

MUSEUM MUSES

Telling Highland County's story for over 50 years!

Our Trustees Write! Series

The MERRY MERCANTILE opens November 3rd! See page 6!



Dr. Elizabeth Edmonston

Elizabeth Edmonston was born Newburgh, New York in 1856, the daughter of Dr. Dewitt and Elizabeth Edmonston. She followed in her father's footsteps and became a doctor.

Grace Gardner of Hillsboro, Ohio, was a noted music teacher and was also a boarder in the Edmonston home. When Grace decided to return to Ohio when her father became ill, she invited Elizabeth to accompany her to help tend to her father. Doctor Edd, as she soon became known, liked the town of Hillsboro so much that she moved to Ohio permanently in 1911, taking up residence in the Gardner home on South High Street.

At first, she was unlicensed in Ohio, but with the help of Ed B Ayres Jr, a local pharmacist, she soon learned the metric system of weights and measures, and was able to pass the Ohio State medical examination.

For many years, Doctor Edd's office was located in a building that stood on the northeast corner of the first alley on the north side of East Main Street. The structure was torn down in 1928. That is the present location of a Marathon Gas Station.

Elizabeth was a large plain looking woman. She wore long black skirts and white blouses with stiff cuffs which were held together with gold cuff links. Her outfits were topped off with a black, long man's coat.

Doctor Edd smoked long black cigars and claimed that in her New York laboratory, she had discovered a method of extracting nicotine from tobacco. If she did make such a discovery, she took the secret to the grave with her. Many people believed her statement to
(continued on page 7)

HARSHA MONUMENT COMPANY

This is the history of the "The Harsha Monument Company." It was founded in April, 1854 by Paul Harsha, son of Thomas Harsha, and born in Harshville, PA in the early 1850s. He migrated to Adamsville, OH where he married Duanna Shrigley. In 1854, he removed his family to Highland County and started in the monument business. Three younger brothers were also trained in the business: James in 1855, John in 1869 and Albert in 1871. All eventually left to start their own firms: James in Circleville, John in Washington Court House and Albert in Wilmington, which they operated until their deaths.

The second generation, Charles Harsha (born 1855) entered into partnership with his father, Paul, in 1876 under the name of "Harsha and Son." He married Elizabeth Holmes, graduate of the Hillsborough Female College and active in the Women's Christian Temperance Union, in 1878. After the death of Paul, the business name was changed to "Charles M. Harsha." In 1893, the shop was moved to its present location of 127 W. Walnut Street, Hillsboro, and renamed "The Harsha Monument Company."

The third generation, Paul Harsha II (born in 1882) assumed ownership upon the death of his father, Charles, in 1913. He was married to Anita Horst, a descendant of one of Highland County's early pioneer, James and Mary Ann (Legg) Williams, and also of George Gall, Jr. and his wife Susannah Nicholas.

(continued on page 2)





2022-23 TRUSTEES

- Tara Beery
- Sue Boatman
- Sue Honeycutt
- John Levo
- Jean McKenzie
- Leslie Ramsey
- Steve Roush
- Earl Smith
- Brenda Thompson
- Debbie Williams
- John Willis
- Dale Zornes

Society Officers

- President: Steve Faris
- Vice President: Alice Teeters

DIRECTOR: VICKI KNAUFF

- Historian: Jean Wallis
- Newsletter Editor: John Glaze

Mission

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.

WHO AM I?



If you guessed **MYRA PHILLIPS** for last issue's mystery child, you were correct!

Who is this little man?
(Answer next issue)

ITEMS OF INTEREST

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Marilyn Wharton

OUR RENEWING MEMBERS!

- Brian & Kimberly Allen
- Becky Basford
- Carol & Jon Brennfleck
- Nancy Bushelman
- Kelli Cole

Tom & Carol Eichinger – Heritage

Judy Falk
Steve Faris

Bill & Dianne Fawley

Bob & Vicky George

Tom & Margaret Horst - Heritage

John & Shirley King

Anita Pope Lunn – Heritage

Rosalind Newman

Jim Olderman

Beverly Rhoads – Pioneer

Lynda Roades & Stanley Houle – Heritage

Marilynn Rosselott

Rory & Pam Ryan

Jackie Wilkin

DONATIONS RECEIVED

Marilynn Rosselot

Kelli Cole

Jackie Wilkin

ROBERT HODSON MEMORIALS

American Legion -Roy Wilson Post

Sue Boatman

Bryan & Sandy Clyburn

Governor Mike & Fran DeWine

Pat DeWine

Charles Emery

John Dixon Fleming, Jr.

Freda Harewood

Don & Carolyn Hastings

Sue Honeycutt

John & Carolyn Kellis

Vicki Knauff

John & Kathy Levo

Russell & Elizabeth Newman

Ronald & Nancy Pitzer

Beverly Rhoads

Earl & Vicky Smith

David & Charlene Shoemaker

Marshall & Brenda Thompson

Weastec, Inc.

MANY THANKS TO OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS:

Drs. Jeffrey & Tara Beery

Gibbs Insurance Associates

Greystone Systems Inc.

Frank & Becky Hedges

Highland Auto Service

Edward Jones

Kirk Law Office, LLC

John & Kathy Levo

Merchants National Bank

Tissot's Home Center

Turner Funeral Home

Paul & Randalynn Worley

CONDOLENCES TO:

Dorothy, Jeff and David Hodson on the passing of Bob Hodson

Jennifer Jenkins on the passing of her brother

Harsha (continued)

The fourth generation, Charles M. Harsha II, born in 1913, joined the firm in 1947. Charles was a 1931 graduate of Hillsboro High School and a 1935 graduate of Ohio State University with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration. During World War II, he served in the U.S. Army in the Medical Corps and Finance Department. He was stationed in the Aleutian Islands for 2 1/2 years and the Pentagon in Washington for 10 months. After his discharge in 1945, he worked with Travelers Insurance Company in Columbus and the Retail Credit Company, which sent him to their West Virginia offices. Here he met and married Inez Walker and in 1947, returned to Hillsboro to operate the monument company. Charles was very active in the community; a member of the Masonic Lodge where he became a Master Mason in 1940, a member of the Lions Club since 1948, serving as secretary four years, president in 1960, zone chairman for two years and the first District Governor of District 13-G from Hillsboro and awarded the Hugh O'Brien Fellowship Award. He was a Member of the First United Methodist Church from 1948 until his death and served on many committees as Lay Leader and as Choir Director for 10 years. Charles assisted in the formation of the Highland County Historical Society in 1965, and served as treasurer for many years and as president for six years. He served on the Hillsboro Board of Education from 1957 to 1961 and on the Board of Directors of Highland District Hospital. He was elected as a member of the Board of Directors of the (continued on page 6)

Tribute to Bob Hodson


 MUSEUM MUSE

Bob's funeral was today and I was there to say my goodbyes, at least for now. As you should know, the last living founder of Highland County Historical Society, Bob Hodson, passed 29 July. He had been failing for a few weeks and those of the world who regularly received one of Bob's inimitable "ATTABOY" notes knew something must be wrong, as weeks went by with no envelope with that familiar handwriting appearing in our post. Soon, we began hearing "Bob's not been doing well," and, as much as it saddened us, we knew he was making his last circle around the race track.

Let's back up for a moment though... What was your first encounter with Bob Hodson? Perhaps in a class at Fairfield High School during his teaching years? Maybe, while he served as Extension Agent for Clinton County, your paths crossed? At one of the banks where Bob worked? At a function of the Walk to Emmaus....or maybe he sponsored you. In his every organized life, he and Dorothy kept great records and knew exactly how many folks they had sponsored on the walk....well north of 100! Perhaps it was at a service at the Methodist Church in Hillsboro? Well, the list goes on....and on. Bob was one of those people who stayed active...VERY active; and when he supported something, he didn't go halfway and then let someone else take over when things got boring. Rather, his encouragement and enthusiasm came to the fore and he was the catalyst needed to get the train back on the tracks, chugging forward.

My own first encounter came when I was a kid—not sure at what age, but I was in the basement of Hillsboro Bank & Savings in order to be interviewed about some event in which I was involved. I was not in my comfort zone, but Bob's easy style as though he was sitting in a chair at home talking to folks in his living room took over and put me at ease (at ease for a kid, that is) and I

actually survived the experience! Many folks felt Bob's warmth when he had the Community Bulletin Board broadcasted right from that basement. They viewed Bob as a friend they welcomed into their kitchens as they ate breakfast or got ready for work.

You "of the older set" will remember the outside entrance to the basement which was right out on the sidewalk, surrounded by a wrought iron fence. The studio down there, as I remember it, was a rather poky little room, but it was radio, not television!

Probably my next encounter with Bob was after I moved back to Hillsboro from Connecticut and was invited to come to visit a rehearsal of the local Barbershop Chorus, "The Highlanders." Bob was an enthusiastic member—I often wondered how he had the time...perhaps that was his "therapy." That must've been the time I met Dorothy, as the wives were always present around show time, and I recall being in their basement for an "After Afterglow" party.

Bob's involvement with HCHS started before there was an HCHS! I'm sure you've heard the story of how some community members, knowing Bob, convinced him that this town and county needed a group to preserve the local history. They knew if anyone could get the job done, it would be Bob. And he did and remained a huge supporter of the society for years and years....right up to his passing. There is certainly no way to count the hours and hours, the amount of money, the amount of worry and concern he expended over HCHS. A few years ago, when the board at that time ran the buggy off the road, it was Bob, working with the state of Ohio to wrest control of the society from the board and take the necessary and legal steps to get it back on the road. However, in his style and class, he stepped back behind the curtain to allow the By-Laws and the newly elected Board of Trustees to take over and run the show without his micromanage-



ment.

Even now, as I am straightening things up, I keep running into notes and other mailings sent from Bob. Lists of businesses from many years ago. Lists of Bob and Dorothy's involvements in the community and offices held in organizations.

I can't toss these things away. It's as if I'm losing Bob all over again. I'll hold on to them, perhaps put them in a file in the HCHS Library for

future reference. No, I just can't toss these precious memories.

Now, how many of you ever heard Bob quote his favorite poem (from memory)? It was "It Couldn't Be Done." I quote it here, well, because I'm the editor and I can do it. I have no idea how many times I personally heard Bob recite it. It wasn't just something he did....there was usually a point to the recitation. I was happy to hear it recited at his funeral service. It sums up Bob's life—nothing considered impossible, nothing insurmountable, it just took the right mix of people to figure it out, then take off their coats and get to it!

IT COULDN'T BE DONE

By Edgar Albert Guest (1881-1959)

Somebody said that it couldn't be done

But he with a chuckle replied

That "maybe it couldn't," but he would be one

Who wouldn't say so till he'd tried.

So he buckled right in with the trace of a grin

On his face. If he worried he hid it.

He started to sing as he tackled the thing

That couldn't be done, and he did it!

Somebody scoffed: "Oh, you'll never do that;

At least no one ever has done it;"

But he took off his coat and he took off his hat

And the first thing we knew he'd begun it.

With a lift of his chin and a bit of a grin,

Without any doubting or quiddit,

He started to sing as he tackled the thing

That couldn't be done, and he did it.

There are thousands to tell you it cannot be done,

There are thousands to prophesy failure,

There are thousands to point out to you one by one,

The dangers that wait to assail you.

But just buckle in with a bit of a grin,

Just take off your coat and go to it;

Just start in to sing as you tackle the thing

That "cannot be done," and you'll do it.

This poem is in the public domain.

John Glaze



REMEMBERING AN SCON

Since we last spoke, a great friend of the Highland County Historical Society and the Highland County community, Bob Hodson, passed away July 29 at the age of 95.

For decades, Bob and his wife, Dorothy, have been extremely active in the community. Bob was a founding member of the Highland County Historical Society back in 1965, and he and Dorothy have been champions for the HCHS ever since.

He was there when the Highland House, which was built in 1842, was purchased by the HCHS to be the headquarters of the society and renovated to become the museum it has been for close to 60 years.

I spoke with Bob many times over the years about the historical society and local history and I considered him and Dorothy great friends. I know many who consider the Hodsons great friends. They are two of the finest people I've ever known. Bob was always passionate about local history and concerned that it might be

lost unless people step up and take responsibility for its preservation. He and Dorothy did that as well as anyone, but he also told me and others that he wants the younger generations to keep things going when the time comes.

The Highland County Historical Society has evolved and grown over the years. It now owns the historic Scott House, and the newly renovated Hodson House, which is named in honor of the Hodsons.

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.

Bob Hodson was there from the beginning of the HCHS, helped make a mission a reality and will be missed.

Godspeed, Bob Hodson.

Steve Roush

Chairman of Trustees

Our Trustees Write!



turned to the United States and established a voice studio in New York City. She wrote several compositions which were widely used by well-known professionals.

Grace married Ulric Sloane, a noted lawyer. They were the parents of a baby boy, who sadly died before the age of one year. The tragedy was difficult for the young couple and eventually they divorced. Sloane remarried, but Grace resumed her maiden name and never married again.

Grace Gardener

Grace Gardner was born in Fayette County, Ohio in 1844 to George and Amanda Gardner. It was soon obvious that Grace had received the same musical talent as many of her family members. Her parents saw that she received her fundamental musical training in the United States. She then traveled abroad and for many years, she sang in concerts and operas in England and Italy and became a well-known musical teacher. One of her most famous students was the grand opera singer, Lucille Lawrence.

Eventually, she re-

After the death of her father, Judge George Gardener, in 1912, Grace returned home to Ohio and took up residence in the family home on South High Street in Hillsboro. For the first ten years after her return, she conducted a voice studio in Cincinnati.

In February, 1936, after a long and noted career in the musical arts fields, Grace Gardner passed away in a local rest home at the age of 92. She was laid to rest in the family plot in Washington Courthouse.

Debbie Williams



Need A
RUUUG?

TISSOT'S
HOME CENTER

206 N ELM ST
HILLSBORO

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need **YOU** to help us continue our mission of preserving and promoting Highland County history. Please join us in making a difference!

*"You make a living by what you get.
You make a life by what you give."*

Volunteer by calling 937-393-3392

Home Tour 2023

The Home Tour Committee would like to thank all the homeowners, volunteers, and members who helped make our tour successful and possible this year. A special thanks to the homeowners who opened their beautiful and unique homes.

Also, thank you to the over 200 individuals who participated in viewing the homes. We could not have this fundraiser without your help.

We had a great day, with fabulous weather, and look forward to our next tour in 2025!

Brenda Thompson

~ Serving Southern Ohio Since 1980 ~
Industrial - Commercial - Residential

TELEPHONE, SECURITY, & NETWORK SYSTEMS



Greystone Systems, Inc.

James C. Hamilton

jhamilton@greystonesystemsinc.com

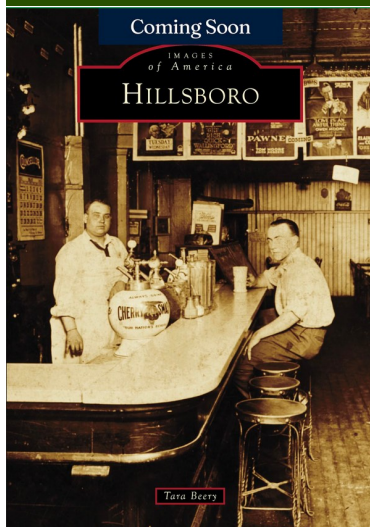
Ph. (937) 466-2300
Cell (937) 402-0342

4416 Turkey Pike
Hillsboro, Ohio 45133

Books! Books! Books!

Coming Early November

MUSEUM MUSES



From the Arcadia Publishing Company's website, we read:

"Hillsboro was carved out of the thick woods of central Highland County in 1807. The small village soon built itself up from a collection of rough log buildings to a place of considerable prominence in southern Ohio. Blessed with an unusually healthy climate and rich surrounding farmlands, the town became an important business center and transportation hub. It was the home of many state and federal officeholders, including a multiterm governor of Ohio. Hillsboro became a center of women's education as early as 1839, with as many as three women's colleges in operation at one time. In 1873, many of these college-educated women launched the Women's Temperance Crusade against the sale of liquor, which led directly to the federal passage of Prohibition in 1919.

Tara Beery is a retired veterinarian with a passion for Hillsboro's history. She lives in Hillsboro with her husband, son, and daughter. The Highland County Historical Society opened its archives to provide the historical photographs for this collection. Special effort was made to select images that have not been used in previous histories, though some old favorites will be found among these less-seen photographs."

So, there you are! This book is scheduled for publication in mid-January, 2024 and

A ARCADIA
PUBLISHING

HCHS is certainly anxious for this to take place!

And now, a word from our author, Tara Beery:

Arcadia Publishing Company will be releasing "Hillsboro" the newest volume of their popular Images of America series. This book is a collection of historic photographs representing Hillsboro's history from 1874 through 1923. Each photo is accompanied by a brief caption that gives a little information about the image. The archives of the Highland County Historical Society were diligently searched for less common pictures from Hillsboro's history, but a few old favorites will no doubt be found among the 215 images reproduced in the book. Arcadia has previously released Images of America volumes for Greenfield, Wilmington, and Adams County (All available for purchase today in the museum shop!!!!).

Arcadia is the leading local history publisher in the United States. They are committed to making history accessible and meaningful through publishing books that celebrate and preserve the heritage of America's people and places. The Hillsboro book came about after John Glaze placed an order with the company to replenish the stock of the museum shop. He asked if they had ever considered Hillsboro for the series. Arcadia indicated that they were indeed interested. John brought the opportunity to Tara Beery, who agreed to take on the challenge, despite being a little burned out on writing after finishing two Hillsboro history books a short time earlier. (These are A History of Public Education in Hillsboro, Ohio and A History of Higher Education in Hillsboro, Ohio both of which are ready for purchase in the museum shop! These would make excellent Christmas gifts for everyone on your shopping list!)

Continued on pg 6

STEP by STEP



Just in time for Christmas giving! We are thrilled to announce the release of Step by Step - How the Lincoln School Marchers Blazed a Trail to Justice.

Written by Debbie Rigaud & Carlotta Penn and illustrated by Nysha Lilly, the book, which will be available in hardback (\$20) and soft cover (\$15), follows the group of Black mothers and their children in Hillsboro as they marched for two years demanding admission to the white schools. This children's book tells the story of one of the longest sustained demonstrations of the civil rights movement from the eyes of a real-life child marcher.

The book is published and co-written by Dr. Carlotta Penn of Ohio State University. Carlotta's publishing company is Daydreamers Press. Daydreamers is a small Black-owned business based in Columbus with a focus on telling stories of multicultural communities for children through books and other media.

Debbie Rigaud, a New York Times Bestselling author who writes for young

and young-at-heart readers, was born in NYC to Haitian immigrant parents and before she could say "Theodore Aloysius Huxtable," her family moved from Brooklyn for East Orange, NJ to break from city living. In Debbie's words: "I come from a strong oral storytelling tradition. My grandmother Lamerchie Joseph especially, was known for constructing vivid, hilarious tales. Her saucy stories were peppered with wit, and humorous observations of the motivations behind everyday human behavior. This influence is reflected throughout my writing."

Carlotta Penn lives in Columbus with her husband and Rainbow Baby, Jember



Dove. She holds a doctorate in Multicultural and Equity Studies in Education from The Ohio State University. Dream a Rainbow was her first children's book.

At Ohio State, she oversees all partnership and engagement activities in the Office of Equity, Diversity, and Global Engagement.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 3-4 Nov - Christmas Open House Weekend
- 10 Nov - Veterans Appreciation
- 11 Nov - Veterans Day Ceremony at HH - 10:30a
- 25 Nov - Small Business Sat.
- 26 Nov - Museum Shop Sun.
- 16 Dec - Wreaths Across America
- 24 Dec - HH closes for winter



Merry Mercantile News

Books! (continued)

The Merry Mercantile is the Historical Society's one-of-a-kind Christmas shopping experience featuring locally hand-made items. We are gearing up for the 2023 season!

There are 30 local artisans participating this year. The largest number ever! And here they are:

Brenda Armstrong - vintage styled jewelry, one of a kind pieces featuring buttons

Mike Bick - classic hand thrown pottery

Sue Burden - Christmas ornaments and decor items

Tracy Burske - one-of-a-kind handmade quilted tote bags and other fabric items

Mary Jo Copeland - Christmas ornaments and works of art

Robin Dement - hand crocheted children's hats, gloves etc

Karl Devine - natural pioneer type crafts featuring unusual bark baskets

Alberta Duncan - hats, blankets, Christmas decor, hand knitted

Jean Fawley - vintage Christmas decor

Mary Hamilton - upcycled jewelry, one of a kind unusual items

Tanya Hendrix - contemporary hand thrown pottery

Kathy Hollinger - hand painted wooden treasure boxes and jewelry

Sue Honeycutt - jewelry made from china pieces, and quilted items

Peyton Kidder - homemade candles, scented sprays, and melts

Kathy Levo - various flavors of jams and jellies made from fruit grown on the Levo Century Farm.

Kim Lord - jewelry, small wooden toys, Christmas ornaments

Sharon Mc Collum - assorted crochet and embroidered goods, blanket and kitchen towels and scrubbies

Elizabeth Moran - Moravian paper star Christmas ornaments, a special craft from the early 1800s

Liz Odland - Christmas ornaments, and holiday decor

Jodi Odum - polymer clay jewelry

Vivian Pfankuch - all natural soaps, lotions & sprays, local honey and jams

Andi Reno - Christmas ornaments

Jeanette Rhoads - works of art and wooden decor

Jenni Thackston - holiday decor

Eric VanDenOever - paper products and clothing featuring original art

Rosetta Williams - jewelry and works of art

Stephanie Young - local honey, beeswax soap and candles

These wonderful artisans donate 30% of their profits to the Highland County Historical Society. Because of these talented people, this is one of our most successful fundraisers every year.

Consider shopping local AND shopping small by visiting the Highland House and keep your money in Highland County!

Hours of business:

November 3 - Holiday Preview 5:00 - 8:00 pm

November 4 - Holiday Open House 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Weekend hours in November and December:

Thursday 1:00 to 4:00 pm

Friday and Saturday 11:00 am to 4:00 pm.

***There may be additional hours TBA for special events.

Please come see us and support the artisans, the Highland County economy, and the Historical Society.

Harsha (continued)

Hillsboro Cemetery Association in 1965 and was elected president in 1972 serving this position through the 1980s. He was awarded Hillsboro's Citizen of the Month and commissioned a Kentucky Colonel for the Commonwealth of Kentucky in 1994.

The fifth generation, Charles S. "Sandy" Harsha, born in 1946, joined the firm in 1964 and took over operations in 1983. He married Deborah Kellis in 1968 and she joined the firm in 1983 and both continued the tradition of community involvement. Sandy was elected to four years as Hillsboro Councilman at Large, two years as President of City Council and eight years as Mayor of the City of Hillsboro. He served four years as President of the Hillsboro Cemetery Association. He served as Vice President of the Highland County Historical Society and as Building Chairman for the Scott House Restoration Committee. Deborah ran operations with Justin after the passing of Sandy until her retirement in 2018 and served on numerous committees including; Hillsboro Downtown Revitalization, Ohio Valley Resource Conservation and Development
(continued on page 11)

The front cover of Hillsboro shows a picture of Harry "Fat" Wilson standing behind the counter of his Palms Restaurant serving a few customers. Wilson opened the Palms Restaurant in the first floor of Bell's Opera House soon after he graduated from high school in 1919. Wilson was always quick with a smile and a joke and often dressed as Santa during the holidays. He was the uncle and second father of long-time Methodist Church organist Clifford Smith.

While Hillsboro will not be released until after Christmas, it is available for pre-purchase in the museum shop (with your discount!) and you will be given a copy of the front cover to enjoy until the museum shop receives its supply.

Available in December!

To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Hillsboro Women's Temperance Crusade, Tara Beery is working on writing a history of the event that should be available for purchase in the museum store by December. A serious effort is being made to put together a clear and balanced account of those historic few months in late 1873 and early 1874 when Hillsboro was in the center of a national phenomenon. The Hillsboro Crusaders set off a whirlwind with their protests outside the local saloons that spread to 31 states and territories and put thousands of liquor

sellers out of business. The Crusade inspired the formation of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, which was the main proponent of national Prohibition that started in 1920. This is an important anniversary in the history of Hillsboro. It is hoped that this book will help readers understand why the Crusade started, why so many citizens of Hillsboro lent it support, why some of the liquor sellers surrendered quickly and some fought to the bitter end, and what tactics the Crusaders used to fight "demon rum" and "John Barleycorn".



Kirk Law Office, LLC

Denny Kirk, Attorney at Law



P.O. Box 1846
158 W. Main Street
Hillsboro, OH 45133
(937) 763-9866

kirklawoffice@att.net

Visit us on the web: www.kirklawoffice.net

Remembering our History

In 1964, soon to be 70 years ago, Highland County Historical Society was formed as a non-profit corporation with Virginia Bell Thompson, John Thompson, Ervin and Mildred Evans, Elsie Ayres, Violet Morgan, Bob Hodson and Attorney Ron Swonger signed the Articles of Incorporation and filed it with the Ohio Secretary of State on 5 June 1965.

A Board of Trustees was formed representing all areas of the County. Some of these beginning names are T. J. Bellison (Sinking Spring), Maurice Jodry (Mowrystown), Stanley Kibler (Lynchburg), Arthur Milner (Leesburg), Worth Faust, Charles Harsha, the above-named incorporators along with many others. Bob Hodson was elected as the first President of Highland County Historical Society.

Highland House was soon acquired as the home of HCHS and remodeling work began with many volunteers stepping up to scrape, remove old wallpaper, paint, clean and all of the other tasks required to make it presentable. The building was in sad shape, showing much wear and tear from its many uses throughout the years. No one knows, nor cares, how many hours were spent in this work. It was a labor of love by folks who loved Highland County and its history.

What went on in those early years?

From Bob Hodson's notes, we learned that there were many projects with raising money being of utmost importance. This was to pay off the mortgage, along with other needs. Dorothy chaired an Arts & Crafts Show at the fairgrounds for six years.

We have all of Bob's notes from the 2013 reorganization meeting where Bob wrested control of HCHS from the then-illegal (or, at least against the by-laws) board. The work Bob put into that, while in his 80s is quite remarkable. That meeting was extremely organized and uncountable hours went into the preparation work to do things properly and provide for the society's future. Thank you, again, Bob.

Dr. Elizabeth Edmonston *(continued)*

be true, however, it was reported the Elizabeth stated that if she left the "recipe" behind, she would leave out the one important ingredient.

Dr. Edmonston practiced medicine in Hillsboro for more than twenty years, while living in the Gardner home. In April of 1935, she passed away at the age of 78. She was laid to rest in the Gardner family cemetery plot in Washington Court House in Fayette County Ohio.

Debbie Williams

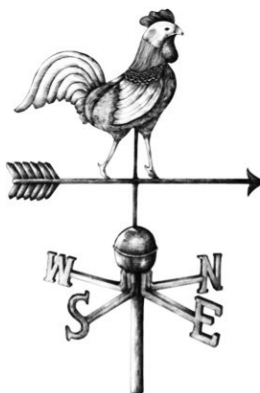


MUSEUM MUSES

Support our Leesburg Friends!

HERITAGE BREAKFAST

Saturday, November 4, 8-11 am
Leesburg Fire Station Community Room



Pancakes & Sausage
Biscuits & Gravy

Carry-out available

Live Music
by John Noftsgger

Antique Appraisals
by Toy Fender & Betty Ann Walker

Local History Display
bring your local school memorabilia!

FREEWILL DONATION - RAISING FUNDS FOR RESTORATION OF THE DEPOT

www.leesburghistory.org

937-763-5298



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

TURNER

FUNERAL HOMES AND CREMATORY

www.turnerfuneralhomes.cc Fax: (937) 393-2028

turnerfuneralhomes@yahoo.com

TURNER & SON
602 N. High St.
Hillsboro, OH 45133
(937) 393-2124

DAVIS-TURNER
201 Broadway St.
Lynchburg, OH 45142
(937) 364-2341

TURNER
73 E. Main St.
Leesburg, OH 45135
(937) 780-7841



JONATHAN M. GIBBS
Owner / Agent

7710 Shawnee Run Rd.
Cincinnati, OH 45243
T: (513) 561-5551
F: (513) 561-1918
M: (513) 460-9663
jonathan.g@gibbsassociates.net

gibbsinsuranceassociates.com

CHRISTMAS APPROACHETH!

This year there has been a lot of coverage regarding various celestial events. No matter how spectacular any one of these events are, I am still awed by a humble starlite sky. I recall a person from Toronto, Canada to my childhood home and he was mesmerized by the starlit country night sky. When I questioned him, he simply said the city lights prohibited his ability to see them. I think as we go about our daily lives, we don't take time to enjoy the night sky and fail to recognize the importance of the humble stars in our midst. Those humble stars have guided many travelers to their destination, be it a stable in Bethlehem, a ship searching for new lands or a wagon train crossing the plains. But we also live among human stars, some are famous, but many are community members who see a need and do something about it without fanfare. I can hear someone say, "Oh, I'd recognize this movie star, politician or athlete". But what about those community members who provide leadership to local organizations and events, excel in business, sports, military or the arts and entertainment industry. How many members of the Highland County Historical Society Hall of Fame can you name? Just as those stars in the night sky have guided many travelers to their destination, human stars guide us not only on the world stage but in our lives in Highland County. With that

in mind, the 2023 holiday theme for the Highland House Museum is: The Stars of Christmas".

The main hallway and stairs of the Highland House will be dedicated to the members of our Hall of Fame. The categories are arts & entertainment, enterprise, leadership, and sport. How many of these 75 individuals do you recall? If so, what did they do that resulted in not only a nomination but acceptance into the Hall of Fame. (For those interested in knowing the details of any members of the Hall of Fame, there is website and booklet which provides an overview of each HOF member).

The different organizations that decorate the other rooms will be displaying stars made from fabric, natural plants, colorful paper and so on. The **DAR** will recognize local servicemen. The **Towne Club** which has moved from the 2nd floor hallway into the Humanities room will be honoring Lincoln School Marchers and Mother Thompson who 150 years ago along with her followers closed the local bars in town and formed what is now the Women Christian Temperance Union. The **Towne Club** will also honor Nancy Wisecup. After an absence of several years, the **Hillsboro Women's Club**, which was formed 100 years ago, will pay tribute to their leaders in the formal dining room. **SOGS** will honor first and second families of Highland County in the Victorian

bedroom, and Highland County emergency responders will be recognized by **Lynn Neal** in the Casper Collins room. The **Women's Ministry** will undoubtedly depict Christian stars in the Weaver's Bedroom on the second floor.

In the Children's Bedroom, **Altrusa** will feature books that involve stories on the topic of stars and offer free wrapped books for children to take. The **Ladies of Wayman Chapel** are creating a display of stars in the front parlor as is the **Garden Club** on the second floor front window area. The **Country Quilters**, who are joining us this year, will display handmade fabric stars in the music room. Due to the ongoing repairs to the former library, the **Highland Co Retired Teachers** will be sharing this room. **Joyce Baker** has researched STARS that started their careers as teachers. I'm sure most of us will be sur-

prised to see who these individuals are and what they taught. The **3 Arts Club** will be showcasing Christmas cards as their stars. **Doris Randolph** will also display her framed original Christmas cards. You can see this display in our primitive kitchen. Many individuals and groups work to bring the stars to light, be it individuals, dried plants creatively arranged, craftly stars of ribbon, fabric or wood, or figures from that stary night that are the real story of the season of Christmas. Come and explore our decoration and the history of Highland County, then top the tour off with some treasures or treats from the Merry Mercantile.

Kathy Levo

Give a gift of history.
Local history.
Highland County History!
Membership in HCHS



MAKE THIS HOLIDAY AN HISTORIC ONE

Consider giving memberships to the Highland County Historical Society.

If you are like most people, you have those difficult to shop for individuals on your holiday shopping list. By giving a gift membership you not only eliminate your own time and aggravation, but you give a gift that keeps on giving for an entire year! And if you give a membership prior to the holidays, the receiving party can take advantage of the member discount in the Museum's holiday gift shop.

For more information about our gift membership program contact the Society at 937-393-3392, stop at the Society's office at 151 East Main St or visit the Museum during Merry Mercantile shopping hours beginning November 3.

Edward Jones®



Susan Vaher

Financial Advisor

1019 West Main Street, Suite C
Hillsboro, OH 45133
Bus. 937-393-5751 • TF 800-393-5751
Fax 888-215-4212 • Cell 513-295-6343

susan.vaher@edwardjones.com
edwardjones.com/susan-vaher
California Insurance License OC24309

Greenfield Historical Society

As your faithful editor I also a member of GHS, I want to keep you updated on what's happening to the northor the northeast!

I have previously reported on their plan to save the Shiloh Baptist Church and the work continues. Legacy Restoration, who is doing the current project on St. Mary's Episcopal Church, is also involved with Shiloh. As with most old buildings, surprises (of an unsavory nature) often present themselves and Shiloh had a doozy. They are working on the solutions though and we wish them the best! If you would like to make a donation to the project, it may be mailed to GHS, Box 266, Greenfield, or see their website to donate via PayPal: www.greenfieldhistoricalsociety.org

Next, we want to call your attention to the **Christmas Tour of Homes 2023!** This is an annual event of GHS and the date this year is 3 December from 12:30-4:30pm. There is a dinner prior to the tour (11:30-1:00). Tour tickets are \$10 and Dinner tickets are \$12 and the dinner is held at the Grain and Hay Building. They will also have Historic Downtown Christmas Cards on sale. (\$10 for 10 cards). As of their last newsletter, they had four old homes committed to the tour with the possibility of two more. We know there are many of you who support HCHS's Home Tour and love to see old homes. Why not spend a nice afternoon in Greenfield and support their tour also?

If you've not been in Greenfield lately, you haven't seen a new mural on the side of

Hanna Bivens' Law building. This artwork honors the legacy of C. R. Patterson. Now, there's another reason to visit Greenfield!

If you are looking for Christmas Shopping possibilities, in addition to our own **Merry Mercantile**, GHS has many unique gift items, such as cards celebrating Greenfield at Christmas, books, such as *McClain High School, A Century of Excellence* and the 2nd edition of *The C. R. Patterson and Sons Company*.

Another GHS fund raising effort is their Sunday Dinners. The next one is scheduled for 7 January and runs from 11:30am to 1:00pm.

As you well know, operating a thriving historical society does not happen by accident. We are all in this together and HCHS tries to be a friend to all of the surrounding historical societies and we hope our members will be led to share their support also.



See pages 10 and 11
for Christmas Shopping suggestions!

Christmas Music

You knew Advent had arrived, or soon would. I started when I was in 9th grade, I believe. I'm referring to the Annual presentation of **MESSIAH**, George Frederic Handel's monumental oratorio about the nativity, death and resurrection of Christ.

The oratorio was composed in 1741 with the text compiled from the King James Bible and the Coverdale Psalter by Charles Jennens. It was first performed in Dublin on 13 April 1742 and received its London premiere nearly a year later. After an initially modest public reception, the oratorio gained in popularity, eventually becoming one of the best-known and most frequently performed choral works in Western music.

Handel's reputation in England, where he had lived since 1712, had been established through his compositions of Italian opera. He turned to English oratorio in the 1730s in response to changes in public taste; *Messiah* was his sixth work in this genre. Although its structure resembles that of opera, it is not in dramatic form; there are no impersonations of characters and no direct speech. Instead, Jennens' text is an extended reflection on Jesus as the Messiah called Christ. The text begins in Part I with prophecies by Isaiah and others, and moves to the annunciation to the shepherds, the only "scene" taken from the Gospels. In Part II, Handel concentrates on the Passion of Jesus and ends with the Hallelujah chorus. In Part III he covers Paul's teachings on the resurrection of the dead and Christ's glorification in heaven.

Handel wrote *Messiah* for modest vocal and instrumental forces, with optional settings for many of the individual numbers, which is one of the reasons it is "user-friendly" and within grasp of most community or church choirs. In the years after his

death, the work was adapted for performance on a much larger scale, with giant orchestras and choirs. The trend has been toward reproducing a greater fidelity to Handel's original intentions, although "big Messiah" productions continue to be mounted. A near-complete version was issued on 78 rpm discs in 1928; since then the work has been recorded many times.

The Highland County Chorus, begun and directed by Mary Muntz, was a group put together for the express purpose of performing *Messiah* yearly on the Sunday following Thanksgiving. Ever the pragmatist, Miss Muntz knew that "the kids" would be home from college for the holiday and available to join. Local soloists in voice and instruments performed the selections. Although located in the Easter section, Hallelujah Chorus was typically the big finish to the performance.

As Mary attended First Presbyterian Church in Hillsboro, the yearly performances were held there. In my early years of performing, the large doors to the Sunday School room were opened and chairs placed all the way to the rear of that space. Both sanctuary and Sunday School rooms were full, sometimes with extra chairs placed here and there as space permitted. Singers filled the choir loft, the spaced on pulpit level and on the sanctuary floor.

After the passing of Mary Muntz, the chorus continued for a few years with varying degrees of success, but never with the enthusiasm of those days with Miss Muntz at the helm.

Graphic from copy of the complete score, Courier Dover Publications, 1989, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=25294469>. Other information from Wikipedia

*Messiah
an Oratorio*



WALKER
REAL ESTATE ADVISORS
Rebecca Oglesby
REALTOR®

Office: 937-402-4092
Cell: 937-725-0595
Email: Oglesby.Rebecca@yahoo.com

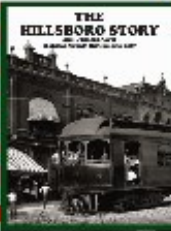
934 W. Main Street
Hillsboro, OH 45133



walkerrealestateadvisor.com

MUSEUM MUSES SHOPPING GUIDE

Local History - Books by Local Authors - Vintage Books - Yearbooks, Cookbooks plus gift items, greeting cards, post cards, art work
 Stop in for the items shown on this Shopping Guide, plus much more!



HS Hillsboro Story, The - 2017 upgrade of Elsie Ayres' 1957 book of Hillsboro history. \$22.95



BH Black History of Highland County (Burwinkel, Glaze, Phillips) 2nd Edition \$20-2nd Ed



153 Civil War Store Cards - Tara Beery \$10



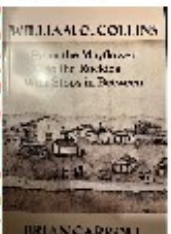
284 My Very Dear Sam - Tara Beery This features Sam Parsons Scott and the letters sent to him. \$20



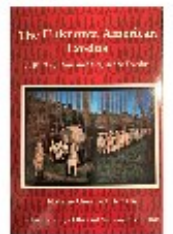
347 Coroner Record - Tara Beery rDoc Reberds, Belfast physician and County Coroner. \$20



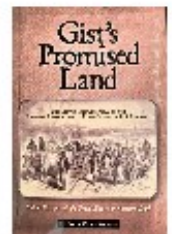
Are We Having Fun Yet? \$11
Frank A. Hedges



314 William O Collins-From the Mayflower to the Rockies With Stops in Between - \$20



NA9 Unknown American Exodus - Natalie Goodrich Amato - Brown County portion of the Gist Lands. \$9.95



PW2766 Gist's Promised Land Well researched history of the Highland County Gist Settlement \$12.50

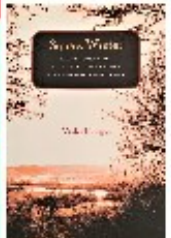


8870 Cooking Then and Now 2018 ed. This is more than a cookbook! \$12

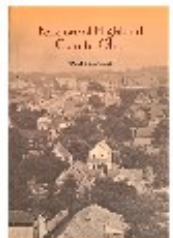


HHB100 The C. R. Patterson and Sons Company The only Black-owned automobile manufacturer. \$18

FH1/FH2/FH3 Frank Hedges has a way of telling a story which will have you laughing right along with him.
Are We Having Fun Yet? \$11
Look On the Bright Side \$10
Stop, I Need a Time Out \$11
FHB Get all 3 books for only \$27



316 Squaw Winter by Violet Morgan. in. \$20 (We also have a couple vintage copies.)



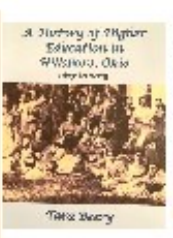
315 Folklore of Highland County. Violet Morgan \$20



355 The Women of Robertson Place - A great history from Ross County! \$29.95



DC2758 The Mills of Brush Creek - Dwight Crum \$15



430 History of Higher Education by Tara Beery. Investigates the colleges which were in Hillsboro during our history. \$20



428 History of Public Education in Hillsboro by Tara Beery. Well researched! \$20

Note: book photos do not reflect relational size.

In addition to the MERRY MERCANTILE, we have many wonderful books as well as gift items all available in the MUSEUM SHOP! Here is a list of a few of our books.

On the following page, you'll find several more items: hand-carved birds, pictures, decorative items, jellies, jewelry and much more--all in addition to our collection of books!



MNB
 Merchants
 National Bank

KEN BOATMAN

BRAD BOATMAN

Highland
AUTO SERVICE

Local vehicle pickup service available!

951 WEST MAIN ST. HILLSBORO, OH 45133

937-393-4040

Complete Auto Service and Diagnostics

MUSEUM MUSES SHOPPING GUIDE



BT Boreal Ties
The two men accompanied the 1901 Perry Relief Expedition. Fascinating photographs! \$17.50



DC2757 Military History of Brush Creek by Dwight Crum \$50

These are but a sampling of the books available in THE MUSEUM SHOP! You really need to stop by during November and December to see the many artisan items, along with the items you see pictured!



Visit the Merry Mercantile to see artisan crafts!



Members save 10% on nearly all items!!!



*** BOOKS ***
Local History
Local Authors
Genealogy
Cook Books
GREETING CARDS
ART
DECORATIVE ITEMS
JELLIES & JAMS
CRAFTED ITEMS



OHIO HUMANITIES

Updates

To say that Ohio Humanities is our friend is akin to saying you are friends with your significant other. Just in the last year, however, they:

>Expanded Lincoln School film: Expanded to include the national context of Brown v. Board of Education and other locations dealing with school integration. Additional details provided by Charlotte Pack, Dr. Tammy Brown, as well as archival photos and film. The film will be submitted to the Columbus PBS station by 16 October, and we expect it will be distributed to other PBS stations across the state and the country. Plans are for it to be aired during Black History Month in 2024. I think you will be pleased with the PBS version, but you do have to wait until February.

>Children's book, titled Step by Step: How the Lincoln School Marchers Blazed a Trail to Justice will be available for purchase around the end of October. The book was written by Debbie Rigaud (NY Times bestselling author) and Carlotta Penn, with illustrations by Nysha Lilly. The Museum Shop will have the books to sell during our Merry Mercantile and price should be \$15 for paperback and \$20 for hardback.

Plans for the future:
Brown at 70: Ohio Humanities received a generous grant from the Ohio State Bar Foundation to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education. We're calling it "Brown at 70." Activities will include screenings of the Lincoln School Story around the state, including a Hillsboro premier. Locally, we have made presentations in surrounding counties about the fight for integration in Hillsboro to a regional convention of Methodist Women and to a Quaker camp, to name a couple.

Harsha (continued)

Board of Directors, Hillsboro Bicentennial Committee, Board of Directors of Highland County Convention and Visitors Bureau, Chairman of the F.A.C.T. Park Development (Liberty Park) and involved in the fund raising and establishment of the Highland County Family Y.M.C.A., member of the Hillsboro Cemetery Association Board of Directors where she served as manager.

The sixth generation, Charles "Justin" Harsha, born in 1975, joined the firm in 1997 after graduating from the International College of Broadcasting in Dayton, Ohio. He is married to Sarah Kay and they have been blessed with 5 beautiful children. Justin is currently serving his first term as Mayor of the city of Hillsboro. Justin has previously served two terms on Hillsboro City Council (at large), he has been President of the Hillsboro Cemetery Association since 2011, currently as manager, and previously served as Co-Chair of the Festival of the Bells Committee, previous member of the Highland County Historical Society Board of Trustees and Manager of the Scott House.

Although not documented, Harsha Monument Company is arguably one of the oldest family owned firms in continuous operation in the state. (see additional photo on back cover)

John T Willis



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

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Check the date found beneath your name on the 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. Thank you!



THE WINNAH!

The evening of 17 October was a blast!!! For our first time game show event, we had a grand turnout and laughter reigned supreme! Following mostly the format of the TV version of Jeopardy, we had FOUR individuals or teams vying for the crown of winner of JEOPARDY-HIGHLAND COUNTY EDITION. And the winner was Max Petzold, who played as an individual. Our game show host for the evening was Alex Treebark (aka Bob Brown) and the production team included Sue Boatman as score keeper and judge, Liz Odland as buzzer controller and John Glaze who managed the Jeopardy screen.



The crowd had such a great time, they asked for another game, perhaps in February, to give them a respite from the cold weather/staying at home/cabin fever malady. We are planning for that now! Watch our website and Facebook for updates! Meanwhile, congratulations, Max!

(left: Max with his phantom partner, Hilda Hetherington Nastyface)

STEP by STEP!

Joyce Kittrell gets a sneak peak at the new book, Step by Step! How the Lincoln School Marchers Blazed a Trail to Justice. (see full story on page 5)

