talents on the Ogden stage, his first performance in a career that would span more than 60 years."

(from lincolnthatre.com)

The old theatre was *(continued on page 7)*

Upcoming Brown @ 70 Events:

- >Brown @ 70 Commemoration at Lincoln Theatre 9 May - 6-8pm Columbus *(see article for more info)*
- >Humanities Kansas: "The Power of Photography in the Civil Rights Era" 10 May 12n-1pm at Online (registration link on Ohio Humanities website)
- >12 May Lincoln School Story documentary airs on Think TV 5-5:30p
- >12 May Lincoln School Story documentary airs on CET 5-5:30p
- >17 May Lincoln School Story documentary airs on WOSU 9-9:30p
- >18 May Lincoln School Story documentary airs on WOSU 3-3:30a
- >19 May Lincoln School Story documentary airs on WOSU 1-1:30p

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Wedding Bells?

Mark your calendar for 8 June when Highland House Museum will open a temporary exhibit entitled

Vintage Weddings

The oldest dress that will be on display was at least 140 years old when it was packed away in 1967. It doesn't take a whiz in math to realize that dress is now at least just shy of 200 years old. There will be a variety of dresses from different eras, photos, newspaper clippings, a collection of wedding invitations and more spread throughout the museum and even the log cabin.

Anyone having a dress, photos or memorabilia from pre-1960 weddings are invited to contact director Vicki Knauff at 937-393-3392 or Kathy Levo exhibit chair at 937-393-4951. We would love to share as many local items as space permits. All items will be returned at the conclusion of the exhibit, 31 July.

We suggest you make copies of one-of-a-kind wedding pictures. Other mementos will be displayed in glass cases when possible. We will need items you'd like to share with the public by mid-May so we have time to position them to the best advantage.

Hodson House will host a "wedding reception" and brief talk about vintage wedding dresses at 11:00 am prior to the ribbon cutting to open the exhibit in the museum and log cabin at noon. Reservations will ensure enough wedding cake, punch, etc. for all the guests, so please contact the museum and RSVP by 2 June.

While there is no charge for either the reception or the exhibit, donations will be accepted to offset the costs in presenting this exhibit.



The ribbon cutting will be at the front door of the Museum. Following the grand opening, the museum will be open on Fridays and Saturdays from 1-4 pm for those wishing to view the exhibit.

BOARD CHAIR

What does it mean to be a volunteer?

Webster's Dictionary defines a volunteer as "a person who freely offers to take part in an enterprise or undertake a task."

During the past decades YOUR Highland County Historical Society has been blessed with countless members and others who have stepped up and pitched in to make things run as smoothly as possible during these times of COVID, construction projects and the acquisition of the Hodson House property. These people came from all parts of Highland County and many different walks of life and made YOUR Society what it is today.

A recent example was when the death of long-time volunteer coordinator Jean Fawley caused concern that the annual Saint Patrick's Day Brunch might force the event to be canceled this year. However Director Knauff put out a "Bat Signal" and a group of volunteers willingly stepped forward stating "cancellation is not an option." These folks took charge of various aspects of the event leading it to be a successful fund raiser for the Society. And they enjoyed seeing the results of their efforts while enjoying the fellowship with fellow members--some whom

they did not previously know. Some have even suggested holding more of this type of brunch throughout the year.

By volunteering, you gain a deeper knowledge of the operation of the Society and its goals. History shows that many past Board of Trustee members first started by volunteering to assist with a project, work in the museum shop or served as a greeter. An added benefit is meeting and working with some of Highland County's most down-to-earth people.

Each of us has a talent or ideas that can be shared or refined. In case you have not yet been asked to become a HCHS Volunteer, I'm asking you now. Even if you have been asked in the past, I'm asking again. This is the HIGHLAND COUNTY Historical Society and we welcome volunteers from all parts of the County, all ages and all walks of life. If you have an interest learning more about these opportunities, contact Director Vicki Knauff or Volunteer Coordinator Sue Honeycutt.

Shucks, you can even ask me!

John Levo

HCHS Board Chairman
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jlevo@cinci.rr.com

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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!

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

Volunteer by calling 937-393-3392

General Daniel McCoy (continued)

Theater from 1863 to the end of the war. Col. Beckworth was impressed with the young officer and arranged for Daniel to be transferred to an assignment under his command. Daniel was put in command of the Exchange Barracks in Nashville, which was an easier duty which allowed Dan's leg a better chance to heal. During this time, he was promoted to the rank of Captain.

Daniel remained at this post about six months, until his three-year term of service expired on June 24, 1864. He was mustered out of the army and returned to his home near Carmel, but he did not stay idle for long. A month later, in late July, McCoy was busy recruiting soldiers for the 175th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, which he would command.

Almost half of the 175th Regiment was made up of men from Highland County, with the remainder coming from Fayette, Clermont, Brown, and Clinton Counties. After a short period at Camp Dennison, the 175th was sent to Columbia, Tennessee, where they guarded the bridges and trestles of the Tennessee & Alabama Railroad from Confederate sabotage. They had about a month of uneventful duty before they were caught up in the Nashville Campaign, a Southern advance that ran from November 24 through December 28, 1864.

The Union leadership knew they could not defend their positions in southern Tennessee, so they ordered a full retreat to Nashville, where proper defenses were available.

The 175th was among the last of the Union forces to retreat, and did so while guarding a large wagon train of supplies and a group of southern prisoners of war. When they found themselves in danger of being captured by a brigade of rebel cavalry during the retreat, Col. McCoy instructed his men to light as many campfires as they could to give the impression that they were a larger force. This gambit worked, and the southern commander delayed his attack on the 175th until the next day. When the rebels began moving towards the 175th, Col. McCoy ordered every man into a single skirmish line and launched a furious attack. While the rebels were distracted by this move, the supply wagons crashed through the enemy lines and made a mad dash to safety. Once the supply wagons were out of danger, the 175th was able to escape. They joined a large force of federal troops near Franklin, Tennessee, where a swollen river was slowing the retreat to Nashville.

While most of the 175th made it to the relative safety of the Union line, three officers and 69 men of the regiment were captured by the enemy. Among those captured was Col. McCoy's brother, Captain William McCoy. The captured soldiers of the 175th were taken either to the Cahaba prison camp in Alabama, a large cotton warehouse with lowest death rate (2%) of any Civil War prison camp, Confederate or Union, or to the infamous Andersonville Prison in Georgia, an open field stockade with the highest death rate (28%) of any Civil War prison camp. Tragically, 21 of captured soldiers of the 175th who survived the prison camps were killed trying to get home when the steamship they were on, the Sultana, exploded.

The Battle of Franklin started at dusk on November 30, 1864, when the Army of Tennessee attacked the stalled federal troops. The 175th was initially placed as a reserve unit behind the front line. They would not stay there for long. With the opening salvo, the Confederates easily breached

the initial, inadequate earthworks near the 175th's position, which caused two brigades of Union troops to turn and run. The Confederates penetrated 50 yards into the federal line within minutes of the start of the battle. The 44th Missouri and the 100th Ohio, on either side of the breach, held their ground, but both regiments were in serious danger of being overwhelmed.

It was at this point that the 12th Kentucky, the 16th Kentucky, and the 175th Ohio came to the rescue. They charged in to close the breach and engaged in a flurry of mostly hand-to-hand fighting that was unusually fierce, even by Civil War standards. Field officers, who usually stayed out of the actual fighting, joined their troops in a frenzied brawl with swords, rifle butts, bayonets, axes, entrenchment tools, and picks. The three regiments managed to regain the lost ground and reoccupied the earthworks. They, along with further reinforcements, held the line through the night and into the next day against eleven desperate charges by the south. During the struggle, the 175th captured two Confederate battle flags during the fight, which was about the highest honor a regiment could earn. The 175th and their Kentucky compatriots saved the day at the Battle of Franklin, though the press and later historians give most of the credit to a different unit, thanks to their self-promoting and publicity-minded commander, Col. Emerson Opdycke.

During the battle, Col. McCoy was hit in three separate places by an exploding shell - his collarbone was shattered and his recently healed right leg was hit in two places, above and below his knee. He was carried from the field, but the wounds would prove to be not as serious as his wound at Chickamauga. The 175th Regiment suffered the loss, wounding, or capture of 161 men before and during the Battle of Franklin, including eight officers.

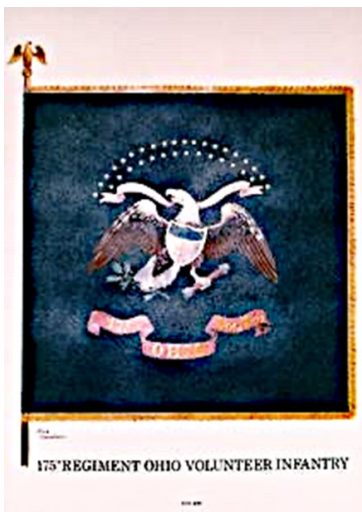
The Battle of Franklin was ostensibly a Confederate victory, as they retained the

field of battle, but, in reality, it was a crippling defeat. The Union forces sustained only 2,500 casualties with 189 deaths (a small number by Civil War standards) and they succeeded in completing their retreat to Nashville in a mostly orderly fashion. The South, however, sustained 6,000 casualties with 1,750 men killed. Even more damaging was their loss of leadership. Fourteen Confederate generals were taken out of action by the battle with six killed, seven wounded, and one captured, as were 55 regimental commanders.

Union forces in Nashville had two weeks after the Battle of Franklin to ready their defenses before the two-day long Battle of Nashville started on December 15, 1864. During this fight, the 175th was positioned in Fort Negley, the southernmost of a series of forts that had been built in 1862 when Union forces first occupied Nashville. Though the opening shots of the battle were fired by artillery at this fort, it was not directly attacked during the battle.

After the Nashville Campaign ended, the 175th was sent back to Columbia, Tennessee to resume their guard duties. Col. McCoy recovered sufficiently from his most recent wound to return in early February 1865 to again lead his regiment. The 175th served in Tennessee until late June 1864, when they returned to Ohio and were mustered out of service on July 13, 1865. Civil War statistics are often difficult to pin down, but the best records show that the 175th Regiment entered into service with 943 men and mustered out with 582, a difference of 361 soldiers. It suffered 124 men killed in action and another 108 killed by disease or accident. This leaves 129 men unaccounted for, some of which would be transfers to other units, medical discharges, and desertions.

Lieutenant Colonel Daniel McCoy was breveted to the rank of full colonel soon after the Battle of Nashville, and in May 1865, was again breveted, this time to the rank of brigadier general, retroactive




 MUSEUM MUSES

floors or washing the tin cups.

Coming this summer!!

Highland County Historical Society is converting the room formerly housing our library and preparing an enlarged and enhanced display to bring the experience of a nineteenth century school room. Long overdue, many school items heretofore crowded into a small room now will be able to be viewed. We will open the first Friday in May and look forward to your attendance in our school!

Debbie Williams



Americus Garden Inn

drove from Americus down to Plains--a trip of only about 10 miles. Driving down one of the country roads, just to explore, we came upon two large black SUVs. Beyond them were Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter, riding their bicycles, with another SUV in front of them.

We next explored the town of Plains where we found the old high school, now converted into a museum and gift shop. Very much a little country town, the population at the time of the 2020 Census was 573. Plains lost much of its "quiet" stature once Jimmy Carter rose in political stature to become governor of Georgia and later, from 1977 to 1981, serving as President of the United States.

Sunday, 7 October dawned sunny and bright and we headed back to Plains to attend services at Maranatha Baptist Church. As might be expected, there was a large crowd gathered in the church's sanctuary for the Sunday School Class taught by the former President. Mr. Carter brought along seed pods from one of his trees to use as an object for the lesson of the day and as souvenirs for visitors. He stood, not at the pulpit to teach the lesson, but right in front and near the people, as you might imagine. Following the lesson, many of the visitors left, but we stayed for the church service. We learned that the wooden offering plates were turned by President Carter in his shop on the farm. Employees of the White House presented him woodworking tools when he left the Presidency.

During the sermon, we noticed one of the Secret Service agents came in and whispered something to Jimmy. It turned out that he was being informed that the US-led coalition had begun attacks on Taliban-controlled Afghanistan marking what would become the 20 year long war there.

After the service, the Carters were escorted out first. By

Early October, the time when many folks get "sand in their shoes," that is, they get the wanderlust. Leaves begin to fall and the smell of tannin in the air just creates an atmosphere of needing to get away before the coming winter crowds us into our homes.

Such was the case when, twenty-three years ago this coming October, we decided to load up and head south. Our destination was Americus, Georgia, where we stayed in the Americus Garden Inn Bed & Breakfast, owned, at that time, by the daughter of local resident, Geneava Carpenter:

Jodi Miles and her husband Don. Built in 1847, this beautiful old home has been in the Top 10 "Best of the Best" Bed & Breakfast establishments in the United States. They have received TripAdvisor's Traveler's Choice Best of the Best 12 times.

On Saturday, 5 October, we



the time we were out, the members had organized a queue for visitors to line up to have a photo taken with the Carters. The event was well organized with a person to take your camera, position you



with the Carters and take your picture for you. The whole procedure had been well thought out and organized.

A little more about President Carter's farm. The home, as you might imagine, is completely surrounded by fencing. Jimmy built the home and they have lived there since 1961. The property features a pond, which Jimmy helped dig, as well as a magnolia tree, which was transplanted

from a sprout of the tree planted on the White House lawn by Andrew Jackson nearly 200 years ago. The couple will be buried by a willow tree at the edge of the pond. The property has been deeded to the National Park Service who will turn it into a museum following their deaths.

Over the 40 years President Carter taught Sunday School at Maranatha Baptist Church, he ended each lesson with a challenge to do one good thing for one other person. Whether making the time to call a friend who is sad or lone-

ly, mowing the lawn for an elderly community member, or simply baking a cake for a neighbor, through one simple gesture of love President Carter suggested together we can change the world. This has turned into The

President Carter Challenge, a fitting call for kindness in this time when we find so little.

John & Cheryl Porter



Oct, 2001

Children's Room

to March 13, 1865. These promotions were bestowed in honor of his gallant and meritorious service. A brevet rank gave the officer receiving it a higher rank title as a reward, but did not always give him the authority, privilege, or pay of the higher rank. There was a set number of openings for each military rank, so the brevet system was a way to reward someone with the rank they deserved, but were unable to be given due to a lack of openings. Daniel McCoy is the only Highland County soldier to achieve the rank of general during the Civil War. At only 24 years of age, he was one of the youngest men ever to be awarded the rank of general in the country. Over his military career, he fought in 27 battles or skirmishes and was wounded five times, three of which included shattered bones. He had at least eleven other bullets go through his clothes, just barely missing him.

Daniel McCoy mustered out with his regiment and resumed his civilian life. He soon left Ohio to move to Thompson, Illinois. Here he married Eva Vallette in November 1865 and was working as a lawyer by 1870. In 1872, the couple moved to Delmar, Iowa, where Daniel started a newspaper named the Delmar Journal. Three years later, he sold the Journal and started a different paper, the Delmar Independent. He would run this paper into the 1880s. About a year after the move to Iowa, Daniel caused a scandal when he was caught coming out of a hotel with another man's wife. The woman's husband threatened him with a gun, but Daniel was unimpressed and told him simply, "I'm not afraid of that." At this, the husband concluded that he was done with his wife and agreed to go have a drink with McCoy. Apparently, Mrs. McCoy decided that she too was done with her cheating spouse, and the McCoy's were divorced.

Daniel was married a second time in 1879, this time to Margaret Ann O'Brien. The new couple would welcome at least four children, Bertha Mae McCoy [Osburn], Irene Hortense McCoy [Sweet], Eugene Rollins McCoy, and Daniel O'Brien McCoy (also

known as Major). By 1900, Daniel had given up the newspaper business and was farming in Clinton County, Iowa. On May 5, 1902, Daniel McCoy was working in his orchard when he suffered a fatal heart attack. He was 59.

After a large funeral, in which the Grand Army of the Republic took a

large role, Daniel Webster McCoy was buried in Elmwood Cemetery in Clinton, Iowa. The original epitaph on his tombstone declared "Daniel W. McCoy. 1841 – 1902. Co. I, 24 Reg. D Vol. Inf. Discharged as Lieut. Col." An additional message was carved below this at a later date reading, "Daniel W. McCoy. Brevetted Brig. Gen. U. S. A. Vol. Mar 13, 1865." He was survived by his four children and his wife, who lived until 1941. At her passing, she and Daniel had 17 grandchildren, and 26 great-grandchildren.

Gen. Daniel McCoy and all the members of the 175th Ohio Volunteer Infantry certainly deserve to be remembered by the residents of present-day Highland County.

Tara Beery

Updates



had the opportunity to participate in a question-and-answer session with some of the marchers.

Later in the month, the film was broadcast on PBS stations in Columbus, Cincinnati, and Dayton. In the Columbus area, the film was viewed by over 12,000 households.

February was a big month for the Lincoln School Story broadcast. The film's first public premier was at the Murphy Theater in Wilmington. Over 200 people attended, and those in the theater

The Ohio Black Judges Association also screened the film at several of their Continuing Legal Education events in Columbus and Dayton. The film was shown at community events in Cincinnati, Cleveland, and in Berkeley, California. Xenia High School held an assembly for Freshmen and Juniors to see the film and to talk with two of the marchers in late March.

The next big public screening will take place at the Lincoln Theatre in Columbus on May 9 at 6:30pm. The event will feature music by the Grammy-nominated Central

BROWN @ 70

scheduled for demolition in 1991, but was saved, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, restored and now is owned by the City of Columbus and became a vibrant community asset.

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JOHN W. BALLENTINE

John W. Ballentine was born on July 3, 1818 in Glasgow, Scotland. He was the oldest surviving child of John and Mary (Smith) Ballentine. The family immigrated to the United States in the early 1830s along with his siblings, Robert, James, William, Elizabeth, and Mathew (two more brothers, David and Andrew and a second sister, Margaret, would be born in America). The elder John Ballentine died in 1843, and soon after the rest of the family came to Highland County and settled in the Berryville area, with the younger John Ballentine as head of the family. Initially, they all lived together, but by 1860, almost everyone had established their own households. Only Mary and Andrew still lived with John.

John married Catherine Long on February 27, 1845. They had three sons and five daughters - Mary Jane, Lucinda, Julia (died at age 4), John, William, Matilda (Tillie), George, and Catherine. John was a farmer, a Presbyterian, a Democrat (he named his son born during the 1864 election campaign George McClellan), Justice of the Peace for Washington Township for 27 years, and was twice elected to the Board of Infirmary Directors. He died February 20, 1890.

In 1860, John began to keep a diary, which he continued for decades. Reading through the entries immerses one into the day-to-day life of a Highland County farmer in

the 1860s-1880s. To aid in clarity and improve readability, grammatical edits were made, though some errors were retained in an effort to keep the "flavor" of Mr. Ballentine's speech pattern. Any information contained within a bracket [] is not original and was added by the transcriber.

Thursday January 12, 1860

Weather, mild, snowed 2½ inches last night. Hauled two loads of wood and one load of corn & fodder. Husked corn in barn. John A. Doggett came and got the hog. Fielding & Shepherd come on money matters. Andrew, Mary, Lucinda, & Johnny went to school. The old sow had eight pigs last night.

Friday January 13, 1860

Weather, foggy & some indications of snow & freezing some all day. Went to collect money. Got \$2.35 from Luke Miller as balance on thrashing. Bought a note from D. West on Jackson Ellings for \$15.80 & paid it with the thrashing bill of \$8.56 & \$6.00 besides. Seen Richard Stanforth & he promised to chop wood for what he owes. Andrew & the children went to school. Saw Wilson Creed from Kansas.
Receipts \$2.35
Expenses \$6.00

Saturday January 14, 1860

Weather, very heavy sleet all day & froze as fast it fell, the ground very icy. Ground axes all forenoon. Put soles on the sled in afternoon

and done various items. W. S. Stanforth came & paid a judgement of \$100.00 & interest \$9.46 & \$1.00 costs. David came & fixed his coffee mill & got his new coat. Lucinda went to Berryville & bought a spelling book, some spice, & ginger, & paid for it with butter.

Receipts 75¢
Expenses 25¢

Sunday January 15, 1860

Weather, moderate. Thawed the ice off the trees and commenced to freeze in the evening. Ground covered with snow. Preaching at Prospect by Rev. _____. Stayed at home all day. Andy went to William's. Uncle came up in the evening. Read the papers and books.

Monday January 16, 1860

Weather, cloudy and thawing. Wind south with some indications of rain. Snow nearly all gone. Went to Berryville for the papers, quite a crowd there. Got Enquirer & Hillsboro Gazette. Hauled a load of corn in the evening. In the morning Cary Miller came & stayed execution for Andrew McConnaughey and also for Jacob Martin. Andrew & the children went to school.

Tuesday January 17, 1860

Weather, cloudy & clear alternately & thawing and freezing alternately, freezing in the evening. Hauled four loads of corn & fodder & one load of wood. Mailed a letter with \$2.75 to Thomas Stow, Ridgeville, Warren County, Ohio. It was paid by John H. Hopkins.

Thomas C. Higgins paid his thrashing, which was \$1.72. Qualified Charles Higgins to his account against the estate of Dr. Thomas B. Cunningham. Paid to John White, \$119.46, a judgement which was paid by William S. Stanforth. Andrew and the children went to school.
Receipts \$2.50

Wednesday January 18, 1860

Weather, cool and pleasant, freezing some all day, with some indications of snow in the evening, wind SW. Ground froze in the forenoon. Pulled a load of corn in the afternoon. Finished all the corn in the bottom. Andrew & the children went to school. Uncle was here twice today.

Thursday January 19, 1860

Weather, very pleasant and thawing in the sunshine. Hauled fodder and husked corn and done various things amongst which was arraigning the case of Batson against Spargur, which I succeeded in doing. Robert came and ground some feed and was here besides in the morning. Jacob Higgins came & borrowed a fork to help to thrash wheat at Adam Miller's. Andrew & the children went to school. Andrew went to James Creed's at night. There is some indications of rain tonight.

Friday January 20th 1860

Weather, clear & warm. Wind south. The snow nearly all gone. The ground quite muddy. Work, husked a load of corn in the barn. Hauled one load of fodder for the cows and two loads of corn and fodder for the horses. Went to see Lemuel Vance, who is bad with the rheumatism. Found him suffering very much. Sent him some beef gall to make a liniment. Went to old Mrs. Troute's for the half bushel measure, which was borrowed. Thawing at night and no clouds.

Saturday January 21, 1860

Weather, very fine. Thermometer 52½ °. Wind SW, calm. Some sign of rain. Work, went to Hillsboro. Bought a thermometer, 75¢, 2¾ yards calico, 25¢, thread, 5¢, two daily papers, 8¢, Harper's Magazine, 25¢, [Qito?] weekly, 5¢, one coffee mill, 40¢, and paid Andrew Holt \$1.00, which I owed. Served a notice by request of James Creed on Elizabeth Cun-

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JOHN W. BALLENTINE *(continued)***2024 CALENDAR** *(ten.)*

MUSEUM MUSES

ningham [widow of Thomas Cunningham]. Wrote a letter to the Sheriff of Defiance County, Ohio for James Creed. Total expenditures, \$2.45. Receipts none Expenses \$2.45

Sunday January 22, 1860

Weather, clear and pleasant. Slight frost in the morning. Wind SW. Thermometer at sunrise 31°, noon 51°, sunset 40°. There was no preaching at Prospect. Big meeting postponed on account of protracted meeting at Marshall. Went to see Lemuel K. Vance. He thought he was some better. Stayed at home in forenoon and read.

Average of thermometer 42°
Extremes 31.51°

Monday January 23, 1860

Weather, clear and pleasant. Wind SW. Quite a frost in the morning. Work, hauled a load of fodder then went to Berryville and got the papers and a letter from Hazard Perry Barrere, New Market. Husked corn in the barn in the evening. Received \$2.51 from Lewis Higgins for [Frank Frederick] Kibler. Seen Robert, William, & David.

Thermometer - SR [sunrise] 28°, Noon 60°, SS [sunset] 30°, Average 42°

Tuesday January 24, 1860

Work, husked corn in the barn, went to Berryville and mailed a letter to New Market. Weather, very fine. Some sign of rain in the evening. Wind from SW. Robert & his wife came here at night and the school teacher came with the children and stayed all night.

Thermometer - SR 30°, Noon 60°, SS 60°

Wednesday January 25, 1860

Weather, moderate & cloudy. Wind NW. clouds from the SW. Ground drying up. Work, hauled one load of wood and husked corn in the field till noon then went to Robert's and bought a heifer for \$12 to be paid [again?]. Robert brought his colt here to stay awhile who is fixing to move. Went to David's & got a horse to help Robert to move. The schoolmaster stayed here last night, Andrew and the children went to school.

Thermometer - SR 45°, Noon 43°, SS 40°

Thursday January 26, 1860

Weather, rain and sleet all day from eight o'clock. It froze as fast as it fell. Clouds from NE. Work, went and helped Robert to move in the morning. Andrew took the team and hauled a load for him. Uncle and two Studgets came up to help. Worked in the shop in the afternoon.

Thermometer - SR 38°, Noon 35°, SS 28°

Friday January 27, 1860

Weather, cool & cloudy. Freezing all day. Wind SW. Roads very rough. Work, went to James Miller's for Matilda and for Mrs. Medsker to come to the frolic. Sister Margaret was here. Went for the doctor, got [Dr. Jacob] Kirby. At one o'clock a girl [Matilda/"Tillie"] was born. Doing well. Doctor went *(continued on page 11)*

May 1 - Museum Month	Oct 4 - Witch Walk (HUBA)
May 3 - Opening Day	Oct 8 - Annual Meeting
May 4 - Wine Walk (HUBA) 1-5:30	Oct 11 - Haunted Hillsboro
Jun 8 - Bridal Exhibit opens	Nov 2 - Open House
Jul 4-6 - Festival of Bells	Nov 8 - Veterans Appreciation Night
Jul 20 - Scavenger Hunt	Nov 23 - Small Shop Saturday (HUBA)
Aug 3 - Back to School Bash HUBA/Magic Show	Nov 24 - Museum Sunday
Aug 18 - Hall of Fame Ceremony	Dec 7 - Holiday Parade
Sep 14 - Log Cabin Cookout	Dec 14 - Christmas Shop Hop (HUBA)
Sep 24 - Ghost Walk	Dec 24 - Close for winter

The article below was found in a Hillsboro newspaper. Enjoy the humor.

Village Was Dry, These Workers Didn't Like Idea!

Although Hillsboro was a "dry" town in 1915, there is evidence, recently uncovered, to show that not all residents approved.

The evidence came from a whiskey bottle, found underneath the ONG armory last week by termite exterminators checking the timbers of that building.

Inside the bottle was a note, on which the following words appeared:

"Hillsboro, O., Nov. 18, 1915. This armory was built by R. A. Masterson, contractor; Milton Arledge, Ernest Selph, Jerry Madden, Sam Frank, Sam Ross, Farris Bliss, John Gibler."

Continued on the second sheet, the note stated: "This town was dry as h——!" Then it added, "Goodbye Mayor Wilkin and Marshal Mac Sonner."

It is not known who wrote the note, since all those listed have since passed from the scene. But, before passing, they apparently wanted to make sure their views about the "dry" issue were down in black and white for posterity.



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MUSEUM MUSES

JEOPARDY!

PRESIDENTIAL EDITION REPORT

Wow! What a great crowd turned out for our 2nd Jeopardy event! We had THREE teams for the event and our **FIRST PLACE WINNERS** were the **FIRST LADIES**. This team took an early lead and just kept going. This could be due to the fact that they are all teachers of either history or government. The team was made up of Tara Gililand, Lora West and Nancy Wiederman. Their names will be added to our JEOPARDY WINNERS plaque, which proudly hangs in the WC of Highland House! (If you can't



already tell, we believe in having a fun event!) Our other teams were made up of Max Petzold, Dennis Griffith and Rob Moffatt. Our host, Alex Treebark (Bob Brown) and our buzzer controller, Abe Lincoln (Liz Odland) were also on hand as was game board controller, John Glaze and question author, Vicki Knauff.



Office Hours By Appointment



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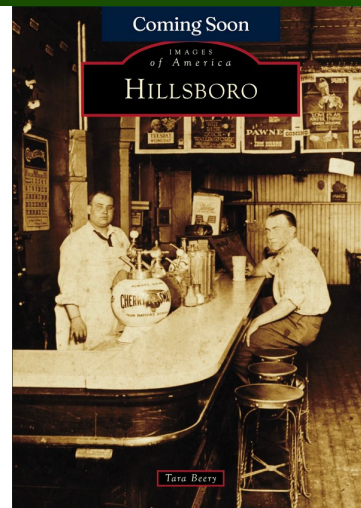
Tara Beery's new book, **IMAGES OF AMERICA HILLSBORO**

has been selling like hot cakes at breakfast! This book contains many seldom-seen photos from Tara Beery's collection as well as from the archives of our HCHS Library.

The book was published by Arcadia Publishing which is an American publisher of neighborhood, local, and regional history of the United States in pictorial form. Arcadia Publishing also runs the History Press, which publishes text-driven books on American history and folklore. Arcadia Publishing was founded in Dover, NH, in 1993 by United Kingdom-based Tempus Publishing, but became independent after being acquired by its CEO in 2004. The corporate office is in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina. It has a catalog of more than 12,000 titles, and it—along with its subsidiary, The History Press—publishes 900 new titles every year.

Its formula for regional publishing is to use local writers or historians to write about their community using 180 to 240 black-and-white photographs with captions and introductory paragraphs in a 128-page book. The Images of America series is the company's largest product line. Other series include Images of Rail, Images of Sports, Images of Baseball, Black America, Postcard History, Campus History, Corporate History, Legendary Locals, Images of Modern America, and Then & Now.

In May 2017, Arcadia acquired Palmetto Publishing Group, a Charleston-based self-publishing service that had been in business since 2015. In 2018, Arcadia was acquired by Lezen, a new company owned by Lili and Michael Lynton. In March 2019, Walter Isaacson became the editor-at-large and senior adviser for Arcadia Publishing, where he will be promoting books for the company as well as editing, new strategy development, and partner-



ships.

In 2010, Arcadia became the first major publisher to print all of their books on Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) paper. All of the publisher's books are also printed and manufactured in South Carolina on American-made paper.

(above history from Wikipedia)
Isn't it great to know our project supported jobs in the United States, instead of China?

Arcadia says of itself: "For over 20 years Arcadia Publishing has reconnected people to their community, their neighbors, and their past by offering a curbside view of hometown history.

"Composed in a unique pictorial format with over two hundred vintage images and accompanying captions, Arcadia books animate the cherished memories, people, places, and events that define a community."

And from the New York Times:

"The books make all of history—not just the famous parts—accessible and scintillating."

- Kathleen Rooney, New York Times

If you haven't purchased your copy yet, we will be open beginning the first Friday of May.



JOHN W. BALLENTINE *(continued)*



home. Cleaned out a stable after noon. Sold Mike for \$38.00 and a heifer for \$14.00. Total \$52.00. Bought \$1.00 worth of coffee in Hillsboro & two papers, 10¢.

Thermometer - SR 25°, N 25°, SS 26°

Receipts \$52.00

Expenses \$1.10

Saturday January 28, 1860

Weather, pleasant and cloudy. Wind high and from the SW. Some indication of rain. Ground thawed ½ inch. Work, chopped a gum tree into back logs and hauled it home, hauled a load of fodder and a load of wood from the hill. John Siders left accounts against William Sargent, Andrew McConnaughey, and a note against Jacob Martin. David came and went with Andy to the robin roost. Elizabeth stayed here.

Thermometer - SR 35°, N 40°, SS 35°

Sunday January 29, 1880

Weather, pleasant and thawing. Wind SW, high in the evening. Some indication of rain. Some sleet at 8 o'clock. The preacher did not come today. Jane Medsker came to see Catharine today so did Mrs. Mille and old man Long. Stayed at home all day. Andy & David got 63 robins last night.

Thermometer -

SR 29°, Noon 50°, SS 47°

Monday January 30, 1860

Weather, very pleasant and thawing. Wind SW and no clouds. Work, wrote four summonses & one subpoena and went to Berryville & got the papers. Got two horses shod before with new shoes and paid \$1.00 for it. Eat diner with James Hemsworth. Fixed for thrashing at Anthony Spargur's. Andy began to clear on James Creed's land. Had a visit from Matilda Miller. David & Andy went to the robin roost tonight. Sold some butter in Berryville & got tea for it. Bought one pound shot at 12½¢.

Thermometer - SR __, Noon 45°, SS 40°

Receipts 25¢

Exp 37¢

Tuesday January 31, 1860

Weather, cold and began to snow at noon. Wind from the NW. Seven o'clock snowing hard & drifting. Work, put soles on the sled & hauled a load of fodder for the cows in the

forenoon. Afternoon hauled a load of shocks with corn & cleaned out the stable. Andy worked in the clearing in forenoon. The children went to school. Last night Andy & David killed 220 robins. Sister Margaret came here today & stayed all day. Jacob came at night. Uncle was here in the afternoon.

Thermometer - SR 35°, N __, SS 20°

Wednesday February 1, 1860

Weather, very cold & clear. Wind NW. Quit snowing last night, snowed about two inches. Work, cleaned the cow stable & fixed it for two cows. Went to mill in the afternoon. Mill not running, the engine being repaired. Brought the grain home. Pearson Beatty got one leg broke by a horse stumbling & falling on his leg. There was none here today except Uncle. Cinda & Johnny went to school. Sold a peck of meal to Uncle, 14¢.

Thermometer - SR 2½° below zero, Noon __, SS 6°

Receipts 14¢

Thursday February 2, 1860

Weather, clear and cold, wind NW. Work, went to Shepard's mill & to Hillsborough, which was about all the work. Went to a lecture at schoolhouse, Mr. Bauer's lecture, subject America. It was well attended. Mrs. Valentine C. Smith [Ellen Johnson Smith] here on a visit. Got medicine for Catharine, 50¢. Sundries, 10¢, paper, 5¢. Total, 65¢

Thermometer - SR 6°, Sunset 8°

Expenses 65¢

Friday February 3, 1860

Weather, clear & pleasant. Wind NW. Thawed some today. Work, hauled & chopped wood for Uncle in the afternoon. Went to see Lemuel Vance in the forenoon. He is getting better. Had a visit from John Siders & from Peter Kelso. Lucinda & Johnny went to school. Received \$12.00 from Joshua Smart as part of judgement in the action of Milburn against Smart.

Justice fees, 80¢.

Thermometer - SR 8°, SS 29°

Receipts 80¢

Saturday February 4, 1860

Weather, fine with some indications of rain in the afternoon and thawed all day. Work, hauled two loads of fodder & a load of wood. Had four cases in my office today. First, Nye & Demarest vs Kelso, not settled. Second, Siders vs McConnaughey, paid \$3. Third, Siders vs Martin, trial and judgement for plaintiff. Fourth, Steel vs West, compromised judgement for plaintiff. Andy worked in the clearing & the children cut corn stubs. Received 55¢ for collection fees.

SR 20° SS 38°

Receipts 55¢

Saturday February 5, 1860

Weather, wet in forenoon & cloudy in afternoon. Went to see Pearson Beatty who is laying with a broken leg. He is doing very well. There was there to see him McWhitie, John White, Dempsey Garrett, B. Carlisle, John Creed, & Thomas Brown. Andy & Johnny rode to David's.

Thermometer - SR 37° SS 40°

Monday February 6, 1860

Weather, some rain in the morning, no more rain all day. Some indications of rain in the evening. Road muddy, frost not all out. Work, repaired the machine to thrash Spargur's wheat. David, Jacob W. Smith, and Uncle was here today. Sold 30 pounds meal at one cent per pound. The robins is still at their roost at Ab White's. The children went to school. Andy helped me to fix the machine.

Thermometer - sunrise 39°, sunset __, no frost, 9 o'clock 32°

Receipts 30¢

Tuesday February 7, 1860

Weather, pleasant and cool, ground hard in the morning. Work, hauled fodder in the morning then went to Hillsborough to borrow some money but got none. Have the promise of some from Dr. Lilley in a few days. Bought three papers, one spool of thread and a pack of envelopes. Total, 23¢. The children went to school. Loaned the dandy to Lem Vance. Loaded the machine to go thrash at Spargur's.

Thermometer - SS 32°

Receipts none

Expenses 23¢

(continued next issue)

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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!

OHIO HUMANITIES

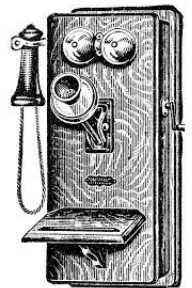
State University Chorus and a panel discussion after the film. See related article for info on tickets.

We are also working hard on distributing the film to places outside Ohio. The details of those plans are still being worked out, but we hope that they will be confirmed very soon.

Aaron Rovan, PhD

Please Answer Our Call!

Our membership committee will soon begin calling our members to verify addresses and similar information. Please answer our calls when they come to you! We have been finding information not updated and want to get up-to-date!



THANK YOU!!!

Earth Day

It's all connected

The National Park Service celebrates EARTH DAY as the kick off for National Park Week. HCHS also celebrated Earth Day this year by planting a maple tree in the yard behind Highland House.

Monday April 22, 2024, Trustee, Chris Hamlin led three future society members in the venture. Colton Stout, Hunter Stout, and Crue Boatman (shown in the photos) learned just how we do good for our environment while beautifying the campus of Highland County Historical Society. When you see any of our arborists, please express your gratitude and support

