

OTTAWA COUNTY MUSEUM

126 W. Third St., Port Clinton, OH 43452 419-732-2237 ochm@cros.net

Labor Day until Memorial Day, Open Wed. Noon to 3 pm;

Memorial Day to Labor Day: Tues/Wed/Thurs, Noon to 3pm; or by appt. (Call Peggy at 419-732-1039)

Looking for:

- *Reflections of Rocky Ridge 1830 to 1939* (book) by William Jay Risch
- *Revistas from 1957, 1958 and 1960 through 1963, 1974, 1979, 1981 and later*
- *Other County yearbooks*
- *Photos of old Rocky Ridge*

Thank You!

Marlene Gulas—1959

Revista

Carol Petersen—local

books from her parents,

Lowell and Elaine Petersen

Peg Ormsby—Middle Bass

Island souvenir plate

Bruce Bridgeman—apple

butter paddle, and historic

newspapers

Jim Wightman—

commercial fishing photos

of his father Ed Wightman

Estate of Paul Rofkar via

Helen and son John Frye:

Catawba aerial photos, stock

certificate from Danbury

Fruit Growers, *Gems of Port*

Clinton book, 1963 map of

Ottawa City

OUR BOARD MEMBERS:

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NEWSLETTER

Summer 7-2013



Greetings from the Curator! Have you heard of the Welcome Doors of Ottawa County? A project of the Leadership Ottawa County Class of 2013, they are designed to encourage travel and exploration throughout the county. Our museum Welcome Door is pictured at left and is located on the wall just inside our main entrance.

I hope you'll come in and see all the little personal items that volunteer Peg Ormsby put inside our door to describe our folks (such as "photos by Chuck") and that you'll pick up a brochure so that you can find the other welcome doors around the county.

It was a tough winter inside the museum, but now, thanks to our hard-working volunteers, my "new" office is in place and I am finally getting organized. I'm still putting my "stuff" away, but stop in and see what the great PC school district gave us as well as a "before" photo to remember just how bad things were and looked. I feel much more relaxed and efficient these days! It cost very little to fix the room, even though we found structural cracks in the floor, but Chuck Grindstaff sealed it up with the guidance of board member and concrete expert Park McRitchie and our costs were limited to paint (volunteers Skip and Peg Ormsby painted the room), carpet and repair supplies (under \$500 for a great makeover!) Now Chuck is getting our storage area ready as his next big undertaking.

I am preparing a small photographic exhibit for the Battle of Lake Erie weekend (Labor Day weekend) to be located in a tent near the waiting line for boarding the tall ships in PC. It is a quick overview of the maritime heritage of PC. The Port Clinton Lighthouse Conservancy is also planning to have an exhibit. **Thanks to the Ottawa County Community Foundation** for the display grids!!! We expect to have the museum open all Labor Day weekend. Come and see us!

Peggy

Memorials

■ **From Jeff and Jackie Warnicke:** In memory of Martin Gahn, Sharon Gates.

■ **From Joe and Jean Alexander:** In memory of Margaret Shaffer.

■ **From Richard and Catherine Holz:** In memory of Jack Payne.

■ **From Lock and Janie Zeis:** In memory of Phyllis Lane, Richard Speer, Donna Kelley, Jack Payne, Sharon Gates, Jacob Mackey.

Special Open Hours for Battle of Lake Erie weekend and Tall Ships Festival: Friday (8/30); Saturday (8/31); Sunday (9/1); Monday (9/2): 10 am to 5pm.

We have two new volunteers with computer savvy! Diane Jordan (nee Slobodian) is one of my oldest (or should I say earliest!) classmates—we attend ICS and PCHS all the way through together. She is working on our museum and artifacts database—it's a long, difficult project but she says she loves databases. Our other newest volunteer is Marianne Nemes, who with her husband has a weekend home here at the Fountains. Marianne has done a WOW job on our Facebook site (Ottawa County Museum), bringing up our "likes" by thousands of percentiles. Please "like" us and you'll get a couple of photos a week from Marianne. Diane's project will not be visible for some time but will help us tremendously in our photo and artifact inventory.



After the Battle of Lake Erie in September 1813, the flagship NIAGARA returned to Erie PA where it had been built. It rode at anchor in Misery Bay for 10 years, then sank in 20 feet of water and 6 feet of sand and mud. In March, 1913, the NIAGARA was raised and rebuilt for the centennial celebration of the battle. In the hold were found cannon balls and swords, still in remarkably good condition. About two-thirds of the hull was found to be usable. Parts that could not be used were given to museums and historical societies. The 1913 timber pictured at left is on permanent loan to the museum. Also in the museum is a diagram of the hull of the ship showing the location of the museum's timber on the Niagara. This information was procured for us by Reggie Langford. Thank you, Reggie!

Flagship Niagara timber in museum.

Ottawa County Museum
 Area Heritage Foundation
 126 W. 3rd Street
 Port Clinton, OH 43452

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Elsie Ward with her grandfather's tombstone. (See story below)



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Volunteer Elsie Ward is proud to be a life-long Port Clinton resident, married to high school sweetheart, Dick. She helped her sister Anna Bovia write her histories of Camp Perry and has many stories of growing up here. The small white tombstone in the military section of the museum belonged to her great-grandfather Francis Bovia, a veteran of the Civil War. Elsie walked into the museum one day and told us the story of how Anna had rescued the little tombstone when it was being replaced at the graveyard because it was barely readable. Elsie lives next to a cemetery and had enough gravestones to look at, so she generously donated it to the museum in memory of her great-grandfather. She has been a volunteer since 2007. She clips news articles and does whatever is needed, and we love her!

History Mystery!

We are searching for information on **Daniel Lyon**, who was a surveyor in the late 18th or early 19th centuries and who might have been among the early surveyors in this area. If you know anything about Mr. Lyon, e-mail volunteer Skip Ormsby at skip.ormsby@gmail.com or call the museum and leave a message.