## WHS Bulletin December, 2023

#### Volume II, Number 5

#### A Message from Our President Dear Waterville Historical Society Members and Friends,

It is hard to believe we are in early December! I have been working on the Year in Review presentation that I will be giving at the WHS Holiday Dinner on December 13. What a year it has been! We have had outstanding programs at our meetings, the annual Third Grade programs (at the River Road campus for Waterville Primary and presented by SAC at all three Primary Schools), Roche de Boeuf, Ghostly Encounters, Spooktacular, a Christmas event at the Robbins House, the SAC Christmas event at Wakeman Hall and more.

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to WHS this year whether it be monetarily, your time or your expertice. It is all needed and appreciated.

As mentioned in the last Bulletin, Sue Bagdonas is stepping down as our Treasurer at the end of the month. Sue has done an outstanding job the last four years as Treasurer including managing the Haunted Waterville sales, a crucial part of that event's success. My thanks to Sue for the great job that she's done. Her successor will be announced in January.



Thank you all for being WHS members in 2023. It is my hope that all of you will renew for 2024. We need you to achieve our mission of preserving and protecting the Waterville area's heritage in the present and saving it for the future.

Best wishes for Happy Holidays! I hope to see you at WHS events in 2024!

Best Regards,

Steve Lauer

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# **REMEMBER!**

### It is **MEMBERSHIP** time!

We know that we can count on all of our current members to renew!

How about asking a friend or neighbor to join? We are always excited to see new faces.

New members who signed up in November are already paid up for 2024!

### 2023 Wrap-Up

#### Roche de Boeuf Festival

Once again WHS opened its River Road campus to reenactors, craftsmen and lots of volunteers to entertain and inform festival attendees of the area's rich past.





Clockwise from top, tin punching, Revolutionary era soldier, sewing and quilting

#### Ghostly Encounters and Spooktacular

October was a very busy month with our annual Ghostly Encounters program at the Wakeman Cemetery. Once again, Jim Conrad researched the lives of men and women who lived in this area in bygone times. The central theme of the stories this year had to do with life on and near the Miami and Erie Canal.

About a week later Waterville's Spooktacular found WHS volunteers hosting lots of both adults and children playing games, listening to ghost stories and consuming lots and lots of candy, cookies and other refreshments.

#### Haunted Waterville

October also saw the final programs and trolley rides featured in our very popular Haunted Waterville series. This year, our second, proved to be even more popular than last year! Due to demand, we even added a few dates to the original calendar.

#### The Edmund Fitzgerald Program

On the evening of November 8, Tom Walton, former editor of *The Blade*, regaled an audience at Wakeman Hall with stories of this adventures as a young man serving aboard the ill-fated *Edmund Fitzgerald* whose sinking in Lake Superior was made famous by singer Gordon Lightfoot's ballad.



Tom, right, speaks with audience members.

#### **WHS Communicates with ODOT**

John and Verna Rose, our intrepid archivists, have been faithfully keeping us abreast of the news coming out of the Ohio Department of Transportation regarding their plans for tearing down the Interurban Bridge over the Maumee River.

In early November, Verna composed and sent a letter to Phoenix Golnick, ODOT District 2 Environmental Coordinator expressing WHS Board's recognition of the fact that the bridge poses a safety threat and must come down. However, Verna did stress that WHS has great interest in preserving history. To that end, it is our desire to see one or two spans of the bridge preserved, ideally the span that rests upon the Roche de Boeuf which is an important historical site.

Our thanks to both Verna and John for their efforts.

#### Latest News on Sargent House Repairs



As you can see from the pictures, the repair work on the Sargent House is extensive. We are hopeful that with the recent mild weather allowing outside work all will be completed soon.

More news after the first of the year. In the meantime...Keep your fingers crossed!

#### SAC Hosts An Evening of Fun, Information and Delicious Food

Saturday, December 2, the Student Advisory Council hosted a friendly gettogether for WHS members, family and guests at Wakeman Hall.



The students divided into stations featuring information about Christmas traditions, customs in other countries, arts and crafts, Christmas music and food. WHS is indeed fortunate to have this great group working with us!

#### Holiday Happenings at Robbins House and Cobbler Shop

The weekend of December 2-3 was a whirlwind of festive activities at our River Road campus. Open House, Ornaments...



Santa set up camp in the Cobbler Shop and made himself available to children and for photographs.



Vintage Christmas Displays



Peace, Joy, Blessings to H