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Summer 2009 ISSUE



## Summer Junior Member Program "Making Doughboys"

Friday, July 24, 9:30 a.m. — 12:30 p.m.  
at the Ross County Heritage Center

Pre-registration is required, and space is limited. Register by calling (740) 772-1936, 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Please see page 3 for further details.

## Three Receive 2009 Nolan Scholarships

Three 2009 Ross County high school graduates have been awarded college scholarships from the Ross County Historical Society's William H. & Elizabeth Lynch Nolan Scholarship Fund. The recipients are:

**Hannah Owens**, a graduate of Adena High School and daughter of Dianna Ackley, plans to attend Shawnee State University.

**Callie Rowe**, a graduate of Adena High School and daughter of Mila and Cliff Rowe, plans to attend either Capital University or Ohio University.

**Lydia Weaver**, a graduate of Zane Trace High School and daughter of Carol and Roger Weaver, plans to attend Ohio Northern University.

The Society congratulates all three scholars and wishes them success in reaching their academic goals.

Scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis each year to Ross County high school graduates. Students who wish to apply for scholarships in 2010 may obtain application forms from their school guidance counselors.

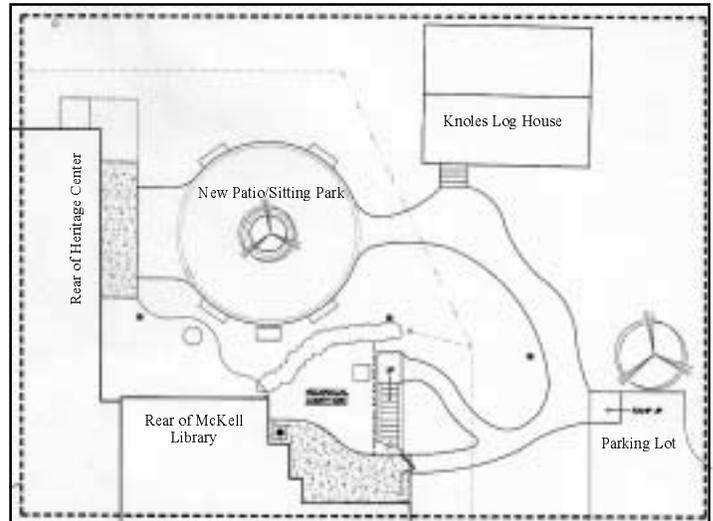
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## Welcome New Members

The Society welcomes the following new members since the last issue of the *Recorder*:

Orwin & Ruth Chaney  
Richard Cooper  
Tom Day  
Ted Fickisen  
June Gregg  
Linda Hardesty  
Paula Miller  
Neil & Eloise Mong  
John & LaVersa Motes  
Judy Russell  
Trina Strausbaugh  
Jacob Vollmar

## Landscaping Project to Connect Heritage Center & Knoles Log House



Work will begin this summer on the construction of a patio/sitting park connecting the rear of the new Heritage Center to the Knoles Log House and McKell Library. The circular brick patio and connecting brick walkways will be surrounded by new landscaping, including a shade tree and planting bed in the center and planting beds around the perimeter. Outdoor benches will provide seating for visitors. The Society is working with architect Dan Marsh on plan development and will soon put the project out for bid to area landscaping companies.

The project will be named in memory of the Society's late librarian, Evelyn Walker, who provided funding for the project before she passed away last December. When completed, the area will provide an attractive corridor for tours to the Knoles Log House and will serve as a convenient site for outdoor events.

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## 2009 Museum Hours

January — March:  
Open to members and group tours by advanced appointment  
April — December:  
Tuesday — Saturday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.  
Closed major holidays

## 2009 McKell Library Hours

1 to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday  
Closed major holidays

**President's Report, by Pat Medert**

At the annual meeting of the Ross County Historical Society on April 27, five members were elected to the Board of Trustees. They are Judy Benson, elected to a third term, and Tim Barada, David Carnes, Richard Enderlin, and Roscoe Swartz, all elected for first terms. As these new members are welcomed to the board, four trustees are leaving after nine years of dedicated service. On behalf of the membership, I thank Bob Casari, Bob Nelson, Gary Argabright, and Ed Kunzelman for contributing their time and skills to the operation of the Society.

Bob Casari has since 2001 filled the most important position on the board—that of treasurer. He has also served on the executive and personnel committees. Bob Nelson chaired the committee that successfully raised the money for the Heritage Center. For the past several years, he has held the office of 1<sup>st</sup> vice president and has been the chairman of the Buildings & Grounds and Heritage Center Policy committees and served on the Executive and Personnel committees. Gary, for most of his years on the board, chaired the Collections Committee and served on the Membership and Heritage Center Policy committees. He also served two years as secretary of the board. He spent long hours helping with the installation of the prehistoric exhibit room in the museum. Ed served on the Finance and Awards & Recognition committees.

Officers for the coming year were elected at the May 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the board. I am honored to have been elected to serve the Society another year as its president. The other officers are Lewis Coppel, 1<sup>st</sup> vice president; Karen Hoffman, secretary; Eric Picciano, 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president; and Bob Casari, treasurer. The organization's constitution does not specify that the treasurer must be a member of the Board of Trustees, and Bob agreed to continue to serve until such time as a new treasurer is ready to assume the job.

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***Recent Donations***

The Society gratefully acknowledges and thanks the following people for their memorial donations in memory of Evelyn Walker:

- Marion Brown
- Marjorie Sheridan
- Betty K. Smith
- Mr. & Mrs. Tennent Hoey
- Judy Benson
- William Newkirk

The Society gratefully acknowledges and thanks the following people for their generous contributions:

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Rearley

Bill & Bart Herrnstein, The Herrnstein Chrysler Fund of the Chillicothe Ross Community Foundation

John Gregg, Lucy Gregg Buckley & Alison Gregg Corcoran

**A Friendly Reminder**

The use of articles, photographs, and other items in the *Recorder* is prohibited without the express written consent of the Board of Trustees of the Ross County Historical Society, 45 W. 5th St. Chillicothe, OH 45601.

**Director's Report, by Tom Kuhn**

**History Takes A Hit**

The current economic downturn has been especially difficult for state and local governments. Unlike the federal government, these entities are required by law to not spend any more than they take in (which is a good thing). The problem, however, is that services supported by state and local governments deemed 'non-essential' are usually the first to be cut from the budget. (Of course I am referring to things such as libraries, recreational attractions, historic sites, and museums.)

The Society has not been immune to such cuts. We learned back in December that the Ross County Commissioners would not be able to provide a cent of support for the programs and services we offer the public in 2009. As a result, we have had to cut back on some of what we do in order to balance our own budget. We believe, though, that our other income sources will see us through these difficult times so long as they don't last too long.

Unfortunately, the flagship of history in Ohio — the Ohio Historical Society — is not weathering the storm nearly as well. As of this writing, OHS is faced with trying to operate on a budget equal to that of 1986. As a result, every state historical site, including Adena Mansion & Gardens, is facing closure. Most outreach programs such as the state historical marker program, National History Day, and the Local History Office (which has helped virtually every local and county historical society in Ohio, including ours) are now facing elimination. When we hear our present difficulties being equated with those of the Great Depression of the 1930s, a good understanding of history may be more essential than what some people think. I thank all our members for supporting this notion.

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**From the Museum Store**

New! ***Water Street, Chillicothe, Ohio: Its Buildings and Its People***, \$39.95 — the fifth in a series of publications on the structural history of Chillicothe's downtown historic district. This 224 page volume covers the fascinating history of Chillicothe's original downtown business district, by Patricia Fife Medert.

***More Stories from Chillicothe's Past***, \$14.95 — a compilation of 108 additional stories on Chillicothe history by Pat Medert.

***Heroes of the Western Theater: 33rd Ohio Veteran Volunteer Infantry***, \$45.00 — a fascinating, highly detailed history of a famed Ohio Civil War infantry regiment, by Lois Lambert.

***Fourth, Fifth, & Caldwell Streets, Chillicothe, Ohio: The Buildings and the People***, \$39.95 — the fourth in a series on Chillicothe's downtown historic district, by Patricia Fife Medert.

***The Rise and Fall of Camp Sherman: Ohio's World War One Soldier Factory***, \$4.95 — a reprint of Richard Peck's popular pictorial history of Chillicothe's WWI army training camp.

***Little Known Tales of Old Chillicothe and Ross County, Ohio***, \$20.00 — a group of fascinating short stories about Chillicothe and Ross County, by John R. Grabb.

***Ohio and Erie Canal Motor Tour: To Circleville from Chillicothe***, \$15.00 — an exploration of the remains of this historic waterway, by Martha Gerber Rittinger.

*Society members receive a 10% discount on all purchases.*

# Ross County Historical Society

Invites you to join us for

## “ MAKING DOUGHBOYS ”



### A Junior Member Program

WHERE WE EXPLORE THE LIFE OF A SOLDIER AT CAMP  
SHERMAN DURING THE FIRST WORLD WAR, 1917 - 1918

at the

Ross County Heritage Center  
45 West Fifth Street, Chillicothe

Friday, July 24th

9:30 a.m. — 12:30 p.m.

Children 6-12 years old are welcome

Free to Jr. Members, \$10.00 for Non-Members

Space is limited — please call — 772-1936

Registration Deadline — Wednesday, July 22nd

Come meet a living history soldier of the World War One time period. See all the clothing and equipment issued to him by "Uncle Sam." Put on your marching shoes and let "The Sergeant" put you through the paces to make you into a real World War One soldier. Find out what it was like to go to Camp Sherman, Chillicothe, as a farm-boy and come out as a skilled soldier ready to be sent to France in 1917 and 1918

Be one of the first to explore the new Camp Sherman exhibit in the Historical Society's Museum. Here we have many artifacts that have not been exhibited before.

We will finish off the program by making a craft to take home and refreshments.

**From the Archives, by Pat Medert**

Conditions worsened when the bank on the east

In the last issue of the *Recorder* I used information from one of the John Poland scrap-books to write about the zoo that was in Yoctangee Park in the early 1900s. The zoo had its beginning in 1903 with the donation of two deer by Richard Enderlin to the Park Board. Its population grew as subsequent donations of ducks, geese, pheasants, swans, squirrels, raccoons, rabbits, and foxes were made. The zoo was a favorite attraction in the park. It ceased to exist following a natural disaster that occurred in 1907.

On the night of Wednesday, March 12, torrential rains began falling in Chillicothe and the surrounding countryside, sending streams out of their banks. Flood waters caused widespread destruction before they finally be-

gan to slowly recede late Friday morning. According to the *Gazette*: "Never before in the history of Chillicothe have the flood conditions been such as they were during the night and this morning....Practically all of the city east of Paint street to the N. & W. tracks and south of Seventh as far east as Mulberry, and thence from Fifth street south, was all under water, in many of the houses there being from six inches to a foot of water on the first floors."



*The Frank Hammelback residence at 386 S. Hickory St.*



*The break in the railroad embankment in Yoctangee Park. The pump house is in the left of the picture.*

side of the canal along Hickory St., near Poland Park, gave way, sending water over Eastern Ave. and onto the southeastern parts of the city that heretofore had been unaffected.

Nearly 2000 people were trapped in their homes without heat and utilities. Relief crews carried water and food to those who were stranded.

Damage in the west end of town was limited to flooded cellars caused by the overflowing of Honey Creek and Worthington Run. Yoctangee Park sustained the greatest damage from the flooding.

As city fathers watched the rapid rise of the water in the Scioto River and the canal, the decision was made to drain the canal into the park to prevent its banks from giving way and causing exten-

sive property damage. Prior to releasing the water, the caged animals were moved to higher ground in the park.

The river continued to rise and by 4:00 Friday morning had reached its highest point of 25 feet. An hour and a half later, the racing waters broke through the railroad embankment that separated the park from the river. The *Chillicothe News-Advertiser* reported: "As the water

*continued on page 5...*

...continued from page 4.

rushed through into the southeast end of Yoctangee Park, there was a roar which could be heard for squares....In less

cept for the rebuilding of the deer corral. The two remaining deer were recaptured in late November, and additions, through purchase and birth, were made to the herd during the next several years. I can not determine by the records



*Work began immediately to repair the break in the embankment. A crew with an engine pulling a pile driver, two flat cars loaded with pilings, and a helper engine tried to reach the site from the northwest. They had nearly reached their destination when the track collapsed, throwing the train into the flooded Scioto. Two men lost their lives in the wreck.*

than a half hour the entire park was a sea of muddy water.”

Prior to the worst of the flooding, the deer, of which there were six, were released from their pens and were able to run to safety. With the exception of the water fowl, a racoon was the only remaining animal saved from drowning. It was rescued from the top of a tree.

Three of the deer were found on Water St., near the recently closed Hirn House at 172 W. Water. They were confined in the hotel's stable and were later joined by a fourth deer that was rescued from the mud on the canal bank. The remaining two deer eluded immediate recapture.

On April 4, the deer that were stabled met an unfortunate end. Two boys were playing in the barn and had lit a small coal oil stove. They got into an argument and one of them threw the stove at the other. It exploded, setting fire to the hay and straw in the barn. The old structure was immediately set ablaze, and rescuers were only able to save the horses in the stalls. The deer and one horse were burned in the fire.

Once the flood waters receded, the main concern for the board was the restoration of the park. There was much work to be done and a shortage of money. Individuals and civic organizations were generous with monetary donations, and many volunteered to help with the clean up, painting, and rebuilding. Included in the plans was the replacement of the zoo, but this was never accomplished ex-

in the archives how long the deer remained in the park. We only have the minutes through 1914, and the deer were still grazing in Yoctangee at that time.

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### The Society's Wish List

Donations of everyday (non-collection) items such as tools and other types of equipment help our staff and volunteers complete a multitude of projects. Since the last issue of the *Recorder*, the Society received a generous donation to purchase a wheel chair from Mr. & Mrs. Robert Rearley; cotton sheets from Mary Anne Brown; cotton sheets, pillow cases & wooden coat hangers from Betsy Moore; cotton sheets from Robin McKell; and a gun cleaning kit from Dave R. Medert — thank you. If you, or anyone you know, has the following items to donate to the Society, please call 772-1936. (We would be happy to make arrangements to pick up your donation.):

1. Laptop computer
2. White cotton sheets (we can never have too many)
3. Cotton towels.
4. Wooden coat hangers (we can never have too many)
5. Eight or ten foot aluminum or fiberglass step ladder.

***From the Photo Archives, by Lisa Hess***

**A LOOK AT TWIN TOWNSHIP, PART 2**



*Dr. A.L. Chenoweth, one of fifteen children of the pioneer, Absalom Chenoweth. He began his practice in Waverly, and during the Civil War he served as surgeon for his regiment. He returned to Ross County after the war and practiced medicine in Bourneville.*



*Luther Cooper's Store. Spargursville. The store also served as the Post Office and the D.T.&I. Railroad Depot.*



*Nipgen Church Group, corner of State Route 772 & Nipgen Road, c. 1900. Ed Husted – standing in left doorway. Sam Shoemaker – man farthest to the left.*



*Lutheran Church at Knockemstiff, c. 1900.*



*Workers on the construction of the new Jones Levee steel bridge over Paint Creek, near Bourneville, 1907, (seated) Peter B. Culp, M.L. Jones, Harr Larrick, Bill McFerrin, John Chaney. (standing) Eddie Jones, Jasper Larrick, -- Adrian, Pearl Claywell, Edward Culp, Adolph Richter, Adolph Rittinger, Ben Grasil, William Adrian. (Eddie Jones was killed on the job November 11, 1907.*



*Republican Rally and Flag Raising at Buck Yoakum's home on Camelin Hill Road, July 1908 or 1909.*

**Recent Acquisitions of the Museum and Library**

(Listed in order received since the last issue of the Recorder)

08. Meat Grinder – 20th century; Photographs – (12); Program – “The First Presbyterian Church, The Laying Of The Cornerstone”, 1957; Book – “Fortune Telling Birthday Book” – early 1950s, donated by Jane Hilty.
09. Painting – framed, “Porch Light”, by Alan Gough, 1987; Drawing – framed, McKell Library, by Kathryn Gough; Photographs – (2) Evelyn Walker and friends c. 1950 and c. 2000; Programs – (2) CHS Class of 1949 Graduation, and 40th Reunion, 1989, Evelyn Walker Estate.
10. Books – *The Gerber / Spetnagel Ancestors*, 2007 and *The Gartner Family History*, 2009, written and donated by Martha Rittinger.
11. Electric Candles – (2 Sets) c. 1950s, donated by Al & Pat Heierman.
12. Video Cassette Rewinder – 1998, donated by Tonya Dye.
13. Trade signs – (2) W.R. Lowery Undertaking, 1905–1910, Anonymous Donation.
14. Achievement Certificate – “Reward of Merit” awarded to Austin Motter from teacher R. Hill, donated by Gary Argabright.
15. Photographs – (3) of paintings Sophia Augusta Lyman Fullerton, Dr. William Scott Fullerton, Nancy “Nannie” M. Trimble Madeira, 1850–1870, donated by Bob Casari.
16. Book – *An Old Overcoat And Other Poems*, 1964; Photograph – Chillicothe High School Class of 1952 and other items, donated by Jane Hilty.
17. Book – *It Goes Like This*, by Walter Hartsock, 2003, donated by Timothy N. Hartsock.
18. Scarificator and case – early to mid-19th century, donated by Luvada White.
19. Book – *Medaenas*, 1983; Book – *The March of Man*, copyright 1935; Books – (4) *Great Men and Famous Women, Soldiers and Sailors*, Volumes I–IV, copyright 1894, donated by Judy Benson.
20. Sugar Tongs – silver, initials “HFW”, c. 1790; Eyeglasses – c. 1830, donated by Darwin Drake.
21. Programs, books, and other items, donated by Lisa Hess.
22. Book – *Burton Egbert Stevenson the Camp Sherman Library*, by Joseph Florenski, May 2005, RCHS Acquisition.
23. Newsletters – (26) “The Mound Builder”, 1931–1933, Anonymous Donation.
24. U. S. Flag – 48 star, donated by Marjorie Bierley.
25. Clothing – children’s, c. 1920–1950; Cameras – (3) 1950–1970; Coke Bottles, Electric Fan and other items, donated by Gary Argabright.
26. Sweater – CHS, c. 1951 and “W” letter – West Fifth St. Jr. High School, 1950; Toys – cardboard, c. 1949; Toy car – cast iron, c. 1925; Travel Irons – (2) & Hair-dryer – c. 1950 and other items, donated by Joe Betsch.
27. Children’s Books – (20) Newberry & Caldecott Honor books, donated by Lissa Wittrup.
28. Photograph – Bridge Street Bridge renovation, Oct. 1927, donated by Department Of The Army, Corps of Engineers.
29. Stool – shoe salesman’s folding stool, 1888, donated by John Gaston.
30. Signs – (2) M.N. Billings, c. 1940–1970, donated by Bill Mitchell.
31. Dress – woman’s, c. 1990; Buttons, Bumper Stickers, Photographs and others items – Barrack Obama Presidential Campaign, donated by Terry Fout.
32. Photo Album – of Camp Sherman, c. 1918; Photographs and other items from the Baum & Steel families, donated by Kathleen Mossbarger.
33. Blank Cartridges on clip – 30.06 cal., c. 1918; Light Bulb – possibly for Model – T, donated by Dave Medert.
34. Photographs – including early 20th century school groups and other items, donated by Andrea Helton Baker.
35. Magazines – (58) *Pack-O-Fun*, c. 1975; Magazines – (5) *Playcraft*, 1976, donated by Betty Husted.
36. Children’s Books – (7); Program – Huntington High School Basketball, 2006–2007, donated by Ronda Vickers.

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**The Ross County Historical Society Welcomes**

\_\_\_ New Member \_\_\_ Renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in volunteer work?  
 Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

I have enclosed a check made out to the Ross County Historical Society for \$\_\_\_\_\_.

( ) My employer will match this gift.  
 Employer’s name: \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES****ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP**

Junior (12 & under) ..... \$10.( )  
 Teacher ..... 15.( )  
 Individual ..... 20.( )  
 Family ..... 30.( )  
 Contributing ..... 75.( )  
 Group/Club or  
 Business ..... 100.( )

**CONTINUING MEMBERSHIP**

Life (per person) ..... 500.( )  
 Patron ..... 750.( )  
 Benefactor ..... 1,000.( )

Your benefits as a member of the Ross County Historical Society include:

- ◆ Quarterly newsletter
- ◆ 10% discount in museum store
- ◆ Free admission for museum visits by member and out-of-town guests
- ◆ Free admission to many Society programs
- ◆ Reduced fees for workshops and special programs

The Ross County Historical Society is a non-profit 501(c)(3) institution. Your gift may be tax deductible

Please make checks payable to:  
**THE ROSS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
 45 West Fifth Street  
 Chillicothe, Ohio 45601-3227  
 (740) 772-1936

# Officers and Trustees of the Ross County Historical Society

- Pat Medert..... President
- Lewis Coppel..... 1st Vice President
- Erc Picciano ..... 2nd Vice President
- Karen Hoffman..... Secretary
- Bob Casari..... Treasurer
- Tom Kuhn..... Executive Director
- Tim Barada..... Trustee
- Judy Benson..... Trustee
- David Carnes..... Trustee
- Vic Cleary..... Trustee
- Richard Enderlin..... Trustee
- Henry Herrstein..... Trustee
- Dana Martinko..... Trustee
- Julia Pierson..... Trustee
- Stan Planton..... Trustee
- Robert Sigler..... Trustee
- Roscoe Swartz..... Trustee

**The RCHS Welcomes Junior Member...**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_ Grade in School \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

What are your hobbies? \_\_\_\_\_

Are your parents members of the Historical Society? - Yes - No

Is this a gift membership? - Yes - No

From Whom? \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

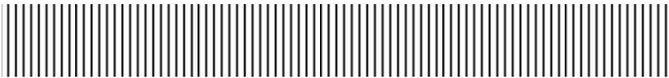
Please send \$10 with this form to  
 The Ross County Historical Society  
 45 W Fifth Street  
 Chillicothe, OH 45601-3227

## Ross County Historical Society

45 West Fifth Street  
Chillicothe, Ohio 45601-3227

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# NEWSLETTER

**DATED MATERIAL • OPEN AT ONCE**

