



# Museum Muses

Highland County Historical Society, 151 E Main St, Hillsboro, OH 45133 937-393-3392  
<http://www.highlandco.org/HCHS.html>

## Remember!

- Out of town guests visiting? Bring them to Highland House!!
- VOLUNTEER to be a museum worker or to serve on a committee.
- Be sure to view the changing exhibit area at HIGHLAND HOUSE
- Check out our library!

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## Outhouse Archaeology? Call For Old Photos

The Highland House was a private home, hotel, boarding house and museum in its long life but one room was needed most of all in the days before indoor plumbing and garbage collection... the backyard outhouse. This room served the obvious purposes but also was a trash collection area and the final resting place for bottles, broken dolls, silverware, dropped rings and keys and anything else that might fall out of our pockets or clothing. Many whiskey bottles were hidden in the outhouses suspended by a string to hide them from prying eyes and many fell down and were never recovered. All of the organic material has long since composed leaving only clean soil and historical artifacts of great interest. Excavations in New York City revealed not only the dietary elements like bones and shells but also items from daily life of the 1800's. We are meeting with a team of archaeologists to determine what, if any, items might be located in our own backyard. I will report to you during our next meeting and newsletter of our progress!

Over the last year we have been electronically scanning and sorting our extensive picture and negative collection for use in a book on Hillsboro. If anyone has older photos of Hillsboro or Highland County people, events, landmarks or places of interest would please consider letting us copy them for preservation? They will not leave the museum and will not be harmed in any way by the scanning process. Our plan is to have the photos displayed online, with permission, for researchers and family members to enjoy. The history of Highland County was well documented by the many local photographers and we want to add to that collection with family photos and memories. Photos taken at special events are especially welcome as they tell the story of our celebrations and achievements. Now is the time for spring cleaning so dig out that old picture box and share your photo memories with the other members. Contact the Museum or Bob Lambert at 937-509-6058 for more information.

## Director's Report

Once again we look forward to re-opening the Museum. With a new President and several new board members we anticipate building attendance by using the great ideas that have been put forth by our president.

The poor drowned and undernourished plants in our flower beds surrounded by weeds have been crying for help. Maxine Kratzer came to their rescue by donating bags of Miracle-Gro garden soil to start the process of rebuilding and refreshing our flower beds—thank you so very much Maxine.

As of June 3 and June 5 we will hang out the “open”

## When You Wish Upon A Star

As the new president of the Historical Society let me thank you for your support in our efforts to preserve Highland County history. The museum had a great year under past president Ron Gilliland and I hope to follow his lead during my term in office. Our new plans include continued restoration efforts on the museum building and expansion of our presence in the school system. Teachers are valued partners in our efforts to reach younger people and they help us ignite a lifelong passion for history. We plan to have traveling exhibits of local artifacts and books to be used as teaching aids in the classrooms. Tours will also be conducted for school age children to introduce them to our wonderful museum and all its treasures.

Our preservation efforts on the museum property will continue with a backyard excavation at the location of the 'privy' and new plantings in the flower

## Margaret Van Frank

sign with the hope everyone will pay the Museum a visit. It is surprising how many Hillsboro residents exclaim they have never been to the Highland House Museum. Contact your friends and neighbors to join you in visiting a Museum dedicated to keeping Highland County history alive.

We will be open during the Festival of Bells and Jeanne Wilkerson has once again enlisted great volunteers from the Hillsboro Women's Club. Kirby Stanforth will be creating amazing items with his chain saw and the log cabin will open for visitors.

Margaret

## Bob Lambert

beds that surround the log cabin and backdoor. Last year we replaced the windows on the south side of the building with historically accurate but high efficiency windows that reduce our energy costs and several window sills were replaced enhancing the look of the Museum. We plan to continue this year with a repair of the meeting room floor and crawlspace areas.

As a member you will see more events for your education and enjoyment. Save the dates for the Annual Antique Sale on August 20th and the Temperance March on September 17th and our Log Cabin Cookout in the fall.

Thank you again for your support of the Highland County Historical Society. I look forward to working with everyone to have another successful year.

Bob Lambert, President



## When I Was a Little Girl

My Grandpa and Grandma, John Henry Miller and Mary Ann (Turner) Miller, lived in a log house away back in a field. At one time a road ran by the house, but that was away before I was around. In the log part of the house, the living room had a huge fireplace which was the only source of heat when my mother was growing up. As all homes of that era, they had a bed in the living room. There was a small bedroom adjoining the living room, and one bedroom upstairs, and one room known as the Loom Room. There was a huge hand-made loom in it on which my grandma wove hundreds of yards, or I guess I could say hundreds of miles of carpet for people to help make money. She also made scatter rugs. All these were made of rags, old coats, dresses, etc. Later, a kitchen was added to the house, not log, a frame room. There was no door from the log part to the kitchen. One went out onto the long porch and then into the kitchen. In winter, one dashed along the porch! Beside the wood cook stove in the kitchen, they had a little King heater that burned wood. This was used only in extremely cold weather. Grandma had geraniums growing in the south living room window. She would also make artificial flowers of crepe paper and then dip them in paraffin to preserve them. I thought they were lovely. One winter, she bought holly and we made a wreath for grandpa's grave. We got our fingers stuck quite badly on that job. Grandpa died when I was 10, in 1928. Grandma lived until 1939, and died of massive strokes. It seems that I was at my grandparents and doing things with them and then with grandma

more than I was at home. I just like to go and sit and was content to be there whether I was doing anything or not. Much of the time, I would walk across the fields to Harry Satterfield's to catch the school bus. Dad would walk with me in the mornings and in the afternoons, Granny (that's what I called her) would meet me on a hill about halfway to Satterfield's. She would be able to see me from the time I left Satterfield's house. When I could look over to the hill and see her there in her long dress with her apron over it, and her special warm hood or cap waiting for me, that was security. Then I would eat something when I got to her house, maybe bread with corncob molasses, or bread with apple or peach butter, and sometimes stay awhile and help do the evening chores. I'd throw hay down from the mow; and sometimes I'd wait until she came into the barn and throw a small forkful of hay down on her. She never got mad. After grandpa died, my mother insisted that Granny stay with us at night. Her little dog, Donald, was living then, and just before dark, they would come walking across the field. She would go to bed about 9 o'clock, and then get up early the next morning and go back home. Later, we got two of the old fashioned telephones—the ones that crank, and put in just between our two houses and I know that was quite a relief to her that she didn't have to walk that field, especially in the winter time. She had two or three cows, and chickens. Her whole life was being able to work. She had a light stroke and then some time later, several heavier ones. More than anything else, she

wanted to get well again so that she could milk. I can still see her sitting and flexing her hands, saying that she would milk yet. She was a very strong willed person, but she never did milk again. Now, when she was well, she had two sets of chickens. One was at the barn, and the other was at the house, and they never encroached on each other's territory. The ones at the house drank out of the spring branch and she carried water to the ones at the barn. Finally, there was just one old hen left at the barn, the rest having died of old age, so instead of carrying water to her, Granny used her ingenuity, tapping a maple tree by the buggy shed, putting a hollow reed in it, a crock under it, and the old hen had maple water to drink. Granny made apple, peach and tomato butter. In winter, when I'd want a snack, she'd cut a slice of her homemade bread, spread it with one of the butters, and then put real butter on the top of that in chunks, since it was so cold in the kitchen that the cow butter wouldn't spread. OH! Was that ever good! We would take her eggs and cream to the "store" for her, and to get them to our house before I could drive, I would take my little red wagon over, and we would put them in that and one of us would push and the other would pull. After I learned to drive, I would get (to page 4)

## Mary Elaine Ellis

*Consider writing your personal history as a gift to your children and grandchildren.*

John Henry Miller and Mary Ann Turner Miller



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*Museum Opens  
on  
June 3!*

### *When I Was a Little Girl*

*(continued from page 3)*

them in the car.

Now about the spring house. It was big enough to house the spring and several feet of the branch. The spring was walled with rock. The spring house had a plank floor and door of chicken wire to keep animals out, for she kept her milk and butter and anything else that she wanted to keep cool, sitting in the branch, covered, in crocks. As I am remembering, it seemed the greatest place in the world.

When grandpa was living, he would say "Go to the spring and get me a drink out of the north corner" so it would be colder. At the time, I didn't know he was kidding, so I would reach away in as far as I could and dip up water.

There was also a smoke house with a cellar under it. She kept cured meat hanging in the smoke house and lots of "junk" that was fascinating. The cellar was full of canned vegetables and fruit. Also potatoes, sweet potatoes, squash, turnips, parsnips, apples, sauerkraut, pumpkins and anything else that could be stored for the winter. *(To be continued.....)*



Photos of the Centennial in this issue are from HCHS Highland House Museum Library. They were taken during the Hillsboro Centennial Celebration in 1907.

If you've never visited the Library, climb the stairs into history!