

# MUSEUM MUSES

Telling Highland County's story for over 50 years!

## UNDERSTANDING HILLSBORO CEMETERY

LOG CABIN COOKOUT, GHOST WALK and more!

Most folks driving by Hillsboro (fka Greenwood) Cemetery give little thought to the history or the structure of the cemetery, let alone what it takes to keep it running. There is a board of trustees whose duties involve the oversight and funding of all that goes on throughout the year, such as maintenance, mowing, upkeep of buildings and capital expenditures.

But I want to tell you more about the people buried in our cemetery. Records began when the cemetery began and, depending upon who was in charge of recording the information, are extremely complete, or barely cover the basics. This is especially true when it comes to the "Potters' Fields" which we have. Often these graves were paid for by the townships and frequently there are no monuments, so we are entirely reliant upon the paper records which exist (in various stages of completeness).

Folks living today have little thought to the early times of our country and to the ugly fact of slavery, however we have former slaves buried in our cemetery. I present Miss Sally Hudson, who is buried in the lot owned by William Williams. Our records tell us that Miss Sally was believed to be over 100 when she passed on 8 December in 1902. In the "Birthplace" column we read "Don't know—was a slave." Her husband, Solomon Hudson is also listed as a former slave.

Jessie Fore, buried in Plat B, was born most likely into slavery in Trimble County, Kentucky on 1 June 1816 and passed 1 June

1903. In the parents area, however, we find "Don't know—was a slave."

Mary Hurley, born in Wilson, NC on 15 Dec 1849 into slavery, ended up in Hillsboro and passed on 30 Jun 1909. We do know that her father was Benjamin Tyson.

We know there must have been others, but the fact was either not known by the person supplying the information, was not thought important to mention, or was kept a secret.

### CAUSES OF DEATH

In the 2023 Ghost Walk, we will be visited by a doctor who will tell us all about the diseases that took the lives of many folks. The names used back in those early days of our cemetery are certainly seldom heard today, however, many still exist, but with different names. Our old country doctor probably won't be riding in on a horse, but he will cross that time/space continuum and tell us all what he knows! Many of the diseases listed below will be familiar to you, however, you may find it hard to believe that such could take someone's life. Keep in mind that vaccine development came later in many of these instances. Neither available were the antibiotics which we have today.

Meanwhile, here are some of the diseases:

- Varieties of Abscesses
- Many types of accidents
- Dilation of heart
- Acute indigestion
- Nephritis
- Rheumatism
- Aortic insufficiency
- Apoplexy
- Appendicitis
- Arterio Sclerosis

- Asthma
- Blood poison
- Brain Fever
- Bright's Disease
- Broncho Pneumonia
- Cerebral Hemorrhage
- Change of life
- Cholera Infantum
- Consumption
- Diabetes
- Diphtheria
- Dropsy
- Dysentery
- Flux
- La Grippe
- Influenza
- Malaria
- Measles
- Mitral Regurgitation
- Organic Heart Disease
- Paralysis
- Pneumonia
- Scarlet Fever
- Scrofula
- Septicaemia
- Spasms
- Summer Complaint
- Typhoid Fever
- Whiskey
- Whooping Cough

- Fell through hatchway of steamboat
- Electrocuted by state in Ohio Penitentiary
- Mother too sick to nurse baby. Baby was given cow's milk, but cow had eaten some kind of weed which disagreed with baby and killed it.
- Killed in a game of craps at the fairground
- Destroyer hit a mine in the Sea of Japan

### CEMETERY STRUCTURE

Our cemetery is laid out in sections. Originally, all of the cemetery roads had names of trees. At this point, there are plans to label all of the sections for easier identification by visitors. Thought has been given to assigning names again to the roads, perhaps using the names of the more well-known folks buried in the cemetery, or going back to the tree names. Stay tuned for an update on that.

At one time we had a beautiful cemetery lake or pond as seen in this old postcard. This



- death:
- Blown up on the Steamer Sultana on the Mississippi River
- Killed by a wheel running over his head after falling off wagon
- Burned when dress caught on fire on flame of kerosene lamp

later caused problems and had to be drained.

We have reported on some of the history of the "Rest House" (now usually referred to as the Chapel). The Hillsboro Cemetery Revised By-Laws, adopted 1 April 1890, were found in a booklet print-  
*(continued on page 9)*

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*The mission of Highland County Historical Society is 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.*

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**DONATIONS**

Thanks to these generous donors:  
 Linda Ballentine  
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**MEMORIALS**

Sally Roush Rogers remembers  
**Wesley Roush**

**CONDOLENCES**

To these who recently lost family members:  
 Jerry & Debbie Williams  
 Jerry's mother, Naomi Williams  
 Doug Wagoner – his wife, Susie

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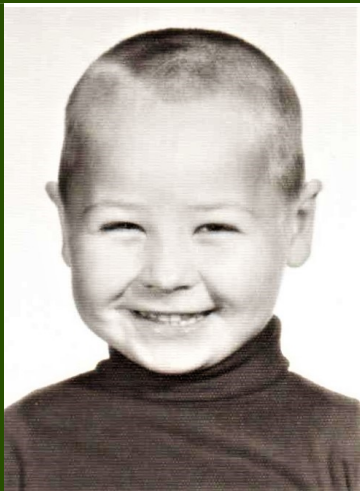
**We thank them all so very much!**



**LOG CABIN COOKOUT**

Soups On!! Are you ready for the fall season? Our annual event will be held September 17. Come to Highland House at 151 E. Main. Starting at 5pm, we will be serving home-made ham and bean soup, hot dogs, coney's and desserts. All donations are appreciated!!!

**WHO AM I?**



If you guessed  
**JOHN PORTER**  
 for last issue's  
 mystery child,  
 you were correct!

Who is this young man?  
 (Answer next issue)



## LOOKING FOR NEW UNDERWEAR?



As my ma would say, "That is just as cute as a little bug's ear!" This little tee, advertising Munsing Wear, available at S. E. Hibben & Son, is an item in our collection. The entire length, from the top of the straps to the bottom is only about 6".

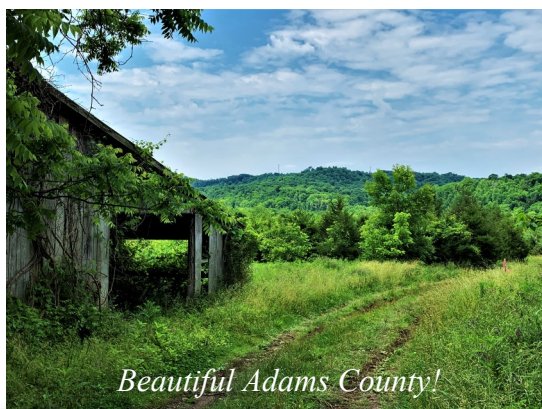
## NEWS FROM GHS

If you follow the Greenfield Historical Society, you'll know that they were given the Shiloh Baptist Church to add to their collection of buildings. They have begun work to restore the building. This photo was taken within the last few months. You'll note that the windows are now boarded up as the windows have been removed in order to be restored. We wish them much success with this project and know that the Black community will appreciate the efforts to keep the old church in good shape!



## FOSTER CEMETERY

Recently, Kati Burwinkel and I drove down into Adams County to visit the work being started on the Foster Cemetery (aka Young Cemetery). This is a very old cemetery—the last burial was over 100 years ago, but it is still visited and veterans' graves are decorated with flags. Located in Green Township, the cemetery sits atop a bluff with a beautiful view of Brush Creek. Once we parked, a couple hundred feet off the road, due to the huge ruts in the lane, we walked to the cemetery with Dave Hubin and Alessandro Cariboni, the archaeologists who, with other staff and many volunteers, will begin moving each interment found there. The men are from IRLAB and will first be mapping the cemetery, locating each burial to make sure that once exhumed, they will be buried in the new location in the



*Beautiful Adams County!*

that once exhumed, they will be buried in the new location in the during high water times, that gentle stream can rise incredibly high and, through the years, had eaten away at the ground of the bluff. Many trees have already succumbed to the waters and have fallen down the hill. The Green Township Trustees, fearing that it won't be long before graves begin to be affected, contacted this company for help. The project has been given land by Cincinnati Nature Sanctuary, right on the road leading back to the cemetery. A barn will be removed (and the parts salvaged for other uses), then that land will be cleared in order to provide the new burial grounds. The company is working with the trade school in the area, with the teens in building trades who will be taking on building new coffins for the remains and those learning the restaurant trade will be providing catered meals for the volunteers. The project will take a few years to accomplish and will start with the burials closest to the bluff and work back toward the trees. If you would be interested in volunteering,



*The walk in.*

*continued on page 6*

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## MUSEUM MUSES

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## NEWS

### Annual Meeting Coming Up

HCHS will host their Annual Meeting on Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at 7pm in the Hi-Tech Center at 1575 N High St in Hillsboro.

Reports on investments, financial status, projects completed, future projects and events and activities will be given.

Changes to By-Laws will be presented and discussed. The current By-Laws were approved in 2015; several issues call for the By-Laws to be amended.

Also, three trustees, president and vice president of the society will be introduced and elected. A slate of candidates will be presented, then nominations from the floor will be open. Election results will be announced at the conclusion of the meeting.

A packet of materials that will include biographies of candidates and proposed By-Law changes will be mailed to members. Please bring these materials with you.

As a reminder, while the meeting is open to the public, only members may vote.



OHIO OPEN DOORS

HCHS will participate in Ohio Open Doors on 17 September. This one-day event celebrates Highland County's amazing past and will take place at Highland House Museum. The historic Highland House, built in 1844, will be open for tours from 1-4pm and is free and open to the public. The cabin will be open so visitors can see what it was like to live in a one-room structure in the 1800s.

Tour guides, dressed in period costumes will be available to highlight interesting facts and answer questions. Also a recreation of an Ohio Bell radio broadcast will be presented at 3pm by Bob Brown and the Southern State Theatre Company. The program was titled The Ohio Story and written by Frank Siedel as a radio drama series. The subjects of this presentation will be Mother Thompson and the Meanest Man in Ohio.

The Ohio History Connection created Ohio Open Doors in 2016 to promote and inspire pride in Ohio's heritage and to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act. The biennial event is held in September. In 2020, Covid-19 required Ohio Open Doors to be primarily virtual.

Ohio Open Doors coincides with the Log Cabin Cookout which starts at 5pm. Call 937-393-3392 for a reservation. Donations are welcome!

## RECENT ACCESSIONS

These items have been donated to HCHS since the first of the year. A special thank-you to those who are helping us preserve Highland County history! More than 5,000 items have been entered in the Past Perfect software program as of this writing.

- Antiques Journal magazine features Hillsboro homes—Bob Nickell
- Vintage post cards—Tara Beery
- Ceramic Revolutionary War Soldier—Betty Dodds
- Highland Computer Forms 25th Anniversary item, All Ohio Youth Choir Ohio State Fair Uniform Shirt and European Choir Jacket—John Glaze
- Crib blanket, Child's musical toothbrush holder—Kathy Levo
- Hillsboro Sesquicentennial commemorative plate—Steve Friece
- Army uniform—Ann Siddons

- Photo of G. C. Murphy Store—Charlene Shoemaker
- Wilmington College 150th Anniversary Book—Wilmington College
- Photo of Christmas parade in Hillsboro—Portsmouth Public Library
- McCoy family photos—Dorothy Ayres
- Highland School memorabilia—David King
- Dr. John McBride's medical bag—Mike Yochum
- Dolls—Jackie Wilkin
- Campaign memorabilia, miscellaneous items—Alice Teeters
- Photo of Lynchburg pharmacy—Christine Hamlin
- Welcome Wagon file—Cheryl Pitzer
- Grove family photos—Becky Basford
- 1916 Hillsboro High School yearbook, Prospectus on Electric Railroad—Peggy Edwards
- Misc Kitchen Items—John & Cheryl Porter

## HELP!

We are collecting histories of **BUSINESSES, CHURCHES, HOUSES, SCHOOLS, etc.** Information should be the type that would fit in a file folder. Printed info, Photos, small bits & pieces, advertising bits & bobs.

Call the office if you have questions!

Please Kokua!



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## CRITICAL MUSEUM IMPROVEMENTS WORTH THE WAIT

The journey leading up to installing the final twenty-one new north and east side windows and sills at Highland House Museum has been a long one. The project has been on the Society's list for many years. However, dedicated funding for more needed projects had taken priority. Toward the end of 2020, our capital campaign fund was dwindling and remaining funds were for windows, directed by Bob and Dorothy Hodson. The committee felt it was not right to keep the funds unspent, so it was decided to buy the east side windows to lock in our cost and to avoid price increases.

In 2021, we approached our membership to raise funds for the installation of those windows. The supporters and members stepped up once again to the tune of \$23,400, more than

enough to install the east side windows. COVID hit and contractors and weather issues then delayed the project.

While we waited for things to open up, Lynn Neal shared with us that the South Central Power Foundation had community grants available through their Operation Round Up Program. Successfully applying for a \$10,000 grant, we were able to purchase the windows for the front of the Museum. We were getting closer. Thanks to the South Central Power Foundation for their critical support.

As many watched this spring, the windows were installed in May and early June by Tira Builders LLC. The new windows are identical to the historic windows in appearance but are double-pane, insulated glass and the project has already made an impression on how quiet it is in the museum. Together with the significant project of improvements to the storage rooms earlier this year, the energy efficiency of the museum has been greatly enhanced.

So many to thank, including Tira Builders LLC for the window install and Joel Morris who renovated the storage rooms. Replacing the final old and deteriorating windows at the Museum was critical to maintain the appearance and ensuring the 1845 building would remain weather tight and protected into the future.



### Next Up

The society was recently notified that it received \$77,000 in the 2022-23 Ohio biennial Capital Improvements Budget. Senator Bob Peterson and Representative Shane Wilkin supported our work at Scott House a few years back and again included the society's current projects in their request to the State Capital Bill. As we communicate with them, thank them for their support. Those funds are for the brick work on the chimneys and the parapet walls of the museum. The authorization will also provide critical funding for our long-



awaited Peelle Law Building renovations. We have secured preliminary architectural drawings, are securing contractor bids for the project, and have been working to secure funds for the project. This renovation project will complete our campus plan and allow the society to move its administrative functions, such as the Director's office, library, meeting room, and accession activities to that building. This will, in turn, allow us to expand the society's current archives and create new display areas in Highland House Museum.

Campaign Chair,  
*John Kellis*

*You might enjoy joining SOGS and FOG for a hands-on event at Hillsboro Cemetery. Learn how we clean and repair stones and more. Old clothes, sturdy shoes and a lawn chair! September 29, 5:30pm*



You may think it is a little early to be thinking about the holidays, but plans for The Merry Mercantile are in the works!

Thanks to our talented, skilled vendors and wonderful customers, our 2021 season was very successful! We are hoping that 2022 brings us the same success.

This year The MM will be open additional hours on Saturdays and open for special holiday events held in uptown Hillsboro. In addition we are actively looking for more gift items for the guys on "your list". Communications with vendors/artisans will begin in August.

Our opening "preview evening" will be Friday November 4, with the Open House on Saturday Nov 5. Our opening (and the holidays!) will be here before we know it!! Roll out the holly, deck the halls, and start jingling the bells!

*Liz Odland*



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# TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES—A GOOD IDEA?

What year did Hillsboro install traffic control devices—otherwise known as TRAFFIC LIGHTS?

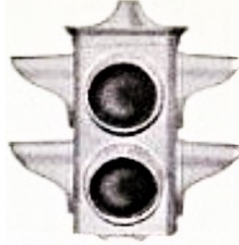
- A) 1898 C) 1927
- B) 1939 D) 1947

You can think about that while we tell you about Hillsboro’s experience. It was reported in *THAT YEAR* that the council met at Public Square and decided to acquire a traffic light (or a “Stop and Go Light”) on a 60 day trial basis. There was a long discussion and the council passed the question on a 3-2 vote. The cost would be about \$350 and, just for comparison, \$350 in *THAT YEAR* would be \$5880 in 2022 dollars.

The light was to be installed at Public Square (what they called the intersection of the Main and High Streets). It was

reported that it would be the overhead type of light. One of the councilmen thought the idea involved an unnecessary expense and “would be an annoyance and nuisance and would hinder instead of helping the handling of traffic, that it would be especially confusing to people from the country.”

At the same meeting, it was decided to have SLOW painted on the street about 300 feet before the intersection. Also reported was the cost of operating the light, which was 2.4 cents per hour (.40 in 2022) for electric unless a special rate would be secured from the light company, which would be \$10 to



\$15 a month (\$168 to \$252 in 2022), depending on how many hours a day the light would be kept turned on.

In the next report found in the news, we learn that motorists are obeying and having no troubles with the Stop & Go Light, but pedestrians are quite a different story. This report ended with, “Pedestrians must observe the lights if it is going to help in handling traffic.”

There soon appeared in the paper an editorial commenting on the situation of pedestrians ignoring the light system. “Time and again since the installation of our traffic light we have seen pedestrians walk across the street when the lights were against them and

so far we have never seen one of them warned by an officer although often an officer was standing on the corner.”

Continuing, “If they do not observe the rules there is more danger with lights than without them. ... the longest anyone has to wait is half a minute and it is seldom that anyone is in such a big hurry that a half minute means anything to him.”

The editorial ends with “In our judgment the only sensible thing to do is to require the people to obey the signals or take the light down.”

So, have you figured out what *THAT YEAR* was that the traffic light first made its appearance in Hillsboro? If you answered 1927, you would be correct! The exact day was the afternoon of Saturday, 17 Nov 1927!

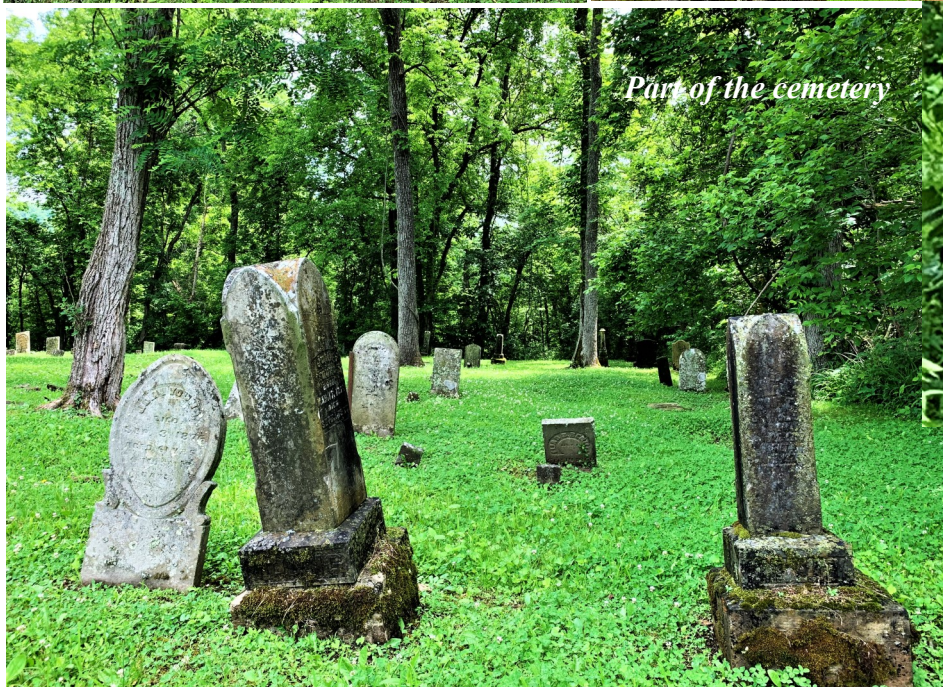


*Bluff above Brush Creek*



*Alessandro Cariboni*

## FOSTER CEMETERY



*Part of the cemetery*



*David Hubin*

we can provide contact information!

Primarily, Alessandro is in charge of mapping the burials to make sure the reinterments are in the same order and relationship as they were in the old cemetery. They also can photograph a stone and process it through software which can read the carving even if covered with vegetation growth and the carving is nearly worn away.