

UPCOMING EVENTS!

OHIO OPEN DOORS

**Saturday, September 17th
1:00PM – 4:00PM**

Join us for a statewide celebration of local history with a fun-filled open house at The Wayne County Historical Society. Free activities for everyone, costumed re-enactors, and period refreshments. Bring the whole family!

GHOST WALK

**Saturday, October 15th
2:00PM – 4:00PM and
6:00PM – 8:00PM**

Watch for details and ticket information in the next newsletter.

QUARTERLY MEETING

**Wednesday, October 26th
5:30 PM**

Kister Building

Potluck dinner. Bring a dish to share and your own table service.

Program to be announced.

HOLIDAY HOUSE 2016

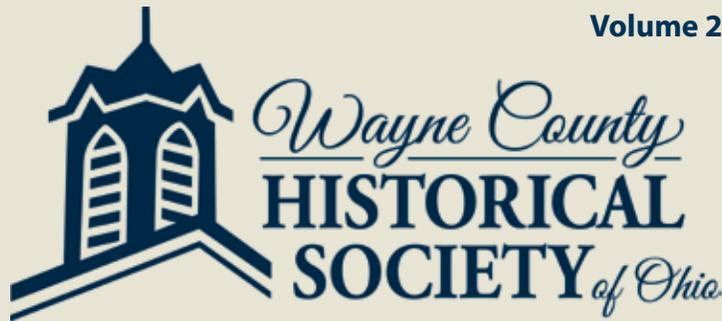
**Patrons' Night: Thursday,
November 10th
4:00PM – 8:00PM**

Open to General Public:

**Friday, November 11th and
Saturday, November 12th
4:00PM – 8:00PM**

We are excited to announce The Beall-Stibbs House will be the site of Holiday House 2016! This annual holiday event benefits OneEighty (formerly Every Woman's House). More information to come in the next newsletter.

Volume 2016, Issue 3



Letter from The Board President

As most of you know, the Society gets a new President in even-numbered years at the Annual Meeting in late April. I'm honored and a little overwhelmed at being the new president of the Wayne County Historical Society! Elaine told me that one of the many responsibilities of being President is writing a quarterly President's Column for the Newsletter. I last wrote a regular column in 1971 when I was assistant editor of the high school newspaper! I think it's appropriate to think of the past when writing about an historical society. Of course, it's also appropriate to think about the future, especially such a busy one. There are so many topics that I want to cover.

I'd like to apologize for the shortness and lateness of this Newsletter – things have been hectic and the time got away from us! I'm convinced Linda Baney, our new editor, will get us back on track. She brings a wealth of marketing, publicity, and newsletter experience with her.

At the April Annual Meeting we said farewell to four board members and welcomed four new ones. I'd like to thank Joe Miller and Jon Ulbright who completed their second three-year terms and Julie Pooler and Larry Walker who completed their first three-year terms. Also leaving the Board was Dave Broehl who spent the last two years as our Past President. We will miss them all for their many and varied contributions. Joining the board are Bob Blanchard, Ben Derhammer, Bill McMillan, and Nell Reardon. In addition, Elaine Peterson is now the Past President and Sandi Keim is the President-elect. I look forward to working with all the board members in the coming year. The Society is lucky to have a Board with such a breadth of talent.

I'd also like to thank the many volunteers that help make the Society such a special place. It takes a huge amount of effort to run the Society, maintain its eight buildings and extensive collections, and welcome visitors. We're always looking for volunteers, especially Docents. Call or email the office if you're interested--no experience is necessary.

A great experience that Elaine Peterson, Dave Broehl, and I recently had early this summer was serving on the Citizen's Time Capsule Committee for the Wayne County Courthouse. It was an opportunity to collect and review

submissions from many County organizations. The highlight was the three speeches given by local students on July 4th describing their thoughts and hopes for the future. A link to a video of the event is on our web site.

Looking forward to the remainder of the year, we are about to start the modifications and construction for the Permanent Collection Project. The architect's drawings are being finalized, and we will soon be sending out requests for bids from various contractors and suppliers. It will be wonderful to have more of our collection on display. Many individuals have contributed to this project. I'd like to especially thank Dave Broehl and Greg Long, both past presidents of the Society, who co-chaired the fundraising. There will be some disruption to the current displays in the lower level of the Kister Building.

We're also looking forward to more school tours. Nell Reardon and the Education Committee have done a great job putting these together. The positive feedback from the students and teachers has been amazing. The costumes that the docents wear for these events were made possible by a generous donation by the Local 1-801 of The United Steelworkers Union.

If you haven't yet made it to the Society this year, please check out the wonderful *Downton Abbey Fashions – The End of an Era* exhibit created by our textile committee.

The two WCHS Summer Community Band Concerts were wonderful and I hope that many of you were able to attend them. The summer quarterly meeting was interesting and informative as Deb Kitko of the Wayne County Public Library discussed and demonstrated the Wayne County Wiki that the Library hosts; it can be accessed from anywhere through a link on the library's web site. Please plan to attend the next *Quarterly Meeting* which is scheduled for October 26th in the Kister Building.

An exciting new fundraiser scheduled for the Fall is a *Ghost Tour* on the campus, scheduled for Saturday, October 15th. Read more about the *Ghost Tour* in the next newsletter. Later in the Fall we'll be partnering with Friends & Neighbors of 180 (formerly known as Every Woman's House) to host this year's *Holiday House* event at the Beall-Stibbs House. We're so excited to be able to showcase the Society as part of this wonderful event. It's scheduled for November 10-12.

I'd like to close by encouraging anyone who has ideas for the Society to share them with me. Great ideas come from everywhere. While we may not be able to act on them now, I'll be sure to record them for possible future projects. Thanks again for all your help and support.

Bob Everett

Sonnenberg Village to Host Speaker on Emancipation Proclamation

The history series at the Sonnenberg Village Welcome Center will feature noted attorney and historian John C. Fazio, lecturing on the Emancipation Proclamation in Sonnenberg Village on Tuesday, October 4th at 1:30PM.

Fazio will discuss the genesis, preparation, promulgation, interpretation and effects of the Emancipation Proclamation, perhaps the strangest document in American history. Discussion will include the moral imperatives which inspired the decision as well as the more concrete motives of preventing foreign intervention in the Civil War and depleting Southern manpower and increasing Northern manpower. Also to be discussed will

be the 13th Amendment and how the two documents are viewed by generations of African-Americans.

Fazio has written numerous articles on Civil War history and a book on the assassination of Abraham Lincoln.

The presentation is part of a series for students of Central Christian Schools and Wayne County home-schooled children. The presentation is, however, open to students of all ages, free of charge. The program is sponsored by the Ohio Humanities Council and the Kidron Community Historical Society. The Sonnenberg Village Welcome Center is located at 13497 Hackett Road, just north of Kidron.

Ray Leisy

School Tours Bring History to Life for Local Students

Spring Season Tours Prove Successful; Plans for Fall Season Tours Underway

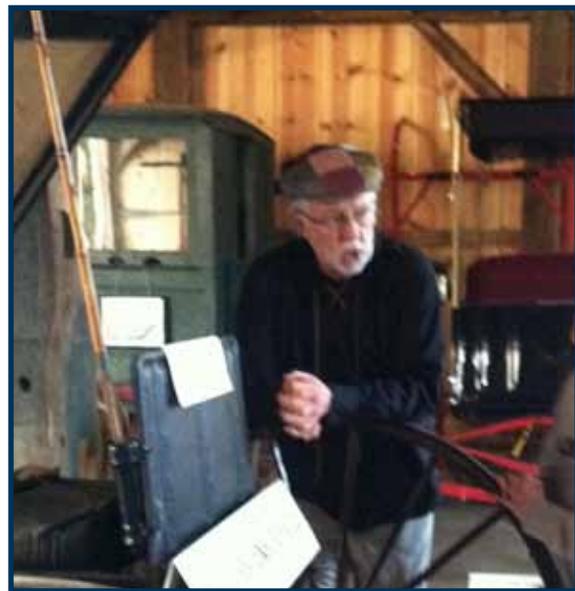
April and May were busy months at the Historical Society as more than 300 third, fourth, and eighth graders visited our campus, accompanied by more than 50 chaperones. Most teachers chose our new full day option which runs from 9:00AM to 2:30PM. This allows students time to experience each of the venues and gives them the opportunity to have fun trying the hands-on activities we developed for each of the venues. We've received rave reviews from teachers and students alike, not only about the venues and hands-on activities, but also about the picnic lunch on the lawn, and period-appropriate games and activities we provide at recess. All ages enjoyed three-legged races, sack races, marbles games, and songs and dances.

In addition, students can don period costumes to experience what it was like for people from these times in history. What a delight to see eighth grade boys join the girls and volunteer to try on the hoops and full skirts! And there are always some third and fourth grade boys who are willing to try out the beautiful children's corsets, dresses, pinafores, and bonnets made by board members and school tour docents, Sandi Keim and Carolyn Sheron. We are working on period male clothing for students to try on for the upcoming fall season.

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Julie Mennes, Charles Lepold, Nell Reardon and Mary Bricker re-enact what life was like in Civil War era Wooster.



In the Carriage House, Mac Hawkins talks with students about past modes of transportation, highlighting sleighs and the original mail buggy on display.

During the student tours, we create an atmosphere that takes students back in time. Our docents dress in costumes from 1900 for the third and fourth grade programs. The eighth grade program, which we introduced this Spring, focuses on the Civil War. The docents dress in Civil War era costumes, and several embody specific local characters from that period, such as Emeline Sprague Stibbs, Reasin Beall Stibbs, various members of the Silver family, among others. This living history element adds a wonderful layer of authenticity to our Civil War program.

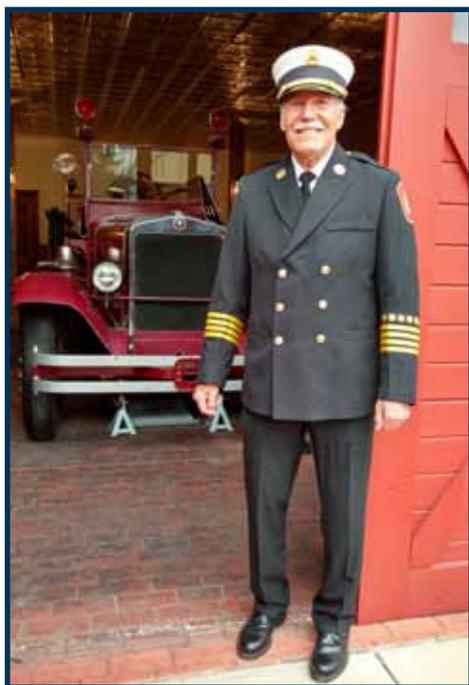


Docents in Civil War era attire await the next group of students. From left: Sandi Keim, Mary Hettrick and Marge Hawkins.

School Tours --cont'd from page 3--

The efforts to coordinate and produce the school tour programs are worth it when students say, "Your dress is so beautiful!" or "I want to live here" or "This is like a magical little village - I love it!" Of course they often ask, "When can we come back?" so we encourage students to ask their parents to bring them for another visit. We must have made a positive impression because several of them have done just that! In addition to all of the wonderful thank-you notes, letters and drawings we received, four different students who came with their class this spring brought their families to visit our campus. We couldn't ask for a better endorsement.

Nell Reardon



"Fireman " Frank Kuntz guides students through the Fire House exhibit.



General Store proprietor Joe Retzler stands ready to serve customers. When students arrive at the Society, they are greeted by Nell Reardon, who gives each one a penny. When the students visit the General Store, they can buy a bag of "penny candy" from Joe, just as children from the past would have done.



"Teacher" Becky Carmer explains to students what their one-room school house and scope of education would have been like at the turn of the century.

Seated at a vintage treadle sewing machine, Sandi Keim shows students how clothing was made in the past.



In addition to the many thank you notes, letters and drawings received from both students and teachers, the Lucas (Ohio) Class of 2020 sent a framed, signed photo from their day at the Wayne County Historical Society. A memento we will treasure!

Downton Abbey Exhibit, Lectures and Tea

As Successful Series of Events Comes to a Close, Grateful Thanks to All Involved

As Chairperson of the Downton Abbey Series, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who supported our mission to raise funds for a period floor cloth for the front hall of the Beall-Stibbs House. Members of the Board were a great help--thanks to Past President Elaine Peterson, President Bob Everett, President Elect Sandi Keim, Treasurer Susan Ferguson and Board member Carolyn Sheron.



A full house waits in anticipation for Tea service to begin!



Our fashion show models: Lucinda Secrest, Barb Yoder, Persis Yoder, Susan Heady, Carol Bucher, and MaryLou Kerr

Special thanks to Ginny Gunn, who has worked with the committee to make sure we had all the time periods displayed correctly and also donated her time to conduct one of our lectures, "Fashion from the 1920s." Susan Heady and Julie Mennes were our organizers for the Downton Abbey Tea and made the event run smoothly with the help of committee members Ann Gasbarre, Bonnie Drushal, Carol Bucher, Mary Lou Kerr, Sharon Pooler, Louise Keating, and Mary Eberhart. Larry Madden did a fabulous job as our Tea photographer. Drew Kerr helped us set up for the Tea on the evening prior to the event. There were so many others who helped—the Tea servers, fashion show ladies as well as the news reporters and photographers.



Each place setting featured vintage china and linens.



I would also like to thank our "heavy lifters"—Ray Leisy, Joe Wolf and Dale Stahl. These gentlemen helped move all the china containers from Julie Mennes' house to Trinity UCC where the Tea was held. That task was no easy feat in itself. Thanks guys! We couldn't have done it without you.

I am happy to report the total amount raised from all events—Fashion lecture, Dance lecture, Silent Auction, In-kind/cash donations and the Downton Abbey Tea—was \$7,385! We are extremely grateful to all who supported us!

If you haven't seen the Downton Abbey Exhibit, please don't wait. The exhibit closes October 29th. Tours are given Friday and Saturday from 1:00PM -4:00PM.

Allyson Leisy



**Wayne County Historical Society of Ohio
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Carolyn Sheron
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The Wayne County Historical Society of Ohio
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330.264.8856
waynehistoricalohio.org

Office Hours: 1:00PM-4:00PM Tuesday and Friday
Guided Tours: March-October
Friday and Saturday 1:00PM-4:00PM
Group and School Tours: call the office to schedule

Follow us on Facebook:
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