



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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June/July, 2016

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Chagrin Falls
Historical
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AND MUSEUM



★ CHAGRIN ★ FALLS ★

**DO YOUR PART!
SAVE THE DATE!**

★ HISTORICAL ★ SOCIETY ★

Don't Miss This Opportunity to Be a Part of....

★ ON THE HOME FRONT ★
★ Stars, Stripes & Swing! ★

The Event Committee is working on our next big fundraiser which will be on Saturday, September 24, 2016, and we would love to have you be a part of the planning!

We are excited to be featuring the 1940s WWII years with USO style entertainment, big band music, swing dancing, great food, special drinks, silent and live auctions, recognition of our veterans and more. If you have a skill you'd like to use, ideas you'd like to share, hands to assist with mailings, decorating, computer work, marketing or just want to help, please call or email:

Ann Thompson, 216-570-7192
AnnThompsonCFHS@gmail.com or
Anne Burr, 440-241-2678
anjin44@windstream.net and we will find a job for you. Don't hesitate. Call today!

Special Offer!

For a limited time you can purchase a raffle ticket for just \$10 with the opportunity to win **2 VIP** tickets to the

ON THE HOME FRONT Gala

a \$450 value

Tickets may be purchased www.chagrinhistorical.org, or at the museum.

The drawing will take place July 31st with tickets going on sale to the public August 1.

BEVERLY ASH RESEARCH COLLECTION

Last month, we received a call from the Trustees of the South Newbury Union Chapel who wanted to tour the Historical Society. The Trustees were representing the estate of Beverly Ash, long time Newbury resident and historian who died earlier this year. Mrs. Ash was an inveterate collector of Geauga County history and was Curator of the Union Chapel. The Trustees, along with Mrs. Ash's daughter, Kristy Dewey, were looking for a suitable place



to house the research collection and artifacts that belonged to Mrs. Ash's family. The research collection comprises approximately 31 linear feet of notebooks, folders, and books (including some of our own publications), arranged by subject and containing originals and copies of documents, clippings and articles on most of the Geauga County townships and villages (Russell, Fullertown, Newbury and South Newbury, Claridon, Chester, Huntsburg); early Geauga County settlers; genealogy and subjects that touch on Geauga County, such as the Interurban, the Civil War, births, deaths and marriages. The subject arrangement makes these materials accessible to researchers almost immediately. In addition to the archival material, the collection includes reference books which we will add to our library collection, photographic images, and objects that will supplement our collections.

What does the Ash Collection have to do with our mission? First, let me say that we did not go out looking for this collection. Rather, it came looking for us. The Chapel Trustees, Bill Ginn, Mike Fath, and

Sandy Woolf had a list of possible area repositories for the collection. We were their first choice. We, in fact, suggested other repositories in Geauga County that would be a better fit for the general subject matter of the Collection, but those repositories did not meet the criteria established by the Trustees. This is a testament to the planning that went into the design of 87 and the level of our expertise in maintaining objects, archives, manuscripts and photographic images.

And second, the history of Chagrin Falls is intertwined with the history of Geauga County; families and industries moved freely over county lines. The Obers are a prime example of this mobility, and Chagrin "natives" often settled outside the village limits

Legacy Circle

We hope you noticed that the barometer made a nice move this month—from 1.25M to 1.38M. The move was primarily due to members making a commitment to the Legacy Circle Gift program.

When you make a Legacy Circle Gift, you will be recognized as a special supporter of the Historical Society, be acknowledged in our publications, receive special invitations to exhibit preview events and receive the Legacy Circle pin.

To make a gift to the Chagrin Falls Historical Society, consult your advisors, call 440-247-4695 or email chaghist@gmail.com.

Carolyn Sihler
Treasurer



Public Meeting Space

As part of our stated goals, we are making the Lawrence J. 'Bo' Burr Community Room and Gallery available to non-profits for meetings. The American Legion, Jaycees Foundation and Know Your Antiques Club are all having their monthly meetings here.

Scholarship Winners

LEAD THE PARADE

Thirty students from the 3rd grade at Gurney School entered the contest sponsored by the Chagrin Falls Historical Society. The contest was named 'Lead the Parade', and the winners get to ride in the 1957 Chevrolet Police Car that leads the Blossom Time parade in Chagrin Falls. This is the third year for this contest with the third graders. They were asked to write what interested them the most when they studied the history of Chagrin Falls Village. It could be a historical fact, a landmark or a historical building. Those who entered chose many and varied sites. The most popular was the Popcorn Shop, the Chagrin Hardware, the Falls, Triangle Park, the Bandstand, Key Bank aka the Irving House Hotel and Squaw Rock. The students really know their Village history!

Three students were selected to 'Lead the Parade' this year. They were Audrey Holmes(Popcorn Shop), Caroline Lynch(Irving House) and Maddie Gabriel(Hardware). They were excited and happy to perform this task.

All entrants received a certificate for their interest in the contest. This will be an event to repeat again next year. A good time for all!

Gretchen Hamann
Education Chair



L-R Audrey Holmes, Maddie Gabriel, Caroline Lynch



L-R Megan Garvey, Kayce Kvacek, Jill Cantley

VOLUNTEER REQUEST: INTERVIEW WITH 7TH GRADE STUDENTS

Many members volunteered last year to be interviewed by the 7th grade students. The interview is assigned for the students to learn about their community and to discuss changes you have seen in Chagrin Falls. Please add your speciality into the conversation. They may not always have the questions to get to that. Your life and perceptions are very important to the students and add to the spirit of the assignment.

Please contact me with your information, name, phone and email if available. The students may do phone interviews too. Last year, some volunteers did the interview at the Historical Society and other various locations. Some of you did more than one student at a time. Lots of possibilities exist for this to take place. You all were wonderful last year, please consider it again, or if you didn't do it last year please consider doing it. Those who volunteered thought it was a fun experience. According to the teacher, the students learned a lot about Chagrin Falls, and a new found respect for the interest and knowledge the volunteers have about Chagrin Falls.

Assignments will be made the first week of school, so they will be contacting you the last week of August 2016.

I'll be eagerly awaiting your willingness to help out with this project. 440-543-3161

Gretchen Hamann
Education Chair

Upcoming Events

Memorial Gifts

A gift in memory of

Tracey Jane Stokes

Roberta Stokes

Gifts in Memory of

Gini Fast

**Molly Chittenden
Chapter, DAR**

Joanne Root

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Harold Fast

Hamlet Village

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Gifts in Memory of

Barbara Hubbard

Hamlet Village

Joanne Root

Don & Sharon Bullock

Ray Henderson

A gift in memory of

Beverly Ash

Kristy Dewey

A gift in Honor of

Laura Gorretta. ESQ

Jim & Elaine Maier

June

- 20 Jaycees Foundation 6:30 pm
- 21 Tuesday Tumblers Tour 10:30 am
- 21 Video taping for Mayor's Documentary
- 23 Museum Open 2-7 pm
- 25 Museum Open 11 am - 3 pm
- 29 Education Committee Meeting 2 pm
- 30 Museum Open 2-7 pm

July

- 2 Museum Open 11 am - 3 pm
- 7 Museum Open 2-7 pm
- 9 Museum Open 11 am - 3 pm
- 14 Museum Open 2-7 pm
- 16 Museum Open 11 am - 3 pm
- 19 NEOIMC Tour & Potluck Dinner 4:30-7:30 pm
- 20 Know Your Antiques Club 7:30 pm
- 21 Museum Open 2-7 pm
- 23 Museum Open 11 am - 3 pm
- 28 Museum Open 2-7 pm
- 29 Paint in the Falls for Grown-ups
- 30 Paint in the Falls for Young Adults 12-18

Paint in the Falls

Are you looking for something different to do this summer?

Sign up for a paint class at the Chagrin Falls Historical Society and Museum. Open to young adults and grown-ups too.

Step by step you'll be guided to complete an actual painting you can take home with you that day!

\$60 includes refreshments and all Materials. Register online at www.paintinthefalls.com or call the Historical Society to learn more at 247-4695.

NEOIMC Tour and Potluck Dinner

The Northeastern Ohio Inter-Museum Council (NEOIMC) will have their summer potluck dinner here July 19. The NEOIMC is a consortium of over 140 area museums. They range from small museums and organizations to the Cleveland Museum of Art and the Rock Hall.

Mayors Documentary

Under the direction of Jean Hood, the five former mayors of Chagrin Falls (Henry Bruner, Dick Bodwell, Ed Towns, Lydia Champlin and Tom Brick) will visit the Historical Society the week of June 20 for a video interview session concerning their years as mayor. Media personality Jan Jones has volunteered to conduct the interviews based on questions prepared by John Bourisseau and Laura Gorretta.

Laura Gorretta





Donors Corner

From time to time we will feature articles telling you a little bit about our donors and have them in their own words explain why they feel it is important to support the Chagrin Falls Historical Society. This interview was conducted by KC Henry.

Anne Burr has served on the CFHS board for 6 years. She is not only a vice president and the endlessly competent and enthusiastic program chair, she has been essential to the success of our campaign as her generous gift in her late husband Bo Burr's name has sponsored the community room. This vibrant, beautiful, dynamic and peaceful lady has had huge impact on the historical society as you see it today. She is the perfect feature for our first "Donor's corner"!

Can you tell us something about Bo?

Anne: My husband loved Chagrin Falls. He was a romantic who loved a good inspiring story, especially one that was true. If he were here today, he would be thrilled to see what the Historical Society is embarking on. He would be inspired and enthusiastic about these changes. He was a businessman who had solid old time values and appreciated traditions, but also knew that in order to stay vital, you have to be willing to make changes. I chose the Community Room to honor him because I see it as a place where activity will happen, where people will come for a wide variety of programs and meetings and hopefully, find something there to inspire new thoughts or ideas. He would have loved that.

What has inspired you most about the Society's work and programs?

What the Historical Society does is unlike any other organization in town. Because it houses and maintains everything that pertains to Chagrin Falls history, it feels to me like it's the place where things begin. That it is, or should be, at the center of all that happens here. It is more than just collections and a museum, it houses everything that tells the story of what Chagrin Falls was and is. That's powerful.

How long have you been involved with the society and in what capacity?

Anne: My family initially became involved with the Chagrin Falls Historical Society when my late husband, Bo, formed the 1860s Forest Citys Base Ball Club. He wanted a historical home for the team and in 1995 approached Pat and Scrap Zalba about the Society becoming the team sponsor. The Zalbas enthusiastically took the team under their wing and became active participants, dressing in costume for games with Pat as a 'crank' (fan) and Scrap as umpire, marching in the Blossom Time Parade and hosting other team activities. It was a fun time.

I have been actively involved for the past 6 years and now serve as VP for Programs and am on the Campaign Committee.

You have created and chaired the largest gala in the society's 65+ year history! It has engaged tremendous attention and awareness and new friends. What an amazing initiative! How did you make it such an instant success?

The Event Committee is an amazing group of creative, resourceful and dedicated volunteers who have given their all into putting on a fun, entertaining, historically interesting and successful fundraiser. Everyone who volunteers at the Society has been involved in some way, from putting together the displays in the museum to sharing historical information, helping with mailings, to handling all of the financial aspects, and then helping out at the event. It has been an amazing operation. We are delighted that The Chagrin Valley Times has called it 'the social event of the year.' I think the attendees have enjoyed the eras we've chosen, as well. We are excited about this year's time in history, the 1940s WWII years. We're calling it *On The Home Front, Stars, Stripes and Swing!* It will be on September 24, 2016 and will be held at a new location. The Historical Society Museum is so laden with incredible displays that there's just not enough room for us to hold an event of this size there again.

