

HISTORICALLY SPEAKING

June 2013

The Newsletter of the Pioneer & Historical Society of Muskingum County

MUSEUMS OF THE PIONEER & HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MUSKINGUM COUNTY

The Stone Academy
115 Jefferson Street
Zanesville, Ohio

Hours: Wed, Thurs & Fri 1:00-4:00

Saturdays 10:00- 1:00

April through October

Dr. Increase Mathews House
304 Woodlawn Avenue

Sat & Sun 1:00-4:00

May-September

Open to groups at other times by appointment.

The Historical Society office is
located at the Stone Academy

740 454-9500

www.Muskingumhistory.org



Zanesville from the flooding Muskingum River with a stone floodwall. However, the wall was overtopped by floods and cracked. Town leaders appealed for federal help. It came from Senator Marcus Hanna of Cleveland. He secured an appropriation from Congress for the Corps of Engineers to restore the wall "to improve navigation of Cleveland harbor." The fact that Cleveland was 100 miles away and across the divide does not appear to have been relevant.

Nor did it matter that Congress had not passed any general laws to give authority to the Corps of Engineers for flood protection works, although there was plenty of clamor for help. Some levee projects would get slipped through under the guise of aiding navigation. Col. William Merrill protested. He said, ". . . levees would be of no aid to navigation except perhaps to keep the boats in the channel and out of towns during high water." But he had not reckoned with an enterprising congressman who showed that where there's a will, there's a way. And that is how Zanesville got perhaps Ohio's first concrete floodwall --to "help navigation at Cleveland."

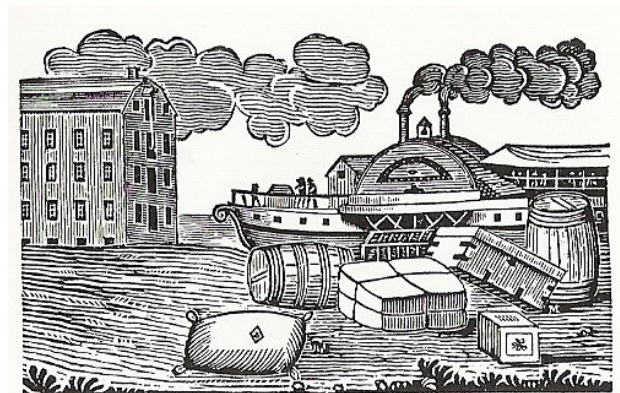
From *Ohio Water Firsts Volume II* by Sherman L. Frost, published by Water Resources Foundation of Ohio

OHIO'S FIRST CONCRETE FLOODWALL

(This article about an early attempt to save Zanesville from periodic flooding of the Muskingum River is appropriate during the centennial year of the 1913 flood.)

In 1884 Zanesville became home to what is perhaps the first floodwall built of concrete in Ohio and in the Ohio River basin. The history of how this came to pass presents an interesting story.

In the early 1800's Ohio had tried to protect



Updates

Jim Geyer, Director

1913 FLOOD PROGRAMS & EXHIBIT

Interest in commemorating the 100th anniversary of the 1913 flood exceeded all expectations. Overflow crowds turned out for each of the three programs at the McIntire Library. Plaques designating high water levels during the flood adorn locations around town with more to be installed, including at the Mathews House and Stone Academy. The twelve vignettes, *Caution: High Water - before, during and after the Flood of 1913*, produced by WHIZ and aired in March, were compiled on a DVD and made available to the public for a donation of \$20. Proceeds will be used to create a new, permanent exhibit at the Stone Academy honoring the legacy of the flood and its many heroes. To date, about 300 copies have been distributed generating nearly \$6,000 in donations, all made possible by the generosity and community-minded character of the WHIZ Media Group.

The new exhibit will likely open in late summer or early fall. Until then, a temporary exhibit in the meeting room at the Stone Academy features most of the pictures and artifacts that were on display at the library in March. Visitors can also watch all 12 vignettes, Tom Brown's slide show, and Gary Allen's video.

Our thanks to the John McIntire Library for hosting the programs and those who helped plan the commemoration including local historians/collectors Tom Brown and Gary Allen, Doug Pickrell and Gary Earich of WHIZ, Darrin Lautenschleger of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District, and Blair Tom of the library who chaired the committee.

STONE ACADEMY ROOF PROJECT

When the Stone Academy became a private residence around 1840 the Potwin family built an addition to the original 1809 stone structure. A portion of the roof over that part of the building is sagging causing a number of problems, including water damage to both the exterior and interior of the museum. The proposed solution involves removing the slate in the affected area, adding new rafters, tying all the rafters together to stabilize the roof, then replacing the slate. Damaged slates will be replaced with similar salvaged slates. An additional 150 damaged or poorly repaired slates will be replaced. The estimated cost of the work is just over \$16,000.

Funding for the project is in place, thanks to the generosity of our membership and donors and an \$8,000 History Fund Grant. The History Fund is supported exclusively by voluntary donations of Ohio income tax refunds and designated gifts to the Ohio Historical Society. In addition to donations from individual members, we were honored to receive support from the Muskingum County Commissioners, our local DAR chapter, and the Zanesville Civil War Roundtable.

The next step in the process is preparation of a Request for Proposals (RFP) that includes specifications for work to be completed. Architect Pat Kelly is preparing the RFP on our behalf. The Ohio Historical Society must approve the RFP before it is issued, a requirement of the History Fund grant. We are then required to solicit at least three competitive bids before selecting a contractor and signing a contract. Our goal is to select a contractor by July 1st with a completion deadline of September 30th.

Since we will have a roofing contractor on site this summer we are considering a couple of "alternates" that could be added to the project, subject to available funding. A section of box gutter is also sagging and should be taken down, repaired, and re-installed. Also, the asphalt-shingled garage roof needs replaced. We will include these "alternates" in the RFP and continue to look for additional funding.

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All work will be completed in accordance with *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, 1995*, insuring that historic character of the building will be retained and preserved.

As always, if you have any questions or would like more information, do not hesitate to call the office at 454-9500, or send an e-mail to pshomc@sbcglobal.net.

TOURISM

Efforts to promote our museums as tourist destinations are producing results. Tour operators, including Eastern Ohio Tours and Ohio Travel Treasures, now offer several different itineraries that include the Stone Academy. In December, groups from Anderson Tours and AAA will visit both of our museums as part of an itinerary called *Holiday Ornaments and Adornments*. This new tour is a direct outcome of our efforts over the past couple of years to open our museums for the holidays and encourage others in the Putnam Historic District to open as well. We are also working with the Ohio Hill Country Heritage Area on an initiative to develop new travel opportunities in southeastern Ohio for 2014.

In May our museums welcomed 519 guests, including seven classes of third grade students from area schools.

SUPPORTERS OF HISTORY

We are very grateful that in almost every issue of *Historically Speaking* we are able to give more names of supporters who have made financial contributions to the P&HS. We are especially thankful for those of you who are regular donors, sometimes helping the cause more than once a year. Since our last newsletter we have received donations from:

J William Barrett in memory of Bill Brown, Muskingum Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution, Brent & Susan Stubbins in memory of Bill Thomas, Lois Freeman, Renee Show, James (Pete) Bailey in memory of Bill Brown, members of the Civil War Roundtable, John Chalfant, Don Moody, Buck Brackman.

Some of these donations will be used as matching funds for the **Ohio History Fund** Grant that will enable us to repair the roof of the Potwin addition to the Stone Academy. Other donations will be used for the equally important responsibilities of keeping the heat and the lights on at the museums.

N E W S

The Trustees have been working on a revision and modernization of the Society's bylaws. Under our current bylaws, members may be notified of meetings by telegraph. We don't do that anymore. When the revision is completed, it will be submitted to the members for approval.

A recent acquisition is a photograph backstamped, "Jeremiah Foy, Photographer, Carlos, Muskingum Co, Ohio." Carlos was a post office in Muskingum County from Jan. 6, 1898, to Dec. 31, 1900, but we don't know its location. **Where was Carlos?**

A front page article in the June 3rd *Times Recorder* recognized P&HS trustee Lloyd Barnes for his hard work helping to maintain the grounds of the museums. Lloyd also sponsored the recent planting of arborvitae trees along the east lot line at the Stone Academy. Why not bring your shovel, rake, clippers and gloves and join him some morning?

The Memorial Garden and herb garden at the Dr. Increase Mathews House have been completely redone and are worth a visit.

PIONEER & HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MUSKINGUM COUNTY BOARD OF TRUSTEES	
Bob Jenkins, president	
Jerry Simeral, vice-president	
Janet James, secretary	
Morten Bach	Lloyd Barnes
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Floyd Felumlee	Alan King
Stephanie Kline	John Lear
Jim McDonald	Mitch Taylor
Mike Willey	Tina Wickline
Jim Geyer, Museum Director	
Mitch Taylor, Curator	

PRESIDENT'S REPORT JUNE 2013

Dear Members,

It is summer and our museums are open to the membership and the public. We had an excellent partnership with the John McIntire Library and the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District for our March meetings concerning the Centennial of the Zanesville 1913 flood. We had standing room only at most of the three meetings. We appreciate the efforts of WHIZ which has made DVDs sharing their TV spots showing still photos of the 1913 flood. The Library sold these while the Pioneer and Historical Society received the proceeds for a permanent exhibit of the 1913 Zanesville Flood. We are starting work on that project and hope to see it completed during the summer months. So far, attendance has been good with many third grade classes from Muskingum County schools visiting our museums in April and May.

Our Director Jim Geyer is working hard on the grant from the Ohio Historical Society to repair the roof of the addition to the Stone Academy. The addition, build sometime around 1830, has rafters that are moving and need to be shored up. Because of this movement the roof is leaking where the original building and the wooden addition meet. The grant is complicated and takes a great deal of time to fill out the proper paperwork. We are also having slates replaced on the original part of the building, many which have cracked over the years.

Our thanks to Lloyd Barnes who is paying for the first of several bushes that will protect the yard of the Stone Academy from our neighbors' view. We also appreciate his hard work at the Mathews house where he is a constant volunteer as the *Times Recorder* acknowledged last week. Ann Burkhart and Lloyd are working on the hedge in front of the Mathews House in an attempt to clean it out of various unwanted plants that have almost taken it over.

We also wish to thank the Civil War Roundtable, and especially Don Moody for having offered a challenge to their membership to make contributions to help make repairs at the Stone Academy.

The Friends of the Pioneer and Historical Society and the Master Gardeners have done a wonderful

job with the Memorial Garden at the Mathews House. Stop by if you have a chance and take in the flower and herb garden, you will enjoy it.

The program committee is working on two events for later in the year. One will deal with Zanesville six months after the flood of 1913, the other will center on the Civil War and events leading up to it.

Thank you to all our members and volunteers who make it possible to carry out our mission in preserving the history of Zanesville and Muskingum County. We would not be able to survive without your financial support and donations of time and materials.

Respectfully yours,

Bob Jenkins, PRESIDENT PIONEER & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HAVE YOU "LIKED" US YET?

Surveys have shown that teenagers are abandoning Facebook as it becomes more popular with middle-aged folks. Which category are you in? We won't ask for a show of hands but we know that a majority of our members have given up skinny jeans for loose-fitting ones and that your drugs of choice tend to be ones for arthritis and sluggish bowels. Often an appreciation for history increases with increasing age and we don't want any of you to miss out on the new technology that makes disseminating that history easier. Facebook is a useful tool for historical societies because it is a convenient way to share photos and other archival documents in color in a format that allows the viewer to enlarge the images and leave comments to interact with other people who share an interest in history.

If you have been following us this year you have seen many photos of the 1913 flood, an ad for Brown Manufacturing Company plows, photos of the Stockdale Ice Company, a photo and program from the world premiere in Zanesville of *The Court-martial of Billy Mitchell*, a photo of a goat walking a tightrope and several photos of groups of people at work, at play and going off to war.

Look for us on Facebook at "Pioneer and Historical Society of Muskingum County", "Like" us and keep the conversation going.

TELLING THE STORY OF THE FLOOD

Plans for the permanent exhibit at the Stone Academy telling the story of the 1913 Flood are progressing. WHIZ Media Group and the Muskingum County Library System have made the exhibit possible by donating the proceeds from the sale of 1913 Flood DVDs to the Historical Society. The permanent exhibit will include an interactive computer kiosk featuring the vignettes produced by WHIZ and many photographs of the flood and its aftermath. Unfortunately, the only three dimensional physical artifact in our collection connected to the flood is the hero's medal awarded to Robert L Miller in recognition of his work rescuing people stranded by the flood waters. We would like to have more artifacts related to the flood but it is difficult to know what to even ask for. How can you tell the story of loss, patience, or salvation with a one hundred year old object? Perhaps a mud-stained doll, a book whose pages have been permanently bonded by the Muskingum's waters, a handkerchief used to flag down a passing row boat or a possession found a mile down river after the water receded. Such small things can emphasize the humanity of a catastrophe.

If you have something along these lines that you would like to donate to the exhibit please let us know. All donations are evaluated by the Historical Society's Accessions Committee. The value of a donation may be considered a charitable donation for tax purposes but the Historical Society cannot provide appraisals. You may contact us at 740 453-7717 or through our website at Muskingumhistory.org.

WHAT HAPPENED TO MUSKINGUM JOURNAL?

We hope some of you are asking this question. The second issue of Volume 19, which should have been Winter 2012, never made it to press in the face of severe economic pressure. Our members and friends have been exceptionally generous in supporting the Stone Academy roof repair project which will be completed later this summer but other unanticipated expenses came up in 2012. One



of the three furnaces at the Stone Academy had to be replaced and the brick wall along the east property line at the Academy had deteriorated to the point that it had to be partially removed before it fell down on its own. We had some donations toward the expense of removing the wall but most of the cost of the two projects came from the Society's own funds.

We are fortunate that the Historical Society owns two of the oldest and most historic homes in Muskingum County but ownership comes with the responsibility to properly maintain those two buildings. The buildings house many artifacts and are in a sense artifacts themselves, needing care commensurate with their two centuries of existence.

When the cost of one area of our work strains the budget we have to examine our priorities and make temporary adjustments but now we are back on schedule. *Muskingum Journal* 20:1 is at the print shop and will be out this summer with a good mix of articles including ones inspired by the centennial of the 1913 flood and the sesquicentennial of the Civil War.

We thank you for your past support of our efforts to preserve the county's history in writing and we hope that you will continue to support us by reading our publications and by submitting articles that we can share with others.

Pioneer & Historical Society
Of Muskingum County
115 Jefferson St
Zanesville OH 43701

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U S POSTAGE
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Zanesville OH 43701
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1 IF BY LAND, 2 IF BY SEA, \$12 IF BY RIVER

This August the Civil War will be coming up the Muskingum River in Zanesville. Riders on the Lorena will be sharing space with uniformed Civil War reenactors as they travel from Zane's Landing Park to Riverside Park.

On Friday August 9 there will be a one hour night cruise boarding at 8:30 PM and leaving at 9:30 with a night firing of cannon.

Three 1½ hour cruises are scheduled for Saturday August 10 leaving at 10:00, 2:00 and 4:00. There will be a military encampment at Riverside Park and entertainment by Civil War Musician Steve Ball.

Each cruise is limited to 50 people and the cost is \$12 per person. Reservations are required and cruises are already filling up as of late May. Tickets may be purchased by calling the Zanesville-Muskingum County Convention and Visitors Bureau at 740-455-8282 or 800-743-2303.

