

Waterville Historical Society Newsletter

2014

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday August 24:

Old Time Picnic!

Conrad Park, Noon-5 PM

*Pack a picnic lunch or just come and join us for old time games, live music, ice cream & much more. Friends of the Library will offer beverages available for sale. Event is **free** & open to the public.*

Saturday, September 27

Roche de Boeuf! Experience our "Pioneer Arts" at the 114 S. River Road campus, 9 AM-4 PM. *Artisans, pioneer era & Native American re-enactors, story tellers, music, museum tours, attic treasures, silent auction & more. Event is **free** & open to the public.*

Wednesday, October 22

Meet us at **Wakeman Cemetery** for "**A Ghostly Encounter**" at 6:30 PM. Citizens from the past just may appear to tell about their lives in the early days of Waterville.

Wednesday, November 19

Monthly Program, "**Railroads & Telegraphy: Connecting Waterville to the Outside World**," Wakeman Hall, 7 PM. Local railroad buffs will move us from River Town to Canal Town to **Rail Town!**

Wednesday, December 17 Christmas Dinner

@ Browning, 6-9 PM; members and friends are invited to celebrate this final event of our 50th year in the community! For more information, call Ann

GRAPHIC DESIGNER:
JACLYN HARVEY

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members of the Waterville Historical Society,

Our Fiftieth Anniversary celebratory year moves on! We have already sponsored nine events and programs this year and have at least six more to come! Our biggest endeavor will be the Olde Time Picnic at Conrad Park on Sunday, August 24. Please join us for an afternoon of community fun and, by all means, check out this issue's list of other upcoming events.

We are honored to announce that the WHS has been selected as Grand Marshall of the 41st Roche de Boeuf Parade on September 27. Representatives of our organization will occupy the lead car and float. Please come out to see us and, after the parade, visit the Pioneer Arts, museum open houses, and other attractions at our River Road campus.

In an effort to meet our goal of updating educational, archival and community services, we have investigated the creation of a WHS website. Acceptable bids have been reviewed in light of the many specific needs and wants that we would like included. We are ready to work on this goal now.

If you are looking for a Christmas gift for that hard-to-buy-for friend or family member, why not consider giving them a membership to your WHS? Share with them the joy of receiving our newsletters, updates and special programs, as well as the pride of supporting what remains our greatest local treasure—the Waterville Historical Society.

Jim Conrad



The free WHS program June 18 was given at Wakeman Hall by Jim and Toni Stoma "The Sargent House, Past, Present, and Future."

Jim Conrad and Mary Frances Berger lead a group of visitors to the Robbins House on a walking tour of the historic district.



Local Island Resort Remembered

Haskins resident **Gerald Longstreet** visited the archives recently and inquired about Indianola Island where he lived in the 1930s and '40s. It is now known as Missionary Island, opposite Farnsworth Park. He related interesting stories about living there,

especially when it became Parkers' Island, a popular resort with many cottages and a terrazzo dance floor. Well known dance bands came out to entertain the crowds. A bootlegger had customers there during prohibition.

The Wakeman Archival Center has some information but no photos of it and would like to know if anyone has any photos and/or memories of it to share they could bring to the archives to be copied.



CANAL BOATS STOPPING AT WATERVILLE

The ledgers for the canal stores give us insight regarding the amount of canal boat traffic from 1868 to 1888 stopping in Waterville. They tell us what was purchased, prices and names of many local people who traded at the business. Some of the items being bought or sold were flour, sugar, apples, plug tobacco, bushels of potatoes, wood, oats, hay, coffee, eggs, onions, whiskey, crackers, "coal oil," tea, salt, wash boards, cake soap, pork, scoop shovels and linseed oil. Some of the handwriting is difficult to read and many times the person writing in the books spelled individuals' names using phonetic spelling and some using German spelling. The ledgers are located at the Wakeman Archival Center and may be seen there but can only be copied with

a digital camera due to their fragile condition.

Ostrander Store was located on the west side of Third Street with a dock on the canal bank. On a number of days there were listed 7-10 canal boats all stopping on the same day to exchange goods. Many boats were there frequently and others may have only been listed once in awhile. The account book shows a few of the boats stopping at the store in the year 1868: Aaron Palmer, Albert, Blockade, Brooklyn, Echo, Eldorado, Evens, Gen. Grant, Gen. Scott, Gen. Sherman, Geo. Washington, Hazeldell, Indianolia, Kirk Johnson, Lady Mary, Lewellyn Look, Lumberman, Miami Valley, Plowboy, Queen City, Rob Roy, Scotty, Scow A, Scow D, Sea Bird,

Shamrock, Uncle Sam, Wabash of Toledo, Weekawken, West Wind, and York Town. There is an index for individuals stopping at this canal store.

Rupp Canal Store was located on the canal and east of the present Wakeman Hall. We have notes mentioning the following canal boats stopping there from 1883 to 1888: Georgia, Sterling, State Boat, Josephine, Doretta, H.E. Cory, Empire, Quaker, Xious, Union, Shelly, Maggie, Tempest, J.A. Boyd, Bessie, Quaker, Legal Tender, Ocean Wave, and T.B. Pinkerton. We are in the process of indexing this book.

Metroparks historian Jen Christensen delighted a packed house at Browning Care Center for the July program. "Ms. Virginia Bennett," a young educated canal boat worker who shared her personal story.



A Tragic Accident

from the *Perrysburg Journal*
July 9, 1869



After leaving a ball at the Columbian House around three o'clock in the morning, Andrew Ovitt, Oscar Lyons and his wife Adaline and her two sisters, Lodusca and Alice boarded their skiff to return to their homes on the other side of the river. The skiff which they used in crossing was perhaps half a mile above Waterville opposite Miltonville at the ferry. There was a deep fog and the water was swift and turbulent.

When they reached the middle of the river the boat tipped and took on water. Lodesca was frightened and

jumped upon the edge of the boat while Alice sprang upon the back of Oscar Lyons and the skiff capsized. Oscar swam for Dodd's Island [Granger Island] which he reached safely though exhausted, while Alice was barely alive when dragged ashore. Andrew clung to the boat which was bottom up and helped Adaline and Lodusca partially upon it. The boat upset twice more and then got away from them. Adaline seized Andrew around the body and Lodusca clung to her sister. Though not a good swimmer he started towards the island, frequently getting his feet

tangled in Adaline's clothing and all would go under. Within five feet of the island, Andrew sprang for a limb of a tree and Adaline lost her grasp upon him and the two sisters were lost. Lodusca's body was recovered lodged in the roots of a tree not far from where she drowned, but Adaline's body drifted over a mile and was not found for a few days.

The three ladies were daughters of Mr. and Mrs. George Lomas of Miltonville. Adaline was about 20 years of age, Lodusca 18 and Alice 16.

DONATIONS TO THE WAKEMAN ARCHIVAL CENTER SINCE MAY

- Richard Shoemaker donated Wakeman Lodge #522 notebook showing pictures of the Past Masters from Warren B. Gunn 1879-1880 to Michael Fish 2006-2008.
- Roselia Deters Verhoff, former Putnam County auditor, donated *Putnam County Court House, Commemorating 100 years 1913-2013* by Randall L. Basinger and Roselia Deters Verhoff.
- Bernice Brown donated a wooden clock with Order of the Eastern Star symbol on the face, made by James Brown.
- Pollie Miller donated nineteen 8x10 photos on 10x14 fiber board of the 1904 Waterville, Haskins, Grand Rapids, and Perrysburg photos originally owned by Florence Starkweather. These were found in her former home owned by the Miller family.
- Eugene Bergfeld donated seven framed and matted photographic prints of old Waterville that used to hang in Herb's Variety Store on Third Street.
- Helen Childers donated a 1944 Sanborn Insurance Map of Waterville and a book written by Ernest H. Ferrell, Sr., *Stories I Want My Grandchildren to Know*.
- Jason Whalen donated a coffee can with the words "Christmann and Metzger, Rio Coffee." Christmann was a proprietor of the Pekin Mill in 1885. In 1868, J.M. Christmann also owned the Canal Store with the Haskins which was later the Haskins Brothers (John H. and Liberty W). Much later this canal store would be known as the Rupp Canal Store. (The name Christman was originally spelled Christmann)

Presenter Kathy Dowd shows a revolutionary new (1800s) fashion for women called "bloomers" ! WHS presented a TEA for the May program.



Waterville Historical Society

Celebrating 50 years in the community!

Come and visit our PIONEER ARTS area:

Roche de Bozef Day, Saturday, Sept. 27, 2014 ~ 9 AM-4 PM

114 S. River Rd. & South Street,

1 block south of old Waterville School



Visit Red Bear & his encampment of hunters & trappers, demonstrating native American skills; over 30 artisans with interactive experiences for kids, e.g. butter churning, corn shelling, pottery, tin punching, basket weaving & much more!

+Music, stage performances, square dancing, & storytelling. Museum tours, "Attic Treasures" sales, and new this year is a "Chinese Raffle"* Many attractions for history lovers, families, and friends. Hands-on historic experiences for kids of all ages!

Free admission!

***Our Chinese Raffle:**

A gold and white art glass vase signed and dated 1986 by the late Brian Lonsway will be one of five items featured in a Chinese Auction on RDB Day. Displayed on the grounds of the Robbins House Museum, each item will have a container for raffle tickets. This will allow people to select which prize they hope to win and insert as many raffle tickets as they wish. Besides three other pieces of art, a lovely wicker chair will be one of the prizes. Winners need not be present to win at the drawing at the end of the day.

COMING SOON
TO FACEBOOK!

Waterville's First City Mail Carrier

Did you know... the first city mail carrier in Waterville was **Herb Delventhal** who began delivering the mail in 1961? He was born on March 13, 1929 to the landscaping family that lived on Route 24 between Waterville and Grand Rapids. Herb attended Waterville School and graduated in 1947. He was drafted into the Army in December 1950 and served in the Korean War.

Herb retired from his career as a mail carrier in 1986 after 25 years of service. He has fond memories of people he knew on his mail route, including messages left on and in mailboxes. One of

them said "old mailmen never die, they just lose their zip."

Mr. Delventhal has many interesting hobbies. For example, he does artistic wood burning, pen and ink sketching, designing wood highway signs, and building boats from kits.

He has owned a canoe, a small sailboat, and 3 kayaks. The last kayak weighed only 35 pounds. Herb organized the Northwest Ohio Canoe and Kayak Club in 2002 so people could paddle more safely in a group on local lakes and rivers.



His kayak is named "Herby Derby," a name a little girl on his mail route gave him some years ago. He has also done much promotion for polka and related dancing, and served as the Ohio writer for "The Polka News" for almost twenty years.

Herb Delventhal is living an interesting and active life. Good for you, Herb!

Jane Ashenfelter grew up in the Metzger house featured in the last newsletter. She and her twin sister were born in 1925. Here she is admiring the Victorian artifacts from the Robbins House on display at the May TEA. You look mahvelous, Janel

Welcome Our New Members!

Richard and Joyce Fries

Diane & Hal Harper

Hi-Tek Signs by Demarie

Carolyn M Reese

Sally Waggoner



Keeping in Touch

Long time member and volunteer **Marilyn Crum** reports that husband Ron is recovering nicely from recent surgery.

Evelyn Lusch will be celebrating her 103rd birthday on October 3rd. WOW! Happy Birthday Evelyn!

Let us know what's happening with you or members you know so that we can keep in touch! Simply e-mail one of the board members with your information and we'll share with membership.

Notice to members~

Please remind us of a Change of address notice if you plan to be away for the winter. Because of the high postage rate, we ask you to please provide a current e-mail address so that you may enjoy our newsletter as an e-mail attachment (rather than U.S. mail) which will then be in full living color for you!
E-mail Rose

Waterville Historical Society Foundation Update

The Board of Directors of the Waterville Historical Society recently announced the formation of the ***Waterville Historical Society Foundation*** under the umbrella of the Toledo Community Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Foundation monies will be used to fund future

restoration and care of the properties owned by the Society, update the Society's computer systems, and create our own website. Will you consider a 2014 end of year charitable gift to the Waterville Historical Society Foundation?

Your tax advisor will be impressed! Help preserve the past of our canal town for present and future generations. For more information, contact board member Jim Stoma

John Pray thanks you!

In Memoriam

The Waterville Historical Society extends its sympathy to member **Jane Ashenfelter** on the death of her son, **Richard J. Ashenfelter**, who died July 15, 2014 at the age of 62. A 1970 graduate of Anthony Wayne High School, Richard was injured in a motorcycle accident in 1971 and used a wheelchair from then on. But Richard never gave up hope and was always planning for tomorrow. He was a member of the Progressive Fisherman's Association. We send our deepest condolences to the Ashenfelter family.

Condolences are also extended to the family of **Eugene Bergfeld** who died June 22. He was a friend of WHS (see list of donations page 3) and was scheduled to be one of the presenters at the November program about Waterville's railroads. He worked for many years as a traffic manager for Nickle Plate and N & W Railroads. He was a member of St. Joseph's Church Maumee and Waterville's "Idlers and Loafers". His wife Marcella "Sally" survives along with four sons, 13 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

 **CenturyLink® Supports the Mission of WHS!**

For the third year **Century Link** has committed \$500.00 to the Society for its contribution to the local community. They have supported our mission to "...preserve, provide access to, interpret, and foster an appreciation of the history that has had an impact on Waterville and its surrounding area." Through Century Link and our affiliation with the **Waterville Chamber of Commerce**, our River Road campus comes alive to showcase many *Pioneer Arts* at the annual Roche de Bozaf festival. The event will be held this year on September 27. Many thanks to both organizations for supporting our work in the community.



Enthusiastic Anthony Wayne High School students eager to thank our sponsor.



**And don't forget to join us this Sunday, August 24, Noon to 5 PM at Conrad Park (right here at our Waterville library) for music, games, fun and relaxation.
Bring your picnic lunch, a camp chair, and plan to stay awhile!**

Waterville Historical Society

P.O. Box 263

Waterville, OH 43566

WHS Officers and Board of Directors for 2014

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Mary Ann Parker
Jim Stoma

Return Service Requested



Please watch the U.S. mail for your invitation to our **annual Christmas dinner** on Wednesday, December 17th. This year we will hold the event at the Browning Care Center which has been our partner through WHS' 50th anniversary year. Our costs will be lower and a Change of venue will make a little different experience for members. Friends and family are also welcome. If you do not receive your invitation by November 14, please Call Ann Lotshaw