

ARCANUM WAYNE TRAIL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SHARING THE SECRET

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Arcanum Wayne Trail Historical Society, Inc., 123 W. George St., Arcanum, OH 45304
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President's Report

By Keith Furlong

Nearly a year ago, a small group of individuals met to discuss the possibility and viability of forming a historical society, an idea that was briefly discussed in February 1999. After several more meetings and with the encouragement of friends from Montgomery County, we decided to give it a try. As the saying goes, "trying and failing is preferable to failing to try." On June 15, 2004, we became incorporated as the Arcanum Wayne Trail Historical Society, Inc.

The Society met for several months at the Arcanum Public Library. In August 2004 the Wayne Trail Grange hall came on the market, a perfect place to house the Society. Our initial offer was rejected. On October 7, 2004, we were successful in purchasing the building at a public auction for \$22,000. On November 24, 2004, we closed the deal. I would like to thank all of you who have committed the financial resources, time, and talents to make this purchase a possibility, going from nothing to owning our own building within eight months. We now have 84 members. There will be more on this later from the membership committee.

At the auction we spent \$942 for all of the wood chairs and metal folding chairs that have advertising names written on them, as well as silverware, W.R.C. dinnerware, a small bathtub, a sign, etc.

Cleaning has started as well as stripping of wallpaper and some refinishing of the woodwork. If you have been through the building, we have a long ways to go.

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The building was paid for and insured by donations, memberships and fund raising. The building has water puddles on the second floor. Our next step is to replace the roof, gutters, down spouting, paint and repair the fascia and soffits, which will cost about \$16,000. Tuck pointing and sealing the exterior needs to be finished before we can start painting the exterior. The front porch also needs to be replaced. When these are finished, the outside will be under control. We will then have to address major issues on the inside such as electrical, security, heating and cooling, plumbing, etc. The Board has met with the Second National Bank and arranged for financing as needed.

Everett Johns family and other family members have donated a case of bottles originating from the Arcanum Bottling Co., and a couple of old signs. We have also been given five very nice showcases from a home in Dayton. We just need to get them out of the basement. It will cost us \$1100 for professional movers unless we can form a crew and trucks to do it on our own.

We have been truly blessed to have such a fine group of people. Bring a friend. Thanks for your support, no matter how big or small. It is all appreciated.

TRIVIA: At the election of Nov. 8, 1921 the first woman candidate for a village office was Ciara Weisenbarger who was the Democratic candidate for the office of Treasurer.

Treasurer's Report

By Lois Eilerman, Treasurer



December 31, 2004	
Income	
Donations	\$24,581.50
Memberships	\$1,210.00
Hall Rental	\$150.00
Interest	\$5.86
Christmas Items Flea Market	\$550.50
Raffle Tickets	\$601.00
Real Estate Taxes Rebate	\$286.68
Total Income	\$27,385.54
Expenditures	
Real Estate Purchase	\$22,028.00
Library Donation	\$50.00
Utilities	\$246.98
Operating Expenses	\$202.32
Total Expenses	\$22,527.54
Bank Balance	\$4858.24(1)
(1) Checking-\$3,151.74, Savings-\$1,706.50	

will soon be occupied." {Greenville Journal September 27, 1894} "Deitrich opened up his fancy gin mill last week and the boys had a free smoke." (Greenville Journal October 25, 1894. Mr. Deitrich continued his saloon until 1899, when it became the Commercial Exchange Saloon operated first by J.A. Cushwa, in 1903 by Wm. Combs, 1904 by A.M. McGriff, and in 1905-06 by A.C. Parker.

The next occupant, in 1907, although briefly, was the Casino Theatre, a moving picture theatre. It was renamed the Electric Theatre under the proprietorship of W.S. Zimmerman in 1907-08. From Feb. 1909 through August 1910 it became the home of a Farm Implement dealership first owned by A.A. Alber and Lauren Heck, then by Mr. Alber and Tobias Neff. From 1910 to 1915 it became the home of the Arcanum Bottling Company, a soda pop bottling plant under the ownership first of J.C. Trick, followed by A.G. Marty and a short time later, Hackman Freese. Next in 1915 came The City Hotel first operated by A.G. Marty and then by P.O. Siler, the same man who sold the lot to Mr. Deitrich in 1894. During late 1916 a man by the name of George. W. Fisher briefly sold pianos out of the building and in December of that year B.F. Fulton (the leader of the local band and orchestra) took over the building for his Fulton Piano and Music Store.

In 1920 Olive Beck purchased the property and opened the Beck Hotel, which she would continue to operate until 1947 when it was taken over by her son, Robert. Mrs. Beck was known for serving large meals to her hotel customers. During Mrs. Beck's tenure, rooms were also rented to a chiropractor and a piano instructor for business purposes. On January 4, 1963 the Wayne Trail Grange became the owner of the property and would continue to use it for Grange purposes until it was sold to the Historical Society in 2004.

TRIVIA: Prior to 1900 there was only one telephone line in Arcanum. By 1901 there were two separate telephone companies (by the name of Home Line or Ball Line) with two separate lines, two separate sets of subscribers, none of which could talk to each other unless they were subscribers on the same system.

By 1903 there was only one telephone company--the Arcanum office of the Home Telephone Company of Greenville.

AWTHS Building History

By Anita Short

The two-story brick building that now serves as the home of the Arcanum Wayne Trail Historical Society has an interesting and varied history. It is located on Lot 52 in the Gunder addition to Arcanum. It was originally the site of a crude pioneer dwelling inhabited by the Bartling Cabinet Wareroom and undertaker shop and later by Christian Good, a cabinetmaker.

On March 30, 1894, the lot known as the old Peter Siler lot was purchased by Lewis Deitrich of New Bremen. "Mr. Deitrich(sic Deitrich) is pushing his new house right along, he has the foundation and the cellar walls nearly ready for the brick work." (Greenville Journal May 17, 1894) "The brick work on the Deitrich building is nearly finished and a strong force of carpenters have gone to work this morning to put the roof on." (Greenville Journal June 28, 1894) "The plasterers have gone to work on the Deitrich House." (Greenville Journal July 26, 1894) "The Deitrich house is now completed and

Along the Trail

By Barb Deis

William Gunder, born March 10, 1797 in rural Lancaster County, Pennsylvania entered the Army during the War of 1812. During the service, he met an officer who had served at Ft. Greeneville and the soldier encouraged him to explore the Ohio wilderness after the War ended.

After 1816, after his discharge from the service, William came to Preble County with his brother, Peter. His sister, Carolyn, was living in the newly formed settlement along Twin Creek near Ithaca.

"William made frequent trips into Darke County to visit his sister and her family. During those trips he began to explore an old Indian trail which later became a turnpike running from Twinsburg (Ithaca) to Jacksonville (Versailles). William was a skilled

hunter and had learned to survive very well in the wilderness. He became interested in the area around the point where the trail crossed Painter Creek and began to explore that territory to learn more about the land. His friendship with remaining Indians was cultivated at this time and in 1817 he camped for the first time southwest of Arcanum on higher ground to avoid the swampy green water near the trail at Painter Creek. The camp became the site of his first permanent home.

Three years later, in 1820, he purchased this land described as the east half of the southwest quarter of Section 8 in Twin Township and built a log cabin on this land along a tributary of Miller's Fork. The land was being offered for sale to extend the canal from Dayton to Lake Erie."

Excerpt from the book "The Secret Town" by William Gunder (great-grandson to founder of Arcanum)

Arcanum Wayne Trail Historical Society

March 10th Meeting

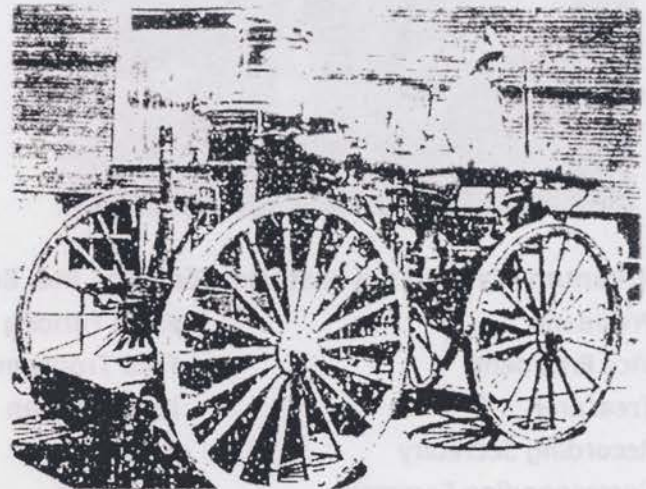
By Program Committee-Chairperson Holly Trigg

Where were the firehouses in Arcanum many years ago? Where and how was the community Rescue Service formed? What is a fire well? How about an Ahrens Steamer? The answers to these questions and much more fascinating information about the history of the Arcanum Fire Department will be presented by William Gunder at the March 10th meeting of the Arcanum Wayne Trail Historical Society.

Mr. Gunder, a descendent of the founder of Arcanum, will bring his extensive knowledge of Darke County history to this topic. With another local historian, Anita Short, he has written *Arcanum, Ohio Fire Department 1877-1970*. There is not yet a date set for its printing. He has published two other historical books, *The Secret Town* (1999) and *Arcanum Public Library & Ivester*

House (2000).

Please join us on March 10th to hear William Gunder tell the fascinating story of the origin and development of the Arcanum Fire Department and The Community Rescue Service.



Trivia: The old steam fire engine was not drawn by horses. The engine was first hand-drawn by six or eight men pulling the vehicle with a long rope. It was said to pull easily, but in the winter it was quite a task if the snow was deep.

Ways and Means Committee Report

By Carolyn Troutwine - Committee Chairperson

Various sources of revenue have been discussed by the Ways and Means Committee. If anyone has time and interest in searching for grants, please tell one of us. Although some research has been started, nothing has materialized yet. We need corporate donations. Unfortunately, we don't have big industry to draw upon, so we will have to go outside our community. Any ideas? Some day we will have investments and endowments. Soon we will be making the first floor more attractive and inviting to encourage groups to rent the facility for meetings and events. After much discussion, the committee selected some fundraisers for

consideration by the membership. The challenge, for now, becomes one of "dollars and sense"...how to realize the greatest profits for our efforts while at the same time enjoying each other and promoting the historical society. We are asking for comments, opinions, and suggestions about the fundraisers.

Some of the fundraiser recommendations have included a "Money Guess", Bingo, "Antique Appraisal Event", Ancestor Recipe Book, and Summer Events on the lawn of the Veteran's Park.

The committee has set a goal of raising \$10,000 for this year, with our fundraising projects amounting to \$4,000 of this total. We felt this was a reasonable goal for the first year.

Winners of Raffle

Victorian Christmas Tree	Cheryl Gray
Dave Hill Painting	Deb Williams
KitchenAid Blender	Wanda Roberts



ARCANUM WAYNE TRAIL HISTORICAL SOCIETY COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS AND CO CHAIRPERSONS

Acquisitions	JoAnne & Dave Hill
Publications	Barbara Deis & Jean Miller
Membership	Carolyn Furlong & Cathy Fout
Programs	Holly Trigg & JoAnne Hill
Ways & Means	Carolyn & Fred Troutwine
Historic Sites	Fred Troutwine
Education	Cheryl Gray & Ellen Breece
Property & Building	Board of Directors
Site, Renovation, Design, Maintenance	
Genealogical Librarian	Ellen Breece
Historian	Bill Gunder & Anita Short

Arcanum Wayne Trail Historical Society, Inc. Board - elected at the annual meeting on 1/13/2005

President	Keith Furlong	937-548-6556
Vice President	Fred Troutwine	937-692-8939
Treasurer	Lois Eilerman	937-692-8223
Recording Secretary	Pat Jones	937-692-5701
Corresponding Secretary	Barb Deis	937-678-7832
Directors	Rod Brown	937-692-5225
	Bill Gunder	937-548-8777
	Wendell Miller	937-692-8425
	John Trigg	937-692-8930

Special Benefactors

Sincere thanks to the following businesses and organization for their generous donations to the Historical Society

Arcanum Area Business Association
Arcanum Garden Club

Arcanum Criterion Club
Arcanum Lions Club
Sunnyside Club

Arcanum VFW 4161
Greenville National Bank

Arcanum Wayne Trail Historical Society Members

Rita Arnold
Jean Aukerman
Ken and Phyllis Blackburn
Ellen Breece
Rod and Phyllis Brown
Joan Chapman
Miriam Clark
Robert and Joyce Colville
Ernest and Marion Cooper
Jack and Marlene Creech
Carolyn Davison
Jim and Barbara Deis
Jo Dunlap
Dean and Lena Edwards
Mark and Lois Eilerman
Dave and Beth Flora
Larry and Judith Foureman
Alan and Judy Fourman
Mike and Kathy Fout

Keith and Carolyn Furlong
Phil Garbig
Dick and Marilyn Graeff
Cheryl Gray
Bill Gunder
Tom and Jean Hanes
Glenna Hayes
Dave and JoAnne Hill
Jean Munn-Hill
Dick and Cheryl Hunt
Christina Jones
Pat Jones
Rose Lambert
Doug and Nora Mahoney
Dick and Dee Mathias
Darryl and Mary Anne Mehaffie
Wendell and Jean Miller
Dean and Marcia Pitzer
Jewell Puterbaugh

Jeff and Susan Puterbaugh
Jenny Quigney
Duane and Joan Reynolds
Linda Riley
Peggy Saunder
Sally Sherritts
Anita Short
Tom Staley
Allen Stastny
John and Ella Stevenson
Marilyn Stickler
Ed Trick
John and Holly Trigg
Fred and Carolyn Troutwine
John and Angie Troutwine
Lynn Trump
Ben and Deb Williams
Lew Williams
Cary and Theresa Wogoman

THANK YOU Deb Williams for designing and maintaining the historical society website
www.arcanumhistoricalsociety.org and the e-mail at AWTHS@woh.rr.com

Arcanum Wayne Trail Historical Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 4

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E-Mail:

AWTHS@woh.rr.com

Website:

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Business Meetings held at 7:00PM
second Thursday of the month:
January, March, May, September,
November

Arcanum Wayne Trail Historical Society Calendar of Events

January 13, 2005	Annual Meeting – 7:00PM Program: Mementos and Memories
January 15, 2005	Workday
February 10, 2005	Business Meeting & Committee Reports – 7:00PM
March 10, 2005	Business Meeting – 7:00PM Program: Arcanum Fire Department presented by Bill Gunder
Everday	Everyday is a workday at the historical society! When you have time to help, call a board member.
April 14, 2005	Business Meeting & Committee Reports – 7:00PM
April 16, 2005	Historical Society Open House – 2:00PM to 5:00PM For Arcanum High School Alumna
May 12, 2005	Business Meeting – 7:00PM Program: Arcanum Historic Bottles presented by Dick Hunt
May 20–22, 2005	Arcanum Old Fashioned Days

WORKING TOGETHER TO PRESERVE YOUR MEMORIES OF OUR COMMUNITY!

Visit us on the Web at www.arcanumhistoricalsociety.org

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