

Ottawa County Historical Museum
October 6, 1994

President - Jim Rusincovitch
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Lock Zeis
James Snider
Gary Greunke
Natalie Bredbeck
Barbara Bailey, Curator

Dear Museum Members:

Winter Hours are effect at the Ottawa County Historical Museum beginning September 6th. Winter Hours are 1:00 to 4:00 Tuesday through Thursday and by appointment. (Call the Museum at 732-2237. Please leave a message if the Museum is closed.) The curator welcomes the opportunity to talk to groups or classes at the Museum or elsewhere.

Thanks to the Stensen Foundation, the Museum now sports new siding and extra insulation. The project made visiting the Museum difficult at times, but many stout-hearted history lovers climbed over or crouched under ladders to view the collections.

The PORT CLINTON signs from the old Depot have not been lost, strayed or stolen. They are inside the Museum waiting for someone to put them back on the ends of the building. One has a new coat of spar varnish, and the other has been repainted. Hope some elves come in soon and put them back on the building.

Work on the collections never stops. Clarabelle Bothe has worked hard with the photograph collection. 50 of the photographs have been preserved by having copies and negatives made by Harry Holzappel. The postcard collection is now into its second volume

Jim Hansen has been working on the gun collection. The wood on the stocks gleams with probably the first oiling since some of them were donated in 1931. It is another huge job. Before it is finished the armory will be rehung, renumbered, with new description cards. Ours is an unusually nice collection and deserves the attention of an expert like Jim.

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Thanks to Edith Minderman, many papers and documents have been preserved. As they have been found in various places maps, programs, letters from the Civil War, from President Hayes, from George Washington Carver, and other old and delicate papers have been encapsulated.

Other contributions to the Museum this year have been a Lockwood photo album with all family members identified, a pair of pince nez including the fine gold chain and gold hairpin, and a miner's lamp used in the U. S. Gypsum mines which were among the items donated by Gladys Lockwood. Books were donated by Carl Biro, Carl and Carol Kessler, and Lee Bracken. A large photo of the burning of the "Success" was also donated by Lee Bracken. A copy of "The Toussaint Story" by Judge Wargowsky and signed by the author was donated by Donna and Beryl Gyde. Just this week, Harriet DeWitt donated a large family Bible with the name "Mary Hitchcock" on the cover. She was the wife of Dr. Hitchcock and an aunt of Mrs. DeWitt's late husband, Charles. The Bible was printed in 1846 and has lovely engravings.

The book on the history of Port Clinton consisting in large part of the writings of May Hesselbart is still in the works due to the Museum's limited printing abilities. Several people have expressed an interest in it, and the Museum will make every effort to have it in print this fall for the Christmas season.

This has been a busy year with the siding and Museum open five days a week during the summer. I apologise to our members who haven't received membership cards until now. Thanks for your loyalty. You should find your card with this letter. If you sent in your dues and don't find your card enclosed, please contact me. (Phone 732-2237) If you missed the June appeal, or if you have friends who might care to support the Museum, please use the following form. And please come in and visit!

Sincerely,

Barbara Bailey, Curator