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Spring 2020 ISSUE

Changes in Operations Due to the COVID-19 Virus

In an effort to comply with all federal, state, and local stay-at-home orders and other restrictions on public gatherings currently in effect, the Ross County Historical Society is taking the following actions to help protect the health, safety, and well-being of our visitors, staff, volunteers, and general public:

1. The Ross County Heritage Center, including all museum and library operations, is closed until after all emergency restrictions are lifted.
2. The closure includes all special events and programs normally scheduled during the closure period such as our annual Archaeology Day event held in mid April and the 2020 Spring Speakers Series that usually takes place in late April and May.
3. The Society's Annual Meeting that usually takes place on the 4th Monday of April has been postponed until emergency restrictions are lifted (possibly late June). Notices will be sent to all members at least three weeks prior to the meeting date.
4. All current board members will continue to serve until the Annual Meeting takes place when an election of new board members can be held to replace those whose terms have ended. All current board officers will remain in place until the new board can convene to elect new officers to replace those leaving the board.
5. Regular monthly meetings of the Board of Trustees have been suspended until at least June 2.
6. The Society's Education/Scholarship Committee will work from home to select the 2020 Nolan Scholarship recipients. Recipients will be notified by mid April as usual and will be recognized at the Annual Meeting.
7. Recipients of our annual First Capital Historical Awards will also be recognized at the Annual Meeting.

We believe these are necessary steps to help limit the spread of the Coronavirus and we are hopeful that all restrictions can be lifted as soon as possible. We thank everyone for your patience and understanding. We encourage you to do all you can to stay healthy and to do your part to help mitigate the effects of this pandemic. Updates will be posted on our website (www.rosscountyhistorical.org), our Facebook page, and via email.

2020 Hours of Operation (Upon re-opening)

Museum: Tuesday—Saturday 1 - 5p.m.

McKell Library: Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday, 1 - 5p.m.

(The museum & library are closed on major holidays.)

Statehood Day Observance Well Attended

Beautiful weather combined with cabin fever helped to bring out large crowds as Ohio's birthday was again celebrated at five of Chillicothe's historical sites, museums, and related organizations.

As is the local custom, Ohio Statehood Day is held the first Saturday in March each year to commemorate the birth of the state on March 1, 1803.



The day began with the Statehood Day Prayer Breakfast co-hosted by the Ross County Ministerial Association and the Chillicothe Kiwanis Club. The Breakfast was followed by open houses at the Historical Society, Adena Mansion & Gardens, David Nickens Heritage Center, Lucy Hayes Heritage Center, and the Ross County Genealogical Society.

We are happy to report that each location experienced very good attendance. We greeted about 275 visitors here who enjoyed numerous special exhibits, live entertainment, and a



chance to meet up with friends and neighbors who enjoy discovering new things about our common heritage. We



are already looking forward to next year's commemoration and hope those who couldn't attend this year will plan to join us in 2021.

President's Report, by Ron Bowen

In normal times, the Ross County Heritage Center would have opened up by now and tours for the public would have started. We also would have been getting ready for the Annual Meeting for the general membership and preparing for Archeology Day and for our Spring Speaker Series presentations. But as we all know, we are not in normal times, with the COVID-19 pandemic still proceeding with full effect. As we first announced in mid-March, we remain closed and continue to suspend all public gatherings, meetings and programs until the public health emergency subsides as determined by the appropriate medical and governmental authorities. While the safety and well-being of our staff, volunteers, and our visitors are our primary consideration, essential services will still be provided on a limited basis to assure that our properties are secure and functioning and our basic financial and organizational responsibilities are fulfilled.

Be assured that we will reopen as soon as we can do so safely. While some of our Spring events will not be rescheduled, we still are looking forward to providing another great year of public education about the rich history of Chillicothe and Ross County.

Annual Giving Campaign Contributors

We thank the following donors who have contributed to the Ross County Historical Society's Annual Giving Campaign since the last issue of the Recorder (in alphabetical order):

Judy Benson
 Carl & Peggy Blevins
 John & Judy Bowdle
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 Steve & Linda Brown
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 Pat Medert

James & Ruhama Proctor

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A total of \$8,950 was raised during our 2019 campaign and \$2,300 has been raised thus far in 2020!

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 5. Benefits include free admission to each of our museums and the McKell Library plus discounts at the museum store.

Director's Report, by Tom Kuhn

No doubt about it. We are living through a truly historic time. Nothing quite like this has happened since the Spanish Flu Pandemic over a century ago. History provides us with a lens to view how the world coped with and survived that tragic time that came at the end of World War I, but it's still hard to see what lies ahead by looking back at something very few of us actually lived through.

A recent news story focused on one rare example of someone with a true historic perspective — a 101-year-old Italian man born during the 1918-19 Spanish flu pandemic who has survived his battle with the current COVID-19 virus. His is an inspirational story that should give us confidence that we will survive this historic event. And no doubt we will. That's why we have taken the steps outlined on page one of this newsletter to do our part to help prevent the spread of the virus.

Normally, this newsletter would contain extra pages highlighting our spring events and programs. Normally our doors would be open for tours and researchers wishing to utilize our library and archives, and we would also be preparing for the annual onslaught of school field trips. We have put all that aside for now with the confidence that we will be back on track as soon as this is over, and we invite all of you to join us. Please stay healthy.

Welcome New Members

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

Gordon Bauer & Gloria Ault
 Seth & Sayaka Blewitt & Family
 Michael Burchwell
 John & Debbie Campbell
 Bruce Caplinger
 Sandra Christman
 Judy Conklin
 Andrew & Nancy Corcoran
 Richard & Pamela Cormany
 Dwight Garrett
 Randle Gay
 Chris & Traci Good
 Jim & Susan Hill
 Tony Keaton & Family
 Cheryl Kessler
 Mike Lane
 Steve & Beth Neal
 Ron & Sherry Page
 Justin & Angela Park & Lynlii
 Gary Sallade
 Ron & Ann Salomone
 Robin Snyder
 Robert & Julie Speakman
 Dolores Warner
 Tom & Carolyn Weatherhead
 Payne Wissler

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.

FROM THE ARCHIVES by Pat Medert

On April 1, 1796, Nathaniel Massie, Chillicothe's founder, landed boats filled with men and equipment near the confluence of the Scioto River and Paint Creek. He was joined by the remainder of his party who had come overland with pack animals carrying additional tools and food supplies. The landing site was part of a



large area of prairie land upon which the men would erect log huts for shelter and plant a field of corn for a future source of food. They called their home base "Station Prairie."

The land on which Station Prairie was located was owned by Thomas Massie, a distant cousin of Nathaniel. Thomas, a wealthy Virginia plantation owner, served with distinction during the Revolutionary War and at war's end held the rank of major. For his service, he was granted 5,333 1/3 acres of land in Virginia's military districts in Kentucky and Ohio, land that was reserved by the cash-poor state to pay her soldiers who fought in that war. Part of his Ohio lands was 1360 acres along the Scioto River and Paint Creek. (The land grant for this parcel is in the society's archives.) The land was owned by Massie and his descendants for much of the 19th century, and it was always referred to as the "station tract."

Thomas Massie never occupied the site nor did he ever move to Ohio. However, he, and later his son, maintained and improved the acreage, supervising the work through correspondence with its overseers. A collection of this correspondence is in the archives, along with photocopies of early letters located in the Virginia Historical Society.

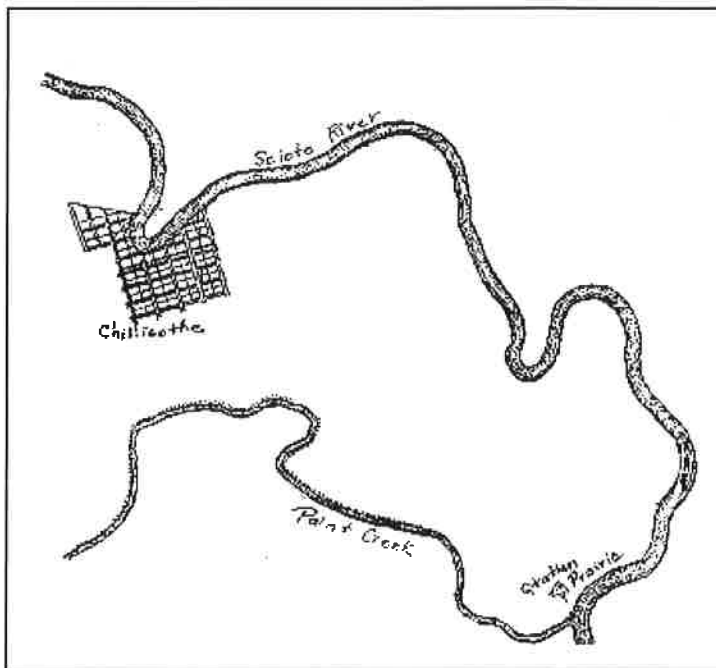
In 1807, Thomas sent his son, Thomas E. Massie, to Chillicothe to manage the station tract. The young Thomas was a doctor, having served a medical apprenticeship before attending medical school in Philadelphia. He then spent four years abroad studying in Edinburgh, London and Paris. He came to Chillicothe with the intention of practicing medicine, as well as looking after his father's property.

It took Thomas three months to establish his practice because of problems in finding rooms to rent and the delayed arrival of the medicine he ordered from Philadelphia. On February 13, 1808, he wrote to his father that he had some patients, but the number wasn't great because the community was healthy. He expected the practice to pick up in the spring when disease would be more prevalent. In the meantime, he was overseeing the station tract. He had contracted for a four-year lease on the "Great Prai-

rie" for \$210 and 800 bushels of corn for the current year and \$350 plus two tons of hay and 100 bushels of corn for each of the three following years. The crops to be planted were small grains and corn. Because there was a need for lumber for buildings and rails for fences, he was negotiating with Nathaniel Massie for the purchase of timber land on the other side of Paint Creek.

As predicted, Dr. Massie's practice increased in the spring, and he hired a young man to tend his apothecary so that he had more time to care for his patients. On May 11, he wrote:

I have been so busily engaged in practice that I have not had an hour to spare. Among those whom I have attended is the physician of most imminence in this place. He was extremely ill of what is called "Painter's Colic" in consequence of having swallowed lead. He has been very ill for four or five days and endeavoring to procure a passage by means of purgatives which were thrown off the stomach as soon as they were taken. He and his partner who was attending him were both ignorant of the nature of his complaint. The symptom so resembled what is called Devonshire colon in England that I asked him if he had been using anything which had been kept in vessels of lead. He told me upon recollection that he had carried shot in his pockets some days before his illness and had occasionally chewed and swallowed bits of them. This accounted at once for the symptoms of the complaint. I ordered him large doses of mercury and as soon as it began to affect his system his bowels were relieved. Opium and the warm bath completed his cure. I mention this circumstance merely because it has contributed considerably to extend my reputation as a physician....The complaint is called the Devonshire colic in England because in that county the people are in the habit of drinking cyder [sic] which is kept in vats of lead.



Part of a 1796 map showing the location of Chillicothe and Station Prairie

(continued on page 4...)

On September 4, 1808, Thomas told his father of another case that further enhanced his reputation. *I was called off to visit a boy near the falls of Paint who had been accidentally shot by his father with a rifle ball through the right breast. The boy was gathering corn in a field. His father not seeing any-thing but the motion of*



Dr. Thomas E. Massie

the corn supposed it was a raccoon and fired. The ball struck below the shoulder blade, passed through the right lobe of the lungs and came out between the fourth and fifth rib. I dressed his wound, bled him and left him much easier than when I first saw him.

Thomas later wrote, "My little patient on Buckskin who was shot through the lungs I have the pleasure to inform you is perfectly well." This is extraordinary considering that the patient was not treated immediately. He had to wait for someone on horseback to ride to Chillicothe, find the doctor, and return with him by means of the same transportation. Furthermore, the boy was bled twice—first from the injury and then by the physician.

Massie grew tired of living in a boarding house and was dissatisfied with the space he rented for his practice. In October, he purchased a two-story, four-room house on Second Street directly across the street from the present day Majestic Theatre.

In November, Thomas went to Jefferson County, Kentucky, at the request of Henry Massie (Nathaniel's brother) to be his attendant at his wedding. While there, he became ill with "the most obstinate and tedious fever I ever witnessed." On January 5, 1809, He described his illness to his father.

I felt indisposed with a fever and sore throat the night I reached Frankfort. The next day I reached Middletown with a considerable show of fever and my throat much worse. The day after the 16th of November I reached the place of destination early in the day and performed the part of attendant to H. Massie at his wedding. That evening I bled myself. The next day my fever continuing I was bled

profusely by Dr. Willett. The day after I took a dose of calomel. After its operation my fever changed its type into that of nervousness, and I was confined six weeks. During my whole illness I remained at Colonel Bullitt's [the father of the bride] who nursed me himself from morning until bedtime every day.

The day after writing the letter, Thomas began the trip back to Chillicothe, where he did not remain long. By April, he had given up his practice and returned to Virginia. Throughout his correspondence, he complained about his lack of income as a physician. He realized early on that he would seldom be paid in cash and estimated his earnings according to the value of the farm produce and livestock he would receive. This did not prove to meet his expectations, and on October 28, 1808, he told his father, "I shall see no money by my profession." His decision to leave Chillicothe was also influenced by a decrease in the number of patients he was treating. He believed his reputation had been damaged by his association with Nathaniel Massie whose reputation had suffered in the community. In addition to being heavily in debt, he had made some questionable land transactions and was faced with lawsuits because of this and his negligence in issuing titles to land he had sold. Thomas complained repeatedly about the difficulties in purchasing and receiving the title to the land on Paint Creek. In a letter on June 1, 1808, Thomas described Nathaniel's disposition as "indolent and procrastinative" and said, "If he lives much longer, he will die poor and he is rapidly wasting from indolence and intoxication."

Thomas was also distressed over the political climate in the state's capital. In a letter to his father written on January 24, 1809, he said:

The leaders of the house of representatives are a couple of Methodist preachers. The Methodists and Presbyterians have united and their object appears to be to destroy everything like law and order. They have the power and must eventually succeed. A few sessions past they repealed the common law of England entirely. At the same time they levelled a blow at landholders of large tracts by depriving them of the power of distraining for rent. Liberty, equality and the omnipotence of the sovereign people is the universal cry. The whole state is in a ferment. I have never before seen anything like its violence....Lawyers & judges appear the objects of popular detestation. The power of the governor amounts to nothing. His almost only official duty is that of commanding the militia.*

Thomas expressed additional derision of the Methodists, and when he wrote that General Massie's popularity was at an end, he said he blamed them for the "greatest injury he has received."

Upon leaving Chillicothe, Thomas left Thomas James, a local businessman who was married to Nathaniel Massie's sister, in charge of his affairs. In the next issue of the *Recorder*, I will write about his life in Virginia and his management of the prairie tract, a large portion of which he inherited from his father.

*seizing the property of a person in order to compel payment of debts

Recent Acquisitions of the Museum and Library

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

01. Article – *Ohio's Canals* by Gordon Mitchell, donated by Gordon Mitchell.
 02. Collection of film strips about Ohio History, donated by the Chillicothe Public Library.

03. Effigy Pipe – (3) pipestone, design influenced by Hopewell Culture, donated by Kimberlee Lueders. (See photos at left.)



04. Book – *Company "I": 332nd Infantry in the Great War* compiled and published by the members of Company "I", c. 1920, donated by William B. Maling.



05. Basket – decorative basket with Chillicothe High School logo and facts about the school, donated by Dana Martinko.

06. Book – *War Comes to the U.S. – Dec. 7, 1941*; Yearbook – Kent State special edition, c. 1970; Magazine – about Kent State shootings, c. 1970; Card – of appreciation for family of Allison Krause; Sticker – *Keep Kent Open*, c. 1970; Letter – (4) correspondence between donor and others detailing his account of the Kent State shootings, c. 1970, donated by Jim Buchanan.



07. Scrapbook – (3) of Chillicothe High School class of 1946 reunion, c. 2006, donated by Pat Medert.

08. Scrapbook – newspaper clippings of Chillicothe history, donated by Al Heierman.

09. Basket – made by Lakota Sioux, presented to Elias Moore of Chillicothe, c.1870 donated by Michael Henry.

10. Book – *The Blue Jackets Manual – 1940*, for U.S. Navy, c. 1940, donated by Jason Fornash.

At first glance the effigy pipes (from accession # 3 above) look a lot like the real thing. They are made of the same type of pipestone as authentic originals, but expert eyes tell us they are most likely authentically reproduced by someone else with an expert eye for such artifacts. What do you think?

11. Envelope – addressed to John Seip of Chillicothe, postmarked June 18, 1888, donated by John Poss.

12. Collection of postcards, early 20th century; Examination – Civics lesson of Mary Turner from Massieville, Ohio, c. 1937, donated by Cathy Matthews.

13. Book – (2) *A System of Physical Geography* by James H. Young, 1857, and *Common School Geography* by D.M. Warren, 1859, donated by Jim Buchanan.

14. Shoes – (6 pairs) men's leather, women's leather, children's orthopedic, donated by Bob Stewart.



15. Audio Tape Recorder – Sonic-Aire portable tape recorder, c. 1963, donated by Greg Creech.



The century old shoes (from accession # 14) were donated by Bob Stewart of "Bob's Bootery." The rubber soles of several were made by Goodyear of Akron, Ohio and dated 1915 (example above left).

The Ross County Historical Society Welcomes

New Member Renewal

Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____
 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.()

(\$5 discount on all annual memberships for active duty military personnel and veterans with copy of military ID)

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
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 (740) 772-1936

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THE ROSS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY RECORDER

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Junior Membership Application (for children, ages six through twelve)

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
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Chillicothe, OH 45601-3227