



# The Exponent

*The Monthly Newsletter of the Chagrin Falls Historical Society*  
 87 East Washington St. 440-247-4695 [www.chagrinhistorical.org](http://www.chagrinhistorical.org)

John Bourisseau, Editor

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February, 2016

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## The Evolution of Valentines

Thursday, February 18, 2016 at 7:30 pm  
 Lawrence J. 'Bo' Burr Community Room

Historical Society Member, **Sally Taft**, will tell us the fascinating history of valentines. Her talk will range from the first known example in 1477 to our present day romantic expressions. She will be bringing the Taft Family Valentine Collection and encourages everyone to bring a favorite Valentine they'd like to share.

Cupcakes and coffee will be served!



Cupcake bakers needed for the February 18, **Evolution of Valentines** program. Please be sure to call **Patti Widmar** at [\(216\) 409-1455](tel:2164091455) or email [pwidmar@roadrunner.com](mailto:pwidmar@roadrunner.com) if you will be bringing cupcakes. Thank you!

**Anne Burr**



\$1.23M

## CHAGRIN CHARACTERS

John and Lysander Hamlin



There is a little house on South Franklin Street that once housed a very interesting family in the late 1840s and 1850s. The house originally stood on West Washington Street behind Henry Church's blacksmith shop, but was moved to 276 South Franklin in 1922 when the Masonic Building was built.

Dr. William Hamlin was a physician in Chagrin Falls and lived in the house with his family. Dr. Hamlin was a well-respected member of the community who served as a deacon of the Disciples of Christ Church in the village. He had moved his family to the village from Cuyahoga Falls. Two of his sons, John A. Hamlin and Lysander B. Hamlin attended school in Chagrin. Lysander worked at the Chagrin Paper Mill, which was located next to the river at the approximate entrance to Riverside Park. John worked at J. T. Sturtevant's shoe peg factory on River Street, which was located where Jekyll's is today. The family moved from Chagrin sometime in the 1850s. In an interview in the June 1, 1922 issue of the *Exponent*, John Hamlin recalled the halcyon days of his childhood in Chagrin Falls—the slide bank, the old swimming hole, Grove Hill, and school days.

By 1861 the Hamlin boys were in Chicago where they formed the Hamlin's Wizard Oil Company. Hamlin's Wizard Oil was a concoction of 50 to 70% alcohol, plus camphor, ammonia, chloroform, sassafras, cloves and turpentine. It could be used internally or externally and was guaranteed to cure rheumatism, pneumonia, cancer, diphtheria, earache, deafness, toothache, headache and hydrophobia. It would also

cure your horse or cow of whatever ailed it. In addition to Wizard Oil, the Hamlin's made Hamlin's Cough Balsam and Hamlin's Blood and Liver Pills

Formerly magicians, the men started one of the country's most prosperous Medicine Shows. Driving horse drawn wagons carrying organs, the troupes of traveling performers put on shows and sold Hamlin's Wizard Oil. Each show had a lecturer who pitched the virtues of the "medicine" between musical acts. They would stay in towns for several days, providing musical entertainment for the residents and placing their products in local drugstores. Hamlin even sold cookbooks and song books.



The medicine show era began to wane when the Pure Food and Drug Act was passed in 1906. Under the Act, patent medicines could no longer be made or transported across state lines. In addition, all ingredients of patent medicine had to be listed. However, Hamlin's Wizard Oil could still be found on store shelves in the early decades of the twentieth century. Hamlin's Wizard Oil artifacts, advertisements, and even the Wizard Oil itself can often be found on Ebay today.

**Laura Gorretta**

### Hours of Operation

We have begun expanding our hours of operation and are now open 2-7 pm on Thursdays and 11-3 on Saturdays. The Saturday hours have been very interesting with many people dropping in because they see the OPEN flag out front. We hope to continue to expand our hours as more people volunteer and are trained. Jane Babinsky, museum director, is in the process of developing a volunteer training packet.

**John Bourisseau**

## From the Treasurer's Desk

### Changing Our Fiscal Year

Although you more than likely never think about the Historical Society's fiscal year of June 1 – May 31, I, as treasurer, am faced with that fact on a regular basis. With our museum director, Jane Babinsky, as our first paid staff, we are now required to prepare payroll reports and to file quarterly and annual payroll tax returns based on a calendar yearend. For financial reporting purposes, I maintain a schedule which allocates Jane's hours, salary and payroll taxes to administrative, fundraising or program. We also file an annual non-profit organization Form 990 yearend tax return, using, for example, a Form 990 2014 for our May 31, 2015 yearend.

Because of the seven months in one calendar year and then five months in another calendar year, the allocation schedule is complicated. Then there's the issue of our investment portfolio, which is managed by Wells Fargo Advisors. Wells Fargo has a calendar year end, and so does the Internal Revenue Service.

At the September 8, 2015 board meeting, I recommended, and the board approved, that the Historical Society change the year to January 1 – December 31. This will simply require that we file the Form 990 2015 tax return for a short year of seven months, June 1 – December 31, 2015.

A change in our yearend does not necessarily mean that all our other schedules will be affected. This is an ongoing process and we will need to consider if changing our fiscal year to January 1 – December 31 requires additional changes in other areas.

If you've read this article to the end, congratulations! Financial matters may not be your cup of tea.

**Carolyn Sihler**

### Heritage Home Loan Program

Once again, the Historical Society is partnering with the Village of Chagrin Falls and Your Home Town Chagrin Falls to fund this program. The Village pays 50% of the fee, with each of our organizations contributing 25%. Last year the program made nine site visits in the Village and provided technical assistance valued at \$857,600. They also facilitated two low interest loans. These services are free to homeowners of older homes, and the cost of the program is determined by the number of qualifying homes in the Village. This will be the 3rd year that the Historical Society has participated. During this period, the cost for the program, administered by the Cleveland Restoration Society, has risen from \$2000 to \$2870. Your Historical Society and Your Home Town stepped up when it looked like the Village was going to let the program lapse.

**John Bourisseau**

### Ohio History Connection

The Ohio History Connection, formerly known as the Ohio Historical Society, has been providing grants to local historical societies for the past few years. These grants are funded by a tax checkoff on your Ohio Income Tax form. If you are due a refund, you can designate a portion of your refund to go to the Ohio History Fund. They, in turn, disperse 100% of the funds to local historical societies in the form of grants. The amount of money generated by the check off was down considerably last year and if it doesn't reach the threshold of \$150,000, then this source of funding will no longer be available. Please support local historical societies throughout the State by contributing in this way—it's easy!

**John Bourisseau**

### Sponsor a Painting!

The CFHS is looking for people who would like to sponsor the conservation of a Henry Church painting or make a donation towards our conservation fund. A new addition to our Church collection is "Washington's Headquarters at Valley Forge." It is a 17 1/2" x 24" oil on tin in the original frame with a cardboard advertisement for a backing. How do we know the title? It is written on the back in Henry's handwriting! The cost of conservation of this painting was \$2,200. We have seven more paintings, a harp, tin lion head and a shield with ram horns waiting for conservation. "Washington's Headquarters" was not as time consuming as the other items needing conservation; therefore, they will each be more costly than \$2,200. Our goal is to have everything done and ready to display in two years for a special Henry Church exhibit. Please consider being a sponsor or making a donation! Stop in to see our "new" painting! (see the before and after on the back page)

**Jane Babinsky, Museum Director**

**Overview Calendar**

February



**Pat Zalba, Curator**

**Welcome to New Members**

**Jack Sutcliffe**

**Debbie**

**Hollingsworth & Chuck Knowles**

And our apologies to the **REID** family for misspelling their last name in last month's newsletter

**Memorial Gifts**

A gift in memory of **Herb Sihler** by

**Marc Benson**

A gift in memory of The **Hodges** Family by **Helen Scheiner**

A gift in memory of **Phyllis Patton** by

**Mike Carlton**

A gift in memory of **Tracey Jane Stokes** by **Roberta A. Stokes**



- 1 Jaycees Foundation Meeting, 6:30 pm  
Lawrence J. "Bo" Burr Community Room
- 9 C.F. Historical Society Board Meeting at 87 E. Washington St. 9:30 am.
- 9 American Legion Meeting 7:30 pm in the Lawrence J. "Bo" Burr Community Room.
- 18 The Evolution of Valentines. A program by member **Sally Taft** presented in the Lawrence J. "Bo" Burr Community Room. 7:30 pm. Everyone Welcome!
- 27 **Give!** Chagrin Valley Masquerade Ball 7 pm to 10:30 pm. Set up starts at 3 pm

**Valentines Exhibit**



Be sure to stop in and see the Valentine display in the long case in the front display room. It features older candy boxes, fans and valentines from our collections.

**Curators at Work:**

Assistant Curator, Sally Hawkins, has been busy organizing the Collections room with Ken Kvacek's help. It is looking much better! I've been writing "end of the year" thank you notes and getting the accession registration book loose ends tied up for 2015.

**Accessions with a Chagrin Falls Connection:**

A watercolor painting by Chagrin Falls artist Alfred Howell was received. It depicts the home at 132 Maple Street, circa 1950's.

**(Donor—Libby Steels)**

An oil painting of what is now called "The Theatre District of West Street" by Chagrin Falls native Jim Talley, 1962. Mr. Talley lived on High Street and worked at the Post Office as a clerk. We have a wonderful taped oral history by Mr. Tally in our collection.

**(Donor—Tom Luckay)**

Two Falls Theater movie cardboard advertising posters were donated. They feature Shirley Temple, actress in "Heidi" and Jeanette MacDonald and Nelson Eddy in "Maytime". Both films were released in 1937.

**(Donor—Paul Koepf)**

**Happy Valentines Day!**

**Pat Zalba**





