

OTTAWA COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM
126 E. Third Street, Fort Clinton, Ohio 43452
Phone - 732-2237

Annual Meeting
of
The Fort Clinton Area Heritage Society
P. O. Box 834
Fort Clinton, Ohio 43452
May 10, 1994

President - James Rusincovitch
Secretary - Jane Zeis
Treasurer - Sharon Snider
Members - Lockwood Zeis
 James Snider
 Gary Greunke
 Natalie Bredbeck
Curator - Barbara J. Bailey

Curator's Report:

The past year has been one of experimentation. The Museum hours were extended to six days a week, four hours a day during the summer months. Volunteers David Golden, Don and Clarabelle Bothe, Randy Worthington, Edna Mae Roche, Howard and Dorothy Ostling, and Alice Holly were a great help with the long hours. I covered the Saturday hours every week, and found to my surprise that not one visitor came in during that period. After Labor Day, the hours were returned to Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons from 1:00 to 4:00 until Christmas Week.

About two weeks into the winter it became obvious that between the storms and short days we were having no visitors, so we joined all the other museums in the area and closed for January, February and March except for "accident and appointment". Beginning the week after Easter we returned to the Winter Hours. Beginning May 31st the Museum will once again return to Summer Hours. However, due to last summer's experience there will be no Saturday hours.

Meeting with groups by appointment was a pleasant experience through the year. In September a church circle from St. John visited the museum as a group. In November I spent a morning with a third grade at Portage School that was a real pleasure. They made me feel very welcome and appreciated.

NEWS ITEM

1994.0510

After the "Meeting Cancellations of 1994", I had the pleasure of speaking to the Port Clinton P.E.O. in February, two C.C.L.'s, a Girl Scout Troop, and the Catawba Island Garden Club in March. The Antiquarians of Lakeside and a Kelly Island School field trip in April. I'm very happy to say that the Clardon School will return this May with their sixth grade for a field trip to Marblehead Lighthouse, Johnson's Island, and Put-In-Bay and am delighted that Roger Long has again agreed to speak to them.

The highlight of the year was the Open House in November at which the East Room of the Museum was dedicated to Elizabeth Denney, Curator from 1973 to 1992. All Elizabeth's family were able to attend. Representative Darryl Doffer presented a declaration from the State of Ohio in recognition of her efforts and hard work in the preservation of Ottawa County history. The Museum was filled to capacity as many of Elizabeth's friends came to honor her memory.

Even the Thursday Night Spinners who meet the first and third Thursday evenings at 7:00 had to bow to the storms of '94 during January and February, but are once again meeting. We don't limit our group to spinning. Hand work of any kind is done while we sit and talk. The Museum, with its air conditioning and heat, restroom and coffee maker, provide a comfortable place to visit. Everyone is welcome.

During the second week in April the Museum in cooperation with the Ottawa County Genealogical Society presented a week-long workshop for beginning genealogists. Seventeen students attended the classes held morning and afternoon each day. The eight instructors couldn't have asked for a more enthusiastic group. The students represented Sandusky, Marblehead, Catawba, Port Clinton, Oak Harbor, Elmore, and Graysville. Classes covered genealogy forms and how to use them, materials available at area libraries, use of equipment at the libraries, materials available at courthouses and how to access them, using your genealogical materials, using the computer for genealogical research, preserving valuable materials, and copying photographs. The students urged that the workshop be given again next spring.

Memo to our genealogists found by one of the class in the "Ask Anne and Nan" column in an unspecified newspaper:

"...they insisted it be typed on acid-free paper.

We had a lot of trouble finding any, until we discovered that it is stocked by many of the larger stationers as 'thesis paper.' It is supposed to be good for around 300 years."

I am very proud to be able to represent the Ottawa County Historical Museum. It has an enviable collection

with attractions for everyone who visits. Our only drawback with the exception of our limited space is the lack of a copying machine. If you know of one available, please contact me.

The Board hopes that by the time this letter goes out the siding for which the Stensen Foundation has paid will be completed and the Museum will be able to greet the summer visitors with a bright new look.

Are any members interested in Yucca plants? The two clumps which we so viciously tore out last fall are reappearing around the garden area. Come see me and I will be happy to bless your garden with a starter.

Jim Hansen, a fire-arms buff, has agreed to give our gun collection some much-needed attention. He and his assistants will be coming in while the Museum is closed to clean, burnish, oil and all that good stuff. They will not admit visitors while they are working.

During the past year I have been compiling materials collected and written by Miss Mav Hesselbart and Mr. A. L. Duff, with notes by Mrs. Marion Cleary and Mrs. Elizabeth Dennev. These materials deal with the early days of Port Clinton and the surrounding area. The manuscript has been read with great pleasure by several members. As soon as appropriate pictures are found and an index is completed we expect to publish it in soft-cover book form. I think it is something you will want to have in your personal library. We hope to have a pre-publication price of \$15.00 including taxes, \$2.00 more if shipping is required. Post-publication price is expected to be \$19.95 plus taxes and shipping costs.

When one project nears completion there is always another to work on. It has been suggested that we compile an album of pictures and histories of The Barns of Ottawa County. If you have a picture of an Ottawa County barn, location past or present, and if known, history including date and type of structure, it would surely help to get the project off to a good start. Volunteers to canvas the county for additional pictures would be appreciated.

The Museum membership year runs from May 1st to April 30th, so the time has come to ask all our staunch supporters to renew their memberships for 1994-1995. Members who joined during the past month are considered members for the coming year. Please encourage your friends to visit the Museum and become members of the Port Clinton Area Heritage Foundation. Your support keeps us open.

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Enclosed please find my membership dues for 1994-1995.

Name.....

Address.....

.....Phone.....

Checks should be made payable to :
The Port Clinton Area Heritage Foundation
P. O. Box 845, Port Clinton, Ohio 43452.
Dues are \$12.00/member.

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