

# 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 200<sup>th</sup> birthday, with numerous activities happening around the state. Many of the communities in Highland County will also be celebrating in different ways.

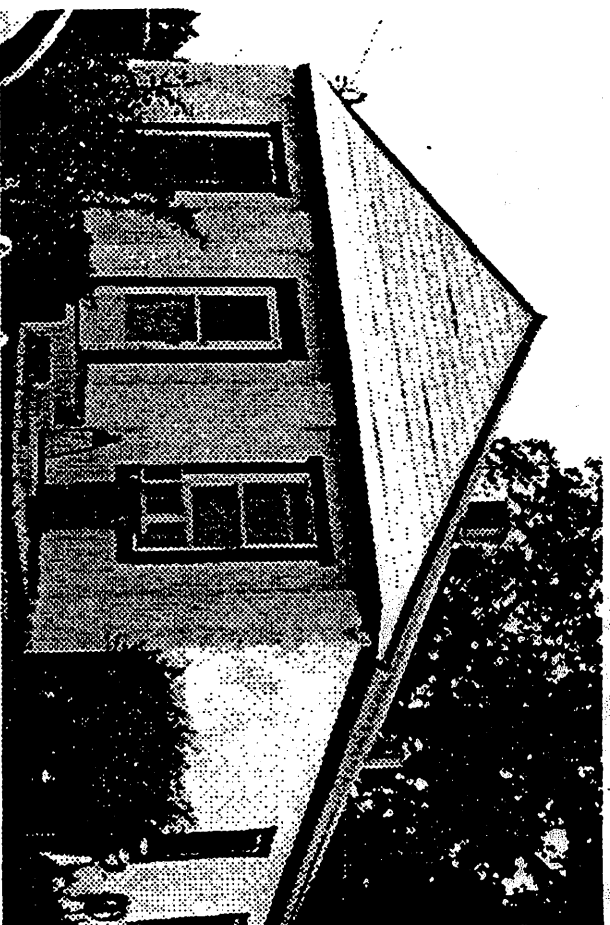
In 2005 our county will be 200 years old, and in commemorating this great event the Highland County Historical Society will be publishing a book on the history of the county. The M. T. Publishing Company, of Evansville, IN, is the publisher of this Highland County Pictorial History. A committee is being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

# Highland County Historical Society

Robert Andrew  
Avery Applegate  
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Robert Parker  
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**President**

Jean Wallis

**Recording Secretary**

Gretchen Huffman

**Personnel:**

**Director**

Margaret Van Frank

**Financial Secretary**

Jack Garman

**Treasurer**

Rose Ryan

**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 30<sup>th</sup>, and membership for 2003-2004 begins July 1<sup>st</sup>. 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.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup> 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 Duval, Rachael A. Hughes, and Minnie See Vanzant.

On October 6, 1887, Sina Sharon Chaney married Albert J. Fling.<sup>3</sup> 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.

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<sup>1</sup> *The Chaney Families of Highland County, Ohio.* By Richard D. Filim. 1996. Published by the author.

<sup>2</sup> *Sina's Diary.* P. 1-1.

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

**Highland County  
Historical Society**

151 EAST MAIN STREET  
HILLSBORO, OHIO 45133



HIGHLAND HOUSE MUSEUM

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No. 11  
Hillsboro, OH

VALUE DATED



HIGHLAND COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
MUSEUM

**ST. PATRICK'S BRUNCH**

**March 16, 2003 - 11:30 am**

**\$7.50 per person**

Reservations required  
Call 937-393-3392

**Museum Muses**  
**HIGHLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**151 East Main Street, Hillsboro, OH 45133**  
**937-393-3392      JUNE 2003**

**GREETINGS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT:**

On Thursday evening, June 26 the Society will be having its annual picnic at 6:30 P. M. at the Highland House Museum, 151 East Main Street, Hillsboro.

Please bring a covered dish and your own table service; coffee and tea will be provided. Mark Thompson of M T and Turner Publishing Companies will be on hand to talk about the upcoming Pictorial History Book being published by the Highland County Historical Society commemorating the 200th anniversary of Highland County in 2005.

We need participants to help in this project. That means members, nonmembers and trustees, this is a big step for the Society to take, but we can do it, if we all pull together and this means you.

A committee will be formed to head up compiling material for the book. This book will consist of Highland County history, patrons, businesses, industries, agriculture, military, churches, sports, schools, clubs, events and celebrations, families. Many of the categories will tell the history in pictures past and present. Any ideas, let's hear them!

See you all on June 26 at the Highland House Museum.

—Jean Wallis—

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**HIGHLAND COUNTY HISTORY EXPLORER'S CLUB**  
**SUMMER AND FALL MEETING SCHEDULE**

- Sunday, June 8      12:00 noon, meet at the Highland House Museum for a trip to the Ohio Historical Society Museum Center in Columbus.
- Sunday, July 13      12:00 noon, meet at the Highland House Museum for a trip to Wright-Patterson Air Force Museum.
- Saturday, August 16      10:30 A.M., meet at the Highland House Museum for a trip to creek bed in Southern Highland County for a fossil hunt. Bring a sack lunch.
- Saturday, September 20      10:00 A.M. meeting at the Highland House Museum. All Boy & Girl Scouts in the area are invited to join us for a program by local history enthusiast and pioneer re-enactor Rick Johnson. Lunch will be provided.
- Saturday, October 18 8:00 A.M., meet at the Highland House Museum for a trip to Cincinnati for the Tall Stacks River Boat extravaganza.

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For information on the club or the events, please call Dr. David Ayers at 393-6512

## **MEMBERSHIP:**

The new membership year begins July 1<sup>st</sup> and ends June 30, 2004.

The Highland County Historical Society depends on you for support. With membership comes the opportunity to use the museum, now air conditioned, as a gathering place for meetings, reunions, dinners and parties for a nominal fee.

Regular Museum hours are 1:00 - 5:00 on Fridays, and 1:00 - 4:00 and Sundays. Plan a visit and enjoy. Membership cards and self addressed envelopes are enclosed for your convenience. Annual dues are \$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 new members:

Mr. And Mrs. Stephen Bean

Mr. And Mrs. John Reed

Ms. Carol Kay

Frieda Redke

Membership Committee

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## **MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES: Tour of Homes**

The Tour of Homes, a bi-annual event, held May 4<sup>th</sup>, for the benefit of the Highland County Museum was very successful.

The committee for the event sincerely thank the home owners: Marilyn Hiestand, Pamela Limes, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Watkins, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Rodney Pack, Mr. and Mrs. Don Roberts, Mr. and Mrs. James Moore, and the Executive Board and Members of First Presbyterian Church.

We would also like to thank the following for contributions: Gibbs Associates, Burwinkle Family Dentistry, and Drs. Glenn Lucas, Daniel J. Clark Anthony Harless family Dentistry. Also, Ponderosa, Kroger, Great Scott, KFC, Wal-Mart, and South-High Flowers.

Also many thanks to Jean Wallis, the Times-Gazette, Charlotte Pack, and the Highland County Press for publicity.

And last but not least, thanks to our many volunteers that served in every way. You are GREAT!!

Sincerely, the Committee

Jean Wallis

Susan Siepelt

Frieda Redke

Betty Wilkin

Avery Applegate

Martha Watkins

Kathryn Matthews

Tom Watkins

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## **BUDGET CRISIS AT OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Depending on actions of the State Senate and House of Representatives, the Ohio Historical Society is facing a budget cut of \$2.9 million over the next three years. This is on top of a substantial cut since 2001. If this cut takes place, many of the Historical Society's functions and sites would have to be closed, this during Ohio's Bi-Centennial Year. The Ohio Village and many of the state's Historical sites, including Fort Hill in Highland County are already operating on restricted budgets.

If these cuts take place, a number of the state's prime vacation historical sites would be forced to close. Reduced state funding has already resulted in the loss of 69 positions, restructured operations, and closure of some sites. In addition, the Historical Society Library is now operating on reduced hours.

Documentation of the state's history and preservation of our heritage may be lost forever.

It is important that our members contact their state congressman to restore, or at least reduce the severity of these cuts, and that you let them know your feelings.

# MUSEUM MUSES

## HIGHLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

151 East Main Street, Hillsboro, OH 45133

937-393-3392

SEPTEMBER 2003

## *Pictorial History of Highland County, Ohio*

### AN OPEN INVITATION TO OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

On Feb. 18, 2005, Highland County will celebrate its 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary. To mark this occasion the Highland County Historical Society, in connection with M. T. Publishing Company is sponsoring and compiling a "Pictorial History of Highland County, Ohio." This volume will contain hundreds of historical maps, photos, sketches and historical highlights of Highland County. We want to include **YOUR PHOTOGRAPHS**, because this pictorial history book is for everyone!!

You may send original photographs and we will handle them with care. However, because the photos will be handled many times, you may send professional reproductions (no xerox copies). Please write your name, address and caption on the back explaining who and what is depicted in the photograph and if possible the date it was taken. Your picture will be returned when the book is completed. All photographs will be reviewed for content and clarity.

There is no charge for having your photo published.

Families, individuals, groups, businesses, clubs and organizations may also purchase **PATRON** pages in the book as a permanent record for future generations. Patron pages may be purchased for \$235.00 full page or \$185.00 for half page. A copy of the book is included for the full page purchase.

Send all material and book orders to : Highland County Historical Society, 151 East Main St., Hillsboro, OH 45133.

All submitted photos and material should be sent in no later than **October 31, 2003**.

As a non-profit organization, our purpose in publishing this history is to preserve these photos and history for future generations. It will be necessary to collect orders in advance to assure publication as only a limited number of books will be published.

The number of pages will depend on the number of photographs, historical material, and book orders received. This hard back book will be beautifully bound with a full color photo of the Highland County Courthouse on the cover.

This **PICTORIAL HISTORY OF HIGHLAND COUNTY, OHIO** is available on a pre-sale basis, priced at only **\$34.95** (Ohio residents add 7% sales tax.) An order form is included on the back page of this newsletter.

Order your copies now!!

Please order by **October 31, 2003**.

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

In connection with the above book project we still need volunteers to help assemble and review the photos and material collected for the book - **especially for the outlying townships**. The society is trying to make this project a project for the **whole county**. We still need volunteers from some of the townships. We also need volunteers to contact the businesses in **all of the townships**.

Board Of Trustees  
Highland County  
Historical Society

## Highland County Historical Society

### DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

The guest register at the museum was signed by 195 visitors during the recent Festival of Bells. We hope you were one of those visiting. Our gift shop realized a great number of sales, which included Bi-centennial county barns and coverlets. We thank Marilyn Geese (representing the Hillsboro Woman's Club) for scheduling the volunteers and we thank all who helped make the weekend a tremendous success.

The Junior Mother's Club hosted the dedication of the sound system and presentation of the appropriate plaque in memory of Lenora Gordon. We were pleased that Lenora's daughters were able to attend.

An agreement has been reached concerning replacement of 6 windows in the museum, and work will start in a few weeks. Now we have been informed that the shingles on the original section of the building need to be replaced. The existing shingles are about 30 years old.

The next time you visit the museum please take time to admire our herb garden. Thanks to Paula Wright's plants and her instructions the garden has thrived.

We again ask for your participation at the Highland House Museum, the camaraderie is great and we await your phone call.

### MEMBERSHIP:

To all those that renewed their memberships in July and August, thank you so much.

Our records show that several long-time members have not. We miss you and need you, and hope to hear from you soon.

A membership card and self-addressed envelope are enclosed for your convenience.

Membership dues are: Individual - \$10.00, Family - \$15.00.

Sustaining - \$25.00, Lifetime individual - \$100.00, with spouse - \$150.00.

Corporate Membership - \$125.00, Heritage Membership - \$250 or more.

Transferring to life-time memberships are: Helen S. Carr, Wm. H. Hamilton, Rosemary Ryan, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Andrew Jr., Mr. & Mrs. David Williams, Mr. & Mrs. Byron Wisecup, and Mr. & Mrs. Robert Newly.

Welcome, to new members: Mary Ellen Lynch, Rosemary Wilkin, and Mr. & Mrs. Don Roberts.

The Membership Committee, Frieda Redkey, Ch.

### MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES:

#### LOG CABIN COOKOUT

The Highland County Historical Society's popular LOG CABIN COOKOUT will be held on Thursday evening October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 P.M. in the back yard of the Highland House Museum, 151 East Main Street. Hot stew will be served from an iron kettle heated in the fireplace of the cabin located behind the museum. Please bring your own table service. After dinner speaker will be Historian Al Martellotti.

See next page for details and reservation form.

#### President

Jean Wallis

#### Vice President

Robert Parker  
Shawn Priest  
Freda Redkey  
Jean Wallis  
Tom Watkins  
Betty Wilkin  
Sharon Yochum

#### Recording Secretary

Martha Watkins

#### Personnel:

##### Director

Margaret Van Frank

##### Ass't. Director

Jan Houston

##### Restoration

Loren Farwell

##### Financial Secretary

Jack Garman

##### Treasurer

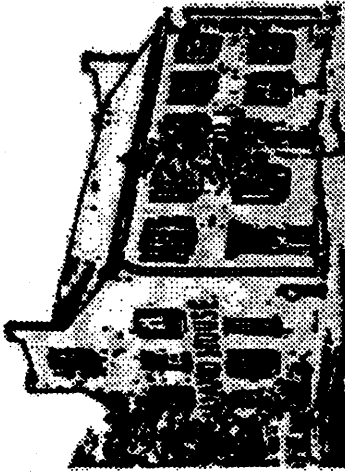
Rose Ryan





**Highland County  
Historical Society**

151 EAST MAIN STREET  
HILLSBORO, OHIO 45133

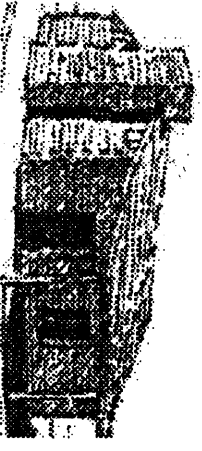


HIGHLAND HOUSE MUSEUM

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No. 14  
Hillsboro, OH

VALUE DATED

HIGHLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



**REMINDERS:**

*Have you paid your Historical Society Dues???*

*Annual Log Cabin Stew Dinner Meeting -*

*Oct. 23, 2003 6:00 pm*

*Pictorial History Book Orders due October 31, 2003*



## **Museum Muses**

**HIGHLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**151 East Main Street, Hillsboro, OH 45133**

**937 393-3392**

**November, 2003**

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# **OPEN HOUSE HIGHLAND HOUSE MUSEUM**

**November 14, 2004**

**1 to 5 P.M.**

**Come See THE GIFT SHOP**

**So many beautiful items that,  
YOU WILL DO ALL YOUR  
CHRISTMAS SHOPPING  
WITH US**

## HIGHLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### Board of Trustees

Avery Applegate  
Dr David Ayres  
Dennis Butler  
Betty Dodds  
Deidre Garringer  
Ron Gilliland  
George Foltz  
Pam Limes  
Robert Parker  
Shawn Priest  
Freda Redkey  
Jean Wallis  
Tom Watkins  
Betty Wilkin  
Sharon Yochum

### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Our pre-season greetings to all. We are pleased that Highland County organizations have chosen to again decorate various rooms in the Museum for the holidays. Our theme this year is "Candy Land". We invite you to our open house, to see the decorated rooms, to enjoy refreshments, and to view Jean Wallis' entire collection of Bicentennial Barns. The Gift Shop will be brimming with many interesting items and we hope to see you on November 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Please don't forget to send in the Children's Tea Party reservation form on the last page. Reservations are required.**

The Museum hours will be Fridays from 1-5 PM,  
Saturdays from 1-4 PM, and Sundays from 1-4 PM until December 20<sup>th</sup>.

Next year's "HOME TOWN" house will be the Colony Theater.

Margaret Van Frank

### Officers

**President**  
Jean Wallis  
**Vice President**  
Tom Watkins  
**Secretary**  
Martha Watkins  
**Treasurer**  
Rose Ryan

### MEMBERSHIP

This year is fast coming to an end and sadly all members have not renewed their memberships. If this is an oversight you still have time, and we would **appreciate hearing from you.** A membership renewal form is printed on the last page for your information and use.

We welcome new members - Christina Ross and M/M Jim Hammill.

Frieda Redkey

### Administration

**Director**  
Margaret Van Frank  
**Assistant Director**  
Jan Houston  
**Restoration**  
Loren Farwell  
**Financial**  
Jack Garman  
**Newsletter**  
Tom Watkins

### VOLUNTEERS

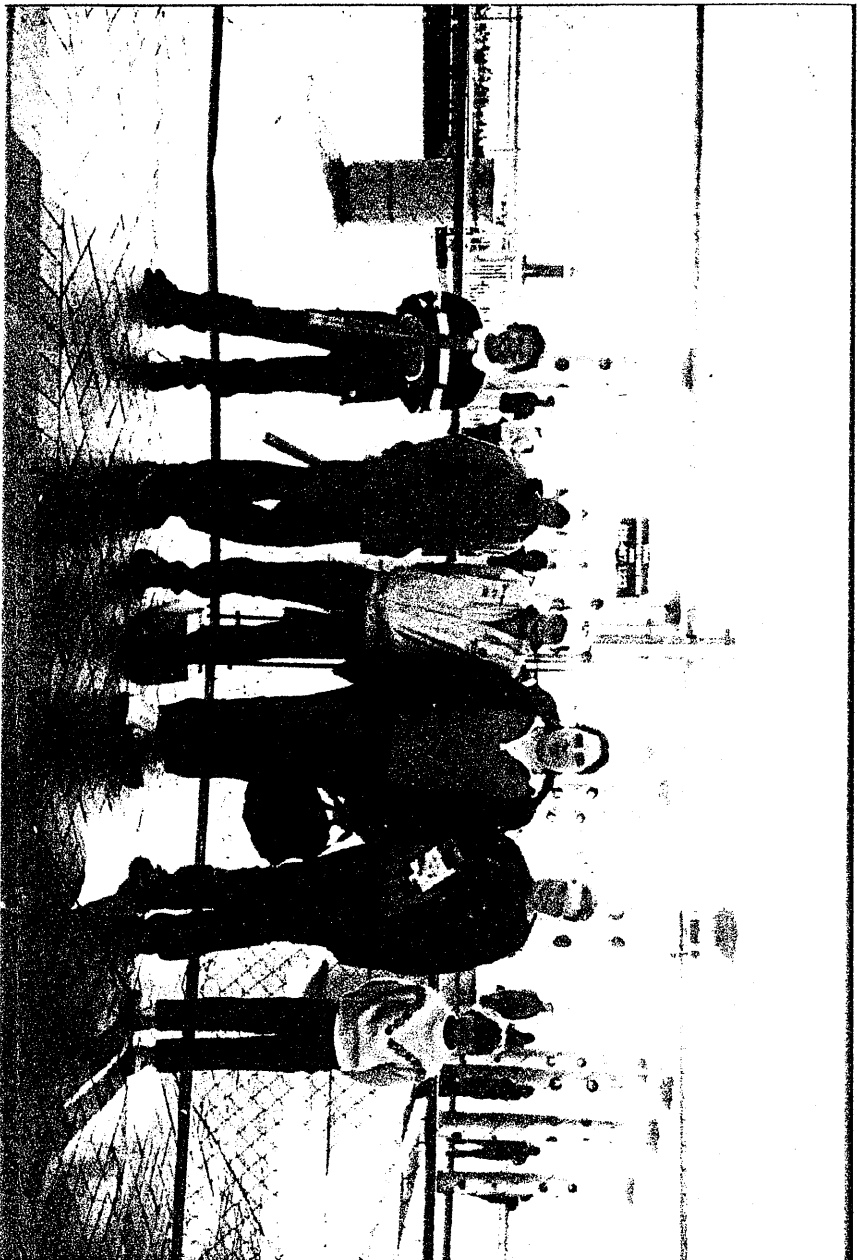
The members of the volunteer committee would like to thank all who have served as hosts and hostesses on Sundays over the past months. Thanks to all of you we have all of our slots filled for November and December including Saturdays and Sundays between the open house and Christmas.

The museum will be closed during January and February, but come March we will need the help of many volunteers again. If you have a particular date for which you would like to volunteer please feel free to call Sharon Yochum at 840-9052 any time. Otherwise we will most likely be calling on you again in the spring or summer of 2004.

**We really appreciate each and every one of you for helping us make the museum available to the public. We could not do it without your help.**

Sharon Yochum

## EXPLORER'S CLUB



Once again, the explorers have been out and about in search of learning adventures! The month of September found the Club roasting hot dogs and marshmallows over the open flame of the Highland House's log cabin fireplace after spending time with the Rick Johnson and his family from the Fort Hill area. The Johnson's brought a Conestoga wagon along with lots of historical clothing, items, stories, and games from the pioneer times. We were happy to have a lot of the local Scouts as guests that day.

October took the crew to Cincinnati for Tall Stacks! The crowds were heavy but a glimpse back in time is always a good time for this group! Shown in the photo from that outing is (left to right): Nathan Biggers, Patrick Rudisill, Tyler Ayers, Katie Cavendish, Hannah Wickard, and Jennifer Biggers.

Avery Applegate

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our first deadline on the Society's Pictorial History of Highland County has come and gone. We were very happy and amazed at the response we received, but still have a long way to go.

As of November 3, we have sold 79½ patron pages and 274 books. Our new deadline set by the publisher is January 31, 2004. This will give you a chance of purchasing a book, or books, or submitting a patron page; and could possibly be your last opportunity depending on what we receive over the next three months. This is your society, please support it!

If you have questions call the Museum at 393-3392, Jean Wallis at 393-2759, Frieda Redkey at 393-0404 or Shawn Priest at 780-6888.

**HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON!**

Jean Wallis