

HISTORICALLY SPEAKING

March 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

scratched into the plaster of the walls. Some of the scratchings were dated 1936 or 1937, one was dated 193 with the fourth digit missing and the fourth digit of one date had been altered to an X. William Adams purchased the Mathews House in 1937 when it had been deserted for several years and was the neighborhood haunted house. Using census records and city directories we have determined that the marks were left by the cunning, mysterious, adventuresome tribe known as teenage boys.

Some of the names are:

Bonnie Malcolm, Or perhaps Bonnie and Malcolm since we have not been able to find the last name of Malcolm in the directories in the 1930s.

Junior Ansel March, The 1937 city directory lists Junior living with his parents at 740 Whipple Street.

Dale Miracle March 4, 1937, Possibly the son of Carl and Elizabeth Miracle of 735 Whipple Street.

Elsie Hutchins Tim Lavey Love 1937, surrounded by a circle (or perhaps a heart) In 1937, Elsie was living at 334 Washington Street. We couldn't find any Laveys with an e in the directories.

Bud Eversole March 20, 193X, possibly the son of Edward and Anna Eversole who lived at 407 Pershing Road, near the Zanesville Stoneware

David Wickham March 20, 1937, A David Wickham is listed at 1203 Grant Street in the 1939-1940 directory.

Walter Darr May 193, Possibly the son of Eva Darr who lived at 958 Moxahala Avenue in 1935.

If you or your parents are any of these people we would like to hear any stories you have about entering the haunted house and leaving a mark for posterity.

We will post pictures of the names on our website.

PETROGLYPHS OF AN EARLIER CIVILIZATION

Our last newsletter had lists of priorities for conserving our buildings and our collection. The first item under Preservation and Care of Our Collection was to improve storage facilities at the Dr. Increase Mathews House. Toward that end, a volunteer has been spackling and painting a room on the south side of the third story in preparation for reorienting the shelving to make a more efficient storage area. During the course of the work, he encountered signs of a people who had gone before us.

An abundance of initials and names had been

Remembering the Terrible Flood of 1913

Jim Geyer, Director

Not since the late war of '61 between the states, have the people of this country been so overwhelmed and grief stricken as at the present time. The year 1913 will go down in history. A disaster has taken place. The San Francisco Earthquake, the Johnstown Flood, or the Titanic Disaster were nothing compared to this terrible calamity. Words or printers ink are inadequate to describe, even in a small way, the horrible details. James M. Cox, Governor of Ohio

A century later, even with computers and modern technology, it is difficult to describe those horrible details. But in our own small way, with a series of programs at the library, vignettes on WHIZ, historical markers around town, and a new permanent exhibit at the Stone Academy, we will join with others in the community to **commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Great Flood of 1913** in Zanesville and Muskingum County. The committee planning these activities, led by Blair Tom of the Muskingum County Library System, includes Darrin Lautenschieger of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District, Doug Pickrell and Gary Earich of WHIZ, and local historians Gary Allen and Tom Brown. I am honored to represent P&HS on the committee.

On **Saturday, March 9, from 1-5** there will be displays of artifacts and memorabilia at the library. A video by Gary Allen will be shown throughout the afternoon. A panel discussion will begin at 3:00. On **March 16, at 1:00 pm**, Tom Brown will present a slide show about the flood. A program dedicating the new markers will start at **1:00 pm on March 23**. These presentations are free of charge and open to the public.

A series of 90 second vignettes, sponsored by local businesses, will air on WHIZ-TV throughout March. These will show the devastation and havoc caused by the flood, tell stories of heroism and human interest, and detail how the community rallied to provide needed relief. A link to these clips will be available on our website, www.muskingumhistory.org.

The new markers will be placed at key locations, including the Dr. Increase Mathews House and Stone Academy, to show high water marks left by the flood. The markers feature the image used on medals given to local residents for bravery and acts of heroism. The medal on the right, from the Society's collection, was awarded to Putnam grocer R.L. Miller for saving 150 tube mill workers in lower Putnam.

Much of the information and materials generated for the 100th anniversary commemoration will be used in the new museum exhibit at the Stone Academy.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings,

Spring may be just around the corner, we certainly hope so, for this winter has been more substantial than last. The Pioneer and Historical Society of Muskingum County is still active. We are co-sponsoring the Centennial Anniversary of the Great 1913 Flood that did tremendous damage in Zanesville and Muskingum County. This event is co-sponsored with the John McIntire Library with the dates and times of events recalling this disaster appearing elsewhere in this newsletter.

We always have hopes and plans for the coming season. We are already making arrangements for bus tours and looking forward to a good season of visitors and programs for 2013. We are working on preparing the museums for the upcoming visitors season and will be seeking volunteer docents to act as guides for visitors to both museums.

One of our goals this year is to do something about the leaking roof in the c.1832 Potwin Addition to the Stone Academy. Since discovering the leaking roof last spring we have been concerned about the integrity of the roof caused by movement of the roof trusses. We have been pursuing various means of raising funds for the repair. It will be complicated; the slate roof must be removed, the old trusses stabilized and sister trusses installed and then the original slate must be reinstalled. Our Director, Jim Geyer, has been exploring various ways of paying for this project by applying for grants and soliciting member donations. Just finding someone to bid on the project has been a task as few contractors are willing to risk working on a building over two hundred years old for fear of what they might get into once the roof is removed.

The front brick wall of the Stone Academy on Jefferson Street is also a concern for the future. We will be giving a lot of thought of what might be done to either stabilize or remove it. The hedge around the Mathews House was cut back in the hopes of removing unwanted plants and also filling in weak spots. We will be watching closely to see how that develops.

Mitch Taylor has spent a lot of time posting various documents, photos, and advertisements

from our collection on Facebook where something new appears almost every day.

To our members and our faithful group of Friends of the Historical Society we give our continuing thanks for your support and assistance in carrying out our mission of preserving the heritage of Zanesville and Muskingum County for our current and future citizens.

Respectfully yours,

Bob Jenkins, PRESIDENT P&HS



HISTORY FUND GRANT

The Stone Academy Roof Restoration Project was **one of eleven projects** from across Ohio selected for funding by the Ohio Historical Society's new competitive, matching grant program. Funded by a "check-off" on Ohio income tax returns and donations to OHS, the History Fund received **64 applications** totaling \$891,000 in requests for the \$114,000 available. **P&HS was awarded \$8000 for the Stone Academy roof.** Generous donations from our members, support from the Muskingum County Commissioners, a "challenge" gift from the Zanesville Civil War Roundtable, and anticipated local grant funding will provide the required 50% local match.

Local historical societies, public libraries, genealogical societies, university archives and special collections, historic preservation groups, archeological societies, county records management offices, and incorporated "friends" groups are eligible to apply for History Fund grants. Grant recipients were announced on February 27 as part of **Statehood Day** at the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus.

This first round of History Fund grants marks **the culmination of seven years of effort by OHS** and history advocates from across Ohio. Consider donating a portion of your Ohio income tax refund to the History Fund so that more projects can be funded in the future.

NEW ACCESSIONS 2012

Without artifacts, a museum would be a large empty building looking for a purpose in life. Artifacts are the cultural icons, monuments, treasures, manufactured goods, everyday objects and tchotchkes that give us a physical connection to the past, be that the personal past of our childhood or the collective past of all the people who came before us. We appreciate all those people who help us preserve the history of Muskingum County by donating artifacts to us so that we can share them with our museum visitors.

We thank the following people who entrusted us with pieces of history in 2012.

Donation of Robert and Ann Nicholas

- End section of three part banquet table, made by John Alter, c. 1830.
- Wardrobe, attributed to Adam Kasner Alter, c. 1860.
- Blanket chest, attributed to furniture maker in the Orville, Ohio, vicinity, dated 1810.
- Commemorative glass flask made by Brockway Glass Co., Zanesville, for the US Bicentennial.
- Original pencil sketch by Leslie Cope depicting the exterior of the Dr. Increase Mathews House, 1983.
- Original pencil sketch by Leslie Cope depicting the exterior of the Stone Academy, 1985.
- Quilt, Feathered Star pattern, c. 1880.
- Quilt, unidentified pattern.

Donation of Rambo Memorial Health Center

- Advertising banner used to promote the world premier in Zanesville of the film *The Court Martial of Billy Mitchell* in 1955.
- Scans of photos taken during the premier festivities.

Donation of Lee St. John

- Four railroad spikes from the line of the Ohio River and Western (narrow gauge) railroad near Chandlersville.

Donation of Mark Grubb

- Photograph of factory of A. O. Jones Sewer Pipe and Brick Company, 1890.

Donation of Kathy McCaslin

- Rolling pin made from wood from third Y Bridge, a wedding present given to Samuel and Flo Erskine.

Donation of Stephen Lauber

- Letter written on stationery of Clarendon Hotel, 1922. Donor has been attempting to return archival correspondence to historical societies in cities from which the letters originated.

Donation of Paul Smith

- Two bricks from the building at the NW corner of 5th and Main Streets in Zanesville, built by Gordious Hall in 1834.
- Section of street car track from 7th Street in Zanesville.

Donation of David M & Donna Taylor

- Fake Roseville Pottery bowl, magnolia pattern (donated as an example of imitation Roseville Pottery).

Donation of Doris Baker

- Wood cane made from timbers of the third Y Bridge.
- Zanesville City Directory, 1901-02.
- Vol. 1 and III, *Southeastern Ohio and the Muskingum Valley* by Thomas Lewis, 1928.

Donation of Ann Burkhart

- Commemorative plate made for 144th anniversary of White Cottage Methodist Church, 1965.
- Advertising candy jar, "Salute to Industry", 1988

Donation of Muskingum County Chapter Ohio Genealogical Society

- Booklet, "Zanesville Ohio Industry, Finance, Commerce", c. 1920.
- Nine World War II ration book is a leatherette folder.

Donation of Gail Snow

- Large B&W photo of "Margaret Williams SS Class".

Continued on next page

NEW ACCESSION 2012

Continued from previous page

Donation of Willits Sawyer

- Calendar and roster for All Around Club, 1941-1942.

Donation of Stephanie Kline

- Two pieces of McCoy Pottery.

Donation of Lolita Burt

- Children's toys (wood blocks, metal sand toys).

Donation of Paul Fisher

- Many books and pamphlets related to Muskingum County.

If you would like to join this list of Preservers of Our History by donating artifacts to the collection of the Pioneer & Historical Society, please contact us by phone at 454-9500 or through our website, Muskingumhistory.org. We welcome donations related to the history of Muskingum County and southeastern Ohio including fine art, folk art, manufactured goods (both commercially made and home-made, decorative arts, tools, written materials (books, diaries, letters) and photographs where the location or identity of the subjects is known. All donations may be considered as charitable donation for income tax purposes but the Society cannot give appraisals.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

In addition to artifacts to display, a museum needs that most basic of commodities, money. Maintaining two of the oldest buildings in Muskingum County can get quite expensive, as we learned when we recently had to replace one of the three furnaces at the Stone Academy. Besides the obvious benefit of allowing us to pay our bills, your monetary donations serve another purpose, helping us to match grants, a requirement of many government and philanthropic bodies.

Since we printed a list of donors in our last newsletter many more of our members have con-

tributed to the cause. We offer our sincere thanks to:

Russ & Marie Bolin, Rea Huff, David Starrett, Gene & Betty McDonald, Ann Decherd, Pete & Trudy Brailey, Stephen House, Kurt White, Lloyd Barnes, Mary Ann Lewis, Mike & Stephanie Kline, James & Susan Bailey, Phyllis Mast, William R Brown, Holly Burckholter, John Zink, Paul Smith, Sandra Miller, John Baker, Lace Lynch, Dr. & Mrs. Paul Hoffman, Gene & Betty MacDonald, Ann Burkhart, John & Peggy Kelbley, Jane Cooper, Floyd Felumlee, Dale Schwartzmiller, Betty Wiechert, Brinley Williams, Dean Hill, Zanesville Civil War Roundtable, Authors Club, Shirley McCallister, Adrienne Nowels, Bernie & Betty Baldwin and Paula Harsh.

The Society lost a good friend and former trustee with the passing of **Bill Brown** in January. We are honored that his daughters named the Historical Society as a recipient of memorial donations. Friends of Bill who honored him in this way include:

Brent & Susan Stubbins, Mitch & Donna Taylor, Mary Obenour, Mr. & Mrs. David Snyder, Paul & Susie Shannon, Mrs. Ron Shelly and Judy & Jeff Gorsuch.



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

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COMMEMORATION OF THE 100th ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1913 FLOOD

Meet with us as we observe the centennial of the 1913 flood at the John McIntire Library, 220 N 5th Street.

Saturday March 9. A display of artifacts from 1-5 with a video shown throughout the afternoon. Panel discussion at 3:00.

Saturday March 16. Slide presentation by Tom Brown at 1:00

Saturday March 23. Program to dedicate new markers at 1:00.



Starting in mid-March we will be posting photos of the flood on our Facebook page. Search for us at “Pioneer and Historical Society of Muskingum County.” Facebook is a way for us to present archival photos, documents, news about Society events and photos of items from our collection in a format that allows for conversation among those with an interest in Muskingum County history. Join us and feel free to talk about our history.