

Museum Muses
HIGHLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
151 East Main Street, Hillsboro, OH 45133
937-393-3392

March, 2006

GREETINGS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

As we begin another year, let's hope that it will be a successful one for the Highland County Historical Society. Many things have been happening at the Highland House, as changes are taking place within its walls.

Work on the library continues, the hall of fame is getting a much-needed facelift. The storage rooms are being improved along with other areas of the museum. As you may have noticed, the bell in front of the museum has a new wheel. We thank Society board member Bill Bolte and John Hopkins, who fashioned the new wheel.

Thursday evening, April 27, we will be inducting a Hillsboro couple into the Hall of Fame. This will be our first regular meeting of the year followed each month through October with a program, certain to whet your appetite.

Beginning March 3, the museum will be open each Friday from 1 to 5 P.M. Beginning Memorial Day weekend, the museum will be open Sundays through June, July and August, closing on Labor Day, September 3. This will give us adequate time to prepare for Christmas Open House. The museum will be open by appointment during those times it is normally closed.

Note that our membership meetings always take place on the last Thursday of each month.

Jean Wallis

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Once again Christmas has come and gone – and spring is on the way!! For the past holiday season we were honored by having local clubs decorate various rooms, and we sincerely thank them for their time and talent. The gift shop was generously supported by those attending and, to them, we say "Thank you". We were questioned many, many times about a "Home Town" building not being available. For this, we apologized and continue to do so – and, have set in motion plans to restart the tradition in 2006. It will be a home on the Historic Register and a limited edition. More information on this later.

Our new project!!! The commissioners have asked if the museum could accommodate a very old, and very large library table. It originally was in the public library in the upstairs of the Fire Department building, in the late 1800's. In order that we could accept this offer, some changes are necessary in the library. We have also learned that there are shelves and chairs available, if we can use them. So, when everything is moved in and assembled, our library should be quite handsome.

Another update!!! We have an Octagonal Schoolhouse ornament for sale. They arrived too late for Christmas.

Remember, we are always open on Fridays from 1 to 5 and by request. COME SEE US.

Margaret Van Frank

Highland Community Preservation Group

The Highland Community Preservation Group was formed in 2004 with the goal of obtaining endangered structures in Highland County, and preserving/restoring them. The initial goal of the group is to purchase Bell's Opera House and restore it to the beauty of its heyday, but also, to create another venue for performance, a center for fine arts, a children's theater project, a facility to preserve the history of theater in our community, and, if plans and offers can be met, a banquet/meeting facility.

The group recently applied for 501 ©(3) status with IRS and should hear from them in the next 120 days. Both David Daniels and Mike Turner have met with us and preliminary work researching grant possibilities has started. We have been meeting with John Kellis of the Ohio Valley RC&D. He has been assisting us in creating our business structure. While it has been a slow, careful process, it is an exciting journey.

Our group has a very informative website, which we invite you to visit. All of our newsletters are posted there, along with photos and information about our group. The address is: www.highlandcpg.org. Please give us a look! If you would like to be on our email address list to receive the newsletter, you may email jglazehcpg@yahoo.com and request to be added.

If you have further interest in our group, or would like to be involved, please send an email to Christina Ross at crosshcpg@yahoo.com, call 393-9284 or simply attend our next meeting, April 6, 5:30 P.M. at McCarty and Associates office, on North High Street. We know that not everyone will want to be involved at a board level, but may just want to serve on a committee, or lend "moral support". We Welcome you all!

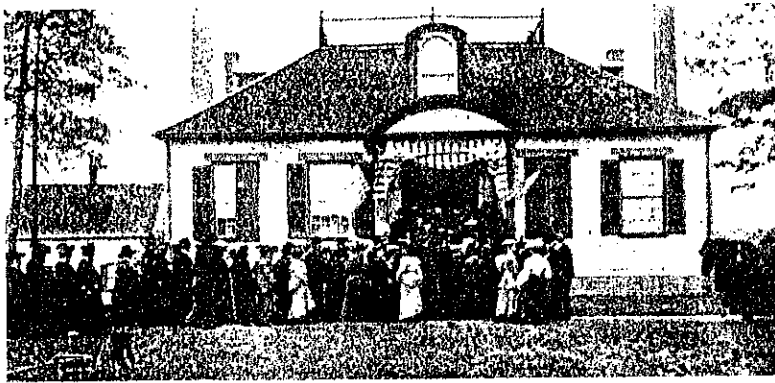
John M. Glaze

This Old Temperance House 2: The Heat is On!

By Catie Schafer

"The audiences from these various meetings joined the main body that marched from the Presbyterian Church to the Thompson Home. This historic cottage, modest as to exterior, but exceedingly spacious within, holds an atmosphere that contains all of the elements of an ideal home. Lives of study integrity speak to one another from the canvases on the walls and from the simple but substantial furnishings that constitute the true homeliness of an abiding place. Over the piano in the cheerful parlor hangs an excellent portrait of Governor Trimble, the honored father of Mrs. Thompson. The dining-room, with its old-fashioned mahogany furniture and shining silver, was a delight to the eyes. There were many expressions of delight and wonderment over the rag carpet, but recently completed by the deft fingers of Mrs. Thompson herself." (E.J. Thompson)

The preceding quote was taken from the journal of one of the five hundred women who attended the National Meeting of the Delegates of the Women's Christian Temperance Union. The women first met at the Presbyterian Church on Main Street (headquarters to many of the local meetings) and marched in unison to the home of Mother Thompson.



When my husband and I read old journal articles featuring the histories of such righteous figures as Eliza Jane Thompson and her father, Governor Allen Trimble, it is difficult to not feel a bit intimidated by the restoration task ahead of us. Not only do we feel a certain pressure to restore the home to the historically accurate specifications that would satisfy our meticulous Historical Society

leader, Jean Wallis, but we feel a self-imposed drive to satisfy the spirits of the Trimble/Thompson clan as well.

Our own Schafer family still resides in the home everyone in town calls the "Dr. Moran" home on North High Street. Our hope and fervent goal is to occupy the Thompson home by the end of summer. If we had to choose a winter theme song, it would definitely be Glenn Frey's "the heat is on, burnin, burnin, burnin..." Although the exterior of the Governor's lair looks somewhat untouched since my last report, the interior has seen a lot of action. My husband, Marshall, has installed a four furnace heat system which was finally fired up around Christmas-time. Already purchased and ready to install is new red mahogany flooring and a beautiful Victorian-looking (yet modern) kitchen. We are changing the downstairs floor plan somewhat, with the kitchen moving to the family room for better cabinet wall space. The dining room will be situated where the kitchen used to reside and the two large rooms to the left of the stairway will be a formal "parlor" and library once again.

I am most anxious for the new (well, actually antique) double front doors to be installed. We bought these off the internet from a couple who rescued them from the demolition of a Victorian mansion in Pennsylvania. The house dated from a similar era and should prove a good match, and with the beautiful stained-glass transom, who will really care?

It is my hope to put together a scrapbook of all the items we have bought to use in the restoration, like the lighting fixtures, doors, antique mantles, etc. . . so our children and interested guests can see all of the places to which we traveled in order to purchase authentic restorative pieces for the home. Most recently, Marshall went to an Washington Court House and purchased the heavy crown-mold from the upstairs rooms to use in the Thompson home. He also bought a gorgeous beveled-glass back door, which we will use as a side door.

Although the house is being restored with era-correct pieces, it will be quite a crazy quilt of items from many different old homes from all over the map. We even purchased a grand hall tree from a castle estate in Italy!

With assistance from the sketches of the "old home" drawn by E.J. Thompson in her personal memoirs book entitled "Hillsboro Crusade Sketches", I have put some effort into finding antique furnishings which look similar to some of the Thompson furniture. I have fallen short on finding an empire era grand-father clock for the top of the stairs; as described to me by Allen Thompson, who was raised in the home. Mother Thompson's daughter writes this about her mother in her own journal entry, "in the twilight she loved to hear the sound of flute and piano from the parlor and would frequently call attention to the sunset glow upon the Rembrandt picture in the hall." Unless someone reading this article has a spare Rembrandt hiding in an attic, I am obviously going to fall short on duplicating that decorative accent as well.

I would like to end with the wonderful yet modest words of Mother Thompson which were written by her to be read at her funeral:

"My dear children and friends when the chariot swings low enough for me to step in, let all things be done quietly, modestly, and humbly. No needless expense, no empty words, no useless commendations"

Eliza Jane Thompson died at eighty-eight years of age. She was the mother of eight children. May we someday make her memory proud with our loving restoration of her beloved "cottage".

To be continued

MEMBERSHIP

We welcome new members Mr. & Mrs. Michael D. Bowman, Lana F. Daniels, Mr. & Mrs. Donnie Everetts, Rick Heflin, Jennifer Jenkins, Mr. & Mrs. John F. King, David Mayer, Helen McDermott, Clifford Morris, Mr. & Mrs. Jim Redkey, Mr. & Mrs. Larry Taylor, Michelle Truitt, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph West, and Dorothy Smith. Also, Judy Franklin changed from a single to a lifetime membership.

Total memberships are 258.

Freida Redkey, Membership Chairperson

4

Highland County Historical Society

151 EAST MAIN STREET
HILLSBORO, OHIO 45133



HIGHLAND HOUSE MUSEUM

