



45 WEST FIFTH STREET  
CHILLICOTHE, OHIO 45601  
(740) 772-1936  
E-Mail: [info@rosscountyhistorical.org](mailto:info@rosscountyhistorical.org)  
Web Site: [www.rosscountyhistorical.org](http://www.rosscountyhistorical.org)



**Fall 2010 ISSUE**

## Upcoming Events & Programs

*You Are Invited to a  
Special Exhibit Opening, 2-4 p.m. October 10  
at the Ross County Heritage Center*

Please join us for the opening of the following three new exhibits, plus the dedication of our new outdoor patio area.

### **Photographs of Occupied Japan 1945-1946**

Featuring photos taken by Clarksburg native Solon Graham, 2nd Lieutenant, 5th Air Force while stationed in Japan after World War II.



### **Cooking through the Years**

Featuring cookbooks from the collections of the McKell Library plus museum objects used for preparing and serving food in days gone by.

### **Ross County Hall of Fame**

Featuring the stories of notable Ross Countians from times past, including early twentieth century sculptress May Cook (right).



**Antique Appraisal Day**  
Thursday, November 4, 2010  
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

at the Ross County Heritage Center

Featuring Steve Bemiller, Garth's Auctions, Delaware

The public is invited to have keepsakes and heirlooms appraised for a fee of \$5 per item. Due to space limitations, all antiques must be limited in size to what can be carried into the building. All proceeds go to benefit the Society.

## 2010 First Capital Historical Awards Winners

In 2009 the Board of Trustees of the Ross County Historical Society founded the First Capital Historical Awards to identify, recognize and honor exemplary individuals and organizations that have worked selflessly to preserve Ross County's rich history. This year's (2010) recipients are the David Nickens Heritage Center (organizational award) and Edward Kunzelman (individual award).

The awards are presented each year at the Society's Annual Meeting held on the fourth Tuesday in April.

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Representatives of the David Nickens Heritage Center (Linda Wilson, Rev. Michael Alston, Beverly Gray, and Rene King) accept the 2010 First Capital Historical (organizational) Award for their outstanding efforts to preserve African-American history in our community.



Ed Kunzelman accepts an award for his long-running and exemplary efforts to preserve historic downtown Chillicothe.

### **2010 Fall Speakers Series**

Wednesday, October 20, 7:30 p.m., **"Ohio's Role in the Selection of Lincoln,"** featuring Randall Buchman, Professor Emeritus of History & Archaeology at Defiance College. (co-sponsored by the Ohio Humanities Council)

Wednesday, November 3, 7:30 P.M., **"A Bully Visit with President & Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt,"** featuring Larry & Julia Marple, living history specialists, Springfield, Ohio.

Thursday, November 17, 7:30 p.m., **"General Sherman Looks Back on His Life & Career,"** featuring Frank Bullock, living history presenter with the Fairfield Heritage Association, Lancaster, Ohio.

All three programs are open to the general public free of charge. (Please see page 3 for more details.)

**President's Report, by Bob Nelson**

Well, after a wet Spring and a hot, dry Summer, I think that most folks are ready for a cooler Fall. In spite of the uncomfortable weather, the Historical Society Staff has been busy conducting a variety of programs and planning and organizing upcoming events. Our Spring Speakers Series was well attended and over 800 local third graders toured the museums in May. In July we hosted the Junior Member Program entitled "Dig Into History."

Three new exhibits were opened this year – "The war of 1812", "The Ross County Hall of Fame" and "Camp Sherman and World War I".

Two new temporary exhibits have also been recently installed. They are "Cooking Through the Years," featuring cookbooks from the extensive collection in our library, and "Photographs of Occupied Japan," featuring photos taken by Clarksburg native, Solon Graham from 1945 to 1946 while he was in the Air Force stationed in Japan.

Planning for the Fall Speakers Series is underway (programs and dates are posted herein) and also on November 4<sup>th</sup> the "Antique Appraisal Day" will feature Steve Bemiller of Garth's Auctions of Delaware, Ohio.

Finally on Sunday, October 10 from 2-4 p.m., we will host an event that we have looked forward to for the past two years. We will have the dedication of our new patio/sitting area that is located behind the Heritage Center. Construction of the patio/sitting area was funded through the generosity of long-time librarian and benefactor, Evelyn Walker. The event will be open to all Society members and guests. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for each of these upcoming programs and events.

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**Welcome New Members**

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

- Diana Fallot
- David & Pamela Graham
- Bob & Caroline Ramsey & Family
- Gail Stout

**Memberships Make Nice Gifts**

Memberships to the Ross County Historical Society make thoughtful and inexpensive gifts. Buy them for the history buffs you know by returning the form on page 7.

**The Society's Wish List**

Donations of everyday items help our staff and volunteers complete a multitude of projects. Recently, the Society received an electric miter saw from Eric Picciano — thank you. If you, or anyone you know, has any of the following items to donate to the Society, please call 772-1936:

1. Large digital photo frame
2. Carpet steam cleaner
3. New cordless drill
4. Wooden coat hangers (we can never have too many)
5. Professional grade digital camera

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

A raft of programs and events await us on our fall schedule including our upcoming exhibit opening on October 10, our Antique Appraisal Day on November 4, and the Fall Speakers Series (please refer to pages 1 & 3). We are excited to host the exhibit "Photographs of Occupied Japan, 1945-1946" in commemoration of the 65th anniversary of the end of World War II. The exhibit features an outstanding collection of images taken by Clarksburg native Solon Graham while stationed in Japan following the end of the war. His son Paul has selected 28 photos that best represent the collection, including scenes of villages, cities, and Japanese civilians. The exhibit also includes Graham's uniforms, war souvenirs, and the actual camera he used to take the original photographs.

Of course, the exhibit opening will also feature two other new exhibits including "Cooking Through the Years" in the McKell Library and our new "Ross County Hall of Fame" in the Museum. While the Hall of Fame is a more permanent exhibit, you have only until the end of the year to see "Photographs of Occupied Japan" and "Cooking through the Years."

Plans are also underway for our Holiday Junior Member Program on Saturday, December 4 and the Society's Christmas Open House on December 11. In keeping with tradition, our buildings will be decorated for the season, but this year will offer a new twist with an additional Christmas tree featuring over three hundred and fifty hand-cut paper ornaments made by Bonnie Grove in the Pennsylvania German tradition.

Finally, I would like to extend a heart-felt congratulations to our immediate past president, Pat Medert. Pat will be honored at the annual meeting of the Ohio Association of Historical Societies & Museums in Dublin, Ohio, on October 2 where she will receive an Individual Achievement Award for her many years of community service as a volunteer and leader here at the historical society and for the many books and other publications she has penned that chronicle the history of Chillicothe, Ross County, Ohio, and the nation. We have all been enriched by the fruits of Pat's labor and we congratulate her for this well-deserved recognition.

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**2010 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

**2010 McKell Library Hours**

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

**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.

# Fall Speakers Series 2010

## Ross County Historical Society at the Ross County Heritage Center 45 West Fifth St., Chillicothe *Free & Open to the Public*



### *Ohio's Role in the Choice of Lincoln*

Featuring Randall Buchman — Professor Emeritus of History & Archaeology at Defiance College, Defiance, Ohio

Co-sponsored by the Ohio Humanities Council

**Wednesday, October 20, 7:30 p.m.**

It was exactly 150 years ago that the people of Ohio played a significant and largely overlooked role in Abraham Lincoln's rise to the White House, including the competition in his own party from Ohio Governor Salmon P. Chase. Please join us in welcoming back speaker Randy Buchman as he discusses Ohio connections to Lincoln's nomination, ranging from the Mansfield News hoax to Ohioans who were involved in his Cooper Union Speech to the Ohio delegation that put Lincoln's nomination over the top at the national convention in Chicago. (The delegation included Judge Milton Lee Clark of Chillicothe who reputedly cast the very first vote for Lincoln.)

### *A Bully Visit with President & Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt*

Featuring Larry & Julia Marple, living history specialists, South Charleston, Ohio.

**Wednesday, November 3, 7:30 p.m.**

Larry and Julia Marple have pursued history professionally and as a hobby for many years — Larry, as a teacher in Springfield, Ohio, for more than two decades, and Julia, as a public historian with the Ohio Historical Society and Carriage Hill Historic Farm for over a dozen years. We invite you to experience their unique first-person portrayal of Theodore and Edith Roosevelt. They will share many personal stories including their White House years together and his life as a politician, an outdoorsman, and a soldier including his exploits leading the "Rough Riders" up San Juan Hill during the war with Spain. They will also share their personal collections of artifacts, documents, political campaign buttons, autographs, and Rough Rider memorabilia. Bully indeed!



### *General Sherman Looks Back on His Life & Career*

Featuring Frank Bullock, Civil War Historian, living history specialist and interpreter at the Sherman House, Lancaster, Ohio

**Wednesday, November 17, 7:30 p.m.**

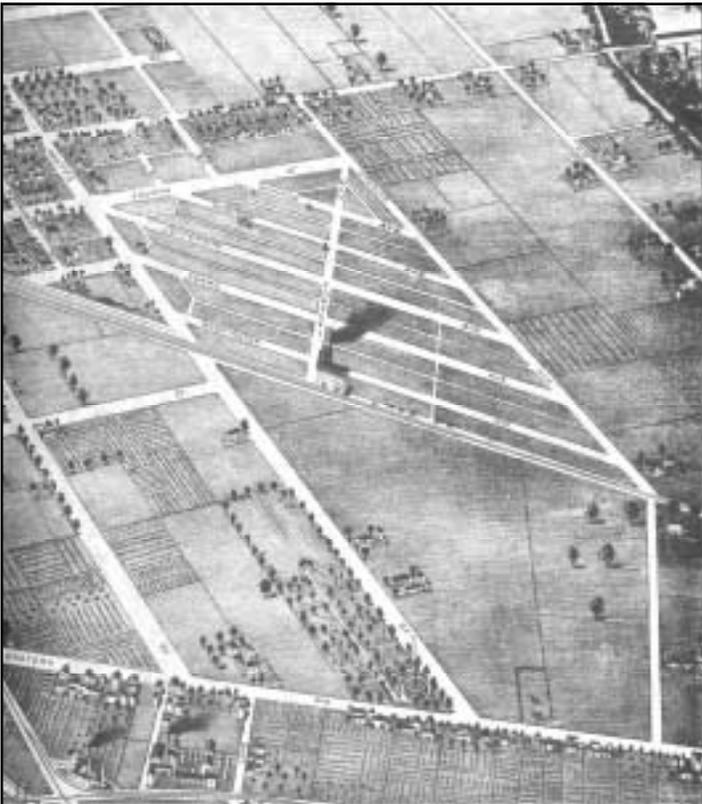
As we approach the 150th anniversary of the Civil War it seems only appropriate to focus a portion of our attention on the local and regional figures who helped shape the story. For that reason, we have invited Frank Bullock of the Sherman House in Lancaster to render his first-person portrayal General William Tecumseh Sherman. At the age of 68, Bullock's Sherman will reminisce about his life from growing up in Lancaster, Ohio, to his time as a West Point cadet followed by ten years stationed in the South, then his civilian career as a banker, lawyer, and school superintendent. His most important and powerful memories, however, will be of the Civil War and the union of this great country. He will conclude by telling about retiring as one of the most popular and public speakers of his time.

### **From the Archives, by Pat Medert**

Trying to attract business and industry to Chillicothe is not a recent endeavor. These efforts have been going on for 122 years. In the archives is the minute book for the Chillicothe Board of Trade, forerunner to today's Chamber of Commerce. The Board of Trade was organized on Feb. 22, 1888, and the record of its meetings covers the period from the date of its organization to 1896. The purpose of the group was stated in a separate booklet containing the constitution and by-laws and the names of its initial members.

*The object of this Association shall be to collect and record such local and general statistical information relating to manufactures and commerce as may promote the manufacturing, commercial and financial welfare of the City of Chillicothe, and especially to protect, foster and develop the manufacturing and other industrial interest of said city.*

Before the year was out, the Board of Trade was successful in establishing a major industry in Chillicothe. Within a few weeks of its organization, four men—J. H. Stewart, John E. Rose, Thomas F. McClure, and W. S. Kelch—presented a proposal to the board for the establishment of a furniture factory on the city's east side that would employ at least 100 workers. According to their plan, the four men would purchase for \$40,000 eighty acres east of Watt St., between Fourth St. and the B&O Railroad line. The land, formerly owned by Henry Wade, had been platted by his heirs into 475 lots. The men would erect and equip a furniture factory on several of the lots at an additional cost of \$40,000 to them. They would get a return on their investment by selling the remaining lots for \$200 each.



1889 Map of the Factory Addition

The members of the Board of Trade were so impressed with the proposal that by March 31, they had an article of agreement with Stewart, Rose, McClure, and Kelch. Under its terms, construction on the factory would not begin until the lots were sold. The sale was to be done by subscription, with ownership of the individual lots to be determined by a lottery. The building was to be an L-shaped, three-story brick, fronting 100 feet on Jackson Street and 100 feet on the railroad tracks. Each wing was to be 40 feet wide. The windows were to have arched caps of pressed brick, and the roof was to be of slate.

The local newspapers kept the public informed of the progress. Most of the lots were sold by early June, and groundbreaking took place in the second week of the month. The construction was a boon for the local economy. One million, five hundred thousand bricks were needed for the main factory building, engine and boiler rooms, and dry house. These were supplied by local brick yards, and Litter & Son laid the bricks. Herrnstein Bros. furnished the lumber for carpenters hired locally.

On August 22, the drawing was held for ownership of the lots, and on Sept. 22, 1888, *The Chillicothe Leader* reported that the Arbenz Furniture Co., of Wheeling, WV, would occupy the factory. Work on the factory was expected to be completed by October 15, at which time, the equipment would start arriving, and before the year was over, it would be in operation.



Above is the Arbenz Furniture Factory as it appeared on an 1896 postcard showing a box car on a spur of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad line parked at a loading entrance at the south end of the building. Below is the same scene today.



(continued on page 5...)

...continued from page 4.



Frederick C. Arbenz (left) came to Chillicothe to take over the management of the company. In 1901, he expanded the business by establishing the Florentine Pottery just east of the furniture factory. It primarily produced decorative objects, including jardinières, vases, umbrella stands, and possibly spittoons with a metallic finish. The pottery did not prove to be successful, and in 1906, Arbenz changed to the production of glazed sanitary ware for bathrooms.



Vase with the Florentine Pottery's trademark metallic glaze finish made for the Ohio Centennial in 1903.



The Florentine Pottery (above) was located on Washington Street adjacent to the Arbenz Furniture factory with the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad line just to the south. Except for the kilns, the buildings that once housed the pottery still exist today (below).



Pottery Co. in East Liverpool, Ohio. The new company continued to manufacture sanitary ware for bathrooms. Within ten years, the company had ceased production.

In the fall of 1910, work was begun to re-tool the furniture factory for the production of automobiles. C. O. Snyder, of New York City, was brought to Chillicothe to be the superintendent of the Arbenz Automobile Co. Snyder, who had worked for the Hewitt Company in Detroit as a designer, was the designer of the car produced in Chillicothe. The local factory was an assembly plant; all of the parts were made elsewhere. In December 1910, the name of the company was changed to the Scioto Motor Car Co., and the automobile it produced was called the ArBenz. The first cars left the factory in March 1911 and featured three body designs — the four-door touring car, the roadster, and the torpedo (the first two models are pictured above). The name was changed again in September 1911 to the ArBenz Car Company.



In March 1916, Arbenz sold out to the National United Service Company, and in April 1917, the company replaced its production of automobiles with that of ArBenz light trucks. In February 1918, it was announced that the ArBenz Car Company would move to Shelby, Ohio, where the company would make farm tractors.



President William Howard Taft rode in an Arbenz touring car on a 1912 visited to Chillicothe.

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***From the Photo Archives, by Lisa Hess***  
**Scenes of Chillicothe's Yoctangee Park**



*Entrance to the City Park at Paint Street, before the Armory was built, c. 1915*



*Water Works Pumping Station, December 9, 1898.*



*Park Caretaker's House, c. 1910*



*Yoctangee Park Lake and Island, c. 1910. The electric power station on Park Street can be seen in the background.*



*Pleasure boat on Yoctangee Park Lake, c. 1910*



*Ice Skaters on the City Park Lake, December 16, 1900.*

### Recent Acquisitions of the Museum and Library

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

50. Program – Chillicothe Jr. High Play, “Come Rain or Shine”, 1946; Printed Material – article on cook-books and cookie recipe, donated by Jane Hilty.

51. Post cards – (2) RCHS exterior and “Capitol Room”, donated by Jane Mitten.

52. Magazines – (2) “Fortune”, 1938; Newspaper (clippings) – relating to A & P Supermarkets, 1933-1975; Book and Letter – 1937, donated by Jean Foor.

53. Postcard Booklet – “Flood Views Chillicothe, Ohio”, 1913, donated by Calvin & Eileen Griffith.

54. Books – (2); Notebooks – (2) “Handy” and “Handy II”, notebooks filled with various booklets, programs, games, etc., donated by Cherie Stalman.

55. Maps – (2) Indian Towns of Ohio; Map – City Of Chillicothe, Ohio, 1927; Post cards – various locations and dates, donated by Kathryn Sullivan.

56. Razor – blades and case, c. 1940; Hand Bell & Embosser, donated by Janet Grover.

57. Women’s Clothing – (3) dresses, c. 1900, c. 1930, c. 1960; Night Gown & Bloomers – white cotton, c.1920, donated by LaVersa Motes.

58. Book – Sketch of The Life of Osie England, donated by Ruth Yaple McKee.

59. Photograph – downtown Chillicothe with WWII Submarine, donated by Joe Betsch.

60. Picture Postcards – (5) local images of Richmondale, c. 1907; Photograph – of First Presbyterian Church, Chillicothe, OH, c. 1900, donated by Nancy E. Bleil.

61. Books; Printed Material; Photographs and other items, donated by Lisa Hess.

62. Book, Photographs, Printed Material – related to Woodrow Wilson and family, donated by Erick Montgomery.

63. Painting – framed, of Col. Richard Enderlin, c. 1930; Gravestone – small, Katharina Salomea Enderlin, 19<sup>th</sup> century, donated by Michael Murray for Marjorie M. Mains.

64. Photograph Albums – (2) of the Chillicothe Country Club, 1955 – 1972, donated by Mike Reed.

65. Book – *When This You See Remember Me...*, by Mary Holton Robare, 2010, Winchester- Frederick Co. Historical Society.

66. Civil War Books and Letters, donated by Dave Medert.



*19th and early 20th century women's dresses (parts of accessions 37 & 46 donated by Carl Daughters and by Mary Ellen Sheridan)*



*Framed portrait of Col. Richard Enderlin who, as a member of the 73rd OVI during the Civil War, won the Congressional Medal of Honor for valor during the Battle of Gettysburg (accession 63, see below).*

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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

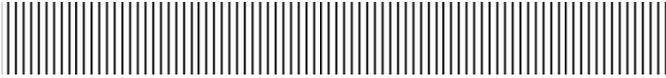
Please make checks payable to:  
**THE ROSS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
 45 West Fifth Street  
 Chillicothe, Ohio 45601-3227  
 (740) 772-1936

# Ross County Historical Society

45 West Fifth Street  
Chillicothe, Ohio 45601-3227

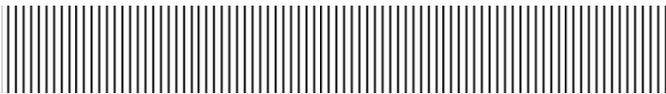
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## NEWSLETTER

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Fall 2010 — PAGE 8

THE ROSS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY *RECORDER*

### Officers and Trustees of the Ross County Historical Society

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Dana Martinko..... Trustee  
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#### 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