

MUSEUM MUSES

TELLING THE STORY OF THE HIGHLAND COUNTY SHERIFF'S HISTORY

During the month of October, the museum featured The History of the Highland County Sheriff's Office exhibit. The exhibit consisted of photos and memorabilia that I collected over an eight month period, as well as two presentations. Little did I know when I began this project eight months ago, what an exciting journey it would be!

The idea for the project started back in the spring during a conversation with Sheriff Donnie Barrera and his wife, Jacqui. I asked them about the history of the department and how many past sheriffs there had been. They told me that they had just started looking into

this, and that they had hoped to find as many pictures of past sheriffs as they could to hang in the lobby of the Justice Center. I told them that I would use the resources of the historical society and see what we might have in our library.

I began with a list they gave me from the Buckeye Sheriff's Association. I soon realized, however, that their list was incomplete and actually was missing about 91 years of sheriffs. Using various books on local history, I started putting together my list. As I read these interesting books about the early days of Highland County and the stories they told, it quickly became clear to me that this story of our sheriffs needed to be told. This

project wasn't going to be just about pictures, but it was going to tell as many of the sheriffs' stories as I could find.

After coming up with my list of the 48 sheriffs, I looked each one up on Ancestry.com. I found quite a few of them, along with birthdates, etc. The census records told of their occupation, (many of them farmers or postmasters), along with family members in the household. There were some discrepancies on dates in office so I went to the Clerk of Courts Office and ended up in a room that actually still was an old jail cell that held all the old court records. I was able to pull old cases out of boxes, some as old as 1815, to see what sheriff signed the papers. It was

fascinating to read some of the old cases during this search. Maybe that will be my next project!!

Unfortunately, very little information was found on political parties. I called the Board of Election but their information doesn't really go back beyond the 1960's. I also found no information about appointed sheriffs. I don't believe I ever saw where a sheriff left office early and that someone took his place. I found several books that listed election years and who won but not much more information than that. I decided to stick with elected sheriffs only to be as accurate as I could. Rather than possibly leave a group of people out, I decided to stick to what I could prove.

The pictures and the information came slowly. A picture here, a story there. I spent hours and hours in the library at the Highland House going through files. It was a history buffs dream! The old pictures of Highland County were wonderful and I could get lost looking through them all! Each time I found a picture it was very exciting for me. I got one or two from Ancestry.com. I went to the Times Gazette and looked through very old issues as well as the microfilm at the Hillsboro Public Library. I spoke with Jean Wallis numerous times for her wisdom on local history and research. I spent an (continued on page 2)

SHOP MUSEUM SHOP at HIGHLAND HOUSE!



A NICKELL'S WORTH

My tour of duty as a Trustee of the Highland County Historical Society soon will be a mere footnote in history itself. This is my final column, or 'Nickell's Worth' as editor John Glaze dubbed it, to *Museum Muses* from this Chair. No wonder history is so huge, it adds to itself every single second and the seconds fly by so fast that two years have passed with shocking speed. I. WILL. MISS. IT!

I have always been interested in history but never more close up and personal than during these two years involved with HCHS. It seems to me that after 36 years of residence in High-

land County, I finally belong, all due to *discovering* the founders, shakers and movers who created and maintained the culture here—from hacking through the wilderness and platting the towns, to formulating the government and developing businesses, to founding a historical society and preserving the past.

Fortunately Highland County boasts many area conservers of history: Greenfield Historical Society, Lynchburg Historical Society, The Southern Ohio Genealogical Society, and, of course, the Highland County (continued on page 3)

2016 BD of TRUSTEES

Avery Applegate
 Kati Burwinkel
 Justin Harsha
 Carolyn Hastings
 Steve Holland
 Diane Jolitz
 John Kellis
 Denny Kirk
 Tim Koehl
 Jim Rooney
 Rose Ryan
 Jean Wallis

Society Officers

Arlene Huffman- President
 Mary Jo Copeland-V. President
 & 2016 President-Elect
 Nancy Wisecup-V.P. Elect
 Secretary: Paulette Donley

DIRECTOR: VICKI KNAUFF
 Newsletter Editor: John Glaze

*One of a kind
 gifts!
 Shop The
 Museum Shop!*

Sheriff's Office History *(continued from page 1)*

afternoon at the Southern Ohio Genealogical Society's library at Southern State. I even posted my project on Facebook to some of the local history and genealogical groups for help. Maybe some of these sheriffs still have relatives in this area and I could get a picture. Most of my information and stories came from what I call the "bibles" of Highland County history: Daniel Scott's A History of the Early Settlement of Highland County, Ohio, Elsie Ayres' Highland Pioneer Sketches & Family Genealogies, and State Centennial History of Ohio and Highland County, to name a few. Slowly but surely the information came together and eventually I found a picture, a story, or something on nearly every sheriff. I spent lots of time at Walgreen's trying to copy pictures, enlarge them, and make them presentable. I copied every one for the

sheriff's office as well.

The last part of my project was to gather the memorabilia. I found old election ballots from as far back as 1872 at the museum. We had the original commission of Sheriff Pope in 1871 signed by then Governor, Rutherford B. Hays, who became President six years later. I contacted the families of past sheriffs. Sue Boatman gave me pictures and stationery from her grandfather, Cleo Shaffer. I met Patsy Rogers, widow of Sheriff Hugh Rogers. She gave me a whole bag of things, including Hugh's wallet with his badge still attached. She told me stories and we laughed. Perhaps one of the most meaningful moments for me was sitting on the porch with 1984's Sheriff Earl Mahaffey and his lovely wife Mary talking about his time as sheriff. Earl is in declining health and would not be able to come

see the exhibit but it was clear how much his time as sheriff meant to him. He loaned me a shadow box with his badges and patches. These items are so important to these families and I was honored to be trusted with them! This was repeated over and over. Ron Ward gave me lots of memorabilia, including two guns from Quantico, our nation's FBI academy. Tom Horst also gave me lots of items. Donnie Barrera gave me his scrap books and even took pictures off the walls from the Justice Center for me. They all spent time talking to me about their time in office and it was clear that these men loved their jobs and serving the people of Highland County.

On September 30, I did my first presentation on my project. About 60 people attended, including Sheriffs Donnie Barrera, Ron Ward, and Tom Horst. Patsy Rogers was there with lots of family, including Hugh's brother. Walt Reffitt's grandchildren were there. Many of the people there were relatives of sheriffs. Following my presentation, the Sheriffs were asked to tell stories of their time in office. There were lots of laughs. It was a special evening I will never forget. This project has been such a gift. I am so thankful for all the men and women who have served our county as sheriffs and deputies over the past 210 years. It has been an honor to tell the story.

Kati Burwinkel

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



Congratulations to Lana Daniels for being selected as the 2015 Volunteer of the Year. Lana, a former trustee, has volunteered nearly 100 hours the past year. She sets flowers and tend to the flower beds, organizes the St. Patty's Day Brunch and the Log Cabin Cookout, helps decorate the Highland House for Christmas, greets visitors and is available anytime she is asked to help. Her commitment to the Historical Society is truly appreciated. Congratulations to Lana and thank you for all that you do.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATES

We thank the following for their gifts and pledges to the HCHS Capital Campaign:

- 5/3 Bank—Bronze
- Donald and Ann Fender—Silver
- Bob and Dorothy Hodson—move from Silver to Gold

A Big “Thank You”!!!

Historical Society. Newspaper columnists write, 'Ghost Stories', 'Ink in my Veins', 'Mowrystown Recollections', sports history, and Jean Wallis' articles. Two on-line sites are *Highland County Ohio History and Genealogy* and *You Know You Grew Up in Hillsboro Ohio if You Remember.....*

Countless individuals work on his/her own family genealogy and history. And journaling is a popular effort. I just implore each of us to continue on or start somewhere to record and research. Our Director, Vicki Knauff says, “Preserve, Protect, Promote.” And just today, while working



at the Highland House, new trustee Carolyn Hastings, a Lynchburg Historian, shared some advice she has always used with her children, “Write down the good things that happen because otherwise they might be forgotten during bad times.”

I have no family in Highland County but involvement with the HCHS has given me the gift of kinship with all past and present residents far more than merely living and working here has. In my mind and in my heart, I carry that with me.

It is grammatically correct to say I love the Society be-

cause it is not inanimate; rather, it is a living thing. Thank you, Bob Hodson, for regifting it to the County. And thank you to all, ALL, those who have responded to the call to carry it forward.

And, now, on to working with my own family and career history. Fortunately, I did write down a lot of the good stuff about my own out-of-the-area family and wonderful Clark, Lawrence, Mason (KY), Highland County and Wilmington College students but beyond recording and keeping, which I was pretty good at, there is the monumental task of organizing!

Let's keep on.....

Pamela Nickell

PP UPDATE



To update the membership on the progress of the cataloging project, we have cataloged virtually all items in the West Parlor, Dining Room, Foyer and Meeting Room—between 400 and 500 items. The Back Hallway, Rest Room and Pioneer Kitchen remain in order to complete the first floor. We continue to find many items which have never gone through the acquisition process, for example, the Decker Piano!

We know the challenges which await us on the second floor and that we are losing time during the months of November and December. We will be having another Miami University student helping us during part of January. Meredith Keister, a senior at MU and a major in theater, especially in the area of costuming, will be assisting us in working with our clothing collection to date the pieces in the collection and provide background information. We will be combining this with cataloging the pieces at the same time. If you are interested in our clothing collection, perhaps you would enjoy volunteering to help us with this area of cataloging! Call Vicki to get your name on the list!

John Glaze

A WORD FROM ARLENE

It's that time of the year for snow shovels, toboggans, boots, etc, etc.

That also means HCHS' Highland House Museum is open for “Our Golden Christmas”!

Can you believe it? “YES, 50 years!”

Be sure to add to your ‘MUST DO LIST’ a visit to the Highland House this Christmas Season. Enjoy the beautifully decorated rooms and our Gift Shop full of locally handcrafted unusual gifts for you to buy.

Merry Christmas and God Bless You.

Arlene Huffman

HCHS President

QUILT WINNER

Trina Bean was the lucky winner of the beautiful Texas Star quilt made and donated by Jeanette Knauff. More than \$1300 in raffle tickets were sold on the quilt. All proceeds went to the Capital Campaign in Jeanette's name. The ticket was drawn at the Log Cabin Cookout.

(left-right: Jeanette Knauff, Trina Bean, Vicki Knauff)



CAPTIAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

2015 has been a challenge for the Society, but the accomplishments will be visible and present for years to come. Just to briefly list what has been done: back wall of Highland House featuring the beautiful new rear entrance with hand-capped access, new interior basement steps, second floor upgraded three back rooms making two new ones acceptable now for displays and freeing up space in the military room, six replacements for west side windows. The replacement of these windows were made possible before another winter is upon us because of two long-time friends who saw the need and made donations to make it happen now rather than later. We all thank Bob and Dorothy Hodson and Donald and Ann Fender.

The Society will be rolling out its **“Society of Angels”** in the near future, which will be a program that will offer opportunities for people to leave a bequest in their estate for the support of the Historical Society. This program will grow hand-in-hand with our endowment Fund.

As of this mailing, the Capital Campaign has received pledges of just under \$150,000. We are truly thankful for everyone who has donated thus far. A group from our Finance Committee is beginning a process of contacting identified persons and businesses who have not yet been contacted. Anyone interested in helping can call John Kellis at (513) 304-2389, or e-mail him at john.kellis@sbcglobal.net with questions and/or for more information.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Finance Committee has been working to improve the status of the historical society when it comes to the organization’s financial investments. These funds are essential to the society’s day-to-day operations as the interest and dividends or equivalent are utilized in our operational budget. While we are working to get to a place when we can leave all funds in the investment portfolio, but we are not there yet.

After considering proposals from four local financial advisors, we chose to engage Edward Jones’ rep., John Knechtly. Since that time, we have been working with that office to transfer funds and set up a working relationship.

One of the essential needs facing the Society is to develop and adopt an investment policy which sets forth the baseline that will be used to manage and invest the funds held by the society. Should you be interested in learning about our investment policy and the parameters we have set forth, please contact John Kellis.

The Finance Committee is charged with presenting an annual operational budget to the Trustees, and advising the Trustees on financial matters. Members of the Committee include John Kellis (Trustee and Committee Chair), Rosemary Ryan (Trustee and Treasurer), Larry Dukes, John Levo, Tim Koehl (Trustee), and Roger Huffman. The society would like to thank members for their service and encourage other HCHS members to consider serving on a committee and/or volunteering to help where you can. Contact Director Vicki Knauff with questions on how you might help.



Help HCHS just by shopping?
Join the Amazon Smile and Kroger Community Rewards



THE WALL

“Life is what happens when you are planning something else,” turned into “The wall happened when we were planning on windows!”

When the new Board took office in November 2013, lists of needs were being considered and at the top of the list was window replacement. Some windows had been replaced several years ago, followed by continued deterioration of the rest, particularly on the west side of Highland House. The need was immediate but there was no budget for the task. Well, then, along about the 2nd meeting, it was brought up that there was a gap along the floor and wall at the back of the meeting room. Gritting our teeth, we knew the floor board had to be replaced. Well, we really didn't know what gritting our teeth was yet!



Building and Grounds committee member, Avery Applegate obtained Kevin Stevens to replace the board. Cutting a new one to fit, he made it look much better. However, he told us we had a much bigger problem than one board. Society President Mike McCarty investigated and confirmed there existed a serious foundation problem in the area where the previous porches had been enclosed for rooms in the early 1900's. Bids were solicited and contractors Brad Tira and Wayne Dance were hired. Wayne Donie did some preliminary engineering. Inspector Tim Hobgood was called in and the Architectural Firm DS2 was hired.

The needs had expanded much greater than the money available, so Finance Chair, John Kellis established a committee of Board and community members and established a Capital Campaign. Several donors and a reasonable line of credit from Merchants National Bank has enabled us to meet expenses without going into limited existing funds. AND, an extra donation took care of the replacement of the 6 west windows and 1 attic window. Our anxiety now lessened a bit, our teeth are saved.

The donors, contractors and crews made it seem really quite easy. Once begun, each day brought major progress. Temporary inner walls were constructed before 2/3 of the back wall was taken down brick by brick. The bricks were cleaned and reused to keep the appearance the same. All

work was done meticulously and historically accurate. Necessary additional work included the handicap ramp, rebuilt basement stairs (after they fell down while someone was descending them), finished (drywall, electric, paint) 3 rooms on 2nd floor adjacent to back wall, replaced rear door, replaced missing roof shingles, added portico over back door, poured sidewalk, faced ramp with stone to match foundation, landscaped, filled and graded back yard.

My bet is that the hardest part of the job for the contractors was beaucoup board members showing up randomly suggesting this or that change and additional ideas. Based on one of those ideas (Board member Tim Koehl's), Brad extended the sidewalk to the Log Cabin as a gift!

We cannot be more thankful that we were able to have project contractor Brad Tira and his crew: Kenny Parsons, Randy Parsons and Mike Hasman and masonry contractor Wayne Dance and his crew: Dustin Dance, Bob Enfield, Danny Wagner, and Todd Brinley do this work.

Just before this major project was begun, Tim Boler repaired a floor sag in the kitchen. And during the project, Dorothy Hodson had the posts by the AC unit straightened and then painted them.

All the many, many people who made this emergency repair possible indicate their pleasure and pride at being a part of it. We are blessed, we know it, and are grateful.

BUT we must keep on.....



Tim Koehl presents Wayne Dance and Brad Tira with a special gag token of our appreciation during our Annual Meeting!

Leland Pennington reads the inductees into the 2015 Class of the Highland County Hall of Fame:

Caspar Collins
Sandy Harsha
Eliza Jane Thompson



DISCOVERY - Lizzie Beavers Freshwater

One of the values of cataloging the complete collection of Highland House is **DISCOVERY**. Discovery of pieces that go together; discovery of talent you've never heard of before. One of those discoveries for me was that of a talented artist, Elizabeth Beavers Freshwater. As I began photographing pieces which were signed by "Lizzie", I was amazed at the talent displayed by this lady.



Highland area. She married Walter S Freshwater (1861-1939).



played in a "mini-exhibition" in the West Parlor. Please stop by to view them. We have no canvases painted by Lizzie and don't know if she ever painted on anything other than china.

Elizabeth Beavers was born in 1862 to Elisha Beavers and Mary Anne Spargur Beavers of the



of the

We know little about Elizabeth, or Lizzie, as she was usually called. We don't know if she studied art formally near or far away, or if she was self-taught, or taught by a friend or relative.

What is known is that she was extremely talented in painting china, as evidenced by the photos presented with this article. We have many of her pieces dis-



Lizzie lived until 1952 and is buried in the Beavers Cemetery in Highland County.

This is just one example of discoveries made during many of our cataloging sessions. Perhaps you would enjoy experiencing these discoveries. Contact Vicki if you would like to volunteer to assist in the cataloging project.



KIDS at HCCS!

"KIDS! I don't know what's wrong with these kids today!"

So began the song sung by Paul Lynde. Frankly, we haven't found anything wrong with the kids who hang out at Highland House and HCHS. We had several kids at the Log Cabin Cookout. Some of the boys helped in holding up the items being auctioned. Those were Ethan and Aiden Kirk, (sons of Board Member, Denny) in addition to Noah Moore, Pamela Nickell's grandson. (see photo) Then



Jo Copeland's granddaughter, Ann (at right with glasses).

we had three ladies (see below). Ally Kirk, Willow Hastings (Drew & Taryn's daughter) and Mary



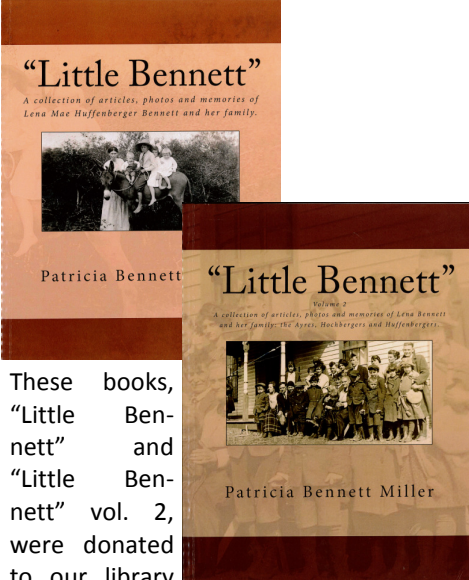
Then, on our wonderful one day tour of Ross County, we had two find young men, Parker Hastings of Richmond, KY (grandson of Carolyn Hastings), and Cody Stratton (pictured below). Both of these young men were wonderful additions to the tour! We have previously reported on William Albert, but now he will be working with HCHS on requirements for his ranking as Eagle Scout!



Kati Burwinkel was honored by Highland County Sheriff, Donnie Barrera, for her work in researching the Highland County Sheriff's Department's History.



NEW BOOKS IN LIBRARY



These books, "Little Bennett" and "Little Bennett" vol. 2, were donated to our library

by Patricia Bennett Miller of Corpus Christi, Texas, the author. The books are a collection of articles, photos and memories of Lena Mae Huffenberger Bennett and her family. Lena Mae was born and raised in Hillsboro. Patsy is the great granddaughter of Lena Mae Bennett.

These books are available for research in our museum library and cannot be checked out.

THANKS



To Lowell Chaney for providing auction services for our Log Cabin Cook-out.

To Arlene Huffman for serving as president of HCHS this past year and for her tireless efforts in decorating Highland House for Christmas.

Thank-you to Mike Shanahan and Pamela Nickell, who are going off the board.

(below) Highland County Sheriff, Donnie Barrera, presents a certificate of appreciation to Vicki Knauff, Director of Highland House, as representative of HCHS, "Given in Appreciation for Community Service in Research, Support and Presentation of the Exhibits of Elected Highland County Sheriffs. It is signed by all living sheriffs of Highland County. Kati Burwinkel looks on.

FROM VICKI

What a year this has been! I am sure the founders of the historical society felt the same way in 1965 when a group of Highland County citizens met on May 20 of that year to lay the foundation of an organization that would preserve the rich history of our beautiful county. I am so thankful that Bob and Dorothy Hodson, founding members, could join in the celebration of our 50th anniversary.

The celebration was a county-wide effort. We extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to those who attended any of our events, joined or renewed your membership, visited the Highland House, volunteered in many different ways, contributed to the Capital Campaign or shared us on Facebook. The most important project we undertook this past year was the repair of the back wall. I feel a special connection to the project because I was here almost every day and witnessed the progress made from one day to the next. I dreaded the day the project was to begin because I was expecting one "surprise" after another. After all, the building was erected in 1844 and there had been many changes made over the years. It looked like an invasion the day Brad Tira and Wayne Dance pulled in with their heavy equipment, pick-ups and work crews. The entire work crew were total professionals throughout the project and the result is a beautiful wall and landscape that is truly breathtaking. Next year, 2016, marks the 50th anniversary of the Highland House being owned by the historical society. While we celebrate another momentous year, we will continue to preserve, protect and promote the history of Highland County.

I hope each of you have joyous holiday celebrations with your family and friends and I wish each of you a healthy and happy 2016.

Vicki Knauff



HIGHLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

*U.S. Postage
PAID
Hillsboro, OH
45133
Permit No. 11*



Watch for our **SPRING
OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT**
as well as other special events,
such as **THE ST. PATTY'S
DAY** celebration!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME?

Are you dues coming due? Remember, we have changed our dues structure so that you have an entire year from the date you join HCHS. That being said, it only affects new memberships. The vast majority will continue to have dues coming due on 31 December.

We are still learning Past Perfect, so, with any luck.....well, with LOTS of luck, your membership expiration date will print on your address label.

Enclosed in this newsletter is a membership renewal form. Note that you can charge your membership dues to a credit card. Many of you are LIFE members and we appreciate that. Many of those lifetime members choose to send in a donation at dues time, and we REALLY appreciate that. Those of you who are able, please consider increasing your dues to a higher level.

Please consider purchasing GIFT MEMBERSHIPS in HCHS for friends or relatives. It's a whole year of not only support for your historical society, but also a year of discounts in **THE MUSEUM SHOP**, discounts on most charged events as well as interesting reading in our newsletter.

We would appreciate your immediate attention to renewing your membership. Too often this is put off and then HCHS must spend additional postage sending out reminder notices., which, of course, just takes that much money which could be used for other projects, or even for paying the electric bill! RENEW EARLY!

MUSEUM SHOP CHRISTMAS

If you missed the Christmas "SPIRITS" event, you missed a great time! We judged about 125 folks came through Highland House that evening, enjoyed wine and hors d'oeuvres as well as got the jump of Christmas shopping from our special Christmas Craft Show & Sale. Sales continued to be brisk on Saturday, Nov 7, our first "official" day open to the public.

In addition to Saturday and Sunday hours, we will be open Fridays from 11am until 6pm from now until 20 Dec when we close for the winter season.

