

January 2014

Waterville Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 34: Issue 1

WINTER 2014

CELEBRATE 50 YEARS!

50th Anniversary Calendar of Events

DECEMBER 2013

31: Founders' Year Kick-off, Clock Tower @7:15

FEBRUARY 2014

12: Naturalization Ceremony, Browning @10AM-Noon

MARCH 2014

19: Monthly Program, Browning, "A Pictorial History of Waterville," Jim Conrad @7p.m.

APRIL 2014

27: Historical Marker Dedication, Wakeman, @2p.m.

MAY 2014

10: 1800s Tea Room, Wakeman, @2p.m.

31: Monthly Open House & Walking Tour, WHS River Road Campus, @9a.m.

JUNE 2014

18: Monthly Program, TBA @7p.m

28: Monthly Open House & Walking Tour, WHS River Road campus+ Wakeman, @9a.m.

JULY 2014

16: Monthly Program, Browning, @7p.m.

26: Monthly Open House & Walking Tour, WHS River Road campus, @9a.m.

AUGUST 2014

24: Old Tyme Picnic, Conrad Park, @Noon

SEPTEMBER 2014

27: Roche De Boeuf Day! WHS River Road Campus

OCTOBER 2014

22: Wakeman Cemetery "Ghost Walk" @6:30p.m.

NOVEMBER 2014

19: Monthly Program, Wakeman @7p.m

DECEMBER 2014

17: Christmas Dinner @ Browning, @6-9p.m.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!
Bob
and Carol Streight



This photo was taken in front of Ostrander's Store. Does anyone know who the people are or what they are doing?

A Message From The President, Jim Conrad

I am both honored and excited to assume the presidency of the Waterville Historical Society. Many things have changed since I was born and raised in Waterville. At that time we boasted a population of about one thousand. With a garage owner/fire chief for my father and a local postal clerk for my mother, I grew up knowing almost everyone in town. Looking back, we often joke that we were raised in Mayberry. After spending thirty-five years living in Toledo and teaching social studies in the TPS system, I returned to Waterville in retirement. Although so much seems so different, so much has not changed at all. Our town still retains all the charm of that small, friendly river community I came to love so long ago.

2014 marks an exciting and challenging year for us. In recognition of our 50th anniversary as an historical society, we have scheduled over fifteen events and programs to help celebrate. We also look forward to the challenges of the next fifty years as we endeavor to continue to preserve Waterville's past and improve our delivery of educational, archival and community services.

Please join us in our celebratory year by attending our events, bringing your friends and family, and encouraging membership in our great local treasure—the Waterville Historical Society!

Jim Conrad
President

Hello! My name is Jaclyn Harvey. I am a Junior at Anthony Wayne High school and I am 17 years old. My birthday is September 21, 1996. I have big plans for school after high school; I plan on going to Owens Community College for my basic classes and a photography class and then I plan to transfer to Academy of Arts in Cincinnati.



I want to double major in Photography and Computer Graphics. I live with my father and my dog, Brutus, in the town of Neapolis. My mother, along with my 3 younger sisters, live in Lancaster, OH.

When my first period teacher asked if anyone would be interested in designing this newsletter for the Waterville Historical Society I was very interested. I had been thinking about doing something for the community and saw this as a perfect opportunity.

Last year was the 84th Annual Polar Plunge and there was a turnout of over 200 people! Being a participant of the Polar Plunge I can say that it's one of the most cleansing things I've ever done. You meet by the school and hang out until they give a little speech and then everyone runs in. Even little children can do it. My younger cousins and sisters participated and had a blast!

Attention, Members! Please watch for upcoming news regarding an important financial development for the Society. Stay tuned!



Museums Receive New Designations

The Ohio Historic Preservation Office has approved the addition of the Sargent House to the Ohio Historic Inventory, thanks to the efforts of Scott Duncan and Verna and John Rose. The application form with photos and Site Plan have been added to the permanent files at the OHPO and are also in their main database, publicly available for researchers. The Robbins House was previously listed.

Both the Sargent House and Robbins House were recently included in the Waterville Historic District. A letter requesting the designation from the WHS officers and board was sent to the Historic District Committee, also the city. The Mayor and the Council approved the inclusion of the South River Road museums.



Waterville Bridge Plans

As many may know, the Ohio Department of transportation is looking for a new location for a new Route 64 Bridge crossing the Maumee River between Waterville and Perrysburg Township. The three possible sites for this new bridge include: 1. Teardown of the old bridge and replacement on the current site; 2. A span adjacent to the current bridge; 3. A span that would run on a diagonal from the current entrance to the bridge in Perrysburg Township to end at the site of the old school at Farnsworth Rd. in downtown Waterville. The WHS Board voted unanimously for option #2, which would allow the current bridge to continue to be used while the new bridge is being constructed.

The WHS Board voted for the aesthetics to be metal bridge railings (instead of concrete), a scenic "bumpout" at one or two points along the bridge span and a walking lane to allow foot travel. Opinions for night lighting for the bridge were mixed considering maintenance and replacement costs. An open meeting will be held in March of 2014 to solicit public opinion regarding the bridge.

WHS Annual Christmas Dinner; an Enjoyable Event

The annual Christmas Dinner for Waterville Historical Society was held at the historic and decorative Carranor Hunt and Polo Club in Perrysburg on December 11. This event has been organized by Lois Rubright and Valerie Rowley for the past six years! We appreciate their efforts and seek new planners for 2014 where the dinner will be held in Browning's banquet facility.

A humorous welcome and overview of the upcoming 50th anniversary year was extended by Jim Stoma and Rose Kandik, first and second Vice Presidents for 2014. Mary Ann Parker provided a blessing for the meal. Jim Conrad, incoming president, was unable to attend due to a recent surgery.

A 50/50 raffle was held. Lois Rubright won \$139.00 (donated back to WHS) and Linda Pezzino won a \$25.00 gift certificate donated by Joe I. Cooper Florist. Special guest at the dinner was WHS member Susan Pray Fitzgerald, a descendant of Dr. Welcome Pray. He was an early doctor in the Maumee Valley area and of Waterville, arriving in 1830, and a nephew of John Pray, the founder of Waterville.

It was a night of greeting old friends and to once again enjoy the décor of the Carranor Hunt and Polo Club. Through the windows the sight of falling snow added to the beauty of the holiday event.



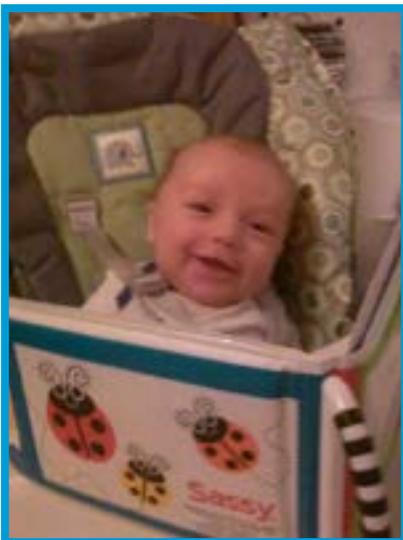
Keeping in Touch

• Best wishes to WHS President Jim Conrad who is recuperating at home following surgery. We're looking forward to seeing Jim up and around for the Society's activities in 2014.

• Also recovering from surgery at home is member Earl Witzler. Get well soon, Earl!

• Archives genealogist and standing committee member Verna Rose is completing physical therapy following thumb surgery and now faces hip surgery. Best of luck, Verna!

• Congratulations to member Florence Wheelden on the birth of her first great-grandchild, Caleb Harold Burleson, born October 2, 2013 to Alison and Carl Burleson. Caleb is a descendant of early Waterville settlers, the Fausz and Ullrich families.



Imagine what life was like in Waterville in 1900 when this ordinance was passed! The Waterville Historical Society has received many old documents from the Village of Waterville which have been organized and preserved at Wakeman Archives.

Waterville Ordinance No. 107

SECTION 1:

It shall be unlawful for any person within the corporate limits of this village on the first day of the week, commonly called Sunday, to engage in playing at any game of ball, marbles, pitching quoits, or any other game or sport, or to engage in any game of billiards, pool, or bowling at any saloon or other public place; or to discharge any fire-arm of any kind except for the purpose of destroying some vicious or destructive animal or bird

SECTION 2:

Any person violating any of the provisions of this ordinance shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction thereof shall be fined in any sum not more than ten dollars, and the costs of prosecution, and the person so fined shall stand committed until such fine and costs are paid.

SECTION 3:

This ordinance shall take effect from after its passage and after publication.

"Feb.26, 1900 A.J. Taylor, Clerk
George Utz, Mayor"

Past Events of 2013:

NEW YEARS EVE PARTY:



General Anthony Wayne (Frank Butwin) ducked into the warming tent following the New Year's Eve celebration at the Waterville clock tower and enjoyed birthday cake and hot chocolate.

Bill Albert had arranged for a beautiful cake to celebrate the General's 268th birthday as well as the 50th anniversary of the Waterville Historical Society. WHS would like to thank all the participants: the Playshop Singers who kicked off the event; Vice Mayor Jeff Marty for his greeting; Town Crier Garrett Sellers; trumpeter Steven Barnes; the John Wagner family for the cannon boom; and a special thanks to C of C member Dave Booth and Public Works Director Kenny Blair for their help in organizing the evening's events; plus many others. Although the evening was bitterly cold the crowd joined in the singing, including "Auld Lang Syne" at midnight (8:00 p.m.), enjoyed the refreshments and left in high spirits.

Cub Scout Bear Den of the Whitehouse Pack 97 and their den leader, Ms. Jodi Schilling visited the Wakeman Archives on November 23, 2013 to learn about local history. Volunteer John Rose led a group discussion about pioneers, what it meant to leave a highly civilized area to go to the wild frontier, how they got here, how they survived and how the local communities of Whitehouse, Waterville and Monclova grew. The discussion led to other topics such as canals and railroads, mills and waterpower, schools and how each person has their own personal history. Nine scouts along with parents and one sister attended and all were attentive and asked very good questions. The day was enjoyed by all including WHS volunteers John and Verna Rose. The Scouts attending included Harrison Schilling, Dilon Mundo, Nathaniel Nicely, Logan Davis, Joey Roush, Aydin Boyt, Colin Kaczarawski, and Justin Brown.

DONATIONS TO THE ARCHIVES SINCE JUNE, 2013

1. Jane Hansen-3 framed local canal pictures
2. Chuck Larkins- large 1932 calendar from the Koch Lumber Co.
3. Becky Jacobs and Noreen Graves-original photograph of the Waterville High Schools Girls Basketball Team for 1924-25
4. Becky Randell--Ohio State Horticultural Society List, speech written by Mrs. Anna N. Farnsworth, commencement exercise for 1910, letter from W.W. Farnsworth to members of Horticultural Society
5. Doris Rath-A Victorian dollhouse that we were allowed to sell
6. Ross Farnsworth-W.G. Farnsworth 1906 pocket diary, W.G. and Ella Farnsworth Family Bible dated 1890, records of the proceeding of the Incorporation and Directors of W.G. Farnsworth Orchards and CD regarding Farnsworth home
7. Sherry Hill - framed photographs of the former Schmid Funeral home and Geoff Wells Funeral home on Fourth St., Waterville Beauty Shop and Spud's Marathon advertising artifacts, 2005 Public Works 10th Annual Open house plastic pig
8. Marie Plotts-a token for the Community Traction Co.
9. James Conrad- Portrait of Mary Pray Haskins
10. Susan Pray Fitzgerald- Civil War letters from Paris Pray, James Fisher Pray, family photographs, marriage records, DAR certificate, case of drafting tools, family diaries and numerous family articles (This family is descended from Dr. Welcome Pray who was an early 1835 physician in the Waterville-Maumee Valley area)
11. Carrol McCune - "Ohio Electric Railroad Bridge" written by Carrol
12. David Kemmer--Wittes family papers and photos, Waterville Butter Co. photos, AW year books, scrapbook from the 1930s
13. Eugene Bergfeld- a brown tone photograph of Thomas Edison which was presented to the Waterville High School on Oct 21, 1929
14. Mary Beth DeMatteo- "Waterville on the Banks of History" CD telling of the history of Waterville narrated by Jim Conrad and used for Tree City USA program
15. Arlene Brossia-a 2-ring notebook containing minutes of the Clark Gourley Post #463 of the American Legion Auxillary for 1922-1927
16. Win Sturgeon-antique baby cradle from the mid 1800s that was used by his grandmother when she was a baby and given in memory of Ellamae Sturgeon.
17. Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Utz donated their Indian relics and a property deed signed by President Tyler that has been on loan to WHS and displayed in the Sargent House.

Waterville Historical Society
P.O. Box 263
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President:

Jim Conrad

1st VP:

Jim Stoma

2nd VP:

Rose Kandik

Recording Secretary:

Ann Lotshaw

Corresponding Secretary:

Elaine Blackwood

Treasurer:

Gary Waugh

Board members:

Bill Albert

Frank Butwin

Scott Duncan

Mary Ann Parker

Kathy Saco

Norm Witzler

Standing Committee/Geneologist:

Verna Rose

Standing Committee/Archivist:

Phyllis Witzler

Curators:

Mary Ann Parker

Jim Stoma

Return Service Requested

WHS MISSION STATEMENT

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The Waterville Historical Society collects, preserves, provides access to, interprets and fosters an appreciation of the history that has an impact on Waterville and its surrounding area.