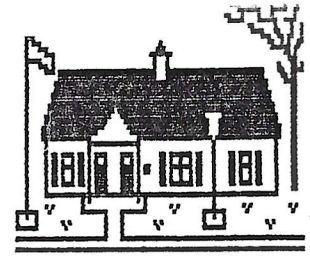


# MUSEUM NOTES



## THE OTTAWA COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM Founded in 1931

The Port Clinton Village Council was persuaded by Councilman Emil Hostrup to support a museum. They asked the DeLery Chapter of the D. A. R. to organize and establish the museum. They opened the museum on February 23, 1932, and in May Mae Hesselbart was hired as curator.

The Museum was housed on the East side of the main floor of the Port Clinton City Hall until 1975, when the space was needed for the Municipal Court offices. When no new home could be found for the museum it was moved to the City Hall basement. In 1979, a very successful Sesquicentennial exhibit prompted a group of friends to incorporate as the Port Clinton Area Heritage Foundation to find a home for the deteriorating collection. It was not until 1986 that the building at 126 W. Third Street became available and was purchased. It was remodeled in 1987, and the artifacts were moved in for the opening in May, 1988.

During this time, the museum had three curators. Mae Hesselbart was curator until her death in 1963. Marion Cleary was curator until 1973. Elizabeth Denney was curator until her death in 1992. Thanks to these dedicated curators, the collection is largely in tact and is one of which all Ottawa County should be proud.

From the time the present building was chosen, plans were drawn up to add a two story extension. The present building is paid for, and the Board is looking toward a goal of an addition by the turn of the century.

Many thanks to the following people who donated items to the museum during the past year:

Carl Biro	Books and Photos
Mrs. Omar Meyer	Books
Helen Wedekind	Books and Plate
Vanda Wahlers	Photo
Virginia Turner	Wicker Sewing Basket
Robert Englebeck	Meat Inspection Stamp-Danbury
Ruth Steiner	Cookbook 1900-Port Clinton
William Miller Heirs	Doll Bed & Rocker
	David McRitchie Materials
	Index of Miller Papers at B.G.
Russell Denney	File of Port Clinton Negatives
Mrs. Charles Anderson	Coin Silver Spoons-Elmore

The Ottawa County Historical Museum wishes to represent all of Ottawa County. Genealogies, memoirs, historical papers, and historically significant artifacts are enthusiastically welcomed. It has recently been brought to our attention that the fishing industry of Ottawa County is woefully under-represented. If anyone has items they might consider donating, please call.

Due to the sudden death of Curator Elizabeth Denney, the Museum was closed during the summer of 1992. It was reopened in September after the Board employed Barbara Bailey as Curator/Administrator. The first project on tap was the membership drive. The mailing list was put on the computer including addresses and years of membership. The membership for 1992-1993 totaled 119. The 1992-1993 membership drive was hwd in September because it was already 3 months overdue. At the Annual Meeting May 25, 1993, the Board of Trustees elected to the time for the yearly membership back to June 1 to May 31 to comply with the By-Laws.

Museum hours during the fall were 1:00 to 5:00 in an effort to draw visitors lost during the hiatus. The newspapers gave exceptional coverage to the change of curators. An excellent core group of volunteers gave of their time and in some cases their funds to assist with putting the museum back in working order. Shelves were moved, reorganized and cleared to develop an archives room where the storage room had been. Bulbs were replaced in the overhead lights and bulbs and eventually the light sensor for the outside light was replaced. Funds and

The Archives are open to researchers. Donations of books have given the collection publicity. Placement of the materials from the First Families of Ottawa County project made available by the Ottawa County Genealogical Society have drawn the attention of genealogists. County residents with genealogical materials are encouraged to put copies in the archives.

Tools donated to the museum have been resurrected and methods of displaying them are being considered. Shelves have been added to the wall of the East Room, but with the vibration caused by trains objects cannot be put on them without being anchored down.

Plans are in the works for rebuilding the original Water Works Fountain donated to the museum by Mr. & Mrs. Don Stinchcomb in memory of her mother, Irene Persons. It is not possible to rework it for a water fountain, but will be planted with materials simulating water.

The museum will continue its efforts to attract the schools. Students from excellerated programs, one class from Immaculate Conception, cub scout dens, brownie scouts, the GED Class from St. John's, and various adult clubs have visited this year. The museum gave assistance to facilitate a field trip of 44 students from Caledonia, Ohio. We hope that in the coming year we can attract more county interest in its own history. Material was sent out to all county high schools concerning a county history competition, but there was no response.

The museum is applying for a grant from the Ottawa County Visitors Bureau with which to publish a brochure of all the museums and historical points of interest in the county in 1994. In the meantime there is a flier in various locations giving hours and address of the Ottawa County Historical Museum.

The Kiwanis Club of Port Clinton was kind enough to offer the use of their zerox machine at the museum. Unfortunately, the cost of renovating it to useable condition was greater than the cost of a re built machine, so the use of the machine had to be declined.

Following Memorial Day Weekend, the Museum has been open Monday through Friday 11:00 to 5:00 and Saturday 12:00 to 4:00. These hours have provided an opportunity to survey when visitors are likely to be here. During July and August the hours will be narrowed to Monday through Saturday 1:00 to 4:00. This will allow for a single shift of volunteers each day.

Volunteer time and effort have been invaluable to the Museum this year. Lock and Jane Zeis washed all the windows which requires taking down and replacing the storm windows - no mean job. Pat Cook and Sue Pope cleaned and re-labeled all the display cases in the East Room. Randy Worthington cleaned the Maintenance and Storage Rooms with many trips to LaCarne School. Sam Miller installed shelving in the East Room. Don and JoAnn Rhodes reorganized the Indian artifacts and set up the display. Mr. & Mrs. Earl Wiseman reviewed and appraised the coin collection. Henry Jacoby and Scott Reynolds each worked on the Armory Collection. Elbert Gill and Mark Belknap put the indoor and outdoor lighting back into working order. Don and Claribelle Bothe began the organization of pictures and the computer. Alice Holly held watercolor classes while "sitting" the museum. Pat Cook organized the Thursday night spinning sessions. Howard and Dorothy Ostling, David Golden, Jean Solam, Edna Mae Roche, Elaine Petersen, Eva Jean Petersen, all "sat" the museum and did clerical work. On our very limited budget, it is the volunteer program which makes it a living museum.

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