

MUSEUM MUSES

Telling Highland County's story for over 50 years!

CHRISTMAS SHOP IS COMING!

HISTORY OF THE MURRELL POST G.A.R.

Carolyn Hastings

The first post of the GAR in Lynchburg was mustered in by Capt. Gardner of Hillsboro on Feb. 28th, 1868. It went by the name of Encampment no. 263 G.A.R.

Six charter members were mustered, of which it took five to fill the offices, as follows: Daniel Murphy, Com, W.A. Pike S.V.C, Frank Holladay J.V.C., John Pemberton Adj. and J.M. Dumenil 2M leaving John Garrison without an office. At the next meeting the following recruits were mustered in: David Daugherty, Wesley R. Patterson, W.W. Wright, Clark Cashett, Samuel Montgomery, and David Fiher. Their finances seemed to be at a low ebb. The minutes show that they had but one dollar left after paying for their charter. The Good Templars offered to rent them their hall for 65 cents a night and comrade David Daugherty offered them a room over his residence for \$5.00 per year, which was accepted.

The encampment flourished until fall when it was disbanded. It was too soon after the war to keep up such an organization as some of the soldiers had scarcely been at home a year and a half from the army. Feb 9th, 1870 the second

post was mustered in by Dr. F. Deniston of Westboro. 21 Charter members were mustered in the first night.

The G.A.R. Post was named after Thomas J. Murrell for the reason, as the minister read, "that he was one among the first to volunteer from Lynchburg and the first soldier killed in battle from Highland County in the war of the Rebellion." From his comrades we learn that on the 19th of April, 1861 Thomas J. Murrell, Rice Smith, Bennett Murrell, Thad Hall, Jack Goff, Jeff Compton and Clark Cashett went to Hillsboro and enlisted in Capt. Sloan's Company under the President's call for 75,000 men to serve for three months. These seven recruits were the advance guard of the 350 or 400 men who went in the army from this vicinity during the war. Capt. Sloane's Company joined the 12th O.V.I. at Camp Dennison, and on the 28th of June the regiment re-enlisted for 3 years and was sent to W.Va. On the 10th of Sept, they reached Carnifax Ferry and engaged in the battle at that place with a loss of two killed and ten wounded. One of the killed was the commander of the Rgt. Col. Low. The other was Thos. J. Murrell. Just as the battle opened at about 4 P.M. he was

struck in the left shoulder with a musket ball, inducing a mortal wound. He was carried to the rear of the field hospital where he lingered until near midnight, when he breathed his last. He was buried by his comrades the next day on the battlefield in a grove overlooking the valley and his name was carved on four small trees that were standing on each corner of his grave.

When he enlisted he was in the prime of his young manhood having just reached his 21st birthday. He was over 6 ft in height, as straight as an arrow and the tallest man in the Rgt. He was a kind and devoted son, and a great favorite among all who knew him. The news of his untimely death cast a greater gloom over this community than was afterwards caused by the news of the greatest battles of the war in which scores of our neighbors were killed

and wounded. Great efforts were made by our citizens to have his body brought home for burial, but those who were sent to W. Va. on that mission were not equal to the task. Hence he lies buried where his comrades laid him to rest. (*Alternate reports say On 31 Jul 1867, Thomas was disinterred from Miller's farm and interred at Grafton National Cemetery, WV. Source: Find-A-Grave.com*) Such is the brief record of a brave and patriotic soldier who offered up his life as a sacrifice for the good of his country; whom the Lynchburg Post of the G.A.R. delights to honor and perpetuate his name, as an example of patriotism worthy of imitation.

The first decoration day ever observed in Lynchburg was on the 30th day of May of the year 1870 by Murrell Post. A soldier's monument was made and carried in the procession to the cemetery where it was covered with flowers and evergreen wreaths, and the decoration services were conducted around the wooden monument. Arrangements were made the same day to procure funds to erect a more, substantial monument and by the next decoration Day in 1871 the handsome Italian marble Soldiers Monument in the Masonic Cemetery was dedicated. On its base are inscribed the names of 42 soldiers who were killed or died during the war from Lynchburg and vicinity. It



(continued on page 7)

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HCHS is a 501(c)(3)
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NEWS from Vicki

Thank you for renewing your membership:

Anna Auteri
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Christine Hamlin
Virginia Harewood
Dr. Thomas Henry
George & Lana Sakash
Marshall & Brenda Thompson

HCHS expresses their sincere appreciation to these people who made monetary donations:

Linda Ballentine, Darrell & Jane Tissot and Richard E. Wright

Vicki Knauff

LINCOLN SCHOOL PROJECT UPDATE

The Lincoln School Project celebrated its first year in June. We could not be prouder of how well this film, exhibit, and story has been received! The Lincoln exhibit at the museum opened to over 600 visits on the first month, June 2017. Over the past year the film was screened in various places including at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center and Cincinnati's Memorial Hall.

In October 2017, the Lincoln Marchers were inducted into the Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame. *The Lincoln School Story* film is now being used by Hillsboro Schools, Hillsboro Christian School, and Southern State Community College.

There are several exciting upcoming events. On Saturday, October 6, the 2018 Ohio Woman's Leadership Conference will be held at the Cintas

Center at Xavier University. This conference is sponsored by Senator Sherrod Brown and will feature *The Lincoln School Story* film and the women marchers will be honored. This conference is free and open to the public. Watch our website for more information coming soon!

Arrangements are currently being made for *The Lincoln School Story* film to be featured during Black History Month at the National Afro-American Museum in Wilburforce, OH.

If your group or organization is interested in hosting a screening of *The Lincoln School Story*, call the Highland House Museum. If you want to keep up to date on what is happening with this project, follow us on Facebook "Lincoln School Project" or www.lincolnschoolhillsboroohio.weebly.net.

EVENTS—2018

- Aug. 23 – Ghost Walk; 6pm; Hillsboro Cemetery
- Sept. 11 – Presentation at Bell Gardens
- Sept. 15 – Ohio Open Door Tours at HH; 1-5pm
- Sept. 15 – Log Cabin Cookout; 5pm; Highland House
- Sept 19—Leadership Highland tour of Highland House
- Sept. 22 – Smokin' in the Hills; Rocky Fork; 9am-4pm
- Oct. 14—Celebration of Jean Wallis & Library Open House 2pm
- Oct. 16 – HCHS Annual Meeting; 7pm; Administration Building
- Nov 3—Christmas Open House; 9am-5pm
- Nov 23 – Christmas Shop; 9-5pm; Highland House
- Dec. 22 – Close for winter

Veteran's Banner Project Continues

Orders are being taken for the 2019 season for the Veteran's Banner Project. Ten organizations and 120 veteran's banners have been hung on posts in downtown Hillsboro. The banners were dedicated at the Memorial Day service and will be removed after Veteran's Day and given to the buyer of the banner. The large banner is 16" x 45"

and cost \$50. while the lawn banner is 12" x 18" and cost \$25. Go to our website at www.hchistoricalociety.weebly.com to download the new form. Payment and form can be dropped off at the Highland House or Veteran's Services office at 1575 North High St. Space will be given on a first-come basis.

HCHS is a member of:
Hillsboro Uptown Business Association (HUBA)
Highland County Chamber of Commerce
Ohio History Connection
American Association of State & Local History (AASLH)
American Alliance of Museums (AMA)

The Society will be hosting a tour of the Veteran's Banners on Sunday, November 4th. The guided tour will leave the Highland House at 1:00 pm and wind through Hillsboro passing each banner. There will be a stop beside the Court House at the Veteran's Memorial for refreshments. Contact Sandy Shoemaker for more information at 937-763-0012.



Log Cabin Cookout & Auction

Our ANNUAL LOG CABIN COOKOUT AND AUCTION will be held on 15 Sep at 5pm. Enjoy Ham & Bean Soup, Cornbread, Cole Slaw, Cones, Drinks and Dessert.

There's no charge, but we do encourage donations! You'll also want to bring along some money for our auction! (We also take credit cards!)

To be sure we have food for you, you must RSVP by Monday, 10 Sep, by calling 393-3392.



WE NEED FINE COLLECTIBLES AND ITEMS FOR OUR AUCTION! PLEASE CALL VICKI AT 393-3392 OR JEAN FAWLEY AT 763-2657 BEFORE SEPTEMBER WITH DONATIONS.



It may be Back-To-School time, but at Highland house we are gearing up for the holidays and our CHRISTMAS SHOP!!

Letters to prespective vendors/artisans will be mailed this month. We hopt that all of last year's artisans will return.

The 2018 Christmas Shop Schedule will be:

- 25AUG—artisan invitations will be mailed
- 14SEP—artisan response deadline
- 29, 30, 31 OCT—booth set up
- 03NOV—"OPENING DAY" 9-5
- 26, 27, 28 DEC—booth tear down.

The Christmas Shop will be open every Thursday, Friday

and Saturday (except Thanksgiving Day) from 03NOV to 22DEC.

If you are interested in becoming an addition to this activity or know someone who would be a good addition, please email me at:

eodland@cinci.rr.com

Liz Odland



John Knechtly, AAMS*
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Over \$2000 has been donated!
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SANDY SHOEMAKER—SOCIETY PRESIDENT

The history of farming in Highland County is what has drawn me to the society. I am a farmer. My parents were farmers. My grandparents were farmers. I worked with Highland County farmers at the Farm Service Agency. When John Kellis asked me to become more involved, it was because he and I have like interests in the history of agriculture. When asked to supply an article for this newsletter I decided to write what I know and love. Here is my first story:

Like everyone involved with the Highland County Historical Society I have a passion for the history of old things. Mine is a passion for old barns. Except for my college years and the first few years of married life, I have lived on a farm. Along with my parents, two brothers and two sisters I lived back a long lane where there were two houses and five barns near Careytown in Penn Township. My grandparents lived in one house and we lived in the other. While I remember those houses fondly, my most special memories of that farm took place in the barns with my younger brother, Mark.

On that farm was a sow farrowing barn constructed of oddly colored orange blocks and casement windows. It was built on a hillside with a shop and garage on the ground floor and the farrowing room on the top. The entrance to the farrowing portion was lined to the left by a bin that held speltz used for feed. It was itchy stuff. The left was a catch-all. Stuff you

might need on a farm, but not right away. This was a low-ceilinged barn that was dimly lit. I learned to scrape manure from sow crates and got to watch litters of piglets snuggle under heat lamps. Each sow had a divided head chute with one side for water and the other for feed. A wheel barrow was full of feed which we wheeled through the barn scooping feed out for the animals. The back corner of the farrowing room had a sliding door where manure was pushed out into a manure spreader waiting below. I am sure Mom never knew what we were doing until bath time. I can still smell that barn today.

Nearby were two barns for feeder pigs, pigs that have been weaned and are ready to be fed out for market. One barn was always full of pigs and there never seemed to be room for me in that one. I don't remember much about the inside of it. I did play outside it and managed to get stuck in the muck and lost my boot. Mark dropped his stuffed animal in the same muck. What a mess. The other barn, however, I do remember. It was a wooden structure and had lots of places to climb and hide. It had a dirt floor and on hot dry summer days a fine dirt that only a pig can make tempted us to play in it. Powder-like dust as soft as can be. It was nearer the house than the other barns so we were inside it a lot. I am sure my Mom never knew what we were doing until it was bath time! I can still smell

that barn today.

The hay and straw barn attached to the dairy barn was also a wooden structure that would be stacked to the rafters each summer. We found litters of kittens hidden by their mommas. We made forts and tunnels when we had the chance. It was a great place to pretend! One day Mark and I were lying on our stomachs at the very top of the barn looking over the edge at the cattle down below. Apparently the bales were not packed tightly enough and as we crawled closer to the edge, the stack gave way and fell to the barn floor with Mark and me in the middle of it. We were not hurt as we landed in the bedding below. I am sure Mom never knew what we were doing until it was bath time! I can still smell that barn today.

The loafing shed was a "new" barn. It was a pole barn with a concrete floor. Mark and I helped build it! During the cold, wet winter months we spent every evening after school bedding the cows by shaking straw out so the cows would have a clean place to lie. After the crops were planted and the first cutting of hay was in the barn, we watched Dad and Grandpa clean out the winter bedding. Load after load of manure was hauled until it

was completely empty and clean, really clean. After that, for a few short summer months, the barn was a place to play kick ball, baseball and tag. We rode bikes in this cemented area. Great fun! I am sure Mom never knew what we were doing until bath time! I can still smell that barn today.

Lastly, the farm had a milk house and parlor. It was modern for 1961-68, it was a concrete block building featuring a double 4 herring-bone parlor. With a bucket turned upside-down for a stool, I sat and watched my Dad milk the cows, a chore he performed twice a day, every day. I got to scrape the floors when the milking was done and if I was lucky, I got to hose the floors to ready the parlor for the next milking. In the milk house we washed the milkers in soapy, bleachy water after each milking. It was cool and housed a huge milk tank. More than just barn cats enjoyed dippers of cold milk out of that tank. It tasted great on a hot summer day. Above the parlor was a feed room. We played in the feed as we shoveled it to the auger that would deliver it to the cows below. We were always covered in feed dust. Mom never knew what we were doing until bath time! I can still smell that barn today.



Ghosts Coming to Hillsboro Cemetery!

The annual and ever-popular Ghost Walk will be held Thursday, August 23, 2018 at 6pm at the Hillsboro Cemetery. This year's "ghosts" will be C. S. Bell (Bob Brown), Issac Sams (John Glaze), Joseph Heistand (Denny Kirk), Chauncy Gross (Steve Roush) and Emma Detwiler (Anne Throckmorton).

The ghost walk was started more than 15 years ago to pay tribute to the many well-known and not-so-well-known Highland Countians and to relate the story of their lives. Past ghost walks



have been held at the Governor Byrd Cemetery in Sinking Spring and the cemetery on Washington Street in Greenfield as well as many times at the Hillsboro Cemetery.

Mother nature has cooperated with the event as it has been rained out only once.

The event is sponsored by HCHS and the Southern Ohio Genealogical

Society (SOGS). Bring a friend, a seat and a bottle of water and enjoy the evening.

Jean Wallis

Historian

LIBRARY PROGRESS

Angels DO walk among us! Thanks to two anonymous donors we have a scanner that allows us to copy photos for posterity and for research. We sincerely thank the two of you (you know who you are) for making our dreams come true.

We have recently had a request from Chad McConaughy, our County Recorder, for pictures of previous recorders. He intends to display them in his office. If anyone reading this (and the accompanying list) has a pic-

ture of any of them, we can now scan them in house and the scan will become part of our holdings and can be shared with Chad. The original pictures can be returned to the owners. Seeing our ancestors in pictures makes each of them real. Good Luck, Chad!! We appreciate your interest in Highland County History.

Chad can be reached at 937-393-9954 or recorder@co. highland.oh.us. You can see the list of Recorders on our website.

Kirk Law Office, LLC Denny Kirk, Attorney at Law



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kirklawoffice@att.net

Visit us on the web: www.kirklawoffice.net

The Historical Society will be participating in the Ohio Open Doors event on Saturday, September 15 with guided tours of the Highland House and the Cabin. Ohio Open Doors is a statewide effort where building and landmark owners and operators open their doors to the public for special tours and programs. It is sponsored by the Ohio History Connection. We are one of 179 venues across Ohio. (list at ohiohistory.org)

The tours are free and open to the public and will go from 1-5pm. While touring the 14-room museum you might run on to C. S. Bell, Caspar Collins or Mother Thompson. Watch the video on the Lincoln School Project and learn how dedicated



mothers brought about change in Hillsboro that impacted the nation and reminisce over the newly opened exhibit in the Entertainment Hallway.

This event is the same day as the Log Cabin Cookout. So...call 393-3392 to make your reservations for the dinner that starts at 5pm and come early to tour the Museum. This is a great event for families to learn about their heritage.



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OUR LIBRARY—CAROLYN HASTINGS

Sitting here in the library, I am enjoying the organization (thanks to John Glaze and Vicki) of the many resources housed in our HCHS library. The stern faces of our ancestors look down as we work. Mean or angry? Absolutely not. My mother-in-law told me years ago if one smiled, they were considered frivolous. These folks worked hard to maintain the integrity of home, family, business and community! I love being surrounded by them.

Our library is full of wonderful things. There are:

- *Family bibles with family trees located between the Old and New Testament
- *Scrap books using the pages of hard cover books when no such thing as scrapbooks were available
- *Histories of Ross & Highland County, Clinton County, Adams County (You get the idea)
- *Rosters of Ohio Soldiers serving in the Civil War
- *Books by local authors
- *A collection of Ohio Archeological and Historical Society Publications
- *Infirmity Records
- *McBrides' Books
- *Some family genealogies
- *Year Books
- *Hillsboro City Directories from as early as 1908
- *Videos of Military significance
- *A collection of books on the Civil War
- *Boxes that include information gathered over the years of businesses, churches, families
- *Pictures of people, places and things -some identified, some not.

*Magazines with historical content

*Copies of the old maps that exist-(there are only 3 years that maps were published) 1871,1887 1916

*A wonderful scanner that will allow folks to scan information and take it home on their flash-drive.

*Many of Jean Wallis' articles

It is partly because of Jean Wallis's commitment to the Historical Society that we are able to enjoy all of these things. She has been a student of Highland County and her family since she was a child. She has given her life to keeping our and her family histories alive. If we didn't have a copy of an important book for research, she made sure it was on the shelf. If anyone needed help researching, she has given her time to help. It has been a privilege to work with her here, learning the local history as we cleaned, moved, and reorganized the materials.

With her commitment in mind, we would like her friends and family to join us in a celebration. We want to just celebrate Jean and her commitment to our community on 14 Oct at 2pm!

The library is a work in progress. Eventually every piece of paper here will be entered into Past Perfect and then made available for research. We ask that you forgive the occasional tote or pile that has accumulated. But please do come see us and use the wonderful resources we have. The library is open on Thursdays from 1-5.

REMEMBERING PAMELA NICKELL

The Highland County Historical Society recently lost our good friend and former Board Chair, Pamela Nickell.

I met Pamela when I joined the Board of Directors in 2014. Although we had many common friends, we had never met. Pamela had taken the reigns of the Society during the restructuring of the Board and when I became involved, they were about to replace the back wall of the museum, a very daunting project. I was so impressed by Pamela's ability to manage so many things going on with the construction as well as overseeing all of the Historical Society's programs. Pamela inspired her fellow board members and would often send a note in the mail thanking us for running a program or helping the Society in some way. She was a true leader.

In 2015, a small group of us from the Historical Society began talking about bringing Hillsboro African-American history to the museum. We began planning what would become The Lincoln School Project. When I became the Project Director, Pamela volunteered to be the fiscal person and keep track of the

monies involved. Little did she know that eventually we would manage five different grants! This was a monumental task but Pamela persevered and we received every penny we were awarded! During this project, we became the best of friends. A day didn't go by that we didn't either see each other or talk on the phone. This committee made up of five Society members and five members of the Lincoln marching community met about twice a month for two years as we planned and implemented this amazing project. We became a very close group. Over the last few years we have been there for each other in the best and worst of times. We celebrated the success of our project as it screened in places like the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. We were there for each other during family deaths or illness. Pamela told me numerous times that the biggest blessing of this project was the friendship this wonderful group had with each other.

When Pamela had her stroke, she handled it like she did everything in her life. She *(continued next page)*



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MURRELL POST *(continued from page 1)*

cost \$450 and all the money was raised by Murrell Post as a just tribute to their fallen comrades. The lot was donated by the Masonic Lodge of this place. Soon after the monument was dedicated the post delivered up its charter and disbanded. The funds on hand were used to purchase the flag which is now the property of the Post.

There were several causes which led to disbanding of the post. First we could get no suitable place to hold our meetings. Second, The G.A.R. Of Ohio had purchased a tract of land near Xenia and erected buildings for a soldier's orphans home but the tax on the members became so burdensome that only the wealthiest posts could afford to pay their share of the expense.

The Ohio Legislature finally took it off their hands and adopted it as a state institution. Such was the beginning of the Ohio Soldiers Orphans Home of which the state may feel justly proud.

After Decoration Day services, May 30, 1884 arrangements were made to institute a post of the G.A.R. And on July 20 following, it was organized in the Odd Fellows hall at Lynchburg by Capt. Carson of Hillsboro. It is number 457 and was named again after Thos. Murrell and numbered forty one charter members.

The post has been increasing its membership constantly until the present time. It numbers 62 members.

What the post has done in the past to alleviate the wants of any soldier or the widows and orphans of deceased comrades we have no authority to speak. The Post tenders a cordial invitation to all honorably discharged soldier of the late war to join its ranks and stand shoulder to shoulder with them again as of old, and assist them in the work of charity so as to lighten the burdens of one another, until the last one shall have crossed over the great pontoon to the other shore.

HOLIDAYS AT HIGHLAND HOUSE

Reservations are being accepted for parties, luncheons and family get togethers for the holiday season. Every room in the Museum will be decorated and the large tree in the hall provides the perfect setting for photos. Call 393-3392 to learn more!

(937) 393-2810

Fax: (937) 393-3232



DEBORAH
HARSHA

C. JUSTIN
HARSHA

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127 W. Walnut St. - P.O. Box 8 - Hillsboro, Ohio 45133

OHIO STORY RADIO DRAMA

The Ohio Story was a program that aired three times a week on radio stations in Akron, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, Youngstown, and Zanesville from 1947 to 1967. Developed by writer and historian Frank Seidel and sponsored by The Ohio Bell Telephone Company, short stories about Ohio communities, events, and personalities were played as radio dramas, usually ten to fifteen minutes in length, after a news break.

Original scripts have been digitized and archived thanks to efforts of the librarian, Tom Neel, and the Ohio Genealogical Society (OGS) after winning a \$2000 Ohio Archives Grant and matched by OGS.

Plans are being developed

to stage three of these radio dramas as a fund raiser for the Highland County Historical Society at the Highland House Museum sometime in October. (More details will be available as plans firm) Also, a special one presented for children as a matinee is planned to further our commitment to Historical Education for Youth.

Scripts selected feature the stories of Edward Lee McClain, Virginia Bell, and Granville Barrere.

Information about *The Ohio Story* from Ohio Genealogical Society, The Ohio Story Radio Scripts, www.ogsarchive.org/about

Bob Brown

HCHS Trustee

Remembering

(cont) was strong, never complained, and fought to get to where she wanted to be. Her loving family surrounded her, as did her many friends. I rarely found her alone when I stopped in to



visit. The staff at Greenfield Rehab told me they never had a patient with so many visitors. Her visitors were from the many schools she had contact with, the many organizations she was a member of, students whose lives she impacted, and the devoted family she loved so much. It was a true testament to the person Pamela was. Pamela also got to know each and every staff member

and patient. She was always out and about in her wheelchair, visiting other patients who were not so fortunate to have the visitors that she had. Pamela loved people.

Pamela Nickell wore many hats.

She was an educator, leader, political activist, friend. She was a spiritual woman who loved her church. She was a lover of history and she loved to travel. She collected antiques, bears, dolls, mugs. Her greatest love was her devoted husband, Bob and her amazing family. Pamela Nickell will be greatly missed.

Kati Burwinkel

HIGHLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Check the date found on your 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.

Our Mission Statement

“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.”

VISITORS TO HIGHLAND HOUSE

Folks come from many places to visit Highland House Museum. So far, in 2018, we have welcomed folks from these places: (alphabetical order by state)

Mission Viejo, CA

Ft. Collins, CO

Covington, KY

Maysville, KY

Haydenville, MA

Chapel Hill, NC

Bainbridge, OH

Burton, OH

Cincinnati, OH

Dayton, OH

Dublin, OH

Eaton, OH

Heath, OH

Loveland, OH

Midland, OH

Mt. Sterling, OH

Norwood, OH

Portsmouth, OH

Reynoldsburg, OH

Riverside, OH

Washington CH, OH


Wilmington, OH

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Library Open House and Jean Wallis Recognition October 14—2pm



TURNER

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