



Museum Muses

The Newsletter of the Highland County Historical Society

Highland House Museum • 151 E. Main Street • Hillsboro, Ohio 45133

October 2005

This Old Temperance House

By Catie Schafer

I have heard some in town refer to it as the "beast." Others more accurately call it the "Mother Thompson Home" or "Governor Trimble House." My husband and I have named it our "three year project." I suppose our name for the house at 133 Willow Street could be called quite dull in comparison to how it was described by political figures in the 1870's as the "stately mansion on a hill." Unfortunately, this once "stately mansion," can only be referred to in its present condition as a "handyman special." Thankfully, my husband, Marshall, happens to be such a fellow and he will tell you that he is up to the task.

We were originally approached last Fall by our neighbor, Daniel Llords, the well-traveled marionette master, to purchase the Governor's House. My husband and I used to walk by the home every evening in the Fall and Summer on our nightly walks and had to admit that we had never given it a second glance. Mr. Llords urged us to take a serious look at it and said that it was a very historic home in great need of TLC. On our next nightly walk we peeked in a few windows and caught sight of a beautiful grand staircase and eleven and a half foot tall ceilings. We eventually bought the home that winter and immediately started researching its origins and history.

If you have noticed the signs coming into our town of Hillsboro that speak of this community as the birthplace of Eliza Jane Thompson, Temperance Crusader, you can now say that you know where she lived. She was the "beloved and only" daughter of Governor Allen Trimble. Trimble was the eighth and tenth Governor of Ohio and contributed greatly

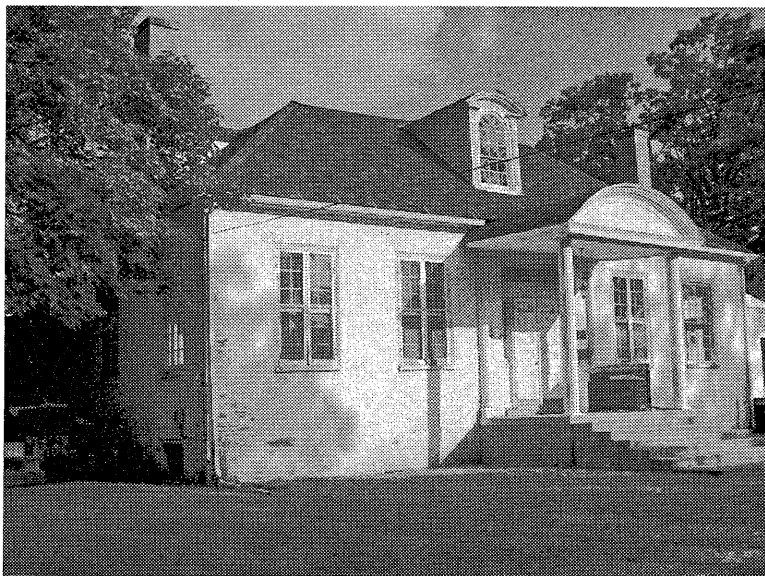
to public education and farm agriculture. It is certainly curious that the signs on every end of town do not speak of him but of his daughter Eliza Jane, who through her efforts, became lovingly known to thousands as "Mother Thompson."

"Mother Thompson" is credited as the first woman to lead a band of women on a march to local saloons in protest of the sale and consumption of alcohol. The very first band of Women Crusaders started out at the First Presbyterian

Church on Main Street and ended up outside community drugstores and saloons urging the owners of such establishments to sign a pledge to refrain from liquor sales. The year was 1873, and the Temperance Movement continued strong for another fifty or so years. Mother Thompson and her ardent followers of about 75 women were ultimately successful at convincing the twenty saloons in Hillsboro to halt the selling of alcohol.

Eliza Jane inherited the family home on Willow Street when her father

passed away. She lived her life at that residence with her husband who was a well-respected judge. Many say that her husband was a heavy drinker and probably part of the motivation for her heartfelt temperance crusading. The Trimble estate stayed in the Thompson family for six generations until the home and all of its belongings were eventually sold. Unfortunately, the home no longer has any old light fixtures and most of its doors, including the front doors, are replacements. When owned by Governor Trimble, it was filled with "museum quality" furniture and an impressive collection of art including Native American artifacts. Part of its history was that some of the Native American treaties and political gatherings occurred at the Trimble Home and many gifts were presented to Allen Trimble by



The Mother Thompson House is again becoming a showcase.

Continued on page 5

Greetings from your President

The warm, or should I say, the hot days of summer will soon be behind us. With it comes the autumn season, my favorite time of year. The hills put on their bright colors of red, orange, and yellow, as the mornings are a little bit nippy, we know that winter is just around the corner.

Our programs this year by the elected officials of Highland County have been excellent. They have given those who attended a look at the duties of the various offices and a glimpse into the history of the county we call home. On September 22, Probate and Juvenile Judge Kevin Greer honored us with an excellent presentation.

On October 27, at 6 P.M., the ever-popular Log Cabin Cookout will take place. Trustee Al Martellotti will be in charge of the program. His topic will be Lt. Casper Wever Collins, the young man from Hillsboro who lost his life at the Battle of Platte Bridge, Dakota Territory, in July 1865.

The October meeting will be the last for the year. Meetings will resume in March 2006.

The Society had a booth at the Highland County Fair, to promote our latest publication, *A Pictorial History of Highland County*, as well as our society. I would like to take this time to publicly thank those who worked in the booth. They were: Susan Parker, Rick Heflin, Frieda Redkey, Jan Houston, Al and Judy Martellotti, Maxine Kratzer, Jane Hill, Bill Bolte, Shawn Priest, Margaret Van Frank, Lester and Jean Wallis.

Remember – this is your Society – Support It! Come hear and see what you've been missing.

Jean Wallis

Greetings from your Museum Director

We continue to have great interest shown in the Highland House Museum. An English Class from Southern State Community College was given the assignment to visit us and choose a subject about which to write an essay. It was a busy time and the students declared they thoroughly enjoyed the entire project. Another item of interest-The Historical Society has an email address listed on the Highland County website, thus allowing persons to contact us. The most recent inquiry came from an individual in the Army stationed in Kirkuk, Iraq.

It is with great satisfaction that we report to you that the entire list of accessions associated with the Museum, the Log House and the grounds are now in the computer and also on a backup CD which has been placed in the Society's safety deposit box. We credit and thank Cheryl Porter for the many hours necessary to complete this project; of course this must be updated constantly. A new printer was needed to complete this necessary effort and we thank Dan Higham for installing it.

The Board has accepted the quote from Steve Sills on interior storm windows, we look forward to reduced heating bills. Willa Stanforth asked that a dissertation be written regarding who was primarily involved and what was accomplished to achieve having a completed and properly furnished Log House. This is being compiled and will be displayed in the Log House.

Don't forget to attend the annual Log House Cookout, and watch for a flyer about all the new and unusual Christmas items that will be available in the pioneer gift shop.

Margaret Van Frank

The Highland County Historical Society

Board of Trustees

Avery Applegate, Dr. David Ayres, Bill Bolte, George Foltz, Maxine Kratzer, Pam Limes, Al Martellotti, Bob Patton, Shawn Priest, Mike Rector, Frieda Redkey, Anne Rhude, Marshall Schafer, Jean Wallis, Betty Wilkin

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Director – Margaret Van Frank
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Newsletter – Bob Patton

Thanks to New Members

At this time, 120 members have renewed their memberships for 2005 - 2006. This leaves about 80 who have not yet renewed. We miss you, and hope to hear from you soon.

We welcome new members Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Bradds, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Butler, Amy Jo Huebner and Bill Bolte along with new lifetime members Mr. and Mrs. D. William Newland. Also, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Hammill and Jo Ann Hendrix.

We extend our sympathies to the families of Gary Barr, Gladys Eckert, Eileen Swonger, and Robert "Mike" Larkin, who have passed away in recent months.

Coming Events

All of these events (except as noted) will take place at the Highland House Museum – 151 East Main Street

October 27, 2005 – 6:00 P.M. – Log Cabin Cookout - \$4.50 per person, reservations required by October 24, 2005. See form below for reservations.

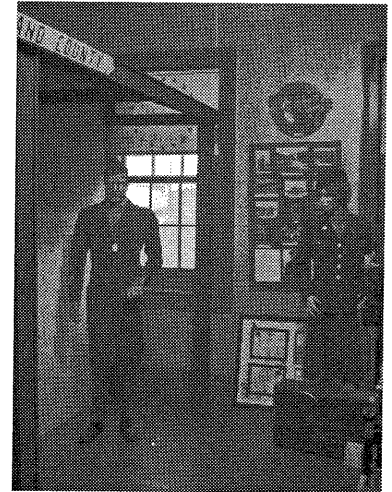
November 11, 2005 - Historical Society Open House – view exceptional and unique Christmas items— Open from 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.

November 25-27, 2005 – Second Annual Book Fair— at Merchant's Bank

December 10, 2005 - Children's Tea – Two seatings (at 2:00 and 4:00)— reservations required – call 393-3392 for reservations

New Display at the Museum

The Highland House Museum will soon be opening a new and exciting display in our Military Room. Military enthusiast and Historical Society trustee Al Martellotti has recreated the Hillsboro train station, and is honoring several local servicemen and servicewomen from World War II. Also on display will be other Highland County military artifacts from previous conflicts, back to the Civil War. Watch for news of this new display opening soon!

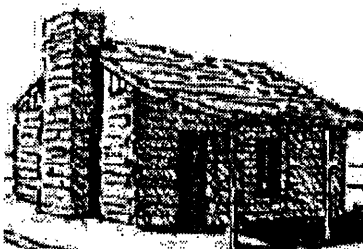


We Appreciate Our Donors

The Historical Society wishes to inform all the members of the elaborate donation from Bob Hern, a former Hillsboro resident. It consists of a curio cabinet displaying 498 antique hatpins and holders collected over the years by his wife, Charlotte. Charlotte was an active member of Junior Mothers Club and always was the main greeter at the Bell Opera House when it was open to the public.

I Want to Go to the Log Cabin Cookout!

For reservations to the Log Cabin Cookout on October 27, 2005, please fill out the form below, cut it out, and send it to: Highland County Historical Society, 151 E. Main Street, Hillsboro, OH 45133. The cost is \$4.50 per person.



Number of Reservations _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Make checks available to
Highland County Historical Society

Things The Society Would Like to Acquire

The Highland County Historical Society is asking for your help to improve our collection and increase our capabilities. If you have any of these items, and are willing to help out the society by donating or loaning them, please call the museum at 393-3392.

We are looking for:

- 1) School annuals/yearbooks – we need:
Hillsboro - 1940 and before, 42-46, 48, 49, 51, 58, 61, 63, 67-69, 73-75, 78 to present
White Oak - need all except 1922, 1969-71
McClain - need all except 1922, 1934
Hillsboro -The Record, Purple and White, Trident - all
- 2) Old Pictures of School classes and Athletic groups– we have a large and increasing collection, but need many though the years, especially those with known identities of the school and participants. We can scan and return photos if you are not interested in donating them.

- 3) Photographs of scenes from around Highland County, especially old schools, churches, and structures that no longer exist.
- 4) A high-backed Windsor Chair for use in the log cabin – one that a man might have been able to use.
- 5) Items from 1800-1960 pertaining to Highland County history or people.
- 6) Various military uniforms/ribbons/decorations of soldiers from Highland County, especially from World War I and before.
- 7) A couple of sturdy file cabinets – 11” or 14”
- 8) Tall Shelving – our archive has very high ceilings, and our storage needs are great.

If you have any of these items, or other items you believe would be of interest to the society, please call the museum at 393-3392. Thank you for supporting us!

Brush Creek Military History Now Available

The Brush Creek Historical and Festival Committee presents: **The Military History of Brush Creek Township, Highland County, Ohio.** Remember the service and look into the lives of the families who built the foundation for “Old Brush Creek.” Reserve your copy of this 192 page 8.5” x 11”, hardcover, limited edition book at the pre-publication price of only \$45.00. Advance orders accepted until October 21, 2005. Book orders placed after October 21, 2005 will cost \$55.00 per book. Your book may be shipped directly to you at an additional cost of \$6.00 per book or you may pick them up in Hillsboro or Sinking Spring (dates and exact locations will be announced at a later date.) Reserve your copy today! For more information, please call 1-937-588-0015. Send payment to Dwight Crum, P.O. Box 104, Sinking Spring, OH 45172

Family Bibles Available to Original Families

We have collected over the years several family items that we believe would be of greatest use and benefit in the hands of the original families. We have family Bibles from the following families, and we would like A MEMBER OF THE RESPECTIVE FAMILIES to contact us regarding reuniting them with their families. The first family member to contact us will receive the Bible. Family squabbles will result in the retraction of this offer.

The Bibles available are from these families:

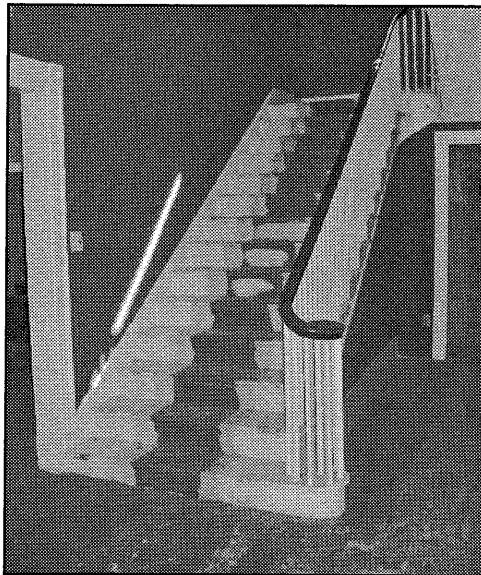
- 1) Jasper Newton Wilson (1850-1917)
- 2) Lewis Orebaugh (1851-1927)
- 3) Pricetown Church of Christ (Church Bible)
- 4) Enos Holmes (1821-1888)
- 5) George Mauntel
- 6) R.S. Evans/J.W. Evans/R.E. Evans
- 7) Lucy Bell Morgan

We also have three very large, old, leatherbound dictionaries available to anyone for \$15.00 each. Visit the museum to see them.

Mother Thompson House Renovation, Cont. from pg.1

Native American War Chiefs. Unfortunately, once again, any trace of such historical items, are long gone. The life-sized oil portrait of James Henry Thompson that once hung in the hall now resides in the upstairs hall of the Highland House Museum.

The current state of the Trimble House is not a very happy one. It was split into four apartments in the 1970's. The rear unit and south side apartments go quite far in ruining the original architectural beauty of the home. It does still have seven intact chimneys with four of the fireplaces still exposed in the interior. We have already purchased some replacement mantles and will need to replace all of the original wood flooring on both floors of the house. There was a great deal of water damage from roof leakage which makes the home a plasterer/painter's worst nightmare. And probably, the most daunting task, is to straighten the badly tilted upstairs floors and staircase. There are also many broken windows and the need to dismantle three of the four kitchens. After all, as I tell my husband, I am not an adequate enough cook for one kitchen let alone the pressure of owning a home with four!!! We have already started on the major work of replacing the electrical and HVAC systems. My day of celebration will be when the bulldozer arrives to demolish the two add-on apartments. I



The majestic staircase at Mother Thompson House

would exclaim "drinks are on me," but we had better respect the history of this great home and stick to iced tea.

Our hope and three year task is to attempt to restore this historic gem to its original form. We have found a lot of old pictures including sketches of both the interior and exterior drawn by Mother Thompson during her years in the home. These will help us with restoring the south side porch and figuring out where the doors and dry-walled windows might exist. Another unexpected wealth of knowledge came from an elderly gentleman who knocked on our door last summer. He declared himself to be Allen Thompson, named after his grandfather, Allen Trimble. He had been raised in the home and very eagerly walked both the

grounds and home with my husband and told him where things were missing and what pieces of furniture adorned each room. Another goal of ours is to decorate the home in period accurate pieces, placing the furniture where they were placed in Eliza Jane's drawings. I thank God for the existence of Ebay and for wonderful carriers of information like Allen Thompson. I hope we will do the town proud with our "this old temperance house" restoration. (Stay tuned to future newsletters for updates on the Governor House Project)

St. Mary's to Celebrate 150 Years

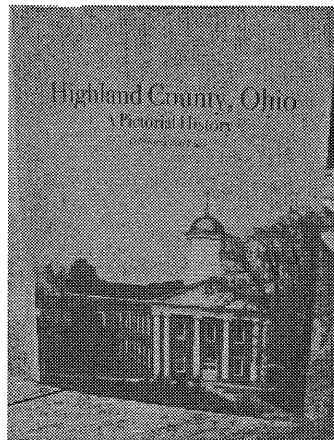
St. Mary's Episcopal Church of Hillsboro will be celebrating the 150th anniversary of the consecration of its church building in the month of October. The building was built at a cost of \$12,000, and was consecrated by then-Bishop Charles P. McIlvaine on October 23, 1855. The observance will begin with the traditional blessing of animals on Sunday, October 16, in observance of St. Francis' Day, and will culminate on the following Sunday, October 23 with a festival celebration of Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m. with the Right Reverend Herbert Thompson, Jr., Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio, presiding. From 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. on that day there will be an Open House, with refreshments to be served, and at 3:00 p.m. there will be an ecumenical Community Service.

St. Mary's was included on the May House Tour sponsored by the Historical Society, and it is hoped that many of those who were not able to see the Church at that time will attend

the Open House. The building was also featured on the Fenton glass bells which were available at the time of the Festival of the Bells. Constructed of locally quarried stone, the church has a marble mosaic wall surrounding the altar, an outstanding pipe organ, and a number of beautiful stained glass windows, including four Tiffanys, and one by C.J. Connick who was one of the country's most noted stained glass artists. Many of the windows are memorials to the town's well-known early families. The congregation is planning a series of events to be held at the church each evening of this week of celebration with all of them open to the public. A full schedule will be published in the local papers before that time in October.

Anyone with questions or comments is welcome to call the church office at 393-2043 or the Priest-in-Charge, the Reverend Charles E. Wilson, Jr. at his office, 393-9445.

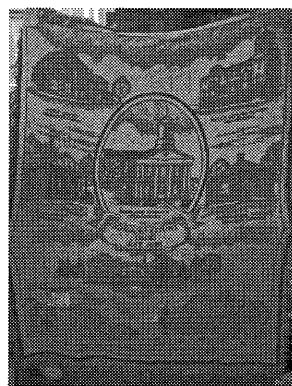
Great gifts and remarkable remembrances from the Highland County Historical Society!



For a very limited time:

Highland County, Ohio A Pictorial History

Celebrating 200 Years. This limited edition photographic history of the county and its schools, businesses, athletics, townships, and families, will thrill anyone who knows our county. Over 1000 photographs, with a complete index of thousands of names. This is a limited edition of 1550, and just a few are left. This is the perfect Christmas present for parents and grandparents, relatives and friends! \$49.95.



Highland County Coverlets

Available in Cranberry, Green, or Blue

\$45.00

Highland County Bicentennial Baskets

Limited Edition.

Basket - \$55 Liner - \$15

Both - \$70



Also available:
Genealogical
Charts

Maps
Notecards and
Prints

...great gifts!

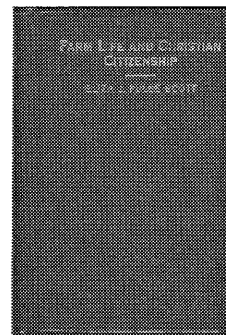
Local Classic book

Farm Life and Christian Citizenship
by Eliza J. Pulse Scott.

These books are from the original
1914 printing.

Learn what it was like to live in early
Highland County.

\$3.50



Magnetic Address Book

For purse or pocket. Keeps all your
addresses and phone numbers handy, yet
small enough to carry in your wallet.

\$1.50

Come Visit the Highland County Historical Society and
Help us Improve the Future by Preserving the Past!

Join the Highland County Historical Society and Help us Improve the Future by Preserving the Past!

You can join the Highland County Historical Society for as little as \$10 (single) or \$15 (family). Lifetime memberships are also available. Be a part of improving our future by preserving the past, and join the society today. The Highland County Historical Society's goal is to educate our citizens about the great legacy that has been handed down to us by the founders and forgers of our county and our communities.

Name: _____

Suggestion: _____

Address: _____

I would like to see an exhibit or program on this topic: _____

Phone: _____

I have a collection or special interest to share: _____

- Single \$10
- Family \$15
- Single Lifetime \$100
- Couple \$150
- Sustaining \$25

I can be a volunteer and help in any way: _____

(for those who wish to do more)

My group would like to schedule a Museum visit: _____

Donation: \$ _____

Membership Year – July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2005



Highland House Museum Great Learning Experience for School-Aged Children

A visit to the Highland House Museum is a trip into the distant past of our county. Present and former children can see and learn about the past in our pioneer kitchen, with its old-time cooking utensils and cook stove.

Nineteenth-century farming implements show how difficult work could be for those who worked the ground. Military uniforms of the past allow an opportunity to teach kids of the great history of Highland County as an important part of the United States' role in the world. The Mother Thompson room honors the leader of the National Temperance Movement in the nineteenth century. Hillsboro native Lt. Casper Collins is honored, with many Civil War-era artifacts of his life on display. The Highland County Hall of Fame shows us all that many great names have been connected with our county. Bring the kids (teachers – bring your classes!) and let them connect the history of their county. Perhaps some of them will be part of the Highland County Hall of Fame one day!



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Highland County Historical Society

Highland House Museum
151 E. Main Street
Hillsboro, Ohio 45133

*Come Join Us and
Share in the History!*

Can You Identify this Picture???



This photograph is from the archives of the Highland County Historical Society, but we have not been able to identify the group or its members. Please help us identify these folks. E-mail to mvanfrank@cinci.rr.com, or send your information to the museum at 151 E. Main Street, Hillsboro, OH 45133.