

**Group Hunts Information on  
Interurban Rail Systems**

Ottawa County railroad buffs unite! A group of enthusiasts is trying to get locals together to gather information about the Ottawa County Electric Interurban Rail Systems. The project is being chaired by the Genoa Area Federation of Clubs, and the end result will be an Ottawa County Interurban Circle Tour, which will retrace the path of the rail system from the west end to the east end of the county. Those who have old pictures, stories and other information are asked to contact the project coordinators. The group is hoping to identify various stops along the route, as well as remaining buildings and structures related to the system. A rough draft of the tour booklet will be presented at a meeting at the Genoa Town Hall at 7:07 p.m. on Wednesday, November 20. All are invited to attend. For more information, contact your Museum; project coordinator Ellen Bergman at (419) 855-3166; president Karen Kruse at (419) 855-3486; or historian Kirk Hise at (419) 855-4178.

**Book Corner**



**For your reading enjoyment and  
Christmas gift-giving ideas**

The Museum has for purchase a wonderful collection of local historical writings compiled and edit by former Curator Barbara Bailey. The book is called *The Heritage of Port Clinton* but actually includes the history of all of Ottawa County. What a value at only \$15.00! We also have several other booklets available including a reprint of the Ottawa County section of Henry Howe's historical writings on Ohio first published in the 1840s and updated in the 1880s. Many of his etchings that are reproduced and suitable for framing are also for sale in our gift shop. Stop by and browse through our selection with your Christmas list in mind!

**Speakers, Re-enactors, and Program Presenters Available**

Have you ever found yourself chairing a committee to provide the program at your group's next meeting? What to do, what to do?!?!? Call your Museum, of course. We can provide you with a solution to your dilemma. You may even want to host your meeting at the Museum. Or we can send someone to you! We have several meetings already scheduled to be held at the Museum this winter. If you would like to get on the calendar, please call the Museum or Curator Vicki Ashton.

We can also provide your group with a speaker or provide you with some kind of historical program complete with visuals. This is a wonderful opportunity for Senior Centers and Activities or for school and youth groups. We are working with Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts in earning their various badges through interactive programs. Again, contact the Museum if you are interested in a program such as this.

~~~ The Museum People ~~~

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# The Ottawa County Historian

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## Frack Genealogy Priceless Discovery!

One day last month, a man from Dayton who was on vacation in Lakeside, called the Museum inquiring about the Ernst Franck family. Squire Ernst Franck had been the Ottawa County Engineer for years and was the primary surveyor in laying out much of Lakeside, Oak Harbor, and other villages in Ottawa County. Of course finding information on such a prominent county resident was easy and I forwarded the information to Mr. Franck in Dayton. Then later, as I was working on cataloging our huge collection of photographs, I ran across a picture of Squire and Mrs. Franck at their fiftieth wedding anniversary celebration surround by forty of their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren! How priceless is that picture!

## Featured Exhibit (and a mystery for our younger members)

During this back-to-school season, we want to highlight our school exhibit. One of the most fascinating artifacts is a report card from a sixth grade student at Danbury from 1896. He received good marks even though his attendance was poor. In the fall grading period, he missed 40 days of school, only 1 in winter, and 36 missed days in spring. What's up?? Most kids are sick and miss school in the winter. Why do you think this boy missed so many days in the spring and fall? Don't forget to consider the time period, culture, and other reasons besides illness. Kids, call or stop by the Museum with your ideas regarding this mystery and receive a free surprise!

## One Student's Research Victories

Christina Conard, a Port Clinton Middle School student, brought her grandmother, aunt and cousins to the Museum this past summer after being impressed with certain exhibits while visiting with her class. Her grandmother pointed out that a particular doll in our collection had been donated by one of her grandmothers. Christina was hooked! She returned to the Museum, researched her family history, and asked for help taking pictures of the doll. She discovered that the doll is a very valuable antique currently appraised at over \$1500 and was a toy treasured by her great-great-great-grandmother while she was a child in the early 1800s. Christina is currently putting the finishing touches on a report she plans to donate to the Museum complete with pictures and her family history. Thank you in advance, Christina, for a job well done and especially for your youthful enthusiasm!!

