

### We're looking for:

Photos and stories of:  
—Snow storms/ice shoves  
—1918 flu pandemic  
—Polio crisis 1940s/50s  
—Old photos of agriculture and farms.  
—Rural Townships  
—Ottawa County veterans  
—children

### Donations:

**Toni Garrett:** When Toni runs her estate sales, she is always on the lookout for items she knows the museum can use. Very recently, she brought us several old phone books and early directories.

**Dave Dubbert and Kay Stierwalt:** An 1832 cradle from their early Port Clinton ancestors.

James Profitt, who writes about Lake Erie, wildlife, hunting and fishing has a new podcast "Lake Effect" for WGTE radio. His podcast about the museum is at <https://www.wgte.org/radio/local-podcasts/lake-effect/the-ottawa-county-museum>

### **OUR BOARD MEMBERS:**

*President Jim Rusincovitch  
Secretary Dianne Rozak  
Treasurer Doug Huber  
David Barth  
Natalie Bredbeck  
Dottie Douglass  
T. Park McRitchie  
Tom Priesman  
George Wight*

## 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)**

### NEWSLETTER

Spring 2024

**Dear Friends,**

**This newsletter is enclosed with our annual appeal for membership renewal and new members.**

We have been able to keep this museum operational using just your memberships, memorials, and donations and hope to continue in that mode. Undertakings beyond daily operations have been covered by grants and donations (e.g., new roof was funded by a Stensen grant, Purple Heart Trail initiative and recipient recognition was supported by Ottawa County Community Foundation and other donors). I hope you can continue to support us through your generous memberships.

You will see in the Board's membership appeal that they are looking for a new, larger, location for the museum, as we have outgrown our present space. If you have any ideas for a new location, they are open to suggestions. Please take a look.

**Missing in Action:** You may have noticed we have not communicated much recently. During the past couple of years, Chuck Grindstaff, our volunteer archivist, has been out for surgery and follow-up treatments. I have been out for surgery and therapy off and on since November. We have lost a few volunteers who have "aged out," and we are looking for more replacements. Also, our Facebook page was consigned to a "gray status" and eventually eliminated. Facebook gave us no help in getting it replaced. **Good news:** Chuck and I are back in action for the most part. Our Facebook page is being renovated by Jenn Staib of Webify and we hope to be on line with it soon. We have some new volunteers, but are looking for more and we hope you will understand why you haven't heard as much from us lately. Please come and help out as a volunteer. I guarantee you will enjoy it!

*Peggy*

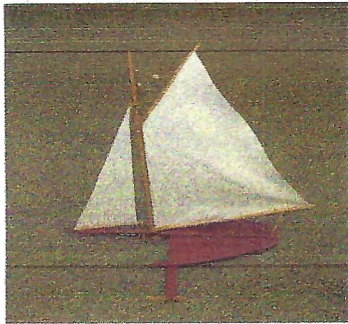
**HISTORY MYSTERY REVEALED>>>>>>>>>>**

These are two ax heads found by Brooke Brown at Bay Point. He believes, and drawings seem to confirm, that they were left there by early settlers of the "Firelands," of which Bay Point was a part. (No one even tried to guess what these were, probably because they were so rusted and so difficult to photograph.)



Part of Danbury is in the Firelands.

The Firelands, or Sufferers' Lands, tract was located at the western end of the Connecticut Western Reserve in what is now the U.S. state of Ohio. It was legislatively established in 1792, as the "Sufferers' Lands", and later became named "Fire Lands" because the resale of the land was intended as financial restitution for residents of the Connecticut towns of Danbury, Fairfield, Greenwich, Groton, New Haven, New London, Norwalk, and Ridgefield. Their homes had been burned in 1779 and 1781 by British forces during the American Revolutionary War. However, most of the settlement of the area did not occur until after the War of 1812.<sup>[1]</sup> "Fire Lands" was later spelled as one word: "Firelands."



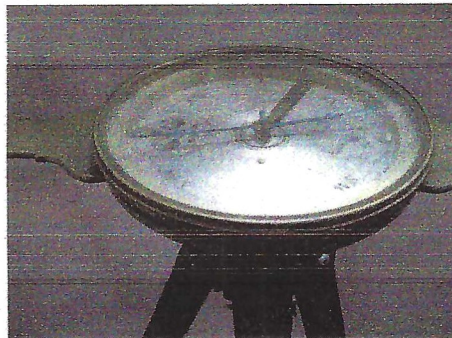
Model Ice Boat donated by the Kelley's Island Historical Society



**New History Mystery**—The 12-inch tile above was donated by Dave Dubbert, who found it among his father Frank's items in the basement of the Dubbert home on Perry St. Frank said it had a very specific use. Can anyone identify how it was used?



Cradle made in 1835 in Springfield Ohio and brought to Port Clinton by Thomas Hall, an ancestor of Dave Dubbert and Kay Stierwalt, who donated it and the doll to the museum.



The Ottawa County Museum also has a very early **surveying compass** made in Winchester VA by Goldsmith Chandlee for surveyor Daniel Lyons. We wonder if it was used to survey the Firelands and local area. Goldsmith built a brass foundry and shop in Winchester and made other compasses, including one for George Washington's nephew, which is at Mt. Vernon.



John Papcun donated the pictured surveyor's transit in its wood carrying case with tools. John and his father both served as Ottawa County Engineers, surveying farms and roads with the transit.

