

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:

- Draft cards from any time frame
- County high school yearbooks
- Photos of this winter's storms
- String trimmer
- Used ink cartridges to recycle
- Publications by the Ottawa County Genealogical Society
- Old baseball cap (early 20th century)
- Book: Winous Pint: 150 Years

Thank You!

Pat Gates—6 Framed pen and ink drawings by Vera Kolb (see History Mystery) and blank ink cartridges

Burnell Gates—6 Revistas

Wayne Walter—scanner

Susie Charlton—Oak Harbor postcards and her dad Bob's WWII helmet with a bullet hole in it

Peg & Skip Ormsby—PC Bottling Works Bottle

Nancy Wisley—papers from her brother's Army service in Korea, where he is still missing in action

OUR BOARD MEMBERS:

President Jim Rusincovitch

Secretary Dianne Rozak

Treasurer Janie Zeis

Natalie Bredbeck

Dottie Douglass

Susan Hany

T. Park McRitchie

Tom Priesman

Lock Zeis

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2014



Greetings from the Curator! We are honored to have one of our chairs made by Johnson's Island Confederate prisoners included in the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center exhibit Privy to History: Civil War Prison Life Unearthed, open from May 1 through January 4, 2015, and curated by Heidelberg's Dr. Dave Bush, who has led the excavations of the prison on Johnson's Island. Pictured here, the chair seat was reportedly made of strips cut from the prisoners' boots. The chair was donated to the museum in 1933 by the Ward Sisters. See the back side of

this newsletter for info about the other Johnson's Island chair in the museum.

For a short winter break this year, I drove to Richmond VA to research my VA ancestors. We have a legend in my family that Della Mullins, my great-grandmother, was a cousin of Mother Maybelle Carter and went with her to Nashville. The Library of Virginia has a wealth of information about Virginia history, and I found the connection, which I had read about in Will You Miss Me When I'm Gone, a book about the Carter family. We are **not** related to Mother Maybelle, but my grandmother was a distant cousin of her husband Ezra. Of course, in Scott County, where they ALL lived, no one was very distant from anyone else! I am hoping to do a program later this year on what I learned about researching VA ancestry because many of us from Ottawa County have ancestors from VA. Many Appalachians moved here to work, some in the mines. The book named above said that the Toledo Blade was delivered every two weeks to southwest Virginia by a rider on horseback. Amazing! (Speaking of musical Virginians, did you know that Winchester's Patsy Cline's real family name was Hensley? I wonder if she has any relatives in Ottawa County?) *Peggy*

Memorials

- Lock & Janie Zeis—Naomi & Dr. Ken Akins, Ted & Dolores Mason, Liz Williamsen
- Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Warnicke—Curley St. Marie

Spring means diamonds—green baseball diamonds, that is. Volunteer Chuck Grindstaff has put together a baseball exhibit featuring baseball teams from early twentieth century Genoa, Port Clinton, Mike Drusbacky in an Army baseball uniform from Alaska, 1944, a V.F. W team and more. Stop by and see how our local boys played this American pastime. We are looking for photos and memorabilia—OLD hats, gloves, souvenirs.



This child's rush-bottom rocking chair was made by Confederate prisoners on Johnson's Island during the Civil War. It was given to Mrs. William E. Kelly, who was known as "friendly toward them."

It still has its rockers, which the other Johnson's Island chair in our museum does not. This chair was donated to the museum by Richard Detlef. Volunteer Kevin Winters has been studying the Johnson's Island prisoners, so if you have information or questions, please call him at the museum or e-mail us at ochm@cros.net.

Many thanks to the **Ottawa County Community Foundation** for their donation allowing us buy a tape recorder and video camera to record stories from our visitors, to video historical speakers, and to film historical information in our area. **Bill Gordon** is helping with getting everything set up and training us. If you have a story to tell, please call the curator at 419-732-1039. I expect we will also be sharing this equipment with the Ottawa County Historical Society to see how it works with their oral history collection. By the way, our museum is now the repository of the oral history tapes made by the Page and Stage group of the historical society. If anyone is capable of and interested in converting these cassette tapes to digital media, we would love to have your help.

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

Non-Profit Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage PAID
Permit No. 118
Port Clinton, OH 43452



Dottie Douglass with the 17' Matthews fishing launch.

Dottie Douglass and her husband Harold came to the museum one day and after a chat, began asking about volunteering. Wow, were we lucky! She is one of our greeters and docents and she has a great grasp of what we have on display. Dottie volunteers A LOT—with historical places such as the Marblehead Lighthouse and the Liberty Aviation Museum, as well as at a local food bank. She has recently joined our board of trustees. Dottie hails from Columbus and now lives in Willow Beach with Harold and her mother Opal. Dottie loves all the artifacts, but chose our 17' Matthews fishing launch for her photograph. (The boat was built in Bascom before Matthews moved to Port Clinton in 1906. It was donated to Port Clinton by Hubie Bernet who had kept it suspended in his barn in Tiffin for a number of years.)



Follow us on Facebook:
Ottawa County Museum

HISTORY MYSTERY! The 6 drawings Pat Gates donated were made by Vera Kolb, about whom she knew nothing. Our erstwhile file expert, volunteer Peg Ormsby, found this: Vera Kolb, a free-lance artist, moved to the Catawba Cliffs around 1967, when her sketches of life in Ottawa County appeared each Friday in the News Herald in 1967 and 1968.

DOES ANYONE KNOW ANYTHING ELSE ABOUT VERA KOLB?