

Museum Muses

HIGHLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

151 East Main Street, Hillsboro, OH 45133

937-393-3392

MARCH 2003

GREETINGS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT:

First I would like to thank Jeff Hoskins for his leadership these past few years and we wish him well in his new endeavor. Jeff asked to resign from the Board since his new position as Judge, might at some point present a conflict of interest.

Second, how happy I am to be serving as your new president. We would also like to welcome new members to the Board of Trustees. They are Betty Wilkin, Tom Watkins, and our newest member Betty Dodds.

This year the State of OHIO celebrates its 200th birthday, with numerous activities happening around the state. Many of the communities in Highland County will also be celebrating in different ways.

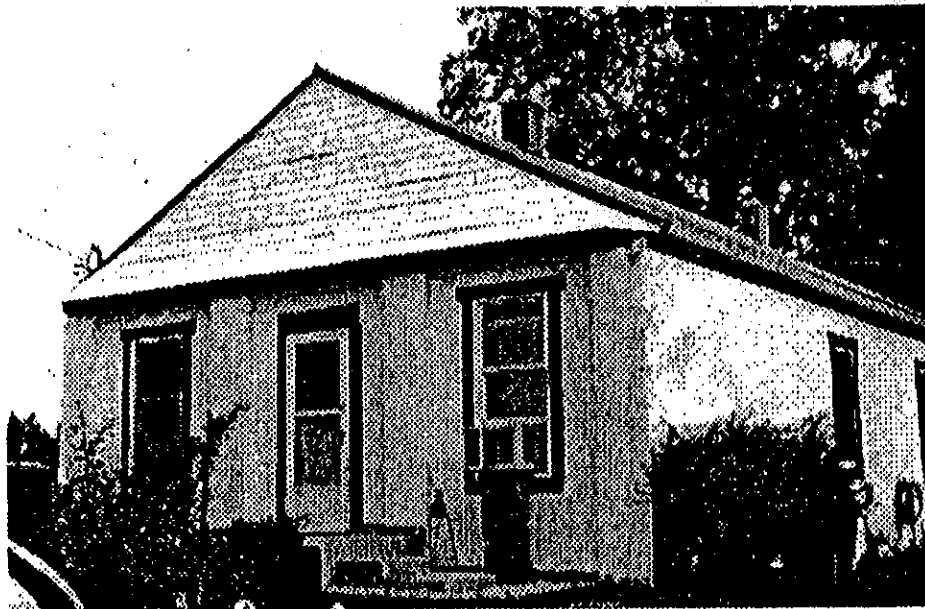
In 2005 our county will be 200 years old, and in commemorating this great event the Highland County Historical Society will be publishing a book on the history of the county. The M. T. Publishing Company, of Evansville, IN, is the publisher of this Highland County Pictorial History. A committee is being formed to collect and organize material for the book.

Mark your calendar for Sunday, May 4, when the Historical Society will be sponsoring a tour of homes, from 1 P.M. to 6 P. M. This year we will be touring the Presbyterian Church, the Highland House Museum, and the home of Tom and Martha Watkins, Jim and Diana Moore, Rodney and Charlotte Pack, Marilyn Heistand, Don and Roxie Roberts, Pam Limes, and Mr. & Mrs. Mark Wilson. --- More info later.---

Don't forget to get in your reservations for the St. Patrick's Day Brunch, Sunday March 16, starting at 11:30 A. M.

--- Jean Wallis ---

Harwood



This home in Salem Township at one time housed the HARWOOD SCHOOL, one of several "one-room" schools in the area. The diaries of Sina Sharon Chaney Fling indicate that she probably taught school in this building in the period 1871 - 1887. Russel S. Fling of Columbus, OH, has provided a transcript of her diary, with attendance records of all the children she taught. See page 3.

Photo courtesy of Leadership Highland.

**Board Of Trustees
Highland County
Historical Society**

Robert Andrew
Avery Applegate
Dr. David Ayres
Dennis Butler
Betty Dodds
Ron Gilliland
George Foltz
Gretchen Huffman
Robert Parker
Shawn Priest
Freda Redkey
Tom Watkins
Jean Wallis
Betty Wilkin
Sharon Yochum

President

Jean Wallis

Recording Secretary

Gretchen Huffman

Personnel:

Director

Margaret Van Frank

Financial Secretary

Jack Garman

Treasurer

Rose Ryan

Highland County Historical Society

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

The Museum will reopen the weekend of March 2.

Remember we have Bicentennial bears in three different colors-red, white, or blue. At Christmas time the "Home Town" committee offered a hand painted replica of the Lilley House, and incidentally, we still have a few houses for sale.

The HCHS Board of Trustees is proceeding with plans for a county 2005 Bicentennial book Anyone interested in helping to assemble material please contact the Museum. The Board also approved using the Gordon Memorial Fund to install a sound system for the first floor of the Museum. It incorporates a wireless microphone and speakers in all downstairs' areas. We urge you to come and enjoy the new system. A dedication, with installation of a plaque, is being formulated. It will be publicized so that all members and friends will come.

MEMBERSHIP:

The membership year ends June 30th, and membership for 2003-2004 begins July 1st. Some of our members still have not renewed their membership. We sincerely hope that you will renew for next year. Your support is needed and very much appreciated.

Membership cards and information will be sent with the next newsletter.

The Historical Society Board has voted to increase the annual dues for membership, to begin in September of this year. Annual dues are now \$10.00 for individual membership, \$15.00 for family membership, \$25.00 sustaining members. Lifetime memberships are \$100.00 for individuals, or \$150.00 with spouse. Corporate memberships require an annual contribution of \$125.00, or Heritage Members a contribution of \$250.00 or more.

Welcome to the following Lifetime Members:

Mr. & Mrs. Lowell Chambers

Kathleen Lucas

Karen Trout

New Individual Members:

Helen Ford

Terry Maciulski

MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES:

HIGHLAND HISTORY EXPLORER'S CLUB

The Highland History Explorers Club is back in session after a one month hiatus due to the winter chill! The organization is open to Highland County youth who are interested in exploring the people, places, and objects from local and regional history The next meeting will be held at 10 A.M. on Saturday, March 8th in the Highland House Museum.

We encourage you to urge young historians to join us for a day of planning for participation in upcoming bicentennial events as well as a cook out in the log cabin's open fireplace. A trip to the Ohio Historical Society Museum in Columbus, Ohio is also in the works for the spring! As always, points will be awarded towards the Club's "treasure hunt", which will eventually earn some lucky Explorer a grand prize of \$100! For more information, call David Ayers at 393-6512 or Avery Applegate at 393-4345.

SINA SHARON CHANEY FLING

SINA SHARON CHANEY was in her lifetime another of Highland County's unsung teachers who devoted her life to educating over 500 children of our rural farm families. Her name is not mentioned in any of our histories, and were it not for the fact that she kept excellent records of her school work and a set of ten diaries of her daily life, we would know nothing of her today.

Russell S. Fling of Columbus, Ohio, Sina's grandson, has kindly provided transcripts of some of these diaries. All of the school data are from his transcriptions. All of the diaries are in his possession and are being transcribed for publication.

Sina was born January 25, 1852 in Salem Township, the daughter of Jesse Chaney and Minerva Rader.¹ She was the fifth of seven children. Her younger brother Ira, died in 1855, while less than a month old.

We know virtually nothing about Sina's youth and her own education, but by the age of nineteen in 1871, she was the full-time teacher at the Barker District School, Salem Township. The school was located on the south side of SR 131 just west of Harwood. The 1871 plat map shows two schools in this area, less than one half mile apart, which were later consolidated. This was approximately 1.5 miles from the Jesse Chaney homestead and it is not known if she walked it daily or boarded with a local family.

Her records show that school started September 11, 1871, for a term of 6 months.² Her classes consisted of 18 girls, ranging in age from 4 to 18; and 26 boys ranging in age from 5 to 21. Her diary records the name, age and number of days attended for each child. Sarah E. Barr who was 18, the daughter of Matthias and Mary Barr, evidently found school not all that challenging and left after 2 days.

Lydia E. Shockey attended class for 111 days, but most of her classmates were present for less than 100 days.

Sina moved to the Duncanson District School in early April of 1873. The school was located just south of the junction of SR 134 and SR

286, in Clay Township. Her class consisted of 23 girls and 22 boys. Most of the children were younger, although Mattie Patton and Mary B. Waits were nearly her own age.

In September, 1874 Sina started school (or was transferred) to District No. 2, in Salem Township. This school was located on the south side of SR 131, about 1.3 miles west of Pricetown, on land owned by her grandfather, Amos Chaney. In this school one of her own sisters, Catherine E. Chaney was her pupil; as were her cousins, Amy, Cinda, and Clara Chaney. Directors of the school were John Duval, Neely McLaughlin and Joseph Cochran.

For 1874-75, Sina again taught at the Salem Township District #1 School. This is probably the same as the Barker School, since Lydia E. Shockey and many of the same Barker children were again her pupils.

For the 1875-76 school year Sina moved 0.9 mile across the county line and taught in the District No. 8, Green Township, Brown County School. This school known as the Forest Grove School was located on the south side of now SR 286, west of the county border.

For the next ten years, she alternated teaching at Forest Grove School and District No. 2, in Salem Township. For each of these years her diary contains a complete list of her pupils, and their daily attendance. In some cases she noted when students moved away or left the district.

Word was spread and by 1885-86, she had 32 girls and 42 boys in her classes averaging 77-85% daily attendance; and from 5 to 20 years old. These included at least 12 of her own relatives.

Some of the very youngest children, which could be grandparents of our members were: Irvin Certier, John Gossett, Henry E. Young, Cinda Chaney, Agnes Cochran, Gracie Cochran, Mollie Duvall, Rachael A. Hughes, and Minnie See Vanzant.

On October 6, 1887, Sina Sharon Chaney married Albert J. Fling.³ There is no record that she taught afterward.

For historians and genealogists her records are a gold-mine of information. These records will be placed in the HCHS Museum files for access.

¹ *The Chaney Families of Highland County, Ohio*. By Richard D. Flinn. 1996. Published by the author.

² *Sina's Diary*. P. 1-1.

³ *Highland County Marriages, 1880-1900*. By Genevieve Breakfield. 1993, p. 28.

Call 937-393-3392

Reservations required

\$7.50 per person

March 16, 2003 - 11:30 am

ST. PATRICK'S BUNNIES

HIGHLAND COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MUSEUM



Highland County Historical Society

151 EAST MAIN STREET
HILLSBORO, OHIO 45133



VALUE DATED



HIGHLAND HOUSE MUSEUM

MRS. BOBBY NICKELL
6190 MAD RIVER ROAD
HILLSBORO OH 45133

