

Chagrin Falls Exponent

Chagrin Falls Historical Society 21 Walnut St. Shute Memorial Building
Web Site: www.chagrinhistorical.org

John Bourisseau, Editor

June, 2014

The year in review

It certainly has been an interesting and eventful year!

Our program committee put together an outstanding year of interesting and informative gatherings supported by a hospitality team that included Anne Burr, Gretchen Hamann, JoAnn Roeder and Pat Zalba.

We received a large volume of files from the library that included photographs, newspaper clippings and obituaries. Led by Zo Sykora and Pat, volunteers are working hard to integrate this material into our collection.

Thursdays at the museum have been bustling. The volunteers continue to respond to many 'walk ins', who have questions about homes, people and industries in Chagrin.

Don Barriball, Pat and John all responded to local groups requests for historical presentations regarding some aspect of the history of Chagrin Falls and Pat continues to meet with Brownie troops and 3rd graders. We also have been responding to numerous requests that come through the website--a woman in Canada looking for information on her early ancestors--a man in California looking for information regarding the Chagrin Falls & Southern Rail Road.

Our house plaque committee, chaired by Beth Skeel, has awarded plaque's to 5 homes so far this year.

We received significant donations of artifacts from Jane Babinsky and Marta Kuivinen Brown, both descendants of Henry Church Sr. Laura Gorretta has written an article for this issue of the Exponent.

Laura Gorretta, who serves as our librarian and chair of the publications committee, has been invaluable in donating her services as an attorney as we worked our way through the purchase of the George Ober home.

The strategic planning team worked with Andy Verhof from the Ohio History Connection (formerly known as the Ohio Historical Society) to develop six strategic planning goals to lead us into the future and in the process helped us to revamp our mission statement and add a vision statement.

Presently, our core planning team of Anne Burr, Laura Gorretta, Carolyn Sihler, Bill Hamann and John Bourisseau are meeting on a weekly basis with KC Henry to develop a fund raising strategy to ensure the future of the society.

As we have begun looking at different types of funding and developing a budget for the future, we have been keeping closer track of our volunteer hours. We are indeed grateful for all the help we get from so many!

Through all the activity, hustle and bustle, Pat Zalba continues to be the strength of our organization. Her steadiness, attention to detail and focus help to keep us all moving in the same direction. For me, she is a constant reminder that we are an organization built on the shoulders of so many who dearly loved telling the stories of Chagrin Falls' rich history. In celebrating our 65th year, and as we focus on the future, remembering those who got us to this point is important.

MAX BARNARD SHOW

The Chagrin Falls Historical Society is turning sixty-five this year. On Wednesday, July 23, from 5:00-7:00 p.m., we will recognize our six and one half decades of preserving Chagrin Falls history as we also celebrate the exhibit opening of "The Paintings and Birdhouses of Max Barnard" in the Hamlet Atrium.

We will have wine, cheese and sweets, music and a few recollections of the society's early days, some remembrances of Max Barnard and a few words on why this is a great time to become a member of the Chagrin Falls Historical Society. Invite your friends and plan to attend this evening of celebration.

Thank you to Hamlet Village, a corporate member of the Historical Society, for generously sponsoring this event.

CONSTITUTION CHANGE

Thanks to all who returned ballots for the changes to the mission statement of the constitution. We received 104 responses. 102 in favor and 2 not in favor.

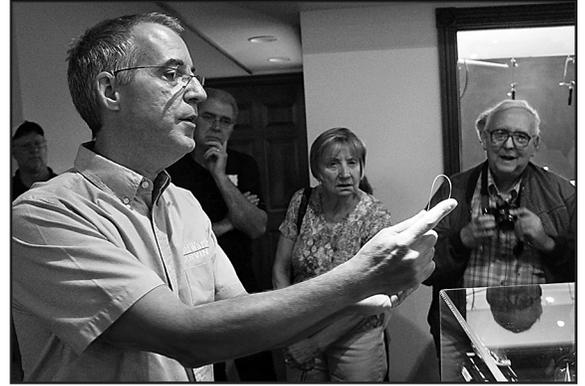
Thanks to those who included comments. As we are organizing for a fundraising campaign, we are finding many elements of the constitution to be limiting. Our constitution has served us well, and as an organization, we will work within its prescribed limits. However, once we are through this phase of our development, the Executive Board may want to organize a committee to review our constitution and make recommendations for change.

John Bourisseau

DOVER TRIP

The May 21, trip to Dover, was a fun and interesting day. It began with the impressive David Warther and his ships carved from ivory. With Mr. Warther as our guide, we learned the fascinating history of many of the eighty ships he's carved, how he acquired the blue prints for these vessels, some built thousands of years ago, and how he goes about his carving. Incredible. A

delicious lunch and interpreter guided tour of the Reeves Home (fire drill included), was followed by a visit to the Famous Endings Museum with the delightful and entertaining Funeral Director John Herzig as our guide.



David Warther explaining how he makes string from ivory.



John Herzig at the Famous Endings museum.

Thank you to the Program Committee: Pat Zalba, Jo Roeder, Gretchen Hamann and Anne Burr for planning such a great trip.

Anne Burr

CHURCH FAMILY COLLECTIONS

Rachel Church Kuivinen, a lifelong resident of Chagrin Falls, was the granddaughter of Austin Church. Austin was the son of one of first settlers at the High Falls, and brother of Chagrin Falls artist Henry Church. Henry is justifiably known as a true Chagrin Falls character. His reputation as an American folk artist is international. Austin Church led a quieter life. A blacksmith by trade, as were his father Henry Church Sr. and his brothers Henry and Royal, he was the only

Welcome New Members:

Molly Gebler
K.C. Henry
Susan, Judy and
George Joseph
Mark and
Christina Schumann

Condolences to
the family
of
John Soughan

Dover Trip Photos by Terry Taggart



Austin Church's Civil War Trunk

one of the Church brothers to serve in the Civil War. On his return, he engaged in Village life. He was one of the longest serving Chagrin Township Trustees, was a member of the School Board and a member of the G.A.R. Norris Post. But most important for us, he was an inveterate journal keeper.

Upon Rachel Kuivinen's death in 2013, her daughters Marta Kuivinen Brown and Rachel VerDuin spent a considerable amount of time going through the generations of Church family diaries, letters, account ledgers, furniture and furnishings spanning more than a century. The original intent was to give the over 600 family photographs, original letters dating from the 19th and early 20th centuries, genealogies of the Church, Bliss, and Burnett families, and more, to the Western Reserve Historical Society. We are pleased to report that based upon our plans to move into the larger and easily accessible George Ober House at 87 East Washington Street, the family agreed to deposit the "Church Family Treasure Trove" with the Chagrin Falls Historical Society.

Not to be overlooked are the recent accessions from Chagrin Falls resident Jane Babinsky, great great granddaughter of artist Henry Church, including song books owned by the Church family. One of the books contains popular songs in support of Abraham Lincoln's election. The Historical Society is fortunate to be able to document the history of the Village and its residents from these primary sources and is appreciative of the generosity of the descendants of one of our Founding Families.

*Laura Gorretta
Archivist/Librarian*



LEADING THE PARADE

What an exciting day! The three third graders who were randomly selected to lead the Blossom parade were Andrew Sutcliffe, Anna Coy and Alexandria Wheatley. Alex and Andrew both liked the Popcorn Shop as their favorite landmark, while Anna likes the High Falls. While they were all excited, it was particularly meaningful for Alex, who moved to Chagrin just 2 months ago. She has been learning about Chagrin landmarks and the Blossom Festival in her classroom. We expect many more entries next year.

John Bourisseau

THREE CENTURY HOME PLAQUES AWARDED

A Century Home plaque has been awarded to the home of Steven and Barbara Patton at 177 S. Main St. Known as the Walter H. and Vine W. Barrows House, it was built in 1884 most likely by Joseph O'Malley. The Eastlake-Queen Anne style and in particular the ship lap siding, elaborate incised decorative window surrounds and gable ends exhibited on this house are defining characteristics of O'Malley's work that may be seen through out the Village. The house has had an addition but the defining characteristics remain.

Also the recipient of a Century Home plaque is the James Fulton House, 1874, at 60 Church St. The current owners are Ralph and Pari Tuthill. It is a well preserved 2-story Italianate style house with walls of ship lap siding that indicates the likely builder was Joseph O'Malley. James Fulton's occupation was "moulder" and may have worked for O'Malley.

The home at 36 Church Street known as the Wellington O. Lines House, 1907, has received a Century Home plaque. Current owners are Kenneth and Janice Coleman. It is a well preserved vernacular two and one-half story Front Gable wood frame home with Colonial Revival elements.

Beth Skeel

Curator's Corner

Overview Calendar

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| June | 7&8 | Art By the Falls, Riverside Park |
| June | 7 | Chagrin Arts, Music Crawl, 6-9 pm |
| June | 10 | C.F. H. S. Board Meeting, Shute Building, 9:30 am |
| June | 18 | Plaque Committee, Shute Building, 10 am |
| July | 22 | Chautauqua in Chagrin, John Bourisseau to moderate discussion "Tombstone goes to Hollywood", Methodist Church, 6:30 pm |
| July | 23 | Wine and Cheese Opening Reception for the Max Barnard, C.F. Primitive Artist, Exhibit at the Atrium at Hamlet Retirement Community. A 65th Anniversary event to celebrate the founding of the Chagrin Falls Historical Society. Everyone Welcome! |
| Aug | 22 | An all Village event presented by the C.F. Arts Commission. Details T.B.A. in the newspaper. |

Historical Society's 65th Anniversary Celebration:

We are celebrating the 65th Anniversary of the Chagrin Falls Historical Society this year. I thought you might like to know a few historic facts about our organization. It was established in 1949 by Adria Humphrey and Louise Ralston, who were Chagrin Falls Branch Librarians, with the encouragement of the 60 Plus Club. They began with 12 members and dues were one dollar a year. One of their first public projects was to gather donations to give to the Village to help with the restoration of the Bandstand. In 1953 Ohio celebrated its 150th year of Statehood and the Village celebrated its 120th birthday. As part of this celebration the Historical Society had a commemorative plate designed to be sold as a fund raising event. The plate depicted early industries of Chagrin Falls and the centerpiece featured the Main Street bridge and Falls. The center piece became the Historical Society logo that you see featured on the newsletter and elsewhere. At last count our membership is over 300 and the dues has increased a bit! Among our members we are pleased to include adult children and grandchildren of our early members. As a 65th Anniversary celebration event, we are presenting an exhibit of Chagrin Falls Primitive Artist Max Barnard's works on July 23rd at the Atrium at Hamlet. It will be sponsored by our Corporate Life member—Hamlet Retirement Community.

Accessions with a Chagrin Falls Connection:

Please see Librarian Laura Gorretta's article about the Rachel Church Kuivenen accessions elsewhere in this newsletter.

Have a Wonderful Summer!!!

*Volunteer Curator
Pat Zalba*