



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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December 2016

Thank you Sponsors!!

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The Chagrin Falls Historical Society
 invites you to a

1940s CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2016
2:00-4:00 PM

87 EAST WASHINGTON ST.
CHAGRIN FALLS

*Please park at the intermediate school parking lot
 440-247-4695 www.chagrinhistorical.org*

Tour our current exhibit, *Chagrin Falls, The War Years*. Listen to your favorite Christmas music played by keyboard musician, Marge Adler, while you enjoy cookies, eggnog and other treats (if we get our sugar ration!). Shop our museum store for books on local history, Christmas cards, hand-carved bowls by Stewart Matthews and other gift items.

Especially for the children:

Come decorate your own gingerbread house to take home! We'll have lots of candies and glue, just bring your imagination.



Local cake artist replicates the Ober House
 David St. John of Kenston Cottage Cakes has made this beautiful cake that is an exact replica of the Museum. The cakes weighs about 40 lbs and sits on 36" x 36" 'snow' surface. The cake is decorated with lights and trees, both inside and out. Stop in and see this amazing creation during our Open House, or anytime we are open.



What do I do with my dolls?

Many of us have dolls passed down from family or treasures of our own. There comes a point when one wonders what to do with them. Since at the CFHS we now have space to display and make use of our collection, there has been an increasing interest in dolls. We are getting questions about the dolls in the collection but also about what to do with dolls our members and visitors possess.

This is not a simple question but here are some of the considerations that you may want to keep in mind. Often these questions, like the dolls themselves, remain on the shelf or in a box until decisions are made by someone else, or in haste. I think it is worth considering the options that exist.

Before anything else, I would urge people to ask family members, but also others with whom you are close, if they are interested. I was certain the teddy bear of my mother's would not be wanted, but in fact it was very warmly received by its new family. This is a way of passing on a treasure of the past to the world of the future.

If that is not productive, there are basically two directions you can take. You can sell or donate the dolls. Each of these options has positives and negatives. However, before thinking more about these options, it is important to realize that the market for dolls has been in a serious slump and I do not see any real signs of it improving anytime soon. Always, the quality of the doll, the rarer (generally), the more appealing, the better the condition, the more the value has held. That said, even the finest of dolls have taken a major hit in terms of market value.

If you consider selling through an auction house, realize that they will be very selective, wanting older, perfect (or near perfect) condition, and the more original the better. It is relatively easy on you, but items may not sell or bring less than expected. If selling online, while you have few up-front costs, there is a lot of preparation required prior to listing and learning how the system works. If you sell privately, through ads or sales, the pool of buyers will be much smaller. If you want to sell the dolls as a collection, you will have to find dealers interested in them. You might take pictures to a local doll show, or antique show where you see dolls to gauge interest.

You may also donate dolls to a museum. If accepted, you know they will be valued and cared for. However, many museums like CFHS, have limited space. At CFHS we have particular interest in dolls that have a Chagrin Falls connection but also in individual dolls that fill holes in our collection. Generally these are dolls that date up to the 1960's.

We have prepared a handout that goes into these considerations in more detail,

Hope you find this helpful.

Marnie Albers



Notes From The Director's Office

Membership Renewal!

It is hard to believe that we will complete another year in just a few weeks! **Membership renewals are due by January 1, 2017.** The Historical Society calendar year is January to January, making it easier for everyone to remember when their membership is due (previously our calendar year for renewal was September). Please fill out the enclosed form (if you have not already renewed your membership) and mail back to CFHS, PO Box 515 Chagrin Falls, OH 44022. Make your check payable to Chagrin Falls Historical Society.

Speaking of the new calendar year, we will not have a scheduled program for January or February. We will schedule programs March through December. Details for upcoming programs will be published at a later date.

Come to a party on New Year's Eve at the Historical Society on Saturday, December 31st, 9:00 pm to 12:30 am in the Community Room. Bring a game, BYOB and a snack to pass. Those who are hail and hardy can walk down to the Popcorn Drop at Triangle Park. R.S.V.P. by December 28th to Carolyn or Jane at 440-247-4695. Come join in the fun and bring in the new year with historical friends!

Hope everyone has a Happy Holiday!

Jane Babinsky, Museum Director

Calendar

December

- 1 Museum Open 2:00-7:00 pm
- 3 Museum Open 11:00 am-3:00 pm
- 4 Volunteer Thank You 3:00-5:00 pm CFHS
- 5 Intermediate School Students 2:45-3:15 pm, Sihler Research Center
- 7 Chagrin Valley Jaycees Board Meeting 6:30 pm Sihler Research Center
- 7 Know Your Antiques 7 pm Bo Burr Community Room
- 8 Museum Open 2:00-7:00 pm
- 8 Arden Courts Tour of the museum 2:30 pm
- 10 CFHS Museum Open 11:00 am to 2:00 pm
- 10 Historical Society 1940s **Christmas Open House** 2:00 to 4:00 pm
- 13 CFHS Board Meeting 9:30 am
- 13 American Legion 7 pm Bo Burr Community Room
- 15 Museum Open 2:00-7:00 pm
- 17 CFHS Museum Open 11:00 am to 2:00 pm
- 19 Jaycees Foundation 6:30 pm Bo Burr Community Room
- 22 Museum Open 2:00-7:00 pm

November Program

It was standing room only in the Community Room on November 17 when Kevin Callahan delivered his presentation on the Van Sweringen Brothers. Clearly a topic of interest to many, the crowd of more than 70 people was enthralled with the lives of the two brothers. Mantis James and Oris Paxton. Callahan's extensive knowledge of "The Vans" enhanced with photographs of the the building of Terminal Tower, Shaker Heights and their residences made for a fascinating program.

He chronicled the lives of the two bachelors from their beginnings on a farm outside Wooster, OH, to their move to Cleveland as young boys where they started out selling newspapers to make money. He described the growth of their real estate and railroad empire which, at it's peak, was worth approximately \$3 billion and the devastation that followed with the Great Depression. Callahan interestingly shared a personal connection with the building of Terminal Tower. A family business, Callahan Sand & Gravel provided the sand for the base but with

the advent of the depression losses, never got paid and went out of business.

Thank you to Hospitality Chairs, Patti and Jeff Widmar for providing the refreshments and volunteers Ken Kvacek, Jo Roeder, Laura Gorretta and John Bourisseau for their work to make this program possible.

The next program, on December 10 will be the **"1940s Christmas Open House"**. We still need homemade cookies or tea sandwiches. If you are able to help out, please contact Anne Burr at 440-241-2678 or aburr51@gmail.com or Patti Widmar at 216-409-1455 or pwidmar@roadrunner.com.

Anne Burr



Curator **Pat Zalba** and Asst. Curator **Sally Hawkins** decorating the museum for the Dec. 10 Open House



Member **Frank Kanzinger** with his extensive collection of Lionel Trains. On display upstairs in the museum during the Christmas Season



Pledges through the Legacy Circle program are now at \$223,000.

Contact us about how to become a member of the 1833 Legacy Circle.

Memorial Gifts

A Gift in Memory of
Kitty Anderson
from **Don Anderson**

A Gift in Memory of
Tracey Jane Stokes
from **Roberta A. Stokes**

A Gift in Memory of
Bob Roeder
from **Jo Ann Roeder**

A Gift In Memory of
Don Byrnes

Welcome New Members

Barbara Paterek
Bill Wheeler
Bob & Amy Benson
Barbara Warner

Memberships Due

Enclosed in this newsletter you will find your annual membership renewal form. If you are a life member, donations are always welcome.



Curator's Report

"New Years Past"

From the Exponent, the weekly Chagrin Falls newspaper published from 1874-1964, we glean the following information.

"New Years Eve, 1876. One hundred and ten couples attended the New Years dance at the Irving House on New Years Eve. The party was generally orderly, is spoken of as highly satisfactory to those attending. The Centennial year was ushered into Chagrin Falls in a fitting manner. The bells on the churches and the school building (The Asbury Seminary and later Union School, now the site of our Intermediate School) were rung and a general fusillade of firecrackers was heard. The authorities had the new lock up lighted and ready for business on New Years Eve. Fortunately, there was no pressing need for its services."

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

A brick saved from the the demolition of the Falls Theatre. (The movie house that once stood on E. Washington St.)

*Donor **Lynn Reboul***

A mid 1940's Chagrin Falls photo post card of Township Hall. (Rebuilt after the fire)

*Donor **Katlin Petrow***

A Chagrin Falls china plate originally sold at Mr. Tenny's store on N. Main St. in 1900 and an enamelware invalid feeding set of dishes.

*Donor **Rene Murtaugh Sell***

A Chagrin Falls Advertising item: A bottle cap/can opener marked "Old Mill Lumber and Hardware 143 E. Washington St. C.F.O.

*Donor **Linda Curtis***

Two Paintings by Chagrin Falls primitive artist Max Barnard. One is a country scene and the other a miniature portrait.

*Donor **Elizabeth and Gary Frazier***

Given in memory of Dorothy Pauly is a silver pin with the logo of "The Sassy Cat" (This was a consignment store for handcrafted items which stood on N. Main Street.)

*Donor **Joyce Gorretta***

Have a Wonderful Holiday time and keep out of the "lock up"

Pat Zalba, Curator

