

# MUSEUM MUSES

## CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

John Glaze

Memories are powerful things. They can take us back 60 years in the blink of an eye. Those associated with holidays are often some of the most vivid and powerful.

Simply putting up a Christmas tree is one chore which brings on memories for me. I've never understood folks who find joy in having a blue Christmas tree covered in brand new monochromatic ornaments. Where is the joy of reliving Christmases past? To my thinking, even memories of less than spectacular Christmases past are better than the aforementioned tree! Where are those family memories wrapped up in decora-

tions handed down through generations?

For me, memories start with a paper star, handmade by my mother and my great aunt, Ethel Williamson. There is only one of them left—it was dipped in paraffin and decorated with something resembling mica chips. Of course, directions for making such stars is found on the internet, sans the bit about dipping in paraffin and the mica chips.

Then, there's the plastic replica of Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer. It was made in Japan, probably in the late 1940s or early 1950s and has hung on the tree every year since then. Undoubtedly, it came from the dime store and probably cost 10 or 15

cents, but it's very dear and is traditionally the last ornament I remove from my tree.

As the years have gone by and I was fortunate to have been able to travel a good bit for my job, I added ornaments which I'd purchased on my travels. There's the three-masted sailing ship from Key West, the Native American mother and child from Arizona, the bunch of grapes glass ornament from the Sonoma Valley, the cable car from San Francisco, the little wooden Santa Claus who wears a lei and has a sign reading, "Mele Kalikimaka" from Hawaii, as well as a little hula dancer. There are the very small straw hat from Guadeloupe, the little Dutch ceramic shoes from St.

Maarten, the silk oriental shoes from Seoul, Korea, the small wooden reindeer and elf from Finland, the little pottery ornament from the Hallelujah Pottery just outside Sewanee, Tennessee as well as another pottery ornament from Beer-sheba, Tennessee. The list goes on and on. Those are my memories, my history and I preserve and treasure them.

During my childhood, Christmas was always very special, as I am sure it was for most of you. My grandparents were farm people and seemed very old to me when I was a child. I so well remember their Christmas tree. It was a small cedar tree cut on their farm, with a simple wooden holder made by my grandfather. They had the old series lights which were the type where if one burns out, the string doesn't light. Their ornaments, I am afraid I don't remember. Quite possibly, some of those I put on my tree now came from them.

Christmas traditions create memories. Such as an annual visit to Krohn Conservatory in Cincinnati to see the nativity with live animals. Knowing that it was put up and taken down each year impressed me as a child. To see the attention to detail to make it seem that the barn had been standing in that place for centuries, to see a tree (continued on page 5)

## ROONEY TUNES

The Society's annual meeting was a classic case of good news/bad news. The good news was the election of a slate of great board members and officers. Elected to the board were Bob Brown, John Levo and Nancy Wisecup. Reelected was Denny Kirk. Mary Jo Copeland was reelected President and Sue Boatman was elected Vice President. We are so lucky because I know these folks will continue the tradition of interested, active and involved Trustees and Officers.

On the bad news side, the Board of Trustees is losing Jean Wallis, Rosemary Ryan and Avery Applegate. This would be a terrible happening if these

talented and energetic individuals had not stated (in front of a lot of folks) that they will continue to be actively involved with Society.

Also on the bad news side is the relatively low participation at the annual meeting. Part of the cause may have been the weather and the fact that the front of the county building was totally barricaded off and the only access was the rear door off the alley.

During the meeting, I tried to bring up the issue of the Society of the future. What are we going to look like five, ten or twenty years from now? How we going to appeal to the Millen- (continued on page 3)

2017 TRUSTEES

Bob Brown  
 Kati Burwinkel  
 Justin Harsha  
 Carolyn Hastings  
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 Diane Jolitz  
 John Kellis  
 Denny Kirk  
 Tim Koehl  
 John Levo  
 Jim Rooney  
 Nancy Wisecup

Society Officers

Mary Jo Copeland-President  
 Sue Boatman-Vice President  
 Arlene Huffman-Past President  
 Acting Secretary: Carol Rooney

DIRECTOR: VICKI KNAUFF  
 Newsletter Editor: John Glaze

HOLIDAY TEA PARTY IS BACK!

This year's Children's Holiday Tea Party will be held at Highland House Museum on Sunday, November 20, 2016 at 2:00pm. The tea party will include favors, crafts and entertainment. Space is limited, so advance reservations are required. Cost will be \$7.50 per person. Reservations can be made by calling Highland House Museum at 393-3392.



MEMBERSHIP

It's that time of year!!! Gift sharing is upon us. Do you have your list complete? If your children or other family members have taken positions out of state, we would like to suggest a membership to Highland County Historical Society.



Ohio—Highland County specifically, has played such an important role in the forming of our nation. Our children, family and friends should know and be proud of their heritage.

For \$15, your children can learn the history of home, and the website or Facebook page giving them reason to be proud of the work going on right here. Four times a year, there is a reminder in the form of our newsletter that their roots are important and you are thinking about them.

Our memberships are essential to the continuation of the work taking place here. Please consider helping us grow by gifting memberships.

*Carolyn Hastings*  
 Membership Chair

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Does your membership come due this quarter? We are saving your membership dollars by enclosing your renewal statement with this newsletter if your "Paid through" date falls during the period of this newsletter. If there is no form enclosed, your membership is not yet due. Check your mailing label. Your membership is paid until the date shown above your name.

Of course, we invite and encourage you to **increase** your membership level. Check the form to see what level might fit into your budget. Costs of energy continue to rise,

along with those items which we need to operate from day to day—postage, paper, etc. We are often disappointed when we check our donation jar at the end of the weekend. We might have had 40 visitors during the weekend, and find \$18 in our jar. Sad, but true that we seldom average even \$1.00 per person. We try to come up with interesting and creative ideas to bring folks into our museum by having dinners, special exhibits. Our Museum Shop is a profit center for our museum also. You can help by visiting and shopping there, especially the Christmas Craft Show!



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HELP WANTED

With the closing of Highland House for the winter, we plan to get lots of work done. If you have volunteered already, expect a call! If you haven't volunteered, give us a call. Reframing, cataloging, marking ID numbers on items, and more! WE NEED YOU!

## ROONEY TUNES

(continued from page 1)

nium generation? Meeting the preservation goals we are moving forward with Past Perfect documentation of our historic assets and with the planned digitization of our photos and documents. In our mission of education, we continue to bring interesting topics to the membership and the public. Will our exhibits and displays continue to appeal to a generation raised on electronics? Our plans for future exhibits include the element of telling the story of the people and events of interest. Will the Society remain relevant? I don't have any doubt. Every week, we run into folks of all ages who have questions. Who do I come from, where did I come from, how did I get here? We can't always answer all their questions, but we will remain a critical stop on the quest. We will always need your thoughts and ideas.

*Jim Rooney*

## A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

Many thanks to those who supported the Historical Society's fundraiser at Bob Evans this past year. We collected nearly \$400.00 from your receipts. The last fundraiser for this year is December 7, 2016. The December flyer was included in the previous newsletter and is available on our website.



Arlene Huffman, (aka, Mrs. Christmas) our most recent Volunteer of the Year, is retiring from her decorating duties after more than 20 years. She, along with dedicated volunteers, has made the Highland House sparkle with tinsel, lights and beautiful decorations. A stairway entwined with greenery and lights spirals to the third floor and a beautifully decorated nine foot tree greets visitors as they step into the Museum.

Arlene works with organizations from all over the county

to see that every room has a decorated tree. Each year she chooses a theme for the decorators to work around. You may remember past themes such as stars, angels, mittens, and Santa Clauses. Last year was nativity scenes and this year snowmen adorn trees, mantles, and furniture.

Thank you Arlene for your creativity, your boundless energy and your passion for turning the Highland House into a winter wonderland. A job well done, Mrs. Christmas!

*Vicki Knauff*

## EXPANDED HOURS

From now until our closing for the winter season, our hours will be:

FRIDAYS  
1pm-5pm

SATURDAYS  
1pm-4pm

SUNDAYS  
1pm-4pm

Thursday, NOV 25: 9am-5pm  
Sunday, DEC 18 is our last open day until Spring

### Kirk Law Office, LLC Denny Kirk, Attorney at Law



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[kirklawoffice@att.net](mailto:kirklawoffice@att.net)

Visit us on the web: [www.kirklawoffice.net](http://www.kirklawoffice.net)

## WANTED

WANTED! Volunteers to establish a Junior Highland County Historical Society. If you like history and working with young people, please call Mary Jo Copeland at 937-581-4619.



THE MUSEUM SHOP  
AT HIGHLAND HOUSE  
151 E. MAIN ST.  
HILLSBORO, OH 45133

## THANK-YOU!

Our heartfelt thanks to these people who made generous donations to the Historical Society in the past few months.

Dr. Phil and Kati Burwinkel—laptop  
Bob and Dorothy Hodson—garden bench  
Bill and Carlene Alexander—area Persian rug  
Jean Wallis (in memory of her husband, Lester) -  
floor covering for schoolroom  
Jean Fawley—party perk



## MOTHER THOMPSON ROOM

It is hard to believe that the Highland House Museum will close its doors for the winter in about 2 months! Although we appear closed, winter is a busy time for us! The Society uses this time to develop the programs for the following year, perform maintenance on the building, and work on updating our exhibits. One of the projects scheduled for this winter is to update the "Mother Thompson Room" on the second floor of the museum. The Historical Society has received funds from a grant to paint this room, add new lighting, and install UV protective blinds.

Most of the historical items in the Mother Thompson Room are on loan from the Presbyterian Church. The Historical Society is looking to form a committee to reorganize this room following the renovation and create an exhibit that would tell the story of this important crusader. This committee would work with Historical Society Board members and be a great opportunity for persons with a love of the history and/or a creative flair! If you are interested or would like more information, contact Vicki Knauff at 393-3392!

*Kati Burwinkel*

## FROM ONE OF OUR YOUTH

I am a young writer and I am very interested in my family and the history of our town. I have strong leadership skills and I believe that I can help the Society get younger members involved.

I have been in The Highland County Genealogical Society for over three years. I am in First Families and plan to go in the Second families next year.

I have been a member of the Highland County Historical Society for a year and a part of a family membership for several years. This year I have an individual membership.

I have been in 4-H for two years. I am a

member of the Hillsboro Bible Baptist Church and I am very active in our youth group.

I attend Hillsboro Middle School, where I run track and play tennis. I play in the band and am a member of the National Jr. Honor Society.

I plan to further the Historical Society and get my generation involved. To start a Jr. Historical Society, I would need the help of the Historical Society and its amazing members. I plan on having

activities for Jr. Society members and I need help with planning. Thank you for reading this and have a great day!

*Anne Throckmorton*



Photo provided by Jim Rooney: "Frank Rooney, Hillsboro O"



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## Christmas Memories (continued from

made of poinsettias and the natural decorations covering a huge Christmas tree! To visit downtown Cincinnati and see Fountain Square decorated (the old Fountain Square that sat in the middle of Fifth), the fantasy world of Shillito's windows, the special hubbub of shopping downtown, followed by a meal at Frisch's Mainliner on the way home.

Am I living in the past? I think not....I'm just finding comfort and joy in the way things used to be, my personal history which I choose to preserve.

What is your personal history? Do your children know it, as well as those personal Christmas memories of their own? Take some time this busy season and put down on paper those things that you remember of your childhood Christmas. If you know your parents' Christmas story, preserve it for your progeny by writing it down. Collect photographs of Christmases past and include them with your story. You may want to put all of this in some format to present to each of your children, nieces or nephews. If you think that your Christmas memories are nothing special or memories which are painful, remember that, good or bad, it is your history and preserving and telling it often helps to put them all into perspective.

Perhaps this is all something which you've been thinking about and considering, but just keep putting off. It's time to stop thinking and begin doing. **PRESERVE YOUR HISTORY NOW!**

## FROM MY CORNER OF THE COUNTY

Have you given thought to your road name? We know that folks today name streets in new housing additions after family or friends, but our roads were named long ago. My husband and I lived on Wise Road until we downsized. We travel Anderson Road each time we go into Hillsboro. We lived one mile from the Brown County line. Wise Road became Anderson State Road In Brown County. Hmm. Anderson on both ends? Wise in the middle? Recently Alice Wise Travis of Reynoldsburg dropped into the Lynchburg Historical Society. She told us her grandfather had Anderson State Road

changed to Wise where his farm was located. Now we know! Hurrah!!!

Just outside of Lynchburg in Clinton County lies Canada Road. Why Canada in Ohio? Some believe, as I now do, the road was used as part of the Underground Railroad to get folks from Highland County to Westboro or Martinsville among the Quakers where they were shuttled on toward Canada.

Interesting how history has formed the world we live in today.

*Carolyn Hastings*

Hours By Appointment

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for unique gift for everyone  
on your Christmas list!*



## FROM THE DIRECTOR

It's been another amazing year at the Historical Society. Membership continues to climb and the number of visitors to the Highland House exceeds our expectations. People came from all over Ohio and across the United States to visit the Highland House for various reasons.

Several projects were completed. Through the generosity of two board members, the meeting and music rooms were repaired and painted and cabinets were installed in the kitchen for much needed storage space. The military room was completely renovated through donations from families and businesses. The Underground Railroad in Highland County Committee presented their research at three locations and the Agriculture Committee focused on the importance of agriculture in Highland County through sev-

eral news articles and two presentations. The reorganization of the library is an ongoing project with an end goal of making it a user-friendly resource for those searching for Highland County history. The Lincoln School Project Committee was formed and considerable research has been done along with receiving a significant grant to expand the story of de-segregating Hillsboro City Schools. The Colony Theatre project has been one that created great interest in people wanting to preserve a piece of the past.

The three standard events of the Historical Society - St. Patrick's Day Brunch, the Ghost Walk, and Log Cabin Cook-out - are timeless activities that people enjoy year after year. The Barns of Highland County Art Exhibit highlighted rural life and the Toy

Farm Exhibit reminded us of the intensive amount of labor of farming in the past. The Century Farms presentation resulted in several families applying for the unusual status of owning a farm that has been in the family for 100 years and the memories were recalled during the presentation on the World Plowing Contest. Parker Hastings, an amazing young talent, presented two concerts and June Doorley was recognized as an important contributor to the history of the Highland House by hosting the Doorley Dinner. The standing room only crowd was amazed with the tricks performed at the Magic Show. The Christmas Open House is proving to be another over-the-top popular event where visitors can find unique gifts and enjoy the gorgeous holiday decorations.

More than 1600 items in the Museum have been entered in Past Perfect and the work has only begun. About 2400 artifacts remain along with photographs, documents and books. This project will continue for several years.

We will be setting ambitious goals for 2017 that will stretch our imaginations and challenge our energy. We depend on our members and volunteers to accomplish these goals and I invite you to become a part of an active organization that is preserving and promoting the history of Highland County.

I wish you a wonderful holiday season with family and friends and a healthy and prosperous new year.

*Vicki Knauff*

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Photos from the Annual Log Cabin Cookout



## MEMBERSHIP DUES

Just to keep all informed about our new procedures concerning membership dues. until last year's Annual Membership Meeting, all membership renewals fell on 31 December. So, if you joined in July, you only received 1/2 year on your dues and had to pay again at the end of the year. Hardly fair to the member! There were some years in which we gave the rest of the year, plus an additional year if a person joined after the first of July-

hardly fair to the society with printing and mailing costs of the newsletter!

As of the 2015 Annual Meeting, memberships come due at the end of the month in which they joined. For example, if you joined in May of 2016, your next renewal payment is due by May 31, 2017.

In order to save on postage costs, we are currently including a dues statement with each newsletter. In this issue, if your membership renewal date is at the end of

December, January or February, you will find your renewal statement. We would appreciate it if you would respond promptly! Paying early does not change your renewal date. The Past Perfect system advances your renewal date one year, regardless of when the payment is made. Before the next newsletter issue is mailed, we have begun mailing reminders of those dues which were not renewed, so that delinquent members will be able to send in their dues

and not miss an issue of the newsletter.

By the way, while on the Past Perfect subject, if you spend part of the year in warmer climates, if you have set dates for your move, we can put that into the system along with the winter address and then when we run mailing labels, the system looks at that date to determine what address should be put on the label!

Wonder when your expiration date is? Check your label.

## CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

If you haven't visited Highland House this season, be sure to come soon! We have MANY new items in our Museum Shop as well as many crafters with hand-crafted items and artworks for sale. This is undoubtedly our best year so far for beautifully crafted items.

We have items for children also. The YOU CAN LEARN craft kits are designed just for kids and include all items needed for the craft. There are clear instructions included, as well as videos on YouTube to help with each project. In addition, there are many "kid friendly" small, inexpensive items perfect for stocking stuffers.

Just in are necklaces, earrings and nite lites *MADE IN THE U.S.A.* using small leaves preserved in gold, silver or copper. They are beautiful, very reasonably priced, but going fast!

We are waiting for Madeleine Crouse's book of po-

etry to arrive from the printer. I just received a message from her and the publisher that they are running about 6 weeks behind on shipping. This "should" still promise delivery to us before Christmas. If you would like to be notified when the books arrive, please call Highland House and provide your email address. When we receive the books, we will be sending out notification. It will then be first come/first served. Of course, we will order more when our initial supply is sold out.

We still have a few of the Colony Theater Marquee letters. They are going fast though! Don't wait!

Remember that we take VISA, MasterCard, Discover, and American Express. As a member of HCHS, you receive 10% discount on all purchases in the Museum Shop!

While you are at Highland House, be sure to take a stroll through to see the beautifully decorated rooms.





## HIGHLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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### COMING EVENTS

Christmas Craft Show—Now until Dec 18  
Children's Holiday Tea Party - 20 Nov - 3pm

### CHRISTMAS IN 1807

We often have a dreamy-eyed view of early Christmases in pioneer Ohio. What was it really like? It is very safe to say there was no flocked tree lit by electric lights. More than likely, there was no tree. Television specials, obviously did not exist. If gifts were given, they certainly did not come from a big box store, and in 1807 Hillsborough, most likely not from a store at all.

Church was the center of the celebration of Christmas which did exist. Church at that point was not a building in the center of town with a steeple, stained glass windows and cushioned pews. Church was the body of people who worshipped together, celebrating the birth of the baby whose coming had been foretold. Any services would have been held in one of the cabin homes.

Perhaps we should talk about these things with our youth and discuss the differences from 1807 to 2016.

### SAVE THESE DATES!

Wow! Christmas has yet to come and we are planning for next year's activities! We want to give you plenty of time to plan. Please put these dates on your calendar to enjoy time together as members of the historical society. Start thinking about friends you could bring with you to introduce them to HCHS and encourage them to become members also!

19 March—St Patrick's Brunch  
24 August—Ghost Walk  
16 September—Log Cabin Cookout

### BOB EVANS EVENT

#### **Save the Dates!**

The Historical Society is sponsoring a Bob Evans Community Fundraiser on December 7 at 609 Harry Sauner Road in Hillsboro. Bob Evans will donate 15% of sales to the Historical Society when the Historical Society flier is presented. The restaurant is open from 7:00 A.M. – 9:30 P.M. Carry-out orders also apply.

Take your family and enjoy a fun evening of great food and fellowship while helping the Historical Society. The flyer can be downloaded from our website at

[www.hchistoricalociety.weebly.com](http://www.hchistoricalociety.weebly.com).

Proceeds will be used for programs and events at the Historical Society.

**Thank you for your support!**

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