

Museum Muses

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

The President's Message

With the summer nearly over we have an opportunity to look back at the first half of 2012 and reflect on the progress we have made this year. I don't recall a more exciting time to be a member of the historical society as we rededicate our organization to the preservation of the history of Highland County. Our visitor count at the museum is up tremendously over previous years and our exposure in social media websites has increased. During the Fourth of July week we had nearly 2500 visitors to our Facebook page and our total reach through friends of friends now exceeds 120,000 people. With the increasing interest in genealogy and programs like "Who Do You Think You Are?" on NBC, we see a greater interest in the history and first families of Highland County. Our library, although off-limits to the general public, is a wonderful resource for beginning research on an ancestor's journey through the county. One of the best resources is the Sanborn Fire Map collection. The Sanborn Maps were originally created for assessing fire insurance liability in urbanized areas in the United States. The maps include detailed information regarding town and building information in approximately 12,000 U.S. towns and cities from 1867 to 2007. Hillsboro and some areas of Highland County are well detailed. The maps include outlines of each building and outbuilding, the location of windows and doors, street names, street and sidewalk widths, property boundaries, fire walls, natural features (rivers, canals, etc.), railroad corridors, and building use (sometimes even particular room uses). Also included are house and block number, as well as the composition of building materials including the framing, flooring, and roofing materials, the strength of the local fire department, indications of sprinkler systems, locations of fire hydrants, location of water and gas mains and even the names of most public buildings, churches and

companies and even include information on number of floors, windows, construction materials, water sources, outhouses, etc. This information can be valuable when searching for information on a house's original structure or in finding a missing building or house. If you have ever wondered about your home or building, www.oplin.org is a great place to search the online collection. We had a few older Sanborn books donated by Betty Wilkin and they are well used as a start in researching a building's history and outline. Please contact me or Catie Schafer for more information on use of the library's resources.

Finally, a plea for assistance to our members and friends. The members of the historical society have been so generous in helping us preserve and maintain not only our collection but also with our work to keep our historic court house in top condition. You responded to our requests last year and the columns were restored in time for the Ohio Supreme Court visit. Instead of being replaced with replicas, the original 1842 wood was saved, preserved and restored for future generations. This year we are challenged with the landscaping renewal and we have raised almost \$1600 toward our goal of \$2500. The new Veterans' Memorial is now a main tourist attraction and we thought new landscaping and bushes would complement this tribute to our veterans. The lawn and flowerbeds got a real workout during the festival and repairs are greatly needed. If you could make a donation toward the "Courthouse Fund" to continue this effort, it would be greatly appreciated by me and all who value the court house and its history. We are actively working to expand our presence in the community and your help is vital to our work. Thank you for your support as we continue this journey of preserving and documenting Highland County history.

Bob Lambert

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Sanborn Fire Maps

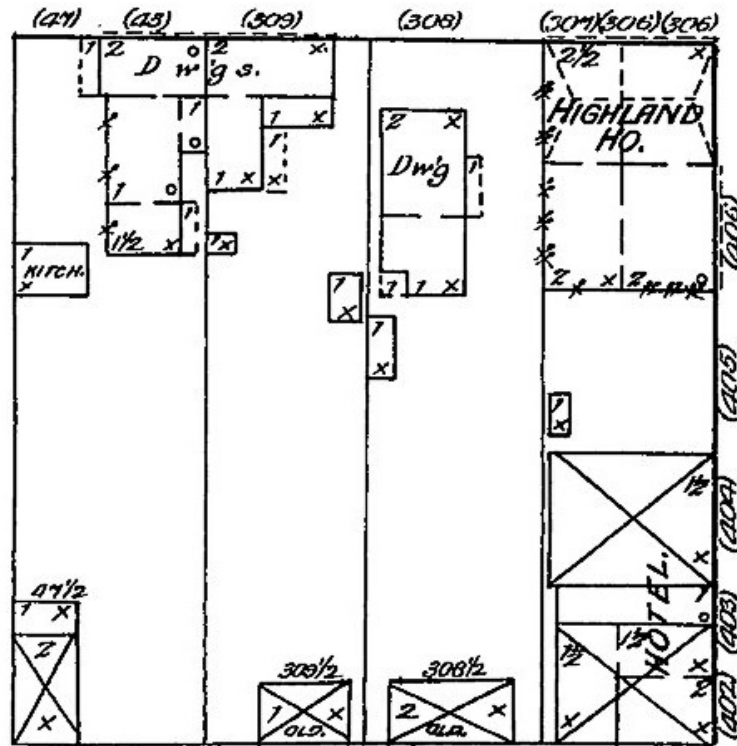
Sanborn Maps were originally created for the purpose of assisting those insuring urban properties against fire damage. Areas covered included some 12,000 United States cities and towns. The are still frequently used by those involved in historical preservation efforts.

Programs of this type began in London in the late 18th Century. The growth of the practice in the United States began after the Civil War, not only with the rebuilding of the south, but also the rapid expansion of the west.

The Sanborn Company was founded by Daniel Alfred Sanborn, a surveyor from Massachusetts. Although headquartered in New York, the company had regional offices throughout the United States and sent out legions of surveyors to gather the information necessary to create these highly detailed and information laden maps which, in turn, made the company so successful.

(Right) Sanborn map showing the portion of the block where Highland House is located. This is the area bounded by the alleys.

E. MAIN



HERITAGE MUSIC SERIES / MEMBERSHIP

First, our heartfelt thanks to all who have attended, volunteered and donated to our Heritage Music Series.

It's our ongoing mission to restore some of our treasured musical instruments and you've warmed our hearts with the support you've given our series.

But, we're not finished! We have five more evenings left in this year's programs. Watch the local media and Facebook for updates and mark your calendars with the dates.

Come to Highland House for a hospitality hour in our dining room and then join us as we move to the front parlor to enjoy music of local friends and neighbors. Come enjoy this wonderful old museum as we fill the rooms with friends as they did back in the 1800s.

Is it TEA TIME? We think so! Mary Todd and her committee are busy preparing for the Children's Tea Party. Watch for dates and maybe a call to volunteer!

Summer is winding down and we're getting excited about "decking the halls." Catie is making lists and checking them twice for the needs of our Holiday Open House and the Pioneer Gift Shop. Please think about what talents you may have

to help with these projects! If you've always wanted to manage a gift shop, have we got a job for YOU!

Remember GIFT MEMBERSHIPS are gifts which are never the wrong size and you can share the gift of history with family and friends.

We are hoping to see all of you at our upcoming events. We appreciate each of you who have become a member. Come join us and bring a friend.

Midge Rose, Pauline Cameron, Helen Ford

Heritage Music Committee

Midge Rose, Pauline Cameron

Membership Committee



HERITAGE MUSIC SERIES PHOTO IDENTIFICATION
(top) Members of HHS Symphonic Choir, directed by David White—from May 19 Heritage Music Series
(bottom) Ron Current (guitar) and Caitlin Schafer (flute) at June 16 Heritage Music Series



2012 Tour of Homes & Historic Buildings

I would like to personally thank everyone who made this year's Home Tour so successful! We had total ticket sales of \$2,895.00. Adding the sale of Highland County Books and sales in the gift shop, our total income for the day was \$3,110.00!

Special thanks to: Catie Schafer, Avery Applegate, Pauline Cameron, Helen Ford, Jean Wallis, Arlene Huffman, Maxine Kratzer and Bob Lambert who gave of their time and energy to make this year so successful! We also thank Sue Bennett for photography, John Glaze for tickets and Marko Renk of Lazerworks for the posters.

We all hope that everyone enjoyed the homes and historical buildings presented this year and we look forward to another great tour in 2014!

Jill Yochum, Chairperson

"A Day at The Museum..."

Catie Schafer, Executive Director

Okay, so we may not have a donated Pharaoh tablet which makes all of the objects come to life as in the Ben Stiller movie, but we do have "life." In the month of July we had almost one hundred visitors walk our halls. This guestbook count does not even include the people who came to the Antique Sale and the Heritage Music concert which I log under a "special events" category. What brings so much "life" to our humble county museum without the assistance of Egyptian magic? We have our own special "symbols" which call people to us. An anonymous donor bought the museum a large chalkboard which sports daily colorful signage telling passersby what we have to offer on any given museum day. We also have our large wooden boards which I have been placing on the corners of the building letting people see in big letters that we are open for business. Public feedback and visitor numbers tell us that our efforts are working. All of this equals positive growth for the small price of a few hundred donated dollars as compared to the multi-million dollar cost in the aforementioned movie. We may not be "fancy" but we are creative and extremely friendly...which makes all the difference to our guests. And, truth be told, from your somewhat fearless director, if the mannequins at our Highland House came to life and started walking about, I don't think I would be writing this report but would be still running like the wind and texting you from, perhaps, Texas?

Speaking of "special events," we have had a very busy summer season. We had the Tour of Homes 2012 event which sold nearly 300 tickets. Public feedback of this event was very positive with people enjoying the fact that the first group of homes were within walking distance of the museum. We were blessed with a gorgeous sunny day which, coupled with all the people who parked their cars and walked a few blocks, gave us a ton of added attention from passing cars which stopped to see what we were doing. Again, the affirmation that if people see "life" they will come. Board member Pauline Cameron had the brilliant idea to set up an outside table and sell our county books. (Everyone needs to have a copy. We now offer this at the bargain price of only \$25.00.) The book sales and gift shop sales during the Home Tour brought us over \$400.00 in additional income.

Encouraging a "living" museum sometimes means extra time and effort. All four weekends of July we accommodated late arriving visitors by keeping our doors open later than advertised. Guests have made special requests to see the log cabin when it was not normally open. Making these small concessions gives our visitors a positive experience and shows the community that our county museum and society really exist to serve them. (continued on page 4)



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151 E Main St
Hillsboro, OH 45133
Phone: 937-393-3392



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STEP UP!
VOLUNTEER!!
Call Catie to see how
you can serve!

HCHS EVENTS

- 18 August HMS - program TBA 7:30 pm
 - 23 August To Be Announced
 - 15 September HMS - program TBA 7:30 pm
 - 27 September To Be Announced
 - 20 October HMS - program TBA 7:30 pm
 - 25 October **Log Cabin Cookout**—details TBA
 - 17 November HMS - program TBA 7:30 pm
 - 15 December HMS - program TBA 7:30 pm
- All programs are held at Highland House and begin at 7:00 pm, unless otherwise noted.
*HMS= Heritage Music Series

A DAY AT THE MUSEUM (continued from page 3)
If you, as a member, haven't been part of the "life" at the museum this season, please accept this invitation to do so. Every person who visits, volunteers, or donates, makes our "life" change in some significant way. Included in this effort are our two college students who have been assigned to projects this summer. One is working on the Archive room and a "History of Scott House" project and the other assisting with landscaping. With the generous help of a board member whose last name is also the name of the flower and Vice-President Mary Todd, our outside gardens and historic objects have seen significant change. Please feel free to walk our halls and see our changes both inside and out. Help us to be the breathe of life and story of the past which we hope to always represent.
Catie Schafer



LOG CABIN COOKOUT

October 25

Watch for details!

