

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

Time certainly has a way of slipping away. Less than three years ago, the Arcanum Wayne Trail Historical Society barely existed. This year, 2005, was a breakout year for us, taking a badly deteriorating building to one that is now becoming a proud structure in Arcanum.

The outside of the building is pretty much finished. The only major item is the replacement of several hundred deteriorating bricks, tuck-pointing and sealing of the whole building. There are several minor items, i.e. railing for the front porch and resolving the downspout drainage problem on the west side on the building.

On the inside, with the exception of the summer kitchen, all of the rooms downstairs have been renovated and are being used. The summer kitchen needs a new ceiling, which cannot be replaced until new electrical service is installed in the entire first floor.

In November, the project of replacing all of the 23 windows was completed. The building is noticeably warmer. By the end of the year, the attic will be fully insulated.

We have just recently been notified that our \$2,500 grant application for funds to replace the 40-50-year old furnace has been granted. We are very appreciative of the Lydia E. Schaurer Memorial Trust Fund for this gift. Work will proceed on this as quickly as possible, hopefully sooner than later. Once the furnace is installed, the building should be energy efficient and a lot more comfortable and a decrease in cubic feet of gas usage. Our energy costs are likely to increase because of increases in delivery charges and cost per cubic feet.

We are starting to rehab the second floor. All of the ceilings need to be replaced because of the severe water damage done to them over the years.

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Thanks to the generosity of a couple who donated money for material for the ceilings, volunteer craftsmen have replaced the ceilings in two rooms, the entire hallway, a closet, bathroom and the ceiling in the stair well. Because we have no heat on the second floor, plastering and painting will not be done until next spring. Hopefully by then, we will receive additional funding of approximately \$700-\$900 for the rest of the building.

From January 1 - November 30, 2005 \$43,000 has been spent on renovations while on the income side, we received \$27,000 resulting in a negative cash flow of \$16,000 for the 11 months. Our current debt to the bank is \$15,500. These numbers reflect what has been spent on renovations and does not include taxes, insurance or the William Gunder historic cemetery site renovation, which was privately funded. The checking account balance is \$4,000.00

On January 12, 2006, we will be holding our second annual meeting and the election of officers and two board members for the year. I have decided not to run for President or any other position. It is time for someone else to take on the responsibility. Please plan to attend this very important meeting.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the volunteers who gave thousands of hours of labor, talent, and the funds that have been required to make 2004-2005 memorable years.

Along the Trail

Driving through Ithaca there are few landmarks to indicate Ithaca was once a very prosperous town and that it was vital in settling southern Darke County.

Many of the first pioneers followed the old military road up from Lewisburg settling near Miller's Fork where the banks are high and the water ran swiftly..

Twin Township, established in 1817, was the second township in Darke County. Greenville Township covered the northern section, Twin the south. It was named so because of Twin Creek, its boundaries becoming smaller as more townships were formed.

Serving as the trading center for Twin Township, Ithaca was platted by John Colville in 1832. Colville families in Darke and Preble County can trace their roots back to what was originally name Twinsborough.

Legend has it that a buggy maker, from Ithaca, New York, who set up shop in the village, was influential in having the name changed from Twinsborough to Ithaca.

The first permanent pioneers in Twin Township began arriving in 1815, settling around the present day Ithaca. Because the land in this part of Twin Township was rolling, rugged and heavily wooded, early settlers would have relied on hunting and trapping for skins and furs to trade or sell.

An enterprising individual, John Colville did much for the township. He is given credit for donating land for the Ithaca Cemetery and building the first saw mill on Miller's Creek. His homestead still stands on Otterbein Ithaca Rd.

Just as the first settlers of Ithaca had to travel to Lewisburg for goods which they could not provide for themselves, such as salt, sugar, coal oil and coffee, the early settlers of what was to become Arcanum and Gordon relied on Ithaca to help meet their daily needs. It would be seventeen years after Ithaca was founded before Arcanum and Gordon would be platted and businesses moved in.

It wasn't long until fields were cleared to plant corn, flax, oats, barley and wheat, then eventually tobacco. Businesses opened along Main and Cross Streets. Ithaca was prospering.

A grist mill was in operation on the northeast hill along Miller's creek and a tannery on the southwest corner of what is now St. Rts. 722 and 503. On the north end of Pearl Street sat a carding mill. The story of a stage coach stop located south of the tannery, now a large home built around the original log house, has been passed down from owner to owner. Like early taverns, it offered food and lodging to travelers, and newcomers who were looking for a tract of land to settle.

In 1857 children attended a school house on the Arcanum (Ithaca) Road at the curve, across from what became Cromwell Greenhouse. The faithful attended church at the Methodist, United Baptist and Lutheran Churches

It was 1901 when the Dayton & Northern Electric Railway (later name changed to Ohio Electric Railway)

first stopped in Ithaca taking passengers to Dayton, or north as far as Union City, with stops at each community on the way. The traction cars not only enabled town and rural folks to travel between Ithaca, Gordon and Arcanum, students from Gordon and Ithaca rode the traction cars to and from high school in Arcanum.

Records of area cemeteries list Ashley Cemetery in Ithaca. The final resting place for William Ashley, Revolutionary War veteran is at the foot of the hill behind the old two room school house. Darke County DAR was not able to put up a permanent marker honoring Ashley on that site as they had planned, it can be found in the Ithaca Cemetery.

Today, 174 years after Ithaca was founded, Moms can still send their children to get a loaf of bread or milk from the store on Cross Street now known as Ithaca's Little Store. The faithful may attend church in the village at Open Bible, Lutheran, or the Methodist Churches. Children start their early education at Rainbow Preschool, located in the lower level of the Methodist Church, near where the one room school was located many years ago.

The mayor Al Weimer conducts business at the Town Hall which had served as the Township Hall for many years. A small sign hangs above the entrance, which reads "On Wayne's Trail", suggesting the importance of St. Rt. 503. The old fire wagon dated 1841 can be seen there.

The grand home built by Watson Wert many years ago, sits high on the hill next to St. Rt. 503 watching over the village from the northeast, while the two room school house, built in 1918, now a private residence, watches down the hill from the south.

Gordon Road from the east is St. Rt. 722 and Hagerstown Road west out of the village is Clark Road.

Jim Hamilton works in the shop where his father Jasper worked since 1953. Jim's Great- Great Grandfather Jacob Thomas opened the large dry goods store on the southeast corner. His Great Grandfather Dr. John C. Hamilton lived on S. Main St. next to the Thomas store, where his office was connected to the house.

The 3 story Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.) building, constructed in 1900 stand like a beacon in the center of the village. Recently purchased by Tammy and Kerry Yount, it is undergoing renovations. A teacher's store is now open, with plans for more shops in the near future. A second building off the courtyard will be available for use by the public.

Every town has a story to be told. Ithaca is a part of the histories of many Darke County families. Are you sharing your story with your family? Share it with the Arcanum Wayne Trail Historical Society.

Editor's Notes:

Information for this article came from History of Darke County by W. H. Beers & Co., Down Memory Lane written by Jeanette Burke, and talking with local residents.

Finding A Treasure – By Jeannie Miller

A trip to the front entrance of Arcanum High School reveals another treasure found in the community of Arcanum. Two twelve-foot wide paintings hang one on either side of the front stairs. Principal, Bill Comb, commissioned the paintings as a gift from a senior class graduating in the early '70's. Artist, Abraham Lincoln painted the two beautiful paintings that still hang in the entryway of the school. The intent of the two paintings is to show the before and after the settling of the area. The painting on the north side of the stairs represents the Arcanum area before it was inhabited. It is a wooded scene on a cold winter day, the trees are barren of any leaves, and the overcast look gives the impression that it is a cloudy, gloomy day. The water in the pond gives a cold feeling against the snow-covered ground. There are no footprints or tracks in the snow to show any habitation.

The painting on the south side of the stairwell reveals a typical farm scene in Darke Co. and the Arcanum area. The fields have been cleared of the wooded area and in the rich bountiful fields golden wheat waves among fertile green grass. The center of the picture shows a typical remodeled white farmhouse, with red barns and silos. A farm pond completes the picture.

There is a long narrow framed description of the picture and about the artist under the picture on the south side stairway. Artist Abraham Lincoln attended school in Gordon, later in Greenville and finally graduating from Arcanum High School. Mr. Lincoln was teaching at the newly formed Montgomery County JVS when he made the paintings. Abraham Lincoln married Patricia Ann Custer from Arcanum. They now reside in Brookville, Ohio. He has had published artwork for national magazines, posters for Abby Press, and sold hundreds of paintings. He studied art from Art Instruction School and in Japan and is otherwise self-taught. He has published two books. One is Kids from Gordon and a sequel Families from Gordon. The cover on the second one is a picture of Beatrice Brown, a teacher who walked every day from Arcanum to teach school in Gordon. Beatrice was a long-time member of the Arcanum Criterion Club and known to many. Along with Beatrice is pictured a student, Dennis Sensenbaugh. One of these books may be found in the Historical Society. The website for Abraham Lincoln and artwork is www.oldmanlincoln.com.

Porch Restoration – By Bill Gunder

The restoration of the porch began in late spring with an estimate of about 6 weeks to complete. As old rotted and deteriorated material was removed it became apparent that the job was much larger than this initial plan. We never wavered from our original

concept of keeping as much of the original structure as possible and any new construction was to reflect the original design. Special material and scheduling around volunteer labor had a significant impact on the completion and cost of this project. It became a truly team effort to perform each phase of the project. Individuals donated many hours of their special skills to make this restoration possible.

We began by lifting the old roof with a building jack, loaned by Gene Rench, and placing temporary posts at key locations. This allowed us to remove the old floor and supporting frame and rebuild the foundation. Jake McGlothlin provided the tools and skill for this task. Each old foundation stone was numbered, cleaned and reset in fresh mortar. Jake continued to help until the finished floor was completed and a supporting wall placed under the roof to allow work on the plate and hidden gutter.

Jeff Puterbaugh was then recruited to help work on replacing old rotted framework, install new sheathing on the roof and rebuild the hidden gutters. Jeff's helpers included Keith Furlong together with Fred & Dick Troutwine and anyone else who could help. Lease Service Co. was contracted to replace the roof with a new neoprene membrane and flashing to repel water.

As each step was completed the paint gang always found time to prime exposed surfaces. While all of this work was happening, Dean Pitzer worked many hours in his workshop making new ornaments and spools for the plate ornamentation. Dave Flora then provided a finishing touch by installing the ornaments and floor trim at the base of each post.

Ivan Brown added the finishing coat of paint that made this restoration complete.

Three items remain to be done next summer if funds are available. Bead board ceiling must be installed over the sheathing, ornamental railing should be placed between the posts with matching handrails at the step and a new period light fixture should be added.



Ways and Means — By Carolyn Troutwine

Christmas Bazaar 2005

On the morning of Nov. 26th, people began arriving. Crowds meandered through the society house sipping warm cider, browsing and shopping. In the kitchen, cookies were being baked and readied for sale. Items of all kinds were arranged on the long tables easily marked for the buyer. Lois Eilerman and Jenny Quigney, co-chairmen of the Second Annual Arcanum Wayne Trail Historical Society Christmas Bazaar, began planning for the event months in advance. Society members had been up in their attics for weeks opening boxes of Christmas decorations and sorting out ones to donate to the bazaar. Assembling wreaths and decorating trees with purchased and donated ornaments was only the beginning of what was to be a very successful event.

The bazaar had a lot more to offer this year. The committee had their own ideas incorporating a Silent Auction, donated baked goods and Baked Goodies from the Kitchen, Quilt Raffle, and really nice Crafts and Decorations. The final tally of the profits for the day was \$2,730.06.

There was a wonderful feeling of holiday cheer as Mrs. Claus read Christmas stories to the young children. The rug weaver, Joe Hill, added a nice touch to the bazaar with his weaving demonstration and display of lovely rugs.

People toured the house asking questions and admiring the renovation, while others enjoyed visiting with each other. Society members were scattered throughout answering questions, promoting the organization, and discussing programs and goals. New members registered at the checkout table.

A big thank you is extended to Lois and Mark Eilerman and Jenny Quigney for their hard work. We appreciate the donors and bidders of the Silent Auction items. Thank you! And, thanks to all who worked that day to help make the Christmas Bazaar a smashing success.

Winner of the Quilt Raffle --Jean Aukerman

Silent Auction Winners:

Dean Pitzer's Clock—Holly Trigg
 Dave Hill's Painting — Judy Fourman
 Jo Dunlap's Painting — Eden Maxwell
 Deb Strain's Collection — Carolyn Furlong
 Joe Hill's Rug — Carolyn Furlong
 Dick Troutwine's Antique Santa — Tom Staley
 Chuck Weidner's Painted Christmas Ornaments — Connie Norris and John Fist



Acquisition List - (continued from previous newsletter)

Many items have been donated and are on display in locked cases. As renovations are completed, larger items will be displayed throughout the building. Filing cabinets are needed to store papers, etc.

- 0563 Bucket----Charles& Angela Lange
- 0564 Corn Shovel ----- Charles& Angela Lange
- 0566 Insulators----- Charles& Angela Lange
- 0567 Early Phonograph----- Charles& Angela Lange

The items 0568- 0574 were kept by Charles and Pat Cunnigan deceased and were contributed by their daughter Nora Mahoney

- 0568 Book "Kids From Gordon"-----by Abraham Lincoln
- 0569 Book "Down Memory Lane"-----by Jeanette Burke
- 0570 Copy of Traction Line Schedule from Ithaca
- 0571 Newspaper Article-Beechwood Golf Course-8-14-89
- 0572 Newspaper Article-Arcanum Remembers Tornado-11-22-93
- 0573 Kids From Gordon-Newsletter 2-95
- 0574 Newspaper Article-Smith's Auction- 5-21-09
- 0575 One case of Arcanum Pop Bottles-----Everett Johns

ARCANUM ITEMS DONATED BY STALEY'S ANTIQUES

- 0575 5 Dayton Steel Tennis Racquets with display holder
- 0576 Scrap Book of the Dayton Racquet Co.
- 0577 Arcanum Federal Savings & Loan bottle opener
- 0578 1925 Directory-Monroe, Franklin, Van Buren and Twin Townships
- 0579 1904 Arcanum Marble and Granite Works Advertisement
- 0580 Riegle General Insurance calendar
- 0581 Arcanum Hardware advertisement—Clip
- 0582 Baker Brothers Implement Store advertisement
- 0583 Gold ticket for Smiths Big Store
- 0584 2 advertisement forms-BF Carter Druggist 1910 Post Card for B.F. Carter Druggist
- 0585 "Good Living " advertisement-Huffman Drug Store
- 0586 Advertisement-Merry Christmans 1916 M.L. Weisenbarger & Co.
- 0587 1972 Calendar-Arcanum Bakery
- 0588 1910 Post Card-B.F.Carter & Co. Jeweler
- 0589 "Good Bread"-Compliments of Chas.O. Huffman druggist
- 0590 Arcanum Fire Co. Ashtray, June 28, 1986 Convention
- 0591 Baker Brothers Implement Store advertisement
- 0592 E.E. Fitzwater card
- 0593 S.&L. Farm Service
- 0594 Smiths Big Store Envelope
- 0595 Bailey Motors Inc. matches
- 0596 Arcanum Foundry ash tray
- 0597 Miller's Tavern bottle/can opener
- 0598 Troutwine Auto Sales Inc. -pocket knife
- 0599 Arcanum Federal Savings bottle opener/knife
- 05100 Atlas Science Tablet for laboratory notes and drawings
- 05101 Dr. E.D. Snyder record book
- 05102 Hency's Farm Service Thermometer
- 05103 Northwest Radio & TV Service Ruler
- 05104 Jacks Pocket Mirror

2005 Christmas Bazaar Financial Report
By Lois Eilerman

Income				
Donations	\$26.86		Bake Sale	\$95.75
Quilt Raffle	\$802.00 ((\$88 Sold at Bazaar)		Silent Auction	\$587.00
Memberships	\$260.00 (Including 2 sponsorships)		Joe Hill	\$3.60 (woven rug sold @ bazaar)
Craft Sales	\$1,047.85			
Total Income	\$2,823.06			
Expenditures				
Miniature Buildings Sold	\$58.00 ((\$18.00 to Methodist Church) (\$40 to Booster Club)		Craft Supplies for Repairs	\$35.00
Total Expenses	\$93.00			
Proceeds	\$2,730.06			
Balances				
Checking	\$4,000.00		Loan	\$15,500.00

Aluminum Recycling Program
Thanks to the efforts of the many people who have donated aluminum cans, and other aluminum products, AWTHS has profited \$331.00, from Jan. 1 thru Nov. 30. Please continue to leave aluminum on the back porch.

The 2nd Wine Tasting Party.
The wine tasting held at the Winery at Versailles in October was successful. 39 tickets were sold at \$20.00 each, and we received a donation of \$20.00. Ten dollars per person was paid to the winery for the 36 participants, giving AWTHS a profit of \$440.00.

Member having suggestions, ideas or stories to share, please contact the newsletter staff; Barb Deis 678-7832, Jeannie Miller 692-8425 or Deb Williams 692-5635.

Use this membership form to rejoin or join for the first time. Call Carolyn Furlong for information: (937) 548-6556

Membership Form

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City, State & Zip Code: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

New Member _____

Renewal _____

Annual Membership Fees:

- _____ \$15.00 Single
- _____ \$25.00 Family
- _____ \$50.00 Sponsorship
- _____ \$150.00 Corporate
- _____ \$1,000.00 Lifetime

Please make your check payable to AWTHS
 Mail to: Arcanum Wayne Trail Historical Society
 P.O. Box 4
 Arcanum, Ohio 45304

Additional Donation Amount _____

Arcanum Wayne Trail Historical Society Calendar of Events

January 4, 2006	Board Meeting - 7:00PM
January 12, 2006	Annual Membership Meeting - 7:00PM, Election of officers and Directors Program: History of Troutwine Auto Sales, Presented by Fred Troutwine
February 1, 2006	Board Meeting - 7:00PM
February 9, 2006	Historical Society Meeting - 7:00PM
March 1, 2006	Board Meeting - 7:00PM
March 9, 2006	Historical Society Meeting - 7:00PM Program: My Experience Helping Katrina Victims, Presented by Carolyn Furlong

Welcome to all new members

Roger Cunningham
Beverly & Janet Fourman
Helena Kinsler
Abraham Lincoln
Timothy Moore
Edward & Jacque Trick

Bill & Gayla Metzcar
Martin & Eleanor Freeze
Helen Shank
Philip & Miriam Lockman
John & Gale Smith
Kerlin Wilt

Memorial

In memory of Vera Robinson (Mother of Carolyn Troutwine)
by Gene and Joan Rench

NEWS FROM THE PAST

(Arcanum Times, May 1, 1930)

According to a report received by Mayor A. E. Cline, the census of Arcanum of April 1, 1930 showed a total of 1145 inhabitants compared to 1311 in 1920 with a loss of 166.

(Arcanum times Jan. 5, 1933)

Town Host too Many Hoboes - According to Marshal, Oscar Troxel, the Arcanum jail was used for sleeping quarters by 750 hoboes and unemployed wanderers during the past year. Many nights during the past few months, all available space was occupied in the jail. Under the rules, no one is permitted to stay more than one night. Marshal Troxel has required all of his guests to register and the register books shows many queer signatures.

WORKING TOGETHER TO PRESERVE YOUR MEMORIES OF OUR COMMUNITY!

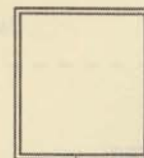
Visit us on the Web at www.arcanumhistoricalsociety.org

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P.O. Box 4

123 West George St.

Arcanum, Ohio 45304



Single	\$12.00	
Family	\$25.00	
Sponsoring	\$75.00	
Corporate	\$150.00	
Lifetime	\$1,000.00	
Annual Membership Fees:		
Member		
Non-Member		
Additional Donation Amount		