



# Exponent

*The Monthly Newsletter of the Chagrin Falls Historical Society*

*John Bourisseau, Editor*

*April 2015*

Chagrin Falls  
Historical  
Society



*Join the Campaign*

For Yesterday ♦ Today ♦ Tomorrow

**South Franklin Circle to host April 16  
Historical Society Program  
7:30 p.m. in the Chautauqua Room  
Free Valet Parking**

## *Lincoln's Last Day*



April 2015 marks the 150th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's assassination at the hands of John Wilkes Booth. Come hear historical society member and Lincoln aficionado, Frank Kanzinger, as he focuses on the events of that last day and follows the paths that brought Lincoln and Booth together in Ford's Theatre on that fateful April 14, 1865 night.

Anne Burr

**Please make a note of the time and location change for this program.**



Condolences  
to the Family of  
**Janet Henry**

### **Support Our Special Event Sponsors**

**Curator**

- The Chagrin Valley Times
- Hamlet Retirement Village
- Michelle and Ted McQuade
- Dwight Milko, RE/MAX Traditions

**Docent**

- Diana Weber Gardner
- Mike & Connie Gleason
- The Glenmede Trust Co.
- Drs. Raymond and Katharine Kolcaba
- Myers Precision Grinding
- Naylor Wellman, LLC
- The Ohio Valley Group, Inc

**Historian**

- John and Mary Bourisseau
- Gregg Hill & Carol Dolan
- Chagrin Valley Optometrists
- Earth & Waterscapes, Inc/Blazin Bills
- Highway Auto Center
- John & Margi O'Brien
- Palmieri Builders, Inc.
- Steve and Sara Schneider, Schneiders Saddlery
- Carolyn and Herbert Sihler, Jr.

## Memorial/Honor Donations

**Pat Zalba** made a memorial donation in memory of **George Matilo and Ralph Beattie**

**John Bourisseau and Nancy Martt** made memorial donations in memory of **Ralph Beattie**

**Lynn and Darren Wyville** made a donation in Honor of **Glenn and Marilyn Wyville**

## Midwives and Witches--Interesting Program

Fifty people gathered at the Chagrin Falls Library for our March Program, to hear author and teacher, Sam Thomas, talk about 'Witches, Midwives and the Devil's Familiars.'

Dr. Thomas' interest in midwives was piqued when he accidentally came upon the 1865 will of Bridget Hodgson, Midwife, while conducting doctoral research in England. Further research led him to discover that the role of a midwife extended well beyond delivering babies. In seventeenth century England thoughts of magic, superstition and witchcraft were part of everyday life. Women who were thought to be witches were often widows or spinsters and were usually suspected for decades before actually being accused. When they ultimately were accused, the midwife was integral in confirming the accusation was true. It was the midwife, because she was female, who conducted the physical examination, to locate and identify the witches mark. Adding to the talk were illustrations of midwives and witch hunters and devil's familiars from seventeenth century books.

Dr. Thomas is currently working on his fourth book in his Midwife Murder Mysteries series. All are available at Fireside Books.

Thank you to **Patti and Jeff Widmar** and all of the cookie bakers for making our program so delicious.

*Anne Burr*

## Construction Update 3/28/15

It may not feel like it but....Spring has sprung at 87 East Washington. The month of April promises Spring Showers and May Flowers as the restoration of the new home of the Chagrin Falls Historical Society nears completion.

What's new since the last update?

We are excited to share that we will be putting the final touches on the interior of the building in the next couple of weeks. The building is now being heated with the 3 new furnaces that were installed. We are awaiting the installation of the air conditioning condenser units that will be placed outside now that the weather is cooperating.

Finish carpentry including interior / exterior doors and wood trim is nearly completed. The carpenters have installed the 2 historically accurate windows on the second floor and will be working outside to complete the exterior siding renovation.

The 1st and 2nd floor wall and trim painting will be completed by April 3rd. The carpet and vinyl flooring has been installed and the new wood has arrived for the restoration of the 1st floor galleries.

What's in the Box update? The half round transom window has been installed and the new double front doors should be delivered and installed this week. The doors are being handcrafted by the same person who made the windows.

What's next on the To Do list?

The new kitchen cabinets are being delivered on April 1st and will be installed. Appliance installation will follow. The Lawrence J "Bo" Burr Community Room and Gallery will be getting its suspended ceiling in the next week. The Exterior siding replacement including the gutters will be followed by exterior painting. Installation of final trim work including lighting and plumbing fixtures is in progress.

Special Thanks in advance **Dennis Barriball** of Hemlock Landscapes who will be donating the talents of his crew to help with the restoration of the front yard gardens and new walk on Earth Day April 22.

*Ken Kvacek*

New Window Installation



## HATS OFF TO.....

The Photo Committee volunteers deserve a round of applause. Ann Goss started volunteering eight years ago and has been a dedicated computer cataloger and a cheerful helper with any job that needs doing. Marge Ingalls started helping out over seven years ago and continues to come in at least one day a week. Since Ann and Marge were having such a good time, Betty Runge joined on and has been volunteering for more than six years. Beth VanLente started volunteering her time over six years ago and continues to assist with cataloging photographs and whatever else is needed. Joyce Teeft joined the group last year and most recently we all welcomed Judy Joseph and Margie Bergstrom to this merry band of volunteers.

To date over 7,000 photographs held by the Society have been placed in archival sleeves and boxes and scanned and cataloged using museum software called PastPerfect. And no, the job has not been finished. There are still many photographs and negatives to process and we hope that more will be donated. We would like to increase our collection of photographs from the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s.

As work on our new home at 87 East Washington Street progresses and as our moving date approaches, some of the attention of the Photo Committee volunteers has shifted to preparations for the move. They have boxed collections, worked on incorporating files which were given to us by the Chagrin Library, and are assisting with the cataloging of our book and artifact collections.

The next time you see Ann Goss, Marge Ingalls, Betty Runge, Beth VanLente, Joyce Teeft, Judy Joseph or Margie Bergstrom, thank them for all that they do for the Chagrin Falls Historical Society.

*Zo Sykora  
Photo Committee Chair*



## Getting Ready

If you happen to stop by the museum, you will find a working environment. Along with the work that Zo mentions in her article, Jane has been working in the 'bedroom' cataloging and packing the textiles in archival boxes, photographing the hundreds of small items that were in the cases and then working with Zo to insure they get entered into our PastPerfect data base.

Laura has been working on organizing the research room which involves cataloging and putting materials into archival boxes and Barnes Taft has begun organizing the boxes and boxes of records that we have recently taken possession of from Chagrin Falls Township. Once these records are properly inventoried and catalogued we will work with the Township and State to become the official repository of these important and interesting records.

The hallway between the research room and bedroom are lined with large archival boxes in which our large quilt collection is stored.

## Displays-Displays-Displays

We are all putting a great deal of thought into how we will display our collections to tell the fascinating history of Chagrin Falls--what displays should be permanent and those that would change on a regular basis.

How will we incorporate some of the old with new technologies? The use of audio, video and QR codes are all being discussed.

Critical to this process are our Volunteer Curator Pat Zalba and Jane Babinsky. They have been hard at work conceptualizing how we will lay out displays in our new space.

## School Programs

Speaking of Jane and Pat, they will be working with the staff at the Intermediate School as the whole school will be reading a book that describes the underground railroad entitled *Trouble Don't Last* by Shelley Pearsall. Jane and Pat have a copy of the book to prep for their work with the school.

Once again this year we will have the **Lead the Parade** contest. The 3rd grade is doing a unit on Chagrin landmarks. Students will be able to write a short essay on their favorite landmark and submit it to the Historical Society. We will choose three essays and those three students will be able to ride in the '57 Chevy police car in the Blossom parade. It was a big hit last year!

John Bourisseau

## Curators Corner



### Overview Calendar

April

CORE Committee (fundraising) and Design Committee are having meetings every 2 weeks. In addition, the Nominating, Accession and Fall Event Committees are meeting at various times. If you are unsure of the date and time of meetings, please contact your chairperson.

- 11 Chagrin Valley Consortium meeting at the Aurora Historical Society, 9:30 am.
- 14 Chagrin Falls Historical Society Board meeting at the Shute Building, 9:30 am.
- 15 Century Plaque Comm., Shute Building 10 am
- 16 Evening Program, Speaker Frank Kanzinger, "Lincoln's Last Day", at S. Franklin Circle, 7:30 pm
- 25 Region 3 meeting of Ohio Local History Alliance at Bedford Historical Society.

Pat Zalba

Volunteer Curator

### Accessions with a Chagrin Falls Connection:

A painted wooden sign reading "Chagrin Falls Airport--3 Miles". It hung on a pole on Main and Bell Streets in Chagrin Falls.

*Donor--Tony Russell*



### The Chagrin Falls Municipal Airport Dedication

The Chagrin Falls Airport was dedicated on July 10, 1932. 10,000 people attended the dedication and enjoyed the aerial demonstrations of daring deeds by famous flyers of the day. These flyers included Major James Doolittle, Major Alexander de Seversky, the Russian War Ace, Eddie Rickenbocker, "Casey" Jones, Barnstormer and a dozen other pilots. In all 28 different planes landed at the airport during the day. Albert Warren was the first mayor of the then, new South Russell Village. He had leased 74 acres of his farm on Bell Road for the airport just two weeks before the dedication day. Signers from Chagrin Falls for the lease of the land for ten years were J.C. Steel, mayor and Gladys M. Foster, Clerk. David S Ingall, Naval war ace, candidate for governor of Ohio, gave the dedication speech. He said "It is a great tribute to the progressiveness of Chagrin Falls that your citizens are taking up this most modern form of transportation". The former airport land is now Kensington Green.

*Pat Zalba*

*Volunteer Curator*



New laminate flooring installed upstairs in (L-R) bathroom, workroom and textile room

