



# Museum Muses

Highland County Historical Society, 151 E Main St, Hillsboro, OH 45133 937-393-3392

## The President's Message

Spring is here and a group of dedicated volunteers, led by Catie Schafer, our museum director, have been working tirelessly to get the museum ready for the season. Cobwebs and dust bunnies have been swept away, floors mopped and furniture dusted and oiled by skilled hands and dedicated hearts. The work of preserving history is never ending and requires the hard work of many hands to keep our collections in good condition. As a bonus to the cleaning efforts, we were able to open the museum early this year and have had a great number of visitors stopping by already. Some of the furniture and paintings are being repositioned and new displays like our Marshall Basketball Exhibit have been put into place. The effort of these hard working volunteers is greatly appreciated and their contributions are priceless. Special thanks goes to Mary Todd Hardeman for her oversight of the preservation/restoration activities, to Helen Ford for her expertise in silver polishing, to Midge Rose for her trained eye in furnishings placements and to Catie for putting in hours above and beyond expectations to help "reimagine" the museum's look and layout. The museum is becoming more user friendly and better able to display our collection for future generations.

As part of our continuing exploration of our backyard, the Dayton Diggers have located several more promising spots for future excavation. The cistern explored last year yielded many bottles and treasures from the early 1900s and our search for the original outhouse continues. I will keep you informed on the progress over the summer. We

don't expect to find any buried treasure but the slice of life discovered in discarded items helps paint a better picture of life at the Highland House in the past.

Our Heritage Music Series has proven to be a big success with good attendance and support from both the membership and the community. One concert was broadcast live over the internet by the Times-Gazette with positive feedback from viewers. The goal of the series is to raise funds for the restoration of the other instruments in our collection and we are well on our way. Your attendance or financial gift can speed our progress and allow us to display and perform on working examples of early American instruments. The Decker piano is being used for the series as well as being played by visitors and members. Music adds to the warm and welcoming atmosphere of the museum and we are fortunate to have some excellent examples of the piano builder's art.

I want to thank the members of the society for their support of our efforts to renew the museum and acquire new exhibits. Our efforts to expand our property holdings should be complete in May. Watch for a formal announcement and your invitation to a reception and dedication of an historic home that is being added to our collection. This is a big project of historic importance and I hope we can count on your continued support of our efforts to preserve Highland County's history.

Thank you again for supporting the Historical Society. I hope to see you very soon.

*Bob Lambert*

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## What is the Lifeblood of our Highland House and HCHS?

I was doing a little light reading the other evening on non-profit organizations and kept running across the word “lifeblood” as a description of what was the absolute most key element of a non-profit agency. So, with further curiosity and a bit of sleep apnea kicking-in, I “Googled” what it meant to be the “lifeblood” of something. The answer, I found, was the same for all organizations. The “lifeblood” is comprised of “the members.” “Lifeblood” is defined by Webster’s dictionary as “the key element which provides the necessary life-giving nutrients to the rest of the body.” I think you can agree with me that this definition really makes a lot of sense in giving us an understanding and appreciation of what our membership means to us. Whether you are a lifetime member or just started supporting us, the annual donated support, whether it is in dollars, volunteer hours, or attending our monthly events, is the “blood” which drives us and allows us to survive.

An example of a “life-giving” situation here at the Highland House Museum was the newly acquired trophy collection from Marshall Township. Aside from the fact that we received quite a bit of press attention and increased our weekend visitor numbers by leaps and bounds, the entire trophy acquisition experience was quite life-affirming. Any member or invited guest who attended the Bob Patton speech will understand what I am referencing. As a fellow audience member, I watched as a speech which started out at a fairly easy-going rate gradually grew with speed, participation and excitement as various audience members recognized and re-lived personal

moments and memories that the Marshall High School slide-show elicited. Toward the end of his speech, I learned that there were at least three grandchildren of Championship Basketball team members in attendance and that there were many more who had been actual students during the time of the great basketball successes for both the female and male teams.

It has been a somewhat awe-inspiring and even humbling experience so far, as your new Director, to truly realize what memorabilia, pictures, pieces of furniture, and even trophies, can mean to our county’s families. These memories are “life-giving” and have true “life-meaning.” Thank you to our members, volunteers, visitors and committee chairs for providing the necessary “nutrients” to keep us alive as a museum and as a society.

*Catie Schafer*

Director

*Did St. Patty himself show up at our annual spring brunch or is it really just our illustrious board president in disguise?*



## HERITAGE MUSIC SERIES

A big THANK YOU to all who have made our HERITAGE MUSIC SERIES so successful! January was cancelled due to ice. In February we heard Tommy Beeker, master piano technician, not only play, but also give an interesting talk on the history of the Decker Bros. square grand piano. This instrument, a central point of interest in the museum, was purchased by local attorney, Charles Collins in 1867.

In March we were entertained by “The Last Call,” a quartet featuring Hal Harvey, John Jones, Glen Robinson and Roger Smith, as well as “Family and Friends,” featuring John Jones, Sally Rogers, Barry Jones and Bill Rogers. A great time was enjoyed by all.

In April we were honored to have Terry Roush who shared Civil War history, some of his collection, music and memorabilia. He accompanied Christopher Ford, a 13 year old, 7th grade student who is a member of the Cincinnati Boy Choir. Christopher entertained us with Civil War songs and

costumes.

Our social gathering starts at 7:30 pm and features hors d’oeuvres and special punches made by our volunteers. The parlor music begins at 8:00 and lasts approximately one hour. We hope you can come join us for a wonderful evening of music and friends.

The proceeds from the Heritage Music Series will be used to restore the music instruments at Highland House, the first being our Melodeon. I look forward to the evening when it can be the featured instrument for our music night.

We have had so many requests for recipes for the hors d’oeuvres and punches enjoyed at our Series that we are going to put together a “cook-booklet” at the end of the year with all of our recipes. Thank you to all who have asked!

*Midge Rose*

*Heritage Music Series Chair*

# Membership Drive

*Midge Rose & Pauline Cameron*

Our membership is growing and we urge you to renew yours if you haven't already done so for 2012. We need all of you! Thanks to all who have shown interest in volunteering. We are working with director Catie on all of the areas where we could use volunteers.

We need greeters, food for events, folks to clean the museum and oil furniture, clean silver and special pieces, assist the director with paperwork, work in the garden—planting and cleaning beds. We also need folks to chair committees, make small repairs, clean up after events, set up for events, help with promotion, archive computer work and more! If you have a passion for any of these jobs, we'd love to share them with you.

Remember, a gift membership is a great way to get friends and family involved in preserving our precious heritage.

Have some fun with this WORD SEARCH game!

# Photos



*Catie Schafer, Christopher Ford and Midge Rose in their Civil War attire*

*Never too young to volunteer to help clean at Highland House! This is 4 year old Adler, one of Helen Ford's grandsons, taking his furniture cleaning job quite seriously! He would like your help!*



# 2012 Tour of Homes

The Tour of Homes planning is ahead of schedule! This year there will be many wonderful locations of private homes and public buildings open for touring. Also new this year: we are working in conjunction with local realtors to display some homes which are being offered for sale. Not to give away all of the locations, but the SCOTT HOUSE, FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH and HIGHLAND COUNTY COURT HOUSE will be three of the locations open.

The Tour will be held Sunday, 24 June from 1:00-6:00 pm. Tickets are a suggested \$10 donation and will be available at Highland House after Memorial Day Weekend or on the day of the tour. Be thinking about one of your friends or family member you can bring on the tour as your treat! This is always a popular event. Don't miss it!

Word Search Fun

P R E S E R V A T I O N D X  
 E G A R A S M A R G O R P P  
 G V C U P A P D B S O W B B  
 D Z V C P C C F Y J T U J G  
 E N A M R X N B M B W U V R  
 L E N T E R T A I N M E N T  
 W D J U C N H C W M B J Y P  
 O X X E I H Y R O T S I H X  
 N E K B A Y T I N U M M O C  
 K I S T T U C P C Q C B K S  
 N G N O I T A M R O F N I D  
 X S Z H O T P V A Z S Y T S  
 B Q G V N E R U T U F A N O  
 U N O I T A D N U O F G I G

**WORD SEARCH**—search for the words shown below. Remember they could be forward, backwards, all directions.

- |               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| appreciation  | history      |
| community     | information  |
| entertainment | knowledge    |
| foundation    | preservation |
| future        | programs     |

Highland County Historical Society  
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See below for a  
calendar you can  
cut out and post  
on your fridge!

## HCHS PROGRAMS & EVENTS

- 19 May HMS\* - Group from HHS, David White, Director 7:30 pm
- 24 May **Veterans' Memorial** at the Court House, by Rick Wilkin, VFW Post Commander
- 16 June HMS - program TBA 7:30 pm
- 24 June TOUR OF HOMES 1:00 - 6:00 PM (see separate article)
- 28 June **"The Mills of Brush Creek Township"** by Dwight Crum
- 19 July To Be Announce
- 21 July HMS - program TBA 7:30 pm
- 18 August HMS - program TBA 7:30 pm
- 23 August To Be Announced
- 15 September HMS - program TBA 7:30 pm
- 27 September To Be Announced
- 20 October HMS - program TBA 7:30 pm
- 25 October **Log Cabin Cookout**—details to be announced later
- 17 November HMS - program TBA 7:30 pm
- 15 December HMS - program TBA 7:30 pm

*All programs are held at Highland House and begin at 7:00 pm, unless otherwise noted.*

\*HMS= Heritage Music Series