

OTTAWA COUNTY MUSEUM

126 W. Third St., Port Clinton, OH 43452 419-732-2237

ochm@cros.net. **Open hours:**

Memorial Day Until Labor Day, Tues., Wed., Thurs., noon to 3 pm

Labor Day Until Memorial Day, Wednesdays Noon to 3 pm

Or whenever you want—call Peggy Debien: 419-732-1039 (home)

We're looking for:

Photos and stories of:

- Snow storms/ice shoves
- 1918 flu pandemic
- Polio crisis 1940s/50s
- Old photos (not just PC)
- Agriculture/Farms
- Rural Townships
- Ottawa County veterans
- children

Donations:

Dave Dubbert—HVAC service

Steve and Lisa

Underwood—Firemen's Convention Banner

Jeff Brown--Waterfront and Marine directories of county, Photo of Am. Leg. Post 113 Band,

Lg County Flag, Standard Prod badges

Judy Nugent—book, newspapers

Michael Deis—"Bear" brand hunting bow of father-in-law Bud Jones

Kathy Vance (Mrs. Ray)—Bataan and Jefferson elementary

school year books

John & Mary

DeGriskey—photo, letters, misc. items

NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2023

Dear Friends,

—Thank you for your membership contributions since we sent out the annual membership request. You have given very generously, and you can be sure we will mind your money carefully.

—Dr. Robert Putnam, PCHS '59, gave the keynote speech at Lakeside on 20 June as part of Lakeside's anniversary celebration. Several of his classmates, many of whom were also museum members, and others, attended his thoughtful and entertaining talk. In the fall, the museum will be sponsoring a showing of the documentary called "Join or Die," which features Bob's theories and work. He autographed my copy of his latest, and he says last, book Upswing, which I will one day donate to the museum.



—Dave Barth organized and hosted a celebration of Purple Heart Day on August 7, presenting Challenge Coins to Purple Heart recipients and one family member of each deceased recipient.

—We recently received the late Rudy Dracka's photo albums after his family carefully reviewed them. If you have some old albums that your parents left or that you plan to leave to your children, now is a good time to review them with your family and keep what you want. We would love to see them and give you back digitized copies of what we scan for the museum—a win for all of us!

—David Veres, who is setting up the new Middle Bass Island museum in the old Lonz home, spent a morning here scanning photos and articles about Middle Bass and the Lonz winery. Recent Toledo Blade article told the story.

OUR BOARD MEMBERS:

President Jim Rusincovitch

Secretary Dianne Rozak

Treasurer Doug Huber

David Barth

Natalie Bredbeck

Dottie Douglass

T. Park McRitchie

Tom Priesman

Melanie Watling

George Wight

Winter Hours after Labor Day: Weds noon to 3 pm

Thank you as always, Peggy



SPECIAL THANK YOU! For \$1,000 donations from:

Lifetime members Skip and Ellen Honsperger

Lifetime members Duane and Betty Kokinda



Climate change?

From the Marblehead Lighthouse keeper's diary:

2—3 Dec 1886: terrible wind and snow yesterday...Thermometer down to 3 above 0 this morning. Sandusky Bay covered with ice 6 inches ; lake is ice covered over.

9 Dec 1886: The light at this station was discontinued this morning; The bay and lake have been frozen over since the 2nd.

From Linda Huber, member

GOT OLD PHOTOS?

Don't want them?

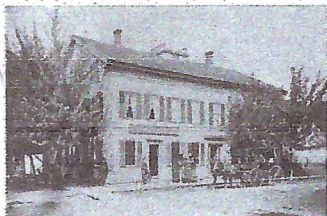
Cannot bear to throw them away? Bring them in. We will scan them and give you a digital copy, return them to you, or destroy those you don't want.

HISTORY MYSTERY—What are these two very rusty old items brought in by Brooke Brown, who found them near Bay Point? Where do you think they came from? Brooke has a theory.



Area Heritage Foundation dba
Ottawa County Museum
P.O. 845
Port Clinton, Ohio 43452

Non-Profit Bulk Rate
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Port Clinton, Ohio 43452



A "Tragedy of Errors" at the Original Island House, 1905

A fire broke out in the second story of the Island House at half past one a.m. Cause, it is thought by a defective stove setting fire to a room. The alarm was promptly given, but it was some time before the fire apparatus could be gotten out no key being available. Finally, just as someone had broken in a side window, a key was obtained, but the fire was apparently extinguished before the engine could be made to work.

Thinking everything safe, the firemen and citizens generally returned to their beds, and Mr. Reese, the landlord, and his family prepared beds in the dining room, their usual sleeping apartment being damp from the water being used in extinguishing the fire.

About 4 a.m., Mr. Reese was awakened by the smell of smoke. Thinking some of the bed clothes were still on fire, he arose and was surprised to find the whole second story on fire. One guest barely escaped with his life.

The fire bell was again sounded, but such headway had the flames made that all thought of saving the hotel or contents were abandoned, and every effort directed to saving the adjoining property, Rohrs and McRitchie's hardware store, which was separated from the doomed hotel by a space of about twenty feet. Fortunately there was hardly a breath of wind.

The water in the fire cistern to which the fire engine had been taken, soon gave out. The engine was then moved to the Bell and Co's dock. As there seemed to be no head to the fire department, considerable valuable time was lost in this movement, and when the engine got into position no water could be forced through the hose and at this time the fire was at its height. Had it not been for the brave efforts of Philip Kuhne, Abe Legget and some others who were on the roof throwing water from buckets, Rohr and McRitchie's store would surely have been consumed. At this time no water could be forced through the hose. Firemen were wildly running around, vainly trying to discover the cause. The hosemen were persuaded to take off the nozzle, which it was discovered to be full of mud. This being removed the water began to flow and in a short time the fire was under control. Had there been the least wind, nothing would have saved the east side of Main street from destruction.

From the December 16, 1905 Exponent (via member Dick Martin). This wooden Island House was located on the corner of Madison and Second St. The brick Island House was built at the corner of Madison and Perry St., just one block from water—the Portage River.