



The Exponent

The Monthly Newsletter of the Chagrin Falls Historical Society

87 East Washington St. 440-247-4695 www.chagrinhistorical.org

John Bourisseau, Editor

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May, 2016

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Chagrin Falls
Historical
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AND MUSEUM

Sneak Preview

We held a sneak preview of our first full exhibit Sunday, April 17th. The exhibit depicts life in Chagrin Falls from the 1860s through the 1880s and includes clothing, artifacts and photographs from the period.

My personal favorite is the silver plated water pitcher, tray and goblets given to Jane Church after the dedication of the Civil War Memorial on September 10, 1867. At the end of the Civil War, Jane was President of the Chagrin Falls Chapter of the Soldiers Aid Society(SAS). The women of the SAS had met weekly throughout the war raising funds, knitting socks, making pants—all to support the “Chagrin Boys” fighting to preserve the Union. They had a total of \$134 left in their coffers. It was decided that they should use these funds, and others that they could raise, to build a monument to those who had been killed during the war.

We knew from written reports that Jane had been given these items, but we didn't know if they still existed or where they were. Last summer I received an email from a family in California who had them in their possession. They wanted to know if we might want them! What a gift! September of 2017 will be the 150th Anniversary of the dedication of this Memorial so central to the heart of this Village. Jane had gone to California in her later years to live with her sister Clara and her husband Frank Hunt. When Jane died, her body was returned to Chagrin Falls and buried in the family plot in Evergreen Hill Cemetery. The pitcher, goblets and tray stayed in California. The people who contacted me are descendants of Frank and Clara Hunt. We are thankful that they wanted these important artifacts to come home to Chagrin Falls.

Sneak Preview cont.



Pitcher, Goblets and Tray given to Jane E. Church

At the sneak preview we also unveiled two newly restored items created by Henry Church Jr. that had been recently donated by Jane Babinsky. Dexter, a cast iron greyhound weighing about 400 lbs. and a painting that Henry Jr. had entitled Washington’s Headquarters at Valley Forge. (the painting is actually of Washington’s Headquarters in Newburgh, N.Y.)

Many of Henry Church’s paintings were replicas of other paintings. On exhibit with the paintings are many tools attributed to Henry Church, Henry Church Jr., Austin Church and Royal Church.



Jane and Caroline Croasdale unveiling ‘Dexter’

The museum, especially with the acquisition of the six display cases from the Cleveland Museum of Art, looks spectacular! The combined artistic abilities of Museum Director **Jane Babinsky**, along with curator **Pat Zalba**, assistant curator **Sally Hawkins** and volunteer **Janice Hill**, were the recipients of many compliments.

One of the interesting features of the museum is the ability to tie the items that are on exhibit directly to

former residents. You can see the wedding coat worn by Joseph Stoneman at his wedding to Grace Whitlock in 1854, or the three piece dress made for Mary Kenny Creighton to wear at the 1876 Exposition in Philadelphia, Pa. You can also see the exquisite Black Lace Shawl worn by “Grandmother” Shaw Kelly.



A new feature to many of the exhibits is the use of QR codes. Most new phones have an app that can read the QR code which will provide the user with additional information about the exhibit. In the case of the George H. Ober exhibit, the QR code will que up a youtube video of an Ober Lathe in operation. Try it with your smart phone.

To watch a working Ober Lathe use the QR reader on your smartphone.

You may also ask the receptionist to borrow our Tablet if you don’t have a smartphone.



John Bourisseau

Welcome to New Members

**Margaret Gene Roseum
Lily Hill**

**Steve & Lizz Hass Hill
John & Chris Steigerwald**

Scholarships



Dexter

Caroline Croasdaile, volunteer, working on Henry Church sculpture, "Dexter". It took a total of three weeks to do the seven step process in preparation for exhibiting the cast iron sculpture. A professional art moving company moved the 400 pound sculpture from the basement for installation in the main display area. The fantastic base was designed by **Phil Koepf** and constructed by master carpenter **Perry Clark**. Thank you to the Chagrin Falls Historical Society for giving "Dexter" a permanent home!

Jane Babinsky, Museum Director

Election of Officers

In this newsletter you will find a ballot for officers. At the last Board meeting it was determined to offer the same slate of individuals for officers. It is anticipated that within the next few months you will be asked to vote on a new constitution that will change our present organizational structure. The new draft was developed by members **Laura Gorretta, Adam Henry, Bill O'Neill, Bill Tomko** and myself. Our present executive board will vote on the proposed constitution and, if approved, will then submit it to the membership for ratification.

Cinda Chima

In case you missed it, Society member **Cinda Williams Chima's** latest book *Flamecaster* opened at number 5 on the New York Times bestseller list for Young Adult Hardcover books last week. **Cinda** has written many successful books for the young adult reader. There was a nice write up about her in the Plain Dealer on Sunday the 24th of April. Congratulations **Cinda!**

April Program

It was standing room only on April 21 when University School (US) science teacher, **Terry Harmon** presented 'The Birch Bark Canoe and Great Lakes Fur Trade'. The program began with an introduction by former US colleague, **Frank Kanzinger**, which highlighted Harmon's impressive knowledge and accomplishments at US, including the construction of both the Brook Trout fish hatchery and maple sugaring programs.

In his presentation, Harmon shared how the fur traders used the many waterways in Canada and the Great Lakes to transport their pelts while avoiding areas of conflict with some tribes of Native Americans, particularly along the southern shore of Lake Erie. He likened paddling the multitude of rivers and lakes in Ohio to traveling on a system of roads.

Of particular interest to everyone, was the 18' birch bark canoe he brought for our inspection which he and his students had hand built over the course of a year. Along with photographs, he described the building process, which included traveling to Canada to choose the birch tree and participating in the acquisition of the bark.

Thank you, **Kim and Frank Kanzinger**, for sponsoring this very interesting program.

Thank you, Hospitality and Program Committees and to the bakers who provided our refreshments.

For information on how to become a Program Sponsor for the 2016-2017 program year, please call **Anne Burr** at 440-241-2678.

Curators Corner

May Calendar

- 9 CFHS Board Meeting 1 pm Lawrence J. 'Bo' Burr Community Room
- 10 American Legion 7:30 pm " "
- 15 Chamber of Commerce "After Hours" 5:30-7 pm. Lawrence J. 'Bo' Burr Community Room
- 15 Know Your Antiques 7-9:30 pm Lawrence J. 'Bo' Burr Community Room
- 23 Jaycees Foundation 6:30-7:30 " "
- 28 Blossom Events to be determined
- 29 Blossom Parade
- 30 Memorial Day activities

Memorial Gifts

A gift in memory of

Tracey Jane Stokes

Roberta Stokes

Gifts in Memory of

Gini Fast

Anita Mapes

Nancy Janoch

**Nancy Schroeder
Carpenter**

Nancy Spengler

**James & Lori
Edgeworth**

Karen Studly

Josephine McGinnis

Gifts in Memory of

Harold Fast

Arline Moore

Gifts in Memory of

Barbara Hubbard

Jean Teller

Thomas Miller

Patricia S. Root

Brian McKenna

Preview Party for 1860s-1880s Display:

It was so nice to visit with old friends of the Historical Society and to meet brand new members at the April 17th event. We enjoyed the special music of the Crooked River Fife and Drum Corp! Special thanks to Jean Hood for bringing them to us again.

We heard many positive comments about our Civil War display. You will have a chance to see as it will continue throughout the summer. Please come for a visit on Thursdays 2-7 pm or Saturday 11 am - 3 pm, or call for an appointment.

The Collections Committee has accepted the following Chagrin Falls Related Accessions:

Items pertaining to Chagrin Falls born (1837) Addie Lucia Hart Ballou. Artwork, books and history either by Addie or about Addie's life.

Donor Alice Allan

A water color print by Alfred Howell, C.F. artist, circa 1950, showing N. Main Street and a Cleveland P.D. article about Mr. Howell. A Chagrin Falls Theatre movie poster and fifteen 1930's toys that once belonged to Herb Sihler.

Donor Carolyn Sihler

Dr. Fred W. Alexander's medical bag and contents. Six copies of articles written by Dr. Alexander relating to his specialty. He practiced in Chagrin Falls, out of the Curtis-Clinic, 1950s-1970s as an Ear, Nose and Throat doctor. Dr. Alexander served as a doctor in W.W.II. A photo of Dr. Alexander was also received.

Donor Susan Prior

Happy Blossom Time!

Pat Zalba





Ballot

Our constitution requires that the nominating committee submit a list of candidates for election with the May newsletter. Please mark your ballot and return it by mail to the Chagrin Falls Historical Society, 87 E. Washington St. Chagrin Falls, OH 44022. Ballots should be returned by May 31, 2016. If there are two voters in the family, both voters may mark this ballot.

The offices up for election under our current constitution

Office	Candidate	Write-in
_____ President	John Bourisseau	_____
_____ 1st VP (programs)	Anne Burr	_____
_____ 2nd VP (membership)	Jo Roeder	_____
_____ Recording Secretary	Gretchen Hamann	_____
_____ Corresponding Secretary	Joyce Teeft	_____
_____ Treasurer	Carolyn Sihler	_____
_____ Asst. Treasurer	Bill Hamann	_____

Previous annual ballots have included a Heritage Committee and Advisory Committee. The Heritage Committee has been replaced by a Board appointed committee consisting of the President, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer that oversee our Board approved investment policy. The Advisory Committee will be superseded by a Board of Trustees when the new constitution is approved.

