

# MUSEUM MUSES

*Telling Highland County's story for over 50 years!*

PIONEER DAY! GHOST WALK! Both outside!

## THE HANSBOROUGH SETTLEMENT or *OFF INTO THE WEEDS*

Kati Burwinkel, John Glaze, Myra Phillips

Projects with which we are involved frequently have a way of getting off into the weeds. None more true than that on which we are currently working. We started with an idea of getting first or second hand stories from those associated with Lincoln School in one way or another. Those have proved to be interesting, humorous and poignant. (By the way, should you have a story to share, please contact any of us.) The weeds have cropped up, how-

ever, and we now find our project morphing into one having to do with the education of African Americans all over Highland County; this stemming from the knowledge that there was a school at the Hansborough Settlement. We already knew about the school at the Gist Settlement and wondered where else there were "colored" schools in the county. Just to whet your appetite for the coming project's conclusion, here we tell the information surrounding an interest settlement.

William Hansborough (alternately, Hansbrough, Handsberry) was born in Culpepper VA on 2 Sep 1779, the son of Peter Hansborough and Eleanor Minor Hansborough. William was a prosperous Virginian farmer and an owner of slaves. He married a Negro, Elizabeth (Betty or Betsy) Packer, and together they had four children: Philip, Mary, Catherine and Eliza. The facts of life in the south were

that mixed marriages were often the object of, at best, scorn and derision; at worst, legal difficulties. In addition, "Free" Negroes in the south were often faced with

led the community which established a school, a church (Clear Creek Colored Baptist Church) and a family cemetery. William passed 15 July 1845 and Philip traveled back to Virginia for the sale.

### Notice to Builders.

SEALED PROPOSALS for furnishing material and building a School House in Colored District No. 2, Liberty Township (near Philip Hansbrough's) will be received at the office of the Tp. Clerk in Hillsboro, (where plan and specifications may be found) until Saturday, the 13th of June next.

T. F. ZINK,  
M. T. NELSON,  
Building Com.

my28w3

*Ad for sealed bids to furnish materials and build the school house at Hansborough Settlement.*

laws and restrictions as they were considered a threat to the practice of slavery. Apparently, this fact caused Mr. Hansborough to make preparations for his family to move to the free territory of Ohio as he began purchasing land in northern Liberty Township as early as 1825. His son, Philip, moved here around 1840, bringing his wife, Amy Payton Hansborough, and their son. Other relatives and friends joined them and the Hansborough Settlement had its beginnings.

The Settlement was located east of Samantha, off Kincaid and Wright Roads. There grew a thriving community of settlers in log cabins and some log homes. Philip

He bought about a dozen of the slaves at auction and then set them free. Four of them came back to Ohio with him and he cared for them until their deaths. Betsy, Philip's mother, was in daughter Catherine's (Bryant) home by the 1850 Census. She passed in 1853 and is buried in the Hansborough Settlement Cemetery.

William Barber, another resident there, was the first known Highland County Negro to enlist in the Union Army to fight in the Civil War. He served with the Massachusetts Infantry.

*Kati Burwinkel  
John Glaze  
Myra Phillips*



*(left) Mr. & Mrs. Grant Hurd  
(right) Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Ames. Grant and Harvey grew up in Hansborough Settlement*

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Whilst researching through local newspapers from the mid 1950s, I ran across the story to the right.

Donations are being accepted for our YARD SALE on Aug 15!!! Call 937-393-3392 to set up a time to bring your treasures!

Found in newspapers from 1950s

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

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

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

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

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

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

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




In the 1950s, apparently there was a push to create a new hospital for the area, seemingly to service the county. Much effort was put into the project with studies done, speakers sent out to social and civic clubs to promote the project, the overwhelming support of the newspapers and even enlisting the support of the fabulous STEVE CANYON, with the help of his creator and Hillsboro boy, MILTON CANIFF. All was to no avail, however, as the question on the November ballot went down to sound defeat. Thanks anyway, Steve.....

### WHO AM I?

If you guessed **JEAN WALLIS** for last issue's mystery child, you were correct!

This issue, Who is this sweet little girl? (Answer next issue)



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# HIGHLAND COUNTY PIONEER DAY

Highland County Historical Society holding the second annual Highland County Pioneer Day on Saturday August 29<sup>th</sup>. The event will take place at Scott House, 338 W. Main St. in Hillsboro.

The committee weighed the options regarding visitors' health and COVID-19. We feel that the size of the event and the fact that displays will be socially distanced would allow us to provide a safe experience. All event volunteers and display hosts will wear masks. Attendees are encouraged to wear masks while at the event. All plans are subject to mandates of the State of Ohio. Watch the paper and social media for any changes. This year, different experiences will be offered, such as a series of historical presentations and demonstrations on the porches of Scott House. A schedule of those presentations will be available prior

to the event.

On the east yard of Scott House local community history displays will be set up. Ten or twelve communities or organizations are signed up to provide visitors a history of their area. At this time, those include Greenfield, Hillsboro, Leesburg, Lynchburg, Belfast, Southern Ohio Genealogical Society, Daughters of the American Revolution among others. Come share your memories of days past with your children and grandchildren.

Highland County Antique Machinery Club will be displaying old machinery and tractors. They will also display grain mills, steam engines and antique tractors, along with the World Plowing contest tractor and plow from the 1957 event held in Peebles.

Gassy Run Historical Arts Committee will fill the front lawn with displays of crafts from the 1800s such as rope making, flintlock, black snitching, ar-

chery, powder horn making, sewing, weaving, dulcimer music, and other demonstrations of life in 1844, the year Scott House and Highland House were completed.

There will be a pancake breakfast hosted by area scout masters, and area scouts will be assisting throughout the event. Hot dogs and hamburgers and snacks will be available after the breakfast until 3:00 pm. Drinks will be available throughout the day.

There will also be a bake sale during the event. Attendees surely enjoyed eyeing and

buying the wonderful baked goods provided by HCHS volunteer bakers. The day wouldn't be right without these delicious morsels.

Opening flag raising will be at 9:00 and the event will run through 4:00. Come join us on a trip through our Highland County History. We look forward to seeing you at Scott House on Saturday August 29<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 - 4:00.

*John Kellis*



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## GHOST WALK IS COMING!

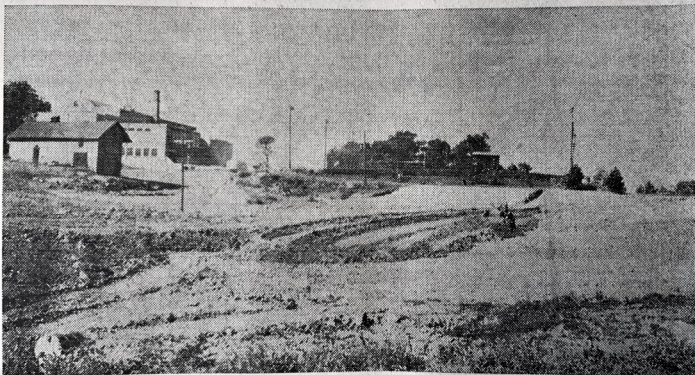
We will soon arrive at that time when we meet a cadre of ghosts who come to greet us at Hillsboro Cemetery and tell us about their lives and what significant contributions they made to our country or at least our county. The Ghosts, listed here in no particular order, will be visiting in the safest way we can devise. Rather than have the guests walk to the Ghosts, we will have the Ghosts do the walking this year! Therefore, attendees are invited to bring lawn chairs to the cemetery. They should be placed around the stage to the right side of

the chapel. Please be sure to space your chairs at least 6 feet from folks who are not members of your own family or live in your household. We ask all attendees to wear masks, even though we are outside. Please let folks who haven't attended in the past because of the fear of walking on the uneven ground of the cemetery know of this change!

The first Ghost on the list is **William Henry Harrison Dunn**. Dr. Dunn, the proprietor of a fine pharmacy in Hillsboro, was the lone holdout when the Temperance ladies came to visit and asked him to

### The beginnings of the HHS Football Field. (1950s)

Future Football Field



**SLOW BUT SURE**—Some progress is being made on leveling off the future football field at Hillsboro High School. A considerable amount of dirt will have to be moved before the "amphitheater" takes final shape. This is a scene looking west from North Elm Street, with the high school in the upper left. Money donated by local residents is being used for the grounds improvement. (Staff Photo)

# Highland County Historical Society

## HALL of FAME

Due to COVID 19 health and safety concerns, we are postponing the Hall of Fame Induction ceremony, scheduled for Sunday, August 16, 2020. It will be rescheduled at a later date. The inductees this year are: Ed Bousman (1918-2011), minister and radio and television evangelist; Benton Raymond Duckworth (1890-1996), public school educator and conservationist; Harriet Amelia (Hack) Fenner

(1936-2019), first and only woman elected as a Commissioner of Highland County; and Wenona Marlin (1871-1945), journalist, lecturer, author and leader in the suffrage movement. When we announce a new date, as always, HCHS members and the public are cordially invited to attend.

*Nancy Wisecup*

sign a pledge that he would not sell alcohol to anyone. W.H.H. Dunn will be portrayed by returning enactor, Jeff Beery.

There are only two Revolutionary War Soldiers buried in Hillsboro Cemetery and one of those will be visiting us—**Samuel Gibson**. John T. Willis will relate to us the many adventures of Samuel as an Indian Spy at age sixteen, then later a soldier. With the help of Simon Ken-

ton, he later settled in Highland County.

There are few in this area and beyond who didn't know **Bernard "Barney" Harewood**. He honored his family, served the public as a Postal Service employee, a scoutmaster, member of other organizations and especially served his church faithfully. Tim Hennison will be portraying Barney.

*(continued on page 8)*



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## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

### *Thank-you to these RENEWING MEMBERS!*

Patricia Adams  
 Brian & Kimberly Allen  
 Linda Ballentine  
 Becky Basford  
**DRS. JEFF & TARA BEERY  
 CORPORATE**  
 Melissa Beyerlein  
 Mary Jo Copeland  
 Steve Faris  
 Ben Fenner  
 Mary Fetto  
 Donna Fite  
 John & Joanie Grimes  
 Virginia Harewood  
 Wendell & Freda Harewood  
 Christine Hamlin  
 Justin Harsha  
 Dr. Thomas Henry  
 Sue Honeycutt  
 Judy Hornsby  
 Roger & Arlene Huffman  
 Jeanette Knauff  
**JEAN MCKENZIE  
 PRESERVATIONIST**  
 Rodney & Charlotte Pack  
 Wendy Roysse  
**DAVID & CHARLENE SHOEMAK-  
 ER HERITAGE**  
 Earl & Vicky Smith  
 Lowell & Sharon Sullivan  
 Marshall & Brenda Thompson  
 Anne Throckmorton  
 Gerold & Debra Wilkin

### **WELCOME TO THESE NEW MEMBERS!**

Elizabeth Branstead  
 Alex Butler  
 Kelli J. Cole  
**P. J. RYAN – PIONEER**  
 Rebecca Wagner

## NOTES FROM VICKI

*Congratulations to  
**James & Eleanor Cumberland**  
 celebrating 60 years  
 of marriage  
 and to  
**Bob & Dorothy Hodson**  
 on their 74<sup>th</sup>  
 wedding anniversary.  
 Both are beautiful couples,*

*Our sincere THANKS to  
**Dr. Tara Beery** who is  
 donating all proceeds  
 of her book,  
**Civil War Store Cards  
 of Hillsboro, OH**  
 to HCHS.*

*HCHS appreciates monetary  
 donations from these members:*

**Linda Ballentine  
 Bob & Dorothy Hodson  
 OVRC&D  
 Bob & Susan Parker**

**William & Lucy Burnett  
 John & Rebecca Burnett  
 Casel & Michelle Burnett**  
 made contributions in Memory  
 of their uncle, **Willard Parr.**

Condolences to these members  
 who lost loved ones in the past  
 few months:  
**Bob Brown  
 Don Hastings  
 Amy Hubbard  
 Beverly Rhoads  
 Pat Walker**



## Jacob W. Lucas' Diary

About a year ago, we received an email, soon followed by a mailing from the **Battle of Pilot Knob State Historic Site** of Pilot Knob, MO. Since their Civil War history concerns west of the Mississippi, and they found that Mr. Lucas was from Highland County originally, Brick Autry, Interpreter and Curator of the site was kind enough to share the information with us!

The title of the writing is Fourteen Months a Prisoner in the Andersonville Prison. Jacob was born here in 1842 and enlisted in Company I, 89th Ohio Volunteer Infantry in August 1862. He was taken prisoner at the Battle of Chicamauga, Danville, VA during September 1863. He escaped Andersonville Prison along with 200 others who dug their way out using only kitchen knives and tin cups. He returned home during August 1865, thereafter moving briefly to Iowa and then to western Missouri.

On his beginning page, he points out that many books have been written outlining the battles

and stories of the killed and wounded, but "none of them give any detailed account of the privations endured or the cruel treatment inflicted, or the sufferings experienced by the brave boys who were so unfortunate as to be captured and made prisoners of war by a cruel and heartless foe, and incarcerated in Southern military prisons."

"I have often thought and still think that had not the Southern people been trafficking in human beings for years, and practicing their cruelties upon them as slaves, they could not have perpetrated such cruel and barbarous treatment upon the thousands of us unfortunates who were their fellow men, and held by them as prisoners of war."

He later adds, "I weighed 200 lbs. when I enlisted in the army and 90 lbs. when I was released."

J. W. Lucas  
 Garrettsburg, Missouri

*Begin reading the diary on page 6.*

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## DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN?

1960 was a great year! I was a Senior at Hillsboro high, super ready for the Prom, our neat Senior train trip (a first for Hillsboro!) to Washington, D. C. and fabulous New York City, plus Graduation, our Banquet and everything else in between. 2020 would have been our 60th Reunion year, but the Covid-19 coronavirus intervened and we had to cancel. God willing, we'll get together in 2021 to celebrate.

However, thinking about that Senior trip brought back memories of all the shops in uptown Hillsboro that carried every possible item we'd need to go! From luggage, to shoes, to clothing, to accessories...you name it and we had it...right here at home! For the guys, we had Hilliard's and Ellison's Men's Wear, along with United Department Store and Kaufman's, which carried everything from bib overalls, boots, cowboy and straw hats all at reasonable prices.

For us gals, we had selections for everyone of us! From little folks who shopped at Tot 'n' Teen if you were small enough to get into those itty-bitty teen sizes (I didn't!), to Lord's Dress Shop, Elberfeld's (I worked Saturday only @ 50 cents an hour!), to the

more elegant Fetto's and Miller's with beautiful big name brands like White Stag, which is still available in some stores today, and to stores that carried yard goods and patterns to make your own like Pence Sewing Center, Hillsboro Dry Goods, again, Elberfeld's, and, I think, United Department Store. I didn't include Litt Brothers, which not only carried yard goods, but was stocked beautifully with lingerie and other unmentionables, plus beautiful clothing for school, church, everyday house dresses, lady's hats, gloves...and we still miss Litt's even today!

I'm sure I'm overlooking some other shops... Caryl's and Loretta's, Henry's and Boltz-Haggerty Shoes, Holaday's Shoes.

If I've missed remembering them all, chalk it up to old age! But they were great shops and an important part of our community while growing up here! And they all offered the best merchandise we could find within our Hillsboro and Highland County area.

Thanks for reading—let John Glaze or me know what I didn't remember!

*Leslie Ludwick Ramsey*



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## Jacob Lucas' Diary

### FOURTEEN MONTHS A PRISONER IN THE ANDERSONVILLE PRISON

On the 20th day of September, 1863, at the Battle of Chickamauga, Georgia, after 3 days hard fighting, the 89th Rgt. O.V.I. of which I was a member in Company I, together with the 22 Michigan V.I. and 21st O.V.J. were surrendered to General Longstreet, as prisoners.

Some 2 months prior to the battle of Chickamauga, our right as well as the 21st Ohio and 22nd Michigan had been detached from our respective brigades by an order from army headquarters for spring special duties. The 89th O.V.I. was sent to Tracy City, from which place we were ordered to the front ranks; the reserve corps which was commanded by General Granger, and during the annual battle of Chickamauga we were acting with Whitaker's Brigade of Steedman's Division, as we were unfortunately unable to reach our proper brigades, we occupied an advance position which under the circumstances had become necessary to be held, in order that the Rebel Army

might not push our forces back through Chattanooga.

On the evening when we surrendered, we were out of ammunition. An orderly had been sent for supplies, the answer received was: "Ammunition will be sent, if possible, but hold your position at the point of the bayonet". I mention this for the purpose of showing that we were captured in obedience to positive orders to hold our position, sacrificed as we believed at the time, and still believe for the good of the army, thus preventing the pursuit of our forces that night. But my purpose is to tell of my prison life; of what I saw, heard, suffered, and endured, during 14 long months that I was incarcerated in different southern prison pens, and held as a prisoner of War by my captors, the Rebels.

I now return to the battlefield. It was after sunset and almost dark, when all preliminaries having been arranged, we were commanded by our own commander to lay our arms on the ground, and fall in in two ranks, but before obeying that command, I executed a little movement in the manual of arms, by clubbing my musket and striking a tree that was *(continued next page)*



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## Jacob Lucas' Diary *(continued)*

near me, and breaking the stock off at the first stroke, and the second stroke succeeded in bending the barrel, thereby making it useless to our captors. I then threw it to the ground and took my place in ranks with a line of rebels on either side, and our journey to the capital of the so-called Confederate States was commenced. We were marched for about two miles, directly over the battle-ground which was literally covered with dead and wounded soldiers, both Federal and Confederate. The moans of the dying and the cries of the wounded for water were ringing in my ears for days after; the cries and moans principally came from the Confederate soldiers, for while marching among them, I would hear Rebel soldiers moan and beg for water, and Union soldiers lying close to them would call to them to stop their noise.

After marching a short distance from the place of capture, we were halted for a minute, and at my feet lay, as I first thought, was a dead man, but at a second look I saw a slight movement, and bending over him, recognized one of my own company, William Syperd—he was almost dead—could only speak in a whisper. He told me he was dying but to tell my family and friends: "I die for my country". Both of his legs were shot or torn off above the knees, and also both of his arms above the elbows. We were ordered forward. I could do nothing for him but spread my blanket over him and leave him to die, which I suppose he did very soon afterwards. It was very

trying to leave my friend thus, but such was the fates of war. We were kept marching until about three o'clock in the morning when we were halted and allowed to sleep awhile—we were almost perishing for water, but were informed there was no water to be had. At sunrise the march was continued in the direction of Ringold. After marching some four or five miles we came to a stream of water where we were permitted to slake our thirst and bathe our hands and faces, and after a few minutes rest, we were hurried on, and Ringold was reached about the middle of the afternoon. We were very tired and hungry, for our haversacks had been empty for many hours and we expected them to be refilled at Ringold, but we were disagreeably disappointed. Two or three hours were spent in registering the names, company, regiment and rank of each of the prisoners, nearly Four thousand in all, that had been captured at Chickamauga. A short time before sunset we were again on the march and at about ten or eleven o'clock reached Tunnel Hill, where we were corralled in a meadow for the balance of the night. Early next morning we were ordered to fall in for rations and that order was obeyed with alacrity, for our fasting was beginning to tell on us. We were formed in two ranks, open order, but instead of receiving rations as we had been made to believe we would, we were invited to give to them all of our valuables, such as monies, watches, finger-rings, pocket-knives,

## SIDEWALK TOUR PLANNED—Tara Beery

On Friday, October 2 at 6 pm, the Historical Society will hold a Historical Homes Sidewalk Tour of East Main and Walnut Streets. Last year, a 90 plus degree sweltering heat wave made this event seem more like a forced march rather than the pleasant quarter of a mile stroll it should have been. Hopefully, with this year's later date, the weather will be more comfortable. The tour will start at the Highland House. We will cross East Street and head down East Main for about a tenth of a mile before turning down an alley and coming back along East Walnut. The stroll will likely take about an hour. The path is as flat as one can expect from Hillsboro topography. The focus of the tour is on the former residents of these historic homes, with some discussion of the architectural features. We will NOT be entering any of the houses, and we ask participants to be respectful of the private properties we will be viewing. It is impossible to know what the COVID-19 situation will be in October, but we will be following whatever guidelines are in place at the time regarding masks and social distancing.

blankets, haversacks, canteens, hats and caps, blouses and shoes. And such a transformation. We no longer looked like Yankees, but like Johnny Rebs—the search concluded, we were again started on the march without any rations, and at sunset we reached Dalton, where we received as rations, a pint of flour to each man, and many devices were resorted to in converting the flour into bread. We were not furnished with mixing bowls or kneading boards nor baking ovens, but with flour only, I succeeded in getting the loan of a tin plate from one of the guards, on which I placed my ration of flour, then adding a

little water and stirring it with my finger until it was of the proper consistency, I placed it before our camp-fire until cooked, or baked done; the plate was then used by another comrade and then another, and so on until a great number had been served. Others were using pieces of boards as we used the tin plate—still others would get their flour mixed into dough and bake it in the ashes. By ten o'clock all had by some means contrived to cook and eat their ration and quiet reigned over the camp and all were soon sleeping.

*Diary will be continued in next issue.*

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## 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.

### GHOST WALK (continued)

**Samuel E. Hibben** founded a store in Hillsboro which lasted over 132 years, beginning it when Hillsborough was less than 20 years old. Samuel was also elected to the Ohio Senate as a member of the Whig party. He served his church well. A common saying at the time spoke volumes about Mr. Hibben and the type of business he ran. People would often vow that this or that was “honest as Mr. Hibben.” Earl Smith will make his debut as a Ghost for HCHS.

**Mark L. Hook** had a short life on this earth. He was serving in Vietnam and

was caught in “friendly fire” before reaching his 19<sup>th</sup> birthday. Duncan Pickering-Polstra, a student at HHS, will be making his Ghost Walk debut as he portrays Mark.

Little introduction to the Bell Family is needed, and we have been visited by the Ghost of Charles Singleton Bell on several occasions. This year, however, we will be visited by his granddaughter, **Virginia Bell Thompson Telfair**. Virginia cut her acting career short, left New York City and returned here to run the family business. Tara

Beery, in her Ghost Walk debut, will tell us how Virginia grew the company in a large way.

Your moderator for the evening will be **R. R. Grim**, (the R. R. stands for Really Really). Between Ghost visits, Bob Brown will entertain you with stories of a 19<sup>th</sup> Century undertaker.

The GHOST WALK will be held on 29 SEP at 6:00pm. Remember that the Ghost Walk is open to the public and we ask that you bring many folks along with you, socially distanced, of course!



Jacob Saylor's business on S. High St.



The first Traction Car leaving Hillsboro.