

MUSEUM MUSES

LYNCHBURGH

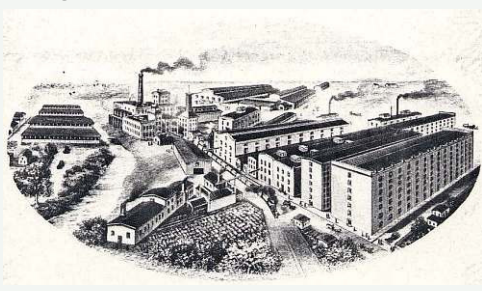
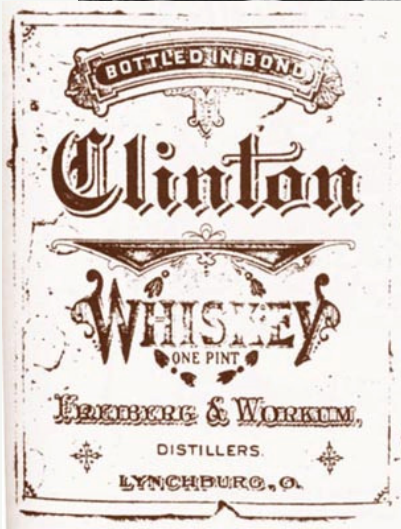
John Glaze

Violet Morgan tells us in Folklore of Highland County that Lynchburg was named for Lynchburg, Virginia by Andrew Smith and Coleman Botts, who platted the town on July 30, 1830. The land was owned by William Stewart.

She tells us that the first settler was Rev. William Hughey, followed by Rev. Benson Goldsberry. The building of their homes was soon followed by more settlers building a saw and grist mill, a tannery

and a blacksmith shop. Within a few years came a shoe shop and tannery, as well as the first tavern. The first physician was Dr. Samuel J. Spees and a log school house was soon erected.

Rev. J. W. Klise tells us that "A man named Botts, from Lynchburg, VA, first owned the land where Lynchburg now stands. He sold out to John Morrow and others. (continued page 2)



WHAT'S NEW?

ADVERTISEMENTS! Well, we're preferring to call them sponsors. That's right—we've gone commercial with our newsletters. Now, rest assured you won't be seeing "MUSEUM MUSES POWERED BY BILLY BOB'S USED CARS", but you may not realize that our newsletter is not a cheap, tawdry product! Printed IN COLOR, mailing labels, mailed (bulk) - it all adds up to close to \$2.00 per copy. We love having this as a member benefit, but if you do the math, a \$15.00 single membership less 4 issues of the newsletter (\$8.00) only leaves about \$7.00 to help pay utilities and other operating costs. Having sponsors helps us to maintain a great newsletter and make better use of your membership dollars. Please take time to express your personal gratitude to our sponsors and support them when appropriate.

ROONEY TUNES

In the last few weeks I've got to do some of the fun things you get to do when working with the Historical Society. It not all fun but most of the time it's pretty enjoyable.

A couple of weeks ago, was one of the enjoyable times. I had the Sunday duty at the gift shop as well as opening up and closing Highland House. About 12:30pm I arrived at Highland House to open up. A lady I didn't recognize, in a large, floppy, red straw hat, was pacing the parking lot. Her husband sat in the car with the air on since it was already very hot by 12:30. As I approached she said she had seen the hours of the mu-

seum and was waiting for someone to show up. Weird. People rarely stand in line to get into our small local museum. I opened up, turned off the alarm and ushered them to the greeter's station getting them to sign in, all the time expounding the items of interest in the building. She said she was looking forward to looking around, but the reason she was here was that she wanted info about her local ancestors. She was from Cleveland originally and currently lives in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and had not been in Highland County since she was ten years old.

(continued on page 3)

LOG CABIN COOKOUT - Sept 24 - 5 pm

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OCTOBER
DOORLEY
DINNER

Join us for dinner on October 16 as we remember the good ole days when Kate and June Doorley served their Sunday after-church dinners. We will be serving dinner from 11 am to 1 pm, using many of the recipes Kate and June used to make their memorable meals. We will have on display, a crock recently donated by Betty Tinney, who remembers, as a child, seeing it full of chicken salad. This meal will be by reservations which must be made by October 9.

The meal will include country fried chicken, green beans, salad, biscuits and a dessert! Price to be announced soon! Watch our website or call for more information!

LYNCHBURGH *(continued from page 1)*

The first settlement made in the vicinity of Lynchburg was by Williams Spickard, David Hays, and William Smith in 1806. In 1820 Lynchburg contained some six or seven houses, and then received the name it now bears, being named by settlers who came from Lynchburg, VA., or from near that place, the Hundleys, Dudleys, and Botts doubtless giving it the name. It was laid out as a town in 1832."

Of particular note was the building in 1857 of the Bowen Distillery, which was founded by Freiburg and Workum of Cincinnati. The facility, covering twenty acres of ground, was one of the largest in the United States! Their production, at one time, averaged 200,000 barrels a year.

The distillery ceased operations in 1916. Despite an attempt to resurrect the business, the distillery never operated again.



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THE PARKER REPORT

Parker Hastings, a 16 year old guitarist from Richmond, Kentucky, played to a full house recently at the Highland House. Parker has been recognized at Meuhlenberg County, KY as Thumb picker of the year in 2015 after competing and winning the adult division in both contemporary and traditional music at 15.



Parker writes some of his own music, arranges, sings and performs music to use his words " that makes you smile". He has performed with Tommy Emmanuel, Eddie Pennington, and Thom Bresh, to name a few. He has an EP entitled "Whimsical Smiles." This year he was the only "young thumb" to play in the final tribute to Chet Atkins at the closing of CAAS in Nashville. Parker returns for a concert 09 Oct!

MEMBERSHIP

We've had a great deal of activity at the Highland House this season bringing people in who have never seen the inside before with many expressing interest in returning at another time.

I know from personal experience it takes more than one visit to become a member, so my hope as chair of the membership committee is that, in addition to sharing your newsletter once again, you will bring a friend or acquaintance to the next event you attend.

Ohio was very important to the development of our nation and Highland County contributed a great deal as folks moved from the east. Residents of Highland County have every reason to be proud they live here. We on the board are committed to bringing that history to as many people as we can. A growing membership is the only measure we have that we are attaining our goal.

A visit to the Highland House is free; an annual membership is \$15 which includes quarterly newsletter and 10 percent discount in the gift shop. (A museum gift shop is always a good place to find unusual gifts!)

Carolyn Hastings

Highland House Wish List

We need a few items to help us with displays, presentations and cataloging. If you have any of the following, gently used, new or a yard sale purchase and would like to contribute it/them to HCHS, please call! We could use: a tape recorder, easels (tabletop and floor), and a laptop. Call 393-3392 for pick-up or a time to deliver the item. Thank you for supporting HCHS!

ROONEY TUNES (continued from page 1)

I set them up in the meeting room starting with Elsie Ayres' two books. They were just ecstatic when I gave them a current county map, for their very own, where I marked the cemetery and roads they were looking for as well as restaurants, the library, and the SOGS library at SSCC. The museum wasn't too busy so I pulled a few books and maps and we gabbed. A lot. They spent three hours at the museum, bought a couple items at the gift shop, dropped a nice donation, joined HCHS and were handed a Society Newsletter.

These encounters with such folks are truly a fun part of the "job."

Also on the fun side, I recently had the opportunity

to interview Dr. Tom Henry, of Oklahoma. Some of you may remember Dr. Henry as he is a graduate of Hillsboro High School in the late 50s or early 60s. Dr. Henry is an interesting, intelligent, and very knowledgeable guy. He is very active in the historical society in his adopted Oklahoma town. We were getting together to talk about his father who was principal at Webster Elementary during the segregation issues in the mid 50s. Being born within a decade of each other, the conversation moved to good old days in Highland County. The conversation ranged from the old bowling alleys to uptown businesses (Henry's Shoes, Ludwick's Tropical Fish and, of course, Lang's Smokery), as well as a few mutual acquaint-

ances. He then told a story that caught my attention and imagination. When I mentioned that the historical society now owns Scott House, he told me that his mother would take him, as a child to the roof, where she was a spotter during World War II. WHAT? I had no idea that plane spotters were used in Highland County. How long did this go on? Who else was involved? Where else in the county was it done? Did this really happen? How did this come about? Oh boy, another history subject I want to know more about. Looks like a few hours at the Highland County District Library's microfiche.

We have a huge opportunity to document and record, from first hand sources, the county's history since the end of World War II. We'd be remiss not to collect what we can from who we can, now.

In the "it was mostly fun" category, I've spent a week, so far, working on Avery Applegate's work crew, removing the murals from the Colony's walls. It was hot, musty, and dark, but Tim Koehl, John Kellis and Avery

got all the murals down and have start removing the frames and preparing the murals for storage until they can be relocated to appropriate county venues. Your ideas are welcome. The fun part was the large number of folks who stopped by to talk, advise, and/or commiserate in the planned demolition of the theater. The uptown theater, like a lot of our memory places, will be missed.

As you have noticed, we now have a several sponsors highlighted in our newsletter. The cost of color printing of the newsletter is surprisingly high. The Board of Trustees voted to seek sponsors rather than revert to a black and white printing.

The newsletter is the single means of communication with many of our members and contributors as well as our best promotional product. Besides it would be a shame to decolorize John Glaze's outstanding publishing effort.

Jim Rooney

LOG CABIN COOKOUT

Autumn is definitely in the air-the days are beginning to be crisp and cool, the leaves are turning gold and scarlet, and the full harvest moon is shining down on our little log cabin behind The Highland House Museum. That can only mean one thing-it is time for the Log Cabin Cookout! Mark your calendars for Saturday evening, Sept. 24th, at 5:00 pm. A delicious ham & bean dinner will be served on the lawn around the cabin.

The program will start at 6:00 pm, featuring an auction of 12 recent paintings of Highland County barns, usually framed with actual wood from each barn, by Robert Kroeger of Cincinnati.

Reservations can be made by calling the museum at 937-393-3392 no later than Monday, Sept. 19, 2016. Please leave your name, number attending, and phone number. Donations will be accepted for the dinner. Proceeds from the auction and dinner will benefit the historical society.



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FROM MY CORNER OF THE COUNTY

Carolyn Hastings

Tecumseh was involved in a skirmish on Yellow Banks just outside our village. Arrowheads have been collected for years from the encampment.



An apartment building currently known as The Barracks was a warehouse transformed into housing for volunteers for



drinking whiskey and rye made in Lynchburg.



Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, founder of Guideposts, visited his Grandparents in Lynchburg each summer as a child. His book The Power of Positive Thinking, printed in



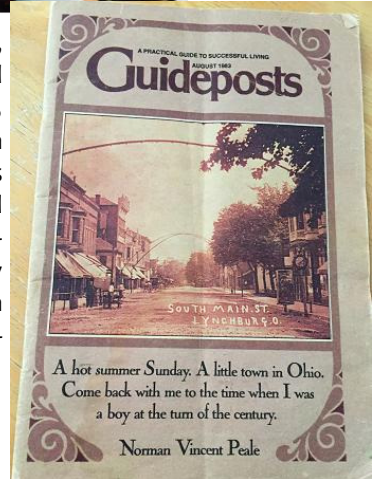
A.J Bering (seated on right), a descendent of those ancestors for whom the Bering Straits were named, was an early resident of our community. He documented the activities of the 48th O.V.I. During the Civil War.

the Civil War until enough men could be recruited. Local residents provided food while recruiters scoured the area to gain additional men.

The local Freiburg Workum Distillery warehouse held 14,000 barrels of product at one time. People in Europe were



1952, has sold over 5 million copies and still is frequently seen in book stores.



ANNUAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

REMINDER from the President Mary Jo Copeland of Highland County Historical Society: Our Annual Business Meeting will be held October 4, 2016 at 7:00pm in the Highland County Administration Building basement meeting room.

This has been an exceptional year and the Board has so much to

share with you. Topics like Scott House, Carriage House, The Capital Fund and the many successful events. Be sure to stop by Highland House soon and see the completed Military Room. The museum is open Saturdays and Sundays from 1:00-4:00 pm.

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QUILTS! *Carolyn Hastings*

Have you ever noticed the quilts in the Highland House? I recently had the opportunity to explore and to my surprise I found at least one quilt or pieced top in nearly every room, in addition to the display in the upstairs hallway. Even the doll beds use them.

Among my favorites were two flying geese quilts in the children's room. These quilts were used by children in the local children's home. Bits and pieces of blue and white lovingly assembled for children remind me of an important part of life in Highland County no longer in use.

Another beautiful and exquisitely embroidered top (done by hand, of course) is currently spread out in the Victorian Bedroom. It is red work done on muslin, depicting the Rocky Fork M E church with circles of names of friends attending at the time.

The Log Cabin pattern originally began with a red square representing the hearth or center of the home. The light side and the dark side of each square are made of many colorful fabric pieces. This quilt is on display upstairs on the railing.

I am never quite sure why we think of fabric in

brown tones when we think of days gone by, because in reality the colors were sometimes a brilliant orange as seen in the Music Room.

Friendship quilts included names of friends or family members embroidered like the rays of sunshine in circles throughout the top. On display is one such quilt used as a fund raiser. For 25 cents one's name could be included. Interesting to note the distances people were traveling at the time because their location is listed along with the name.

Quilts are reminders of a time nothing was wasted and little thrown away. Velvet pieces were frequently combined with intricate decorative stitches now done by machine. Ribbon pieces were woven into tops. Feed sacks designed to appeal to the women who then encouraged the purchase of specific bags and quilts.

Especially treasured are the intricate stitches used to assemble them all. Only hours of practice could duplicate the straight lines and tiny spacing between each stitch.

At the Highland House we have beautiful examples on display that take us back in time.



QUILT RAFFLE

There is still time to purchase tickets for a chance to win this beautiful Buckeye Station #2 quilt. If you've not stopped by Highland House to seed the quilt in person, you really should. Tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00. The winning ticket will be drawn at the Log Cabin Cookout on Saturday, September 24 with proceeds going toward signage for the Museum.



COURTESY OF

DOUG & SUSIE

WAGONER

Society Hosts Presentation on Historic Farms

Forty-Five (45) area farm owners and interested parties visited the Highland House for a presentation about the formation of Highland County and the Historic Farms in Highland County. John Levo and Dr. Robert Carey made the presentation to the group.



The presentation was the first program to be held as part of the Historical Society's 2016 effort to highlight local Agriculture. Levo began the presentation discussing the history of our County from 1780 when Ohio was part of the Virginia Territories, to 1878 when Ohio in its recognizable form was part of the Northwest Territory. In 1790 the State was split into three Counties and later around 1800 was further subdivided into five counties of Wayne, Jefferson, Hamilton, Washington, and Adams Counties. Highland County was part of the Virginia Military District and was divided in a metes and bounds survey rather than a townships, range, and section techniques with all roads running N and S as found in much of the State. "I can still remember surveying

property as a summer job in the early 1970s going 3,507 feet to a five foot diameter Beech tree to find a property corner. Ha, fat chance that that 150 year old tree, described in the plat 100 years before my survey, was still there in 1971. It was simply an easier way to survey the hills of this area than blocking it off in squares I guess, said John Kellis, Society Trustee.

In 1800 there were 17 counties in Ohio and in 1802 Highland County was first carved out from Ross and Clermont Counties. It was primarily the HIGH LAND between the Little Miami and Scioto Rivers. The County was initially much larger, stretching as far north as Madison County west of Columbus. It was in 1810 before Highland County looked like it does today though small changes were made as late as 1874, when all the counties we now know were in place. Recorder Chad McConnaughey shared with Levo the dates of the formation of the 17 townships through the first half of the 1800s.

Levo led the group through some feeling for the farms in Highland County, with 26,521 acres in 1,417 farms. Wayne County has the most farms of any County, mainly due to the number of small Amish farms in that area, a phenomena that is quickly becoming common here in Highland County.

Mr. Levo then discussed the "Ohio Century Program" that was created in 2003. As the Program grew it was changed to "The Ohio Historic Farm Family Program" earlier this year. That change was prompted by other changes including the creation of Sesquicentennial (150

yr. old) Farms and recognizing Bicentennial (200 yr. old) farms.

Highland County currently has 23 Century Farms. Clinton and Adams counties have 18 each in the program, Brown County-17, Ross-12, Fayette-9, and Pike County has 3. Seventeen farms had been deeded and described even before Ohio was a State. The oldest of these being the Smiley Farm just South of Belfast, with a deed dated in 1792, and signed by King George III.

Families need to prove that the farm in



question has been in one family for the 100, 150, or 200 years. Much of the research can be provided by the recorder's office. There are several other farms that would qualify, and Levo encouraged those families to initiate the application. "Questions can be directed to Chad McConnaughey's Office," said Levo who has been recognized as an ambassador for the program by Governor Kasich and the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

Dr. Carey added to the discussion and walked the crowd through the application process. "It will take some time to (continued next page)



Farms (continued)

connect the dots and document the application, but it is well worth it to pull your family together and honor the history of your family and the farm," concluded Carey.

Both Carey and Levo shared photos with the audience as they also encouraged the families to erect their signs if they have not done so. To be eligible the farm must still contain more than 10 acres of the original Farm, and the unbroken family chain needs to be documented. Some even do the application and present the plaque as a gift to their parents or grandparents. There are no easements or restrictions placed upon the farm, though the farm's recognition will gain a family points if they wanted to apply for an Agricultural easement on the land.

The group broke up after audience members shared stories about their farms and their thoughts about the recognition. The Society invited the group for refreshments and invited them to enjoy the "Farms of Highland County" and the quilt show, both on display at the Museum.

Jim Rooney, Society Chair, noted that it was a little different group to visit the Museum for the Agricultural-based program, which is exactly as the committee had hoped. Several there commented how they wanted to return when they had more time to spend at the Highland House, and how they appreciated the wonderful new handicapped rear entrance to the Museum.

DONATIONS

The Highland County Historical Society exists to archive historical items of note preserving those items for future generations. Most of the items in Highland House have been donated to the Society by families or individuals to share with the public and preserve their stories. Many people ask if the public would be interested in their heirlooms. Still others are fearful or hesitant to give up an item, not knowing what will become of it. You can be assured that HCHS is interested in reviewing your item and will take great care with all items accessioned to the collection.

Just like the Regulator Clock (donated by Lowell Chaney) that hung in the Union School. Webster School (formerly Union School) represented the last standing original school building in Hillsboro when it was recently razed. Mr. Chaney had options to choose from when he made this donation. Lowell is a lifelong resident and former electrician who recently decided to donate several items to the Museum. Chaney ultimately donated the clock, an antique ba-



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rometer that hung in Ayres Drug Company, a milk scale, some pictures, and a set of Civil War binoculars.

Lowell Chaney is an archive of knowledge of the Hillsboro area as he has probably been through more buildings in Highland County than anyone else. His stories about the various Hillsboro and Highland County structures he worked in while performing electrical work can keep one's interest for hours on end.

The HCHS Collection Policy consists of three elements: accessioning an item (accepting it), deaccessioning an item (removing it from the collection), and loaning an item (going in or out of the collection). Anyone considering a donation should contact the Society Director prior to bringing an item to the museum. The donor will

be asked provide details about the item such as: name of prior owner, date(s), events connected with the item and historical significance to Highland County.

The Collections Committee meets periodically to decide what items are to be accessioned. Decisions lie solely with the Committee. Space prohibits the Society from accepting every potential donation. For complete information regarding the policy, contact the director or a member of the committee.

Every item accepted may not necessarily go on permanent display. Some items are rotated in and out of storage.

After the donation is accepted, it is recorded in an accessions book by assigning a number unique to that item. That record holds the information provided by the donor as well as dimensions and photographs. The information is then transferred to a newly-acquired museum software program called Past Perfect. It is very time consuming to properly document each item into the software, but essential that is done. It has taken almost a year to catalog over 1,600 items in the software and there are over 4,000 items at the museum not in-
(continued on page 12)



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WICKERHAM DISCUSSES 1957 WORLD PLOWING MATCHES



HCHS hosted the second presentation focusing on agriculture on July 28. We discussed holding the presentation at a larger venue, but we want this audience to visit the museum and it worked well, many commented on the museum and talked about visiting when they can look around at their leisure.

We set up every chair we had in the museum and there were at least 20 people standing in doorways and the Museum Shop to enjoy the program. Our director, Vicki Knauff, was afraid that we might exceed the capacity of our room and we probably did. When asked, the audience agreed that we should consider asking John back later this fall or next spring to reprise the presentation. The comment was made that the Mootz family could have filled the room by themselves if they chose. The crowd of about 90 brought memorabilia and talked from the minute they started arriving at 6 pm until they left at around 10:00.

The Mootz family brought the renovated tractor and plow that their father, Duane, used to win the National Con-

tour Plowing event that year in Peebles. More than one attendee brought framed copies of a panoramic picture of the 1957 event, including Naomi Mootz Barnett, who was identifying faces in the picture with John Wickerham of the Adams County Historical Society. Several other Mootz brothers brought signs and trophies that Duane had won, as well as photographs of the event. "It's hard to believe I was 12 when I attended it with my dad and grandfather," remembered John Levo. "Tonight it brought back memories like the model house, the big steer, the Air Force Band, the wagon tour and all the farm equipment that I couldn't understand why we didn't have any of it on our farm."

Naomi and the family corrected us in our pre-meeting article in that their father competed the next year's world event in Germany NOT Ireland. That was the kind of night it was—everyone sharing their memories and accounts of those four days in September of 1957 in a small town in northern Adams

County that hosted the World and left a "Cairn of Peace" monument commemorating the event. A "cairn" is a man-made pile of stones, used to lead people on their journey as documented in the Bible and used in the mountains and plains throughout history. The plow atop the monument of stones was to signify the coming together in peace those who turned the earth to grow food and fiber around the world. One of those monuments stands today in Peebles, having been moved there from the roadside to insure its maintenance.

Mr. Wickerham took the audience through a journey of how the event came to be and the people who banded together to make it possible. He encouraged the audience to share their memories and the group was very willing to do just that. The HCHS worked to collect pictures and clippings into a PowerPoint presentation that John used to great effect, show pictures of the 33,000 parking places needed. He also documented the conditions that faced the organizers, like the fact there was no water sys-

tem in rural Adams County at the time. Traffic was backed up for miles and miles in all directions on the narrow two-lane roads of the time. One comment was there were cars and busses backed up ten miles north of Sinking Springs on 41. Special trains were traveling to and from Cincinnati to the event, and International Harvester built and expanded an airstrip along SR 73 near Locust Grove because their corporate DC-3 had no place to land. They shuttled their dignitaries to and from Cincinnati so they could stay in the fancy hotels there. The Ohio Highway Patrol would halt traffic on 73 when aircraft were landing, and it was said at the height of the event there were landings at the rate of one per minute.

The area residents dedicated 2,500 acres to the event on 16 farms. Everyone welcomed people to their homes so thousands could stay there at the site before and after the actual four days. New water lines were run from Peebles to service the event, and the entire community helped feed the visitors. *(continued page 9)*



WICKERHAM (continued)

Displays at the event included: daily concerts by the US Army Bands, fashion shows for the ladies by JC Penny, trick trap shooting events, the North American Sheep Herding competition, agriculture machinery displays showing combines that were probably would not be found at that time in Adams County. The Ohio Governor and the Secretary of Agriculture were at the event. They helped the local conservation agencies show off the new conservation technology being adopted so soon after the “Dust Bowl.” Two 2½ mile wagon tours showed off pond construction, tree and wildlife plantings, pasture management practices, crop variety trials, and of course, the new tractors and combines being brought to the farm.

Mr. Wickerham discussed the “Queen of the Furrow” Anne Lane, and the fact that counties all around the State held pageants to choose girls to compete for the title, including Highland County’s entrant Virginia Purdy, who was in the audience.

The presentation moved to the plowing event and Hillsboro’s own Duane Mootz who was a well-known plowman at the time. Duane’s family shared many elements of their dad’s plowing expertise, and even described how the contour plowing differed from straight line level land plowing. They shared that contour plowing was not a part of the European events so Duane was invited to com-

pete the next year as one of the two plowmen invited to Germany along with Mr. Lawrence Goettemoeller, winner of the level-land contest in Peebles.

“Most of the people I talked to said they had always wanted to stop in tour Highland House, and all of those people commented how they enjoyed the presentation as well as the opportunity to go through the museum,” said Tim Mootz. He and his brothers shared stories on the museum lawn beside the log cabin and the tractor and plow they brought for the event.

The crowd was invited to look around and enjoy refreshments after the presentation. The “Barns of Highland County” art exhibit as well as Jim Gorman’s farm toy and barn exhibit were still on exhibit.

This was the second in a series of agriculture related subjects following the Century Farms article and presentation. The next couple “Focus on Agriculture” subjects will be about the history of the Highland County Fair and a the rich history of the stockyards of Hillsboro and Highland County. If you have ideas on other agriculture related programs, feel free to contact John Kellis, John Levo, Jim Faust, or Avery Applegate.



LINCOLN SCHOOL PROJECT REPORT

This past fall, a committee from HCHS began working on an exhibit about the Lincoln School and the integration of Hillsboro Elementary for the museum. Many of you may be familiar with this story. What you may not know is how important this event was and the impact it had all across the United States. The Hillsboro case was the first northern challenge of the 1954 Supreme Court ruling, *Brown vs. Board of Education*, that struck down racial segregation in American schools. The Hillsboro case was then used in Cleveland, Boston, and other northern cities to challenge segregation. Retired federal judge Nathaniel Jones wrote about Hillsboro in his autobiography, *Answering the Call, An Autobiography of the Modern Struggle to End Racial Discrimination in America*. Time Magazine covered this story. Former Hillsboro resident, Susan Banyas, wrote and performed a play on this event entitled, *The Hillsboro Story*. This play was performed not only in Hillsboro, but also at the National Underground RR Freedom Center in Cincinnati, and across the United States.

The exhibit for the Highland House Museum is going to be a short documentary film which tells the story of the five African American mothers who, along with their children, walked to Webster School every weekday for two years only to be turned away. It will tell a story of how peaceful civil

disobedience can make change. In Highland County we have a wonderful history of women using peaceful civil disobedience to make change, much as Mother Thompson did with Prohibition many years ago. The film is meant to be inspirational. It is meant to be healing. It is an important part of our history.

The Lincoln School Project Committee is made up of a variety of people. Kati Burwinkel is the Project Director. Historical Society members Jim Rooney, Pamela Nickell, and Deb Koehl, along with author Charlotte Pack. Five women who were some of the children in this story are on the committee: Virginia Harewood, Eleanor Cumberland, Teresa Williams, Carolyn Goins, and Joyce Kitrell. Author and playwright Susan Banyas is a consultant. University of Cincinnati professor and Director of Public History, Dr. Fritz Casey-Leininger, also consults on the project. The committee is thrilled to have contracted with award-winning Cincinnati documentary filmmaker, Andrea Torrice of Torrice Media. Ms. Torrice brings her talent, storytelling ability, and oral history expertise to the project. Her latest project, *The Trouble with Trees*, about the threat to trees by the emerald ash borer, is currently on PBS and she recently was invited to Washington, DC to show it to a government sub-committee. Ms. Torrice has been to Hills- (continued on page 12)

FROM THE DIRECTOR

It doesn't seem possible that summer is nearly over and fall is lurking around the corner. From the time we opened in May until now there has been one project after another completed and many events held that has brought in nearly 1000 visitors. Projects cannot be taken on or events taking place without the dedicated team of volunteers that make everything happen. Some members like to help with one or two events a year and they are my "go

to" group when it's time to plan that event. Another group enjoys greeting our visitors at the door and some have dedicated a day every month to work at the front desk. And then there are the board members who volunteer countless hours to tackle a project or to sponsor an event. I extend a heartfelt "thanks" to the many volunteers who help preserve and promote the history of Highland County.

Vicki Knauff

BARNs OF HIGHLAND COUNTY AUCTION

Robert Kroeger lives all the way over in Cincinnati. Among other things, he is a retired dentist, a marathon runner, a writer, and a prolific painter. He has a passion for old barns and he is willing to share the images and the stories of the local barns he paints with not only us here in Highland County... but with folks from counties all over Ohio! He can crank out beautiful barn paintings in a refreshing impression-

istic style...and do it until the cows come home! Each painting is accompanied by an essay that Bob writes after spending time with the owner listening to the stories about that barn. Most of the time, he is able to walk away with a gift of a few pieces of wood gleaned from an obscure area of the barn with which to build a frame for the painting. Did I mention Bob also does woodworking? And one last

thing you should know about Bob Kroeger...he is a very giving person. He is willing to release these paintings of Highland County barns to the highest bidder as a fund raiser for



SHOPPERS—MARK YOUR CALENDARS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH
5:00-9:00 PM

It was so popular last year, we're doing it again!!!

Have you started thinking about Christmas yet? Are you working on your list? Do you just love getting friends and relatives gifts that are awesome and unique? Are you just itching to see what will be new on the shelves at the upcoming artisan craft fairs? Is shopping local important to you?

Then how about joining us at the Highland House Museum 151 East Main Street for a **PRE-SALE NIGHT** of wine, snacks, shopping, and socializing? For a minimum \$10 donation at the door (you know a good cause when you see

one!), you will be allowed into the Museum Shop the Friday evening **BEFORE** the official Christmas Open House on Saturday! You can choose from handcrafted items provided by over 30 local artisans...plus artwork by members of the Brush and Palette Guild, holiday decorations, antiques, cards, gifts, books, and all sorts of items of local interest. There will be wine, punch, and assorted snacks to enjoy while you shop. The Society is a member of the Hillsboro Uptown Business Association and would like to see you also take part in their 5:00-8:00 pm HUBA First Friday event.

So plan to stay local and social the night of Friday, November 4th and visit us at the Highland House!

the Highland County Historical Society... what a guy!

We hope you will come to the Log Cabin Cookout on Saturday, September 24th at the Highland House Museum to meet Bob, hear the stories of the barns, and take part in the bidding for 12 (yes, TWELVE!) of his original Highland County barn oil paintings framed in the wood they were built from so many years ago. Serving of the bean dinner begins at 5:00 and the auction begins at 6:00. With a little luck, the weather will cooperate and we will be able to hold the event on the back lawn of the museum. There is no charge for the meal...but we happily accept any donations you might give!

Reservations are required. Call the museum at 937 393-3392 to save yourself a spot at the table and a number for the auction!

Avery Applegate



SEE COLONY STORY—next page!

COLONY THEATER MURAL PROJECT

Avery Applegate

Hillsboro's 1938 Colony Theater, sadly, is slated for demolition by the city. After Chakeres Theater Inc. handed over the outdated theater to the city in 1993, several non-profit organizations tried, without success, to "Save the Colony". The building continued to drain the coffers of any group struggling to raise funds and make a go of it. The Markay Theater in Jackson, Ohio, also built by Chakeres only two years after the Colony, recently opened after

a complete renovation. The project took 20 years and well over two million dollars being raised to save their theater...a daunting task that the overseer of the project said she would never have signed up for if she had known how hard it would be. Each Colony group struggled and fell by the wayside only to have another group pick up the torch and try again. Eventually, interest and energy waned and the city was left with a building it could

no longer find value in. Now, it doesn't have to be raining outside for the ceiling to be leaking inside. Fungus is growing on the squishy carpet in the concession area and black mold is spreading up the walls.

Many of us have happy memories of the now forlorn structure. The darkness of the theater was the perfect spot for romances to blossom, young cowpokes to dream, suspense to build, and laughter to flourish! A bag of popcorn, a box of Jujubes, and a burgundy pop (which sometimes spilled sticky purple syrup over your hand as you tried to straighten the cup that often dropped down askew) was enough to keep me happy through the previews, advertisements, and the feature film. I loved that theater. I was convinced that the softly up-lit bas reliefs that lined the walls were as impressive as anything that Paris's Louvre might have to offer. I can go as far as to say that those reliefs were one of the major factors (along with cemetery walks, art teacher Virginia Morris, and an encouraging mother) that led to me to pursue a career as an art teacher and an artist. I treasure my memories...so the idea of losing another source of those memories didn't sit well with me. I took on the project of trying to save the "murals" (the term most folks associate with the reliefs). A team consisting of myself, Jim Rooney, Tim Koehl, and John Kellis have invested (at the time of writing this article) over 100 man hours in the

process of removing the murals from the building. We are far from finished, but we will persevere. Once the murals are off the walls the pieces have to be numbered and labeled, diagrams have to be completed, the fragile components have to be packed into crates and secured so that they will not shift. The crates then have to be transported to a storage facility, unloaded, and given our blessing of a safe stay until homes are found for each mural. After an appropriate location is found where the public can enjoy their beauty, there needs to be a massive shadowbox built. The components will be installed on the back wall of the inside of the box and then the box bolted to the wall. Hopefully, lighting can be installed to once again give a soft glow to the beautiful carved figures.

It is a massive project. It will take time (the clock is ticking!), energy, money, and 6 large areas of wall space to see this project to an end. If you would like to help us with ANY of the plights we face, please let us know. Your support in this endeavor is highly appreciated. Call me at 937 393-4345 to discuss how you can help us save a part of your own memory of the Colony Theater or simply send a check made out to the Highland County Historical Society to: The Highland County Historical Society
Colony Theater Mural Project
151 East Main Street
Hillsboro, Ohio 45133

GHOST WALK

Mark your calendars! August 25, 6:00 pm, at the Hillsboro Cemetery, the Annual GHOST WALK will be presented by HCHS and SOGS.

Our ghosts for this year will be JOHN WILLIS BARRERE (1800-1880). He was an Adjutant 60th OVI who was captured at Harpers Ferry, VA. He was a lawyer and lost three sons to the Civil War. Barrere will be portrayed by Steve Roush.

GEORGE AMBROSE (1803-1880), who was a brickmaker, using his skills to make brick for the Methodist Church in 1853, as well as other brick buildings in Hillsboro. He will be portrayed by Dwight Crum.

WILLIAM SCOTT (1810-1886), was a layer and was

engaged in brokerage and money lending. He built Scott House on West Main Street in Hillsboro. He will be portrayed by Denny Kirk.

MARY COLLINS (1845-1853) was the daughter of William O. Collins and Catherine Wever Collins; a sister to Caspar. She will be portrayed by 13 year old Anne Throckmorton.

David and Jane McBride, who published six volumes of Highland County Records, will be portrayed by Mel Haines and Jane Stowers. Their works were, In their words, "to perpetuate the names of the pioneers of the county and to aid individuals to trace their genealogy.

Jean Wallis



HIGHLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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COMING EVENTS

Charlotte Pack Book Signing - 14 Aug - 1-4pm
Log Cabin Cookout - 24 Sep - 5pm
ANNUAL MEETING - 04 Oct - 7pm
Parker Hastings in Concert - 09 Oct - 1pm
Doorley Dinner - 16 Oct - 11am-1pm
Steve Faris Magic Show and Collection Display - Oct
Christmas Craft Show & Sale Opening - 04 Nov - 5-9pm
Children's Holiday Tea Party - 20 Nov - 3pm

DONATIONS *(continued)*

cluding newspapers and photographs. Photographs are one item that we hope to digitize and save electronically in the near future. That effort will also be very time-consuming, but indeed will be worth the effort. A grant to cover those costs would be our first priority.

Like Mr. Chaney, many of us have items that might be good additions to the Highland House Museum. Anyone having questions about possibly donating an item or a collection may contact the museum to schedule a time to discuss a potential donation with Director Knauff.

John Kellis

Children's Holiday Tea Party



This year's Children's Holiday Tea Party will be held at Highland House Museum on Sunday, Nov. 20 at 3pm. The party will include favors, crafts, and entertainment. Space will be limited, so advance reservations will be necessary. Cost will be \$8 per person. Reservations can be made after October 15th by calling Highland House Museum at 393-3392.

Diane Jolitz

LINCOLN SCHOOL *(continued)*

boro and filmed 100 year old "Marching Mother" Elsie Young at the Highland House Museum.

Funding for this project will come from a variety of sources. A planning grant was funded by the Ohio Humanities. A second grant to Ohio Humanities has recently been submitted to fund the actual project. Two additional grants from other sources are currently being written. Most grants require a match – for every dollar they give, you must match with a dollar or in-kind. Private donors have kindly given. It is the committee's hope that this project will be funded by some time in November. Once funded, the project will take approximately 7 months.

The committee is now gathering pictures and memorabilia from this time period. If you have pictures, a newspaper, a story, or you would like to join our committee...please feel free to contact Kati Burwinkel or any committee member.

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