



Exponent

The Monthly Newsletter of the Chagrin Falls Historical Society

440-247-4695 www.chagrinhistorical.com like us on Facebook

John Bourisseau, Editor

July-August 2015

We are not done!

We are very grateful for the initial response to our capitol campaign. Your generosity has allowed us to transform the George H. Ober home into a space that has the potential to be a destination for thousands of visitors and school children each year.

Our campaign has three distinct phases. During **Phase 1** we hoped to raise sufficient funds to complete the restoration and renovation of the Ober building and to begin to plan for our future—we have accomplished that. During **Phase 2** we would begin to raise the necessary funds to expand our operations: Add staff, train docents so that we can be open additional hours, acquire new equipment, begin the development of a comprehensive education program, develop state of the art displays, begin to pay down our mortgage and expand our Heritage Fund to ensure future sustainability. During **Phase 3** we will continue to develop outreach to the schools, educational programs for the community, develop new displays, increase hours of operation and pay off our mortgage.

Our full potential will only be obtained when we complete our campaign. When we made the decision to move forward on this project over a year and a half ago, I told the people at our potluck that I believed our goal to be obtainable, that I don't believe our community will let us fail. The donors are there, we just have to find them

In a previous newsletter I spoke about expanding the circle of interest and support. Within our membership there has been great generosity. We are working hard to reach more people to expand the circle. Our need is urgent. We know this part of the campaign is the hardest—we need your help.

If you are receiving this newsletter and have not contributed to our Capital Campaign, we hope you will do so. If you would like to talk about a major gift, or can help us identify potential donors, please contact me at jbouresseau@gmail.com, or 440-821-3630



1.15 Million

Our Condolences

Bill and Gretchen Hamann on the death of Gretchen's sister

The '87' Club

Support our Sponsors

Add your name to the list!
contact Bill Hamann at
440-543-3161

Legacy

Ted and Michelle McQuade

Heritage

The Chagrin Valley Times

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Thank You!

I would like to give a special Thank You to all of the volunteers who have been helping us move to our new home at 87 East Washington Street! Some of you have been helping with packing, some with physical labor and some of you have been doing both! Most of our research material has been moved and placed on the shelves in the Sihler Research Room. We have moved some of our Objects Collections, but much of it remains at the Shute Building. The volunteers have been packing the objects carefully and have emptied most of the display cases. I will be rounding up volunteers to move more boxes, and hopefully, we will get most everything moved to 87 by the end of August. We will have a professional moving company move the display cases.

Here is the list of the Chagrin Falls Historical Society



Cynthia Reece & Lucy Beattie Packing

Photo by Jane Babinsky

Moving Company Members: Lucy Beattie, Rod Chima, Laura Gorretta Lisa Gorretta, Bill Hamann, Gretchen Hamann Liam Hamann, Randy Hamann, Sally Hawkins Judy Joseph, Frank Kanzinger, Ken Kvacek, Cliff Nazelli, Diana Nazelli, Cynthia Reece,

Jo Roeder, Beth Skeel, Zo Sykora, Lou Fow, Anne and Corinne Burr, Greer Wurster, Pat Zalba

Again, a big **THANK YOU!** to all of you. We couldn't do it without you!

Jane Babinsky, Moving Coordinator

Ober House Receives Century Home Plaque

The Historical Society's new home at 87 East Washington Street will be sporting a Century Home Plaque next to the front door. The research and nomination for the plaque was the housewarming gift from neighbor, Wendy Hoge Naylor. The Plaque Committee approved and awarded the plaque this month.

This large two-story wood frame Italianate house, known as the George H. Ober House, was built in 1874 by Joseph O'Malley. His trademarks are evident in the shiplap siding, detailed double bracket millwork and window hood ornamentation. The first floor front façade includes a newly restored double door entrance. A secondary front entrance door is located on the front facade to the east. Both entrances were originally covered by separate single bay front porches, replaced between 1899 and 1913 with a wrap-around Queen Anne style porch.

A porte-cochere to the east over the driveway accommodated use of the building as a funeral home from 1968 to 2001. It was removed in the Society's remodeling and rehabilitation project 2014-2015. A large later two-story addition is located to the rear of the building.

On the west side is a prominent two-story bay window with three 2/2 windows on each floor and hooded segmentally arched moldings with keystones, topped by wide overhanging eaves supported by double brackets with pendants and a cornice with rectangular molded frieze panels characteristic of the Italianate style.

George H. Ober lived in the house with his wife Martha and children Archie and Lena until his death in 1903 at age 65. He and his brother John founded Ober Brothers in South Newbury in 1862.

Ober House, continued

It became the Ober Manufacturing Co. of Chagrin Falls and was located at the southwest corner of Bell and Cleveland Streets. George held patents on wood lathes for irregularly shaped pieces. The company produced a complete line of handles for tools and



George H. Ober House 1874

Photo by Wendy Naylor

brooms as well as spokes, mallets, neck yokes, whiffletrees, ladder rounds, table legs, croquet sets, extension and center tables. Ober Manufacturing was recognized around the world and operated for 97 years until the death of the third generation family member Gale Ober in 1959.

Beth Bailey Skeel, Plaque Committee Chair

School Committee Report

This summer has been a difficult one trying to meet with people who's positions changed and/or vacations interfered. I had a personal issue brewing as well.

I will be forming a committee of teachers and parents for K-4, then other committees for 4-6, 7-8 and 9-12. (three more) We will work within the confines of the Core Curriculum for History, make classroom visits and leave materials for investigating with ideas on how to use them with the children. Other ideas are brewing, just not developed.

I've met with Becky Quinn, Curriculum Director for the Chagrin Falls Schools. She is very enthusiastic about our tentative plans with the schools. She knew first hand of the Third Grade Lead the Parade, and loved the idea. She provided me with the History Core

Curriculum for grades 3 - 4. I will get the others from her. I've connected with 7th grade Social Studies teacher, Curtis Howell, to assist his students with their oral history assignment. I hope to contact Brian McKenna at the High School to discuss how he would like the CFHS to be connected with his classes. He teaches 9th grade World History and 10th grade U.S. History.

Wells Fargo will match funding for school programs and Mar-Bal has contributed to an Educational Fund for our purposes. Financially things look good for a partnership with the schools.

I am meeting with other Historical Society Educational people to discuss their programs and how they structure them. Currently I have scheduled meetings with Oberlin and Case Western Reserve. I have looked at many web pages of Historical Societies and I'm waiting to hear from those that looked interesting. I attended the Library program for children titled, "Kids in History". The Program was presented by Hale Farm during the Chautauqua in Chagrin. It was well done with many historical props and clothing.

Gretchen Hamann

Volunteer Request for an Upcoming Program

A 7th grade teacher from Chagrin Falls Middle School, Curtis Howell, requires his students to interview a Chagrin Falls person who has lived in our Village for several years. The students get this assignment in the fall and formulate questions to ask about the history of the Village and what residents remember.

I've offered to help gather people to volunteer to help the children out with their Oral Histories.

Mr. Howell was most appreciative and positive about this help.

If you are willing to participate in our outreach to the Middle School, please call me with your name, number and number of years you've lived in Chagrin Falls.

I'm excited about helping students connect with our membership who have offered so much to enrich our Village community.

Gretchen Hamann,

School Committee Chairperson

440.543.3161

Announcement!

Jane Babinsky's title has been changed to Museum Director.

Curators Corner

Collections Committee Policy Report



Pat Zalba
Curator

Welcome to New Members

The Donley Family

Brian, Mary, Thomas,
Patrick & Michael

The Kiel Family

Gillian, Jack & Andrew

Barbara
Glepko-Toncheff



Silver Set given to Jane
Church Sept 10, 1867

The Collections Policy Committee is comprised of Museum Director, Jane Babinsky, Librarian Laura Gorretta, Photo Chair Zo Sykora, Curator Pat Zalba and a “member at large” to be appointed. The committee was given the task of developing a new collection policy which would address acquisitions, accessions and deaccessions. Acquisitions are items that may be acquired by purchase, accessions are items donated and deaccession is the process by which items are removed from the collection. The committee has been meeting since Spring and throughout the Summer. The computer software program that we use at the museum is called “Past Perfect”. The committee has chosen to use forms created in the program, with some slight modifications, for carrying out our collections policies. In this article I have chosen to elaborate specifically on the “Accessions” portion of the policies.

ACCESSIONS:

Items accepted by the Society must be appropriate for research, exhibition and/or education.

The donor must have clear title to the item and sign a “gift agreement” transferring title to the Society.

Some questions for the committee to consider when determining the acceptance of a donation are the following:

What is the relevance of the item to Chagrin Falls?

Is it appropriate for our mission?

Do we have space and the ability to care for it properly?

A “Temporary Custody” form will be filed on the accession being considered. The committee will meet monthly to make decisions. If the item is accepted a “Gift Agreement” form will be signed by all parties. Then the process of cataloging, marking and entering the item into the computer database can begin.

The Society is not permitted by law, to provide appraisals of donations. For those of you who would like to read the entire “Collections Policies and Procedures Manual” a copy will be placed at the reception desk of the museum in September for your perusal.

Pat Zalba, Curator

The **Program Committee** is excited about the lineup for the 2015/2016 year. You will be receiving the program brochure with the September Exponent. When it arrives, please note that there will be no program in September. The move from 21 Walnut St. will still be in process at that time along with installation of the museum’s first exhibit, Life in Chagrin Falls: 1920-1929 which will be on display at the October 17 fundraiser.

In addition, you will see that the Members Only Potluck will be held on Thursday, October 29. This change was made for several reasons which include avoiding the possibility of bad weather, which caused its cancellation last year, getting members caught up on historical society plans, finances, and the campaign as well as providing an opportunity for those who haven’t been through it yet, to see the building. (Please be sure to RSVP to Patti and Jeff Widmar with the food item you’ll be bringing.)

And, lastly, you will see that the Spring Trip is To Be Determined. Over the past few years it has been difficult to plan a trip that a large group of members are able to go on. With so many people working or unable to participate for other reasons, we are trying to determine if there are individuals who would like to continue going on these trips and what cost would be acceptable and what would be of interest. We will be surveying the membership early in the program year to make our determination. Please email or call the historical society with your thoughts on this. 440-247-4695 or chaghist@gmail.com The Program Committee

What's Happening— a lot!!

The Collections Committee met 7/1/2015 to discuss accessions, deaccessions and new forms that reflect new policies. Pat has provided a summary of the accessions portion of this policy in her column. These procedures and this committee are integral to the future of how we operate as a museum. Please note that all items recommended for deaccession need to be approved by the Executive Board. It is also important to know that the funds generated from any sale of deaccessed items must be used for acquisition or conservation.

Deaccession of Ohio Pottery – Jane and Zo prepared the deaccession paperwork for the Ohio Pottery Collection. There were 27 items. Representatives from Cowan's Auctions selected 6 items from the collection to auction for a value of \$700 - \$1,000. Pat and Jane would like to use the other items in our 20's display/decorations.

Doll Collection appraisal – Cindy Budin (associated with Cowan's) spent 5 hours on 6/30/15 appraising the dolls in the large case. It was felt it would be helpful to know the value of the collection. There are no plans to deaccess any of the displayed collection. There are some dolls that were previously identified for sale and were in storage that may be deaccessed and sold.

The silver water pitcher and goblet set given to Jane Church for her service with the Soldiers Aid Society dated September 10, 1867, donated by **Karen Breckan**, a relative of Paul Henry Hunt who was the son of Clara Church Hunt. This is truly a historic treasure for the Historical Society. I will write more about it at a later date.

Donations from Jane Babinsky – small cast iron A.C. Williams cook stove from Henry Church, Sr home, Spinning Wheel & Yarn Winder from the Church Family, 8 Henry Church paintings, Henry Church's handmade harp, Tin Lion Head, GAR Shield, Sandstone Owl Sculpture, Sandstone Dog Sculpture, Iron Greyhound statue with original wooden mould, plaster bust of Thomas Paine by Henry Church, Watercolor Map by Henry Church, assorted sculpting and blacksmithing tools belonging to Henry Church, and Lizzie Hunt's Balloon Box. **More absolutely amazing historic treasures!** Sheffield Monuments is repairing and cleaning the Owl and Dog Sculptures at no cost. They will be placed in the sculpture garden to the west of the building.

Donation from Sally Taft – Valentine Collection (she is doing the program in February)

Chagrin Valley Quilt Guild – 25 yrs of minutes, but must pay for archival box(s)

Frank and Ken picked up an iron gate to use in the garden, donated by **Linda Curtis**. Linda also wanted to donate 4 heavy iron outdoor chairs for our sculpture garden, but the committee does not think we have room for them.

Marti McHugh-Curtiss donated numerous large stone slabs and steps that will be utilized in the sculpture garden and the building of steps for the front porch. The stones were loaded onto 5 pallets and brought to the Historical Society by **Bruce Hunter**. Bruce donated both his time and equipment to get the job done.

When we started our strategic plan 2 years ago, and began talking about a new facility, our consultant from the Ohio History Connection said to be prepared—once you have new space, people will begin to bring you all kinds of great things. We are thankful for all of the generous giving—both of artifacts and time.

Ohio Lottery Commercial If you noticed a lot of activity around the building Aug. 11-13 it's because the building was used for an Ohio Lottery Commercial.

Many Programs As part of developing community awareness of our Capital Campaign, we have been doing a variety of programs throughout the community. **Kurt Hebel** of *Chuck's Fine Wines* hosted a program by John on Mechanics Row, **Janna Lutz** hosted a program on the history of the business district in her store *Chestnut Hill Home*. **Ashley Henry** hosted a neighborhood gathering in her home with the topic being the history of the East side of town where their home is. **LaTran** and **Robert Sherman** hosted a program in their home (formerly Windsor Hospital) **Carolyn Sihler** spoke about the history of the Sihler family and the hospital and John shared the history of many of the early residents of the home. In August, **Laura Gorretta** presented her *Molly Goes to War* program *Hamlet Village*—the letters to and from the Chagrin Falls Molly Chittenden chapter of the DAR. Laura will present the program again in September at S. Franklin Circle. **John** also presented the *Mechanics Row* program at Hamlet in August.

John Bourisseau



SAVE THE DATE!
OCTOBER 17, 2015 - 87 E. Washington St.

The Chagrin Falls Historical Society Invites You To

**AN EVENING AT
THE '87' CLUB**

A ROARING '20S AFFAIR

Jazz! Gambling! Flappers! Bathtub Gin!

To sponsor this event contact Bill Hamann
440-543-3161 / WilliamNuttingHamann@gmail.com

Join the Campaign! Donate at
www.CHAGRINHISTORICAL.org

Chagrin Falls Historical Society
Join the Campaign
For Yesterday • Today • Tomorrow

An Evening at The '87' Club will be a Roaring '20s Good Time

Calling all flappers and bootleggers, gangsters and ritzy dames! On October 17, the Chagrin Falls Historical Society's **'87' Club** will be the swankiest place in town and you will want to be there. With jazz, gambling, bootleg alcohol, delicious food, unique silent auction items (including a week at a vacation home on Hatteras Island, NC) and a chance to win a bathtub full of booze, this fundraiser promises to be, once again, 'the social event of the year'.

An Evening at The '87' Club will be held at 87 E. Washington St., our recently renovated new home. On display that evening, will be the museum's first exhibit, Life in Chagrin Falls 1920-1929 showcasing photographs, artifacts and clothing from our collection.

Though it's not required, 1920s garb is encouraged. Who knows, someone just might want to snap your picture!

Invitations will be mailed in mid August, and since we expect to sell out again this year, make your reservations early.

We still have lots of volunteer opportunities and would love your help. Please contact Anne Burr at 440-241-2678 or anjin444@windstream.net to volunteer.

The Event Committee

SILENT AUCTION PREVIEW----- MORE TO COME

We are very excited about our Silent Auction items, this is meant to be a "teaser" for you to get excited too.

We have a cozy fieldstone cabin in quaint New Market, Virginia. It is located in picturesque Shenandoah Valley with wineries, vineyards, antiques, civil war attractions and taverns. It will sleep 4.

Jeff and Patti Widmar are cooking a gourmet dinner, at their home, for 6 complete with wine. High bidder is in for a treat!

We are offering another newly renovated home in Avon, Hatteras Island, North Carolina. Ooh La La has 4 bedrooms (sleeps 10) and 3 full baths, all bedrooms have a flat screen TV. You not only have the ocean, but you also have a private pool.

Merchants have been very generous and we have put together gift cards from them for your winning bid to offer you a fun day in Chagrin.

Dan Ruminski, a local historian and enjoyable speaker, will speak to any number of your friends on the topic of Millionaire's Row.

These are just a few of the items you will be offered. Bid often and high.

Gretchen Hamann

Wine Pull

Anyone interested in donating wine for the wine pull for our October 17th event please contact Bill Hamann at [440.543.3161](tel:440.543.3161) or williamnuttinghamann@gmail.com and he will make arrangements to pick it up.

