



# Waterville Historical Society Newsletter

*Toni Stoma, Ed.*

## 2017 Events:

### MARCH 15

“General Anthony Wayne”

Speaker: **Frank Butwin**  
Browning Community, 7pm

### APRIL 19

“Remembering Waterville School”

Speaker: **Jim Conrad**  
Browning Community, 7pm

### APRIL 29

Open Houses, 9am-12pm  
Wakeman Archival Center,  
10am-2pm

### MAY 17

“A History of the Toledo Zoo”

Speaker: **Toledo Zoo Staff**  
Wakeman Hall, 7pm

### May 20

Open Houses 9am-12pm  
Wakeman Archival Center,  
10am-2pm

Downtown Walking Tour,  
9am from Robbins House

### JUNE 8-10

Attic Treasures Sale,  
9am-3pm  
Wakeman Hall

### JUNE 17

Historic Homes Tour,  
10am-4pm

Historic Waterville

### JUNE 24

Open Houses 9am-12pm  
Wakeman Archival Center,  
10am-2pm

Uptown Walking Tour, 11am,  
from Wakeman Hall

### July 29

Open Houses 9am-12pm  
Wakeman Archival Center,  
10am-2pm  
Downtown Walking Tour,  
9am from Robbins House

## A letter from the President

Dear Members of the Waterville Historical Society,

For nearly 200 years, Watervillians have called this delightful burg along the Maumee River home. Since 1964, the WHS, through the acquisition of historic properties, the development of a highly respected archival center, and educational programs and opportunities for both adults and children, has earned the respect of residents and visitors. We continue to celebrate, publicize and expand upon our legacy of serving as a vital asset and source of great pride to the City of Waterville. We look forward to the completion of the restored Public Square with our historic campus at 114–118 S. River Road serving as the southern anchor of our historic corridor.

2017 promises to be another exciting year for us. Just several years ago we annually offered only four programs, four open houses, four walking tours, and no winter hours at Wakeman Archival Center. This year five programs of interest are scheduled. Our museums are slated to be open eight Saturdays. We will conduct six walking tours as well as a historic home tour, the first in twenty-eight years! Winter archival hours will be provided. We will also continue to expand our educational and civic services to the community through interaction with local school children, scouting groups and all other interested parties.

In order to facilitate our dream of an enriched historic campus, expanded and improved services, and a historical society financially sound to meet the demands of the 21st century, we continue to plan a capital project. The SOS (Save our Sargent) Fund Raising Committee, consisting of Bill Anderson, Bob Chapman, Jim Conrad, Charles Larkins, Paula Lauer, Steve Lauer, John Rose, Jim Stoma, Tom Verner, Diana Waugh and Gary Waugh, has hired a professional consultant and continues to meet regularly, frequently, and unselfishly. Their time and efforts are greatly appreciated.

In addition to saving the deteriorating Sargent House, we hope to:

- improve programming, staffing, technological capabilities, public services, artifact acquisition, advertising and communications;
- upgrade the historic campus and storage facility;
- provide scholarships to worthy local students

and create an endowment to assure future maintenance, operating costs and financial security.

With your help and support we can assure for future generations the continued growth and vitality of one of Waterville's greatest resources—the Waterville Historical Society

Sincerely,  
Jim Conrad

### A January Heads-Up for You!

Please find and pull the **Membership/Donations envelope** tucked into this newsletter. It is especially helpful to WHS if you take care of membership early in the calendar year. We've added a column on the outside flap for you to check off the volunteer opportunities that would help enhance our programs and activities. See accompanying article

**AUGUST 26**

**Open Houses 9am-12pm**  
**Wakeman Archival Center,**  
**10am-2pm**

**Uptown Walking Tour,**  
**11am, from Wakeman Hall**

**SEPTEMBER 23**

**Roche de Boeuf Festival**  
**Robbins & Sargent Houses open**

**OCTOBER 11**

**Ghostly Encounters IV,**  
**Wakeman Cemetery, 6:30 pm**

**OCTOBER 21**

**Open Houses 9am-12pm**  
**Wakeman Archival Center,**  
**10am-2pm**

**Downtown Walking Tour,**  
**9am from Robbins House**

**Uptown Walking Tour,**  
**11am, from Wakeman Hall**

**NOVEMBER 15 "The American Soldier In World War One, A View From the Field"**

**Speaker: Dave Westrick**  
**Wakeman Hall, 7pm**

**DECEMBER 13**

**Christmas Dinner**  
**6 pm**  
**TBA**

## Historic Homes Tour

*Excitement is building for Waterville's first "Historic Homes Tour" since 1989! Be sure to mark your calendar for Saturday, June 17th so that you can attend this delightful event.*

*There will be six beautiful homes in the older sections of Waterville available for touring. Some are very true to their original floorplans and you will get an idea of how our ancestors were living during the early days of our community. Others have been remodeled extensively, but still retain their historic feel with many original touches.*

*We will start ticket sales in April, 2017 with a limited number of \$20.00 tickets for the day, so put this on your calendar as well! You won't want to miss some of the stories that accompany these lovely homes from Waterville's past.*

**Saturday, June 17, 2017, 10 AM - 4 PM**



### IN MEMORIAM!

The Waterville Historical Society is saddened by the death of charter member **Ellen Schaller** who died October 16, 2016, at the Lakes of Monclova. Ellen was born March 26, 1928, in Monclova, Ohio, to Ola and Harry Phipps, and graduated from Monclova High School in 1946. A Waterville area resident for most of her life, Ellen is best remembered as a cheerful teller for 25 years at the First National Bank in Waterville. She was active in the WHS as long as she was able, and served as Sunshine Chairman and as a docent. The WHS sends its deepest sympathy to Ellen's family.

Condolences are also sent to the family of **Evelyn Lusch** who died September 14, 2016, at the age of 104. Evelyn was born October 3, 1911 on her family farm in Erie County, OH and graduated from Margaretta High School in 1929. Her marriage to Charles Lusch in 1946 brought the couple to Lucas County where Evelyn became a member of Zion Lutheran Church, the WHS, and the American Legion Auxiliary. She was a supportive longtime member of WHS. Deepest sympathy goes out to her family.



**Roger Herringshaw**

WHS president Jim Conrad recently touched base with longtime member and 40-year Waterville resident Roger Herringshaw, who now lives in Bowling Green. Jim's parents were good friends of Roger and his late wife, Carolyn, who was a teller at the First National Bank in Waterville.

Roger, now 90 years old, lived in Waterville from 1960 to 2000, and led an active life here. He served on council for 12 years including four years as mayor from 1976-1980. He was a Nationwide Insurance agent for 23 years, retiring in 1985, and member of the American Legion where he served as president nine different years. Old timers might remember Roger in local parades, driving his Model A Ford.

Carolyn (Lehman) Herringshaw who died in 2005, was a charter member of the Waterville Historical Society.

We're happy to hear that Roger is doing well now despite a serious fall and hospitalization earlier last year.

### Keeping In Touch With Our Members

Member **Rich Whitbeck** will celebrate his 95<sup>th</sup> birthday on January 30, 2017. Happy birthday, Rich!

Member **Lu Peyton** is scheduled to have knee replacement surgery. Best of luck, Lu, and we wish you a speedy recovery.

Members **JJim Herzberg, Andy Kandik, Jim Simpson, Jim White and Tom Wiggins** have been experiencing health problems recently, and the WHS sends our best wishes

### Welcome to Our Newest Members from 2016!

Bill & Cheryl Antoszewski  
 Carl & Judy Barnard  
 Tim & Martha Berry  
 Jan & Sandy Droessler  
 Kimberly Edwards  
 Gregory & Sunday Goodwin  
 Virginia Harrison  
 David & Catherine LaGrange  
 Sally Marti  
 Michael Matuszak  
 Adrian Montanaro  
 Tom & Merry Pomeroy  
 John & Beth Schmuhl

**Donations to the Waterville Historical Society for 2016 and numerous fascinating articles about Waterville history can be found at: [www.watervillehistory.org](http://www.watervillehistory.org).**

*It's a site worth viewing!*

## Autumn & Year End Events:



"Ghostly Encounters III" returned to the (cemetery) stage on Wednesday, October 12th. Waterville's ever present ghosts, Edward (1808-1852) and (daughter) Rowena Sargent (1839-1883), John the Prisoner, David Robbins (1808-1859), Susan Curtis Pray (1822-1903), George Isaac Cooper (1835-1902), Jane Gillette Shoemaker (1840-1935), Lucinda Oliver (1879-1981), Harry Witte (1895-1984) and Carl Conrad (1914-1990), again regaled the audience with their funny and poignant stories. They were portrayed by DeAnna and John Bradley, Frank Butwin,



Jim Conrad, David LaGrange, Teya Marshall, Kathy Saco, Karen and Tom Wiggins.

After the performance, warm drinks and pastries were enjoyed at the First Presbyterian Church.

"The Edmund Fitzgerald: What Really Happened" was presented Wednesday, November 18 at Wakeman Hall by Ellen Kennedy, Education Manager for the National Museum of the Great Lakes, who spoke of the latest research and information available on the tragic sinking of the Edmund Fitzgerald, tragically lost on November 10, 1975 on Lake Superior. She shared a number of theories as to why the ship and crew were lost that day, from weather to construction issues to human error, but the ultimate cause of the wreck still remains a mystery



**Three new Board members** were elected at the November meeting: DeAnna Bradley, corresponding secretary, and Charles Larkins III and Tyler Madeker, Board Members-at-Large. To learn more about them, go to our website: [www.watervillehistory.org](http://www.watervillehistory.org).



**An Appraisal and Buying Event** was held a for second time on Saturday, November 19, 2016. for free appraisal of coins, watches, and jewelry. Guests had the option to sell their valuables once they were appraised. It was a benefit for our Society and sponsored by two respected organizations that offered their services to us. An old-fashioned "bake sale" with cookies, coffee, was held in conjunction with the appraisals.

**The Historical Society's annual Christmas Party**, held at historic Langley Hall on December 16th was well attended and offered (in addition to a nicely presented and delicious buffet supper) a live auction of fanciful and decorative Christmas trees, both large and small, featuring Jason Whalen, of Whalen Realty & Auction, Neapolis, OH. The trees were decorated with gift cards obtained from local restaurants and businesses and several generous donors and were sold along with table decorations done in the same theme.



### ***Volunteering your time can help us make history come alive in the community!!***

Check out the opportunities on the flap of our membership envelope! Our community appreciates all the programs and events that make the Waterville Historical Society a meaningful presence in the area. We need help in a variety of ways. Make a New Year's resolution to share your talents (with us!) Here are descriptions for the requested helping hands:

**Attic Treasures.** Held on June 8-10 during the Community Garage Sale event. Help is needed to organize, promote, and sell vintage and funky items at Wakeman Hall.

**Design or help set up flyers,** brochures, Facebook page quips, website ideas, etc.

**Docent.** (Docents are volunteer teachers who provide learning experiences in the form of museum tours, demonstrations, or instruction in special areas.) *We will provide a brief training* for you to help with 3<sup>rd</sup> grade visits, Roche de Boeuf, Open Houses, and Walking Tours.

**Landscaping.** Occasional weeding, planting, trimming on campuses, especially in spring and fall.

**Monitor a room in one of our six Historic Homes for the June 17 tour** (3 hour shift). Brief notes will provide talking points on the history of that particular room. Friendly faces welcome!

**Coordinator, Roche de Boeuf fest. Sat., Sept. 23, 2017.** "Pioneer Arts", Silent Auction, Raffle, Open Houses. Many volunteers needed that day as well. Assistance/mentoring available for new coordinator(s).

**Special events coordinator.** Assist with planning and organizing new events that may be fundraisers or programs of special interest, e.g. bus trip to a presidential home such as Hayes Museum in Fremont.