

# Sharing the Secret

July 2008

Volume 4 Issue 3

Arcanum Wayne Trail Historical Society, Inc. 123 W. George St. Arcanum, Ohio 45304

## President's Report by Richard Troutwine

At last the restoration of the historical society building is near completion. A ceiling light donated by Lloyd Hunt was mounted in room 5 on the second floor. This light was originally in the home of Jim and Glenna Sluterbeck on East South Street which was destroyed by the 1992 tornado.

Dave Flora installed a new storm/screen door on the front porch entry. John Hicks painted it. Dean Lambert is making a stain glass transom window with our street number, 123, to fit above the storm door.

Arcan Builder's employees have made the necessary repairs to a leaking roof that destroyed the first floor restroom ceiling. The ceiling was replaced by Lonnie Norris.

A nice 32 inch TV has been donated by Paul's TV (Dennis Shope). Now our "OLD TIME" DVDs or VHS can be seen on the big screen. Further, it can be used by our program speakers.

The last Arcanum Times tin type has been given to the historical society by the Arcanum Library. Also, a very large unique wooden display of the Darke County Fair is coming to us from the Garst Museum. This wonderful folk art piece was made by Sylvan Mehaffie and is being donated by Betty Sutton and Daryl Mehaffie.

During Arcanum Old Fashioned Days Carolyn Furlong and volunteers held an Open House of the historical building. At that time the new book titled "Arcanum Chronicles", written by Anita Short and Bill Gunder, was introduced to the public for purchase. Jenny Quigney's sheep drop was a big success. Thirteen teams participated in the corn hole tournament organized by Cary Wogoman and Dave Flora. A big thanks to all who helped.

As of June 2<sup>nd</sup> the checking/savings balance was \$5,065.33. Income from memberships, donations, book sales, festival activities and ongoing projects during May was \$3,222. A payment of \$1000 was made in May against the debt, bringing the balance to \$7,376.18.

We are happy to welcome our new members. A special thanks to Dr. Samuel and Mrs. Lucy Brubaker for their lifetime membership.

Several "Ways and Means" projects are on the horizon for the summer. Be sure to sign up to help at the fair gate and the World's Longest Yard Sale.

Have a great summer!!

### **September 11 - 7:00 p.m.**

### **Author Cynthia Vogel - "Civil War Women: They Made a Difference"**

A retired educator, Cynthia Vogel is a Darke County resident who has lived in Versailles most of her life. The non-fiction book, published September 2007, tells the stories of 78 individual women who served our country in different areas during the Civil War. They played a role in the anti-slavery movement, the underground railroad, education, medicine, nursing, various roles in the military and on the battle fields. Disguised as men some fought side by side the men without revealing their gender, some earned the ranks of officers. This interesting book explores a critical social turning point for American women in that time. Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> is AWTHS first membership meeting for the fall. You don't want to miss this Darke County author tell about these remarkable women.

### Officers and Directors

President	Richard Troutwine	692-5128
Vice President	Fred Troutwine	692-8939
Treasurer	Jerry Kramer	692-5764
Rec. Secretary	Pat Jones	662-9114
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	Keith Furlong	692-6556
	Wendell Miller	692-8425
	Jeff Puterbaugh	692-5302

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*There is no present without a past*

Committee ReportsAcquisitions Dick Troutwine 692-5128

We are grateful for the items donated which help tell what life was like in earlier days.

0853 Check - John Smith Co. - donated by Monte Clark	0854 R. J. Warner Ins. Clock	Cary Wogoman
0855 Ritz Movie Ticket Booth Tom Staley	0856 Crystal Victorian Lamp	Sharon Troutwine
0857 WWII Army Air Corp Wings Sharon Troutwine	0858 WWII Army "compact" Hat	
0859 Ceiling Light for Room 5 Lloyd Hunt	0860 Executor's Sale Listing of Ivester Estate	JoAnne Hill
0861 Large Wooden Desk Ken Blackburn	0862 Table Lamp with Stain Glass Shade	Phyllis Troutwine
0863 Ceiling Light for Room 2 Phyllis Troutwine	0864 Ceiling Light for Room 3	Jeff Puterbaugh
0865 Ceiling Light for Room 7 Jeff Puterbaugh	0866 Ceiling Light for Room 6 & 8	Grif Jones
0867 Ceiling Light for First Floor North Room Lonnie Norris	0868 Wooden Chair - green seat cover	Richard Troutwine
0869 Smokers Cease Fire (2) Dennis Shope	0870 32 inch Sony Color TV	Paul's TV -
0871 Native American Artifacts (arrow heads/tools)		Carol Ary in name of John Ary
0872 Arcanum Times Tin Set-Last Printing		Arcanum Library
0873 Native American Pictures (clothes/portraits subject matter)		Arcanum Library
0874 Maps attached to metal backing with tape		Arcanum Library
0875 1957, 58, 59 Arcanum School "Arcette" plus 13 items of advertising		JoAnne Hill
0876 Diploma of Glenn D. Flory / picture of Besecker Reunion		Marilyn Graeff
0877 Methodist Church, 112 W. South St. Arcanum, Oh - Official Board Minutes Recording Book (1948-1959)		JoAnne Hill

Home Movies and Photos are wanted for our archives, or on loan to AWTHS. These movies will be put on DVDs and returned. Home movies, donated by Paul Lenhart from the early 40's and 50's, were shown during Old Fashioned Days Open House, and also to the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade school children. Everyone who saw these pictures enjoyed them so much. Also we found local film footage among the movie reels from Dreamland Theater which have been put on a DVD. Don't throw any movies or photo away, let AWTHS see them first.

Historians Anita Short 692-8715 Bill Gunder 692-8000

Mayor Wallace Alderman located a number of old Village records while exploring areas above false ceiling in the Village/Township House. Record books located included old Council Minutes from the late 1800's and a Village Health Officer book containing Burial Permits, Birth Certificates and Death Certificates from 1898-1907. The Health Officer records contain names not recorded in any other known location.

Membership Carolyn Furlong 548-6556

As of June 6<sup>th</sup> AWTHS has 159 members. Thanks to all for supporting our community through your membership. Several members have not yet renewed. You are important to the society! Your membership fee helps pay the bills, and you will continue to receive the newsletter "a look back in history and a look to the future".

**Thanks** to those who have renewed since our last newsletter:

Singles and Family

Ellen & Donald Breece	Alan & Judy Fourman	JoAnne Hill	Sharon Karns
Eldene & Phyllis Lambert	Abraham & Patricia Lincoln	Linda Riley	Sally Sherrits
Alan Stastny & Joan Chapman			

Welcome New Members

<u>Singles and Family</u>	<u>Lifetime</u>
Ned A. and Marian Brown Betty Wade	Samuel and Lucy Brubaker
Jean Yoeman	

Ways and Means Jenny Quigney - 692-5994 / 459-8090

Up-Coming Worlds' Longest Yard Sale-- OOOOOPS!!! The date first announced was wrong!!! **It is Aug. 7, 8, & 9<sup>th</sup>** - AWTHS will rent the lower level of the American Legion Hall at 450 St. Rt. 127 in West Manchester just as we did last year. We need nice items of all kinds, but *no clothes* please. Call an AWTHS board member for pick up service. Set aside a morning or afternoon to help on these days, or to help set up on Aug. 6<sup>th</sup>. Call Jenny Quigney to get a time you can help. People come from miles around, traveling St. Rt. 127 from state to state in search of "treasures" Remember - one man's junk is another man's treasures.

Fair Gate #3 This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year AWTHS will man the north gate during the fair, **Aug. 15<sup>th</sup> thru 23<sup>rd</sup>**. Please contact Jenny to set a time to work. We need a lot of people to help during this 10 days commitment. Sign up so a few people don't have to work multiple shifts.

**Committee Reports continued****Education** Cheryl Gray 692-8905

Third grade students from Arcanum Elementary School study their community. Academic Content Standard as prescribed by the State Board of Education in Ohio for Social Studies include the study of local historical events in sequential order. Also, students are asked to be able to describe changes in the community over time with regard to such items as businesses, architecture, employment, and education to name a few.

The sesquicentennial books, *Arcanum...a secret place* and *The Sequel*, are used in the classroom for reference. If anyone has these books to donate, the teachers would greatly appreciate having more for each classroom.

In May, Fred Troutwine guided the students on a tour of the town and highlighted past and present businesses.

Carolyn and Keith Furlong lead the students on a tour of the Arcanum Wayne Trail Historical Society building. The students were shown a movie about the school, and they discussed the history of some of the acquisitions.

Many thanks to Mr. Troutwine and Mr. and Mrs. Furlong for the knowledge they shared with the students. Several of the students have highlighted their learning outcomes from the trip.

**Historical Building***By Emma Smith, Saige Morrie and Isabela Whiting*

We had fun at the Historical Building. We saw a knee bone. They also found a cat skeleton. They found the bones in the kitchen when they were fixing the floor. We also saw old supplies that would be in a kitchen back when you grandparents were kids. I liked the old meat grinder. Upstairs we saw old hotel rooms. In the living room we saw an old piano and a fancy hat. We also watched an old movie about our school. We had a great time at the Historical Building. It was awesome.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Learns About Arcanum***By McKenzie Sharritts*

3<sup>rd</sup> grade has been learning about Arcanum History for their report. We have gone on an Arcanum tour guided by Mr. Troutwine. He told us all about Arcanum. We stopped at many different spots and Mr. Troutwine told us about the history of that area. We learned about William Gunder's log cabin. We also went on a tour of the historical building in downtown Arcanum. We learned that in the old days part of the historical building used to be a hotel. We also saw the original ticket booth from the Dreamland movie theater. We had a fun time leaning about the history of Arcanum.



Arcanum 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teachers: Jennie McCan, Cindy Sink (photo 1), Carol Bryson, and Kathy Dohner (photo 2)

**Arcanum Old Fashioned Days May 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

The annual festival is organized by the Arcanum Area Businesses Association.

**PARADE**

Phyllis (Dohner) Troutwine and her sons Fred, Dick and Jim were honored as parade grand marshals. For years the late Deo Troutwine and his family have contributed in so many ways to the community. The Troutwine family has been very influential in achieving the development which AWTHS has reach and maintained. They are riding in the 1941 Chevrolet owned by Lois Troutwine. The driver is her son-in-law Kevin Rhodehamel.



Representing AWTHS on our float were Mollie (Mahoney) Holland and Luke Koehl, with, left to right, Abigail Garrison, Sarah Koehl and Lanie Holland. Luke and Sarah are the children of Mike & Heather (Mahoney) Koehl. Abigail is the daughter of Curt and Kelly Garrison.

Sharon & Dick Troutwine and Barb & Jim Deis decorated the float with signs from businesses of earlier Arcanum .



### Arcanum Old Fashioned Days continues

Richard Rinehart pulled the float with his restored 1948 Ford 8N tractor. Richard was heard to say “you can put tape on the trailer, if the paint comes off, that is okay---just don’t touch my tractor“.

Thanks to all who helped in any way with the float



Arcanum Lion’s Club float is a main attraction of our local parades. A giraffe joined the lion this year in it’s cage, which is pulled by Dick and Dee Mathias.

The early photo of the Lion’s Club decorated car was donated by Marilyn Rosser. Marilyn’s father, Harold Rosser, was a avid photographer. Can you guess the year of this photo? If the car is a Ford, it could have been taken during one of the “Ford Day In Arcanum” parades which are mentioned in the book “Arcanum Chronicles”.



### Arcanum Old Fashioned Days continues

#### Fundraisers

Roger Alexander and Larry Melling of New Madison made up the winning team of the corn hole tournament. First place monies was \$35, 2<sup>nd</sup>-\$20 and 3<sup>rd</sup> place won \$10. Our profit was \$65. Thirteen teams participated in the tournament organized by Dave Flora and Cary Wogoman.

Carol Breckenridge was the \$100 winner of the Sheep Drop. "Thank you" to Ellen and Donald Breece for bringing in the sheep and to Keith Furlong and Donald Eyler for marking off the grid on the lawn. A special thanks to all the people who purchased tickets. \$400 was the profit.

#### NEW BOOK Available "ARCANUM CHRONICLES"

"Arcanum Chronicles" was release for sale during Old Fashioned Days. Local historians Anita Short and Bill Gunder collaborated on this book pulling together information gathered over the years from local newspapers, legal documents and records of all sorts. Congratulations Anita and Bill on a great book!

Anita and Bill generously gave the printing rights to AWTHS. The book enhances the purpose and mission of our historical society -"to collect, preserve," / "collecting and preserving of records, artifacts, memorabilia materials and genealogical research". One hundred books were printed, over 60 have been sold.

When readers open the book they step into a time capsule. They journey through 130 pages, back to a time when the community was the center of our lives.

Going to the city/township offices to tend to business was not the only reason to go to the **Arcanum City/Township** building. The real gem of the building was the two storied **Opera House** which served as a social center from Feb. 1891 until the late 1920's. Presently the Opera House is not safe for public viewing. Recent photos only lends room to the reader to imagine what the grand auditorium offered then. Well-known entertainers traveled by train to our small village.

**Sports** have always been part of a community's social life. Arcanum holds claims to have played the first night **baseball** game in the Miami Valley, in 1913. The first mention found of a **football** game is in a 1916 newspaper article.. The high school game was played on Erisman Field, located at the end of E. George St., which at the time dead-ended at Albright. Men played "**Basket Ball**" wherever they could find space; Poe Furniture Room, Old Newcomer Livery Barn or Ries Saloon. Folks have been **bowling** in Arcanum since 1912. Most people today remember **roller skating** at the Palace Roller Skating Rink. The first **swimming pool** was located where the 4<sup>th</sup> house on the south side of Weisenbarger Court now sets.

**Parades and celebrations** were huge events in small communities such as Arcanum. When a parade was planned, all residents and business houses were urged to get out the patriotic bunting and decorate their homes and establishments.

Appointed as lieutenant in the Regular Army in 1891, **Brigadier General Edward Sigerfoos** died from wounds received in action while serving in France, Oct. 7, 1918.

Local boys, the **Grassville Quartette** made history with their comedy vaudeville musical numbers as well as their serious music.

*Arcanum Chronicles* begins **Christmas in the Village** with an account from 1885. "The tradesmen were carrying broad smiles on their faces, with the holidays approaching, as they had what was reported to be the largest stock of fancy goods ever brought to Arcanum. -- A Christmas bazaar was to open on Christmas at Kepner's Hall and would continue for some five days and nights."

The word **Chautauqua** refers to an assembly lasting several days, for educational and recreational purposes. Beginning in 1909 the annual week long event held in Ivester Grove (presently Ivester Park) continued until 1932. Entertainers and orators came from all over the county.

**Fast Horses** ran on race tracks dotting Arcanum's country side. One of the better known horses was Peter-In-Law, owned and trained by Dale Baker.

The last chapter, **Twin Township District 7 School At Ithaca**, completes this volume. In 1945 the minutes of the school board for District No. 7 covering the years 1838 until April 1901 was discovered. The Arcanum Times reported the minutes in a series of articles. It is from these articles that the text was taken for the book.

### Religious Heritage of Arcanum and the surrounding area continues

#### Gordon United Methodist Church - Founded 1835

Corner of Perry and East Streets, Gordon

About the year 1830, a few Methodist families met for worship in the Ashley home north of the Preble-Darke County line. This was the beginning of Gordon Methodism. Rev. Charles Swain was the circuit preacher listed as a regular appointment of the Eaton circuit. With a membership of 41 in the year 1843, the society launched a building enterprise. A log church was completed and recorded on the Lewisburg circuit as the "Thomas Meeting House" (near present day David Oda farm on Gordon Landis Rd.).

For 14 years, the log church served its noble purpose, and then rapid decay and its inability to hold the enlarging congregation caused the majority of members to favor a new location in town. In 1857 the log church was abandoned and the members joined forces with a Baptist society in Gordon, located near the present cemetery.

After the Methodist and Baptist congregations consolidated, the building used by the Baptist was repaired. For a while everything went harmoniously. Later however, the two groups withdrew from one another. For three years the Methodist members met for worship in various places. At one period, the members used the room over what was formerly the Stonerock Store (located at the corner of Perry and Main Street).

For the cost of \$30 the trustees purchased lot #9, where the faithful members proceeded to erect a frame church. In the fall of 1861, the church was dedicated. It is interesting to note that all their black walnut seats were constructed out of lumber provided by one huge tree from the Levi Thomas place north and east of town. This structure was later used as the Town Hall.

A generation of rapid development along all lines during which in 1877, Gordon became the head of a new circuit and in 1882 a parsonage was erected on the church lot. By the close of the century, Gordon Methodism was crying out for a more spacious church home. In the year 1901, money from an estate was stipulated for a church that must be erected within a year. Professionals and many other willing hands helped with the completion in that required time frame. In 1920 an annex was added and the main church was remodeled to meet the growing needs.

During the War years, 1941-1945, attention was focused on the war effort and little was done in the way of upkeep and repair of the church. In 1949 renovations began with shingles replacing a slate roof. Work then began inside with intensive removal of plaster off walls and ceilings and electricity rewired. The church services were held at the Town Hall during the renovation. Following the wishes of the congregation, the remodeling committee designed a focus point at the front of the church including new furniture, altar and lighting. On Easter Sunday 1950, the congregation moved back into a lovely sanctuary with a new look.

Gordon United Methodist Church continues to grow and thrive in the year 2008.

*Submitted by Cheryl Gray, guided by the 1985 Sesquicentennial book compiled by Marvin and Jennie Miller and Committee.*

#### "Arcanum Chronicles" Order Form

This wonderful book co-authored by Anita Short and Bill Gunder is printed and available as an activity of the Arcanum Wayne Trail Historical Society, Inc. The price of the book is \$20.00. Add \$5.00 postage and handling for books requiring shipment to U.S. addresses. Full payment must accompany each order. For inquiries about the book call 937-678-7832 or write to Arcanum Wayne Trail Historical Society, Inc., Attn. Publication Chairman, P.O. Box 4, 123 W. George St., Arcanum, OH. 45304.

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ copies of "Arcanum Chronicles" at \$20.00 plus \$5.00 postage and handling.

Total amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

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

Mail to AWTHS Attn: Publication Chairman P.O. Box 4 Arcanum, OH 45304

## Arcanum Wayne Trail Historical Society, Inc.

July 1, 2008	Board Meeting	7:00 p.m..
Aug. 5, 2008	Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Aug. 7, 8 & 9, 2008	World's Longest Yard Sale	8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Aug. 15 - 23, 2008	Darke County Fair - North Gate # 3	7:00 a.m.- 10:00 p.m.
Sept. 2, 2008	Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Sept. 11, 2008	Membership Meeting	7:00 p.m.
	Speaker - Cynthia Vogel	
	Program - Civil War Women: The Difference They Made	

**On Going Projects**

Euchre Parties - First and Third Friday of each month Sept. through May

Hall Rental -Carolyn Furlong 548-6556

For Sale-Historic Arcanum Note Cards & Christmas Cards and book "Arcanum Chronicles " 678-7832 & 692-8000

Aluminum Cans Recycling - Wendell Miller 692-8425

Donation of Appreciated Stock(s) - Richard Troutwine, 692-5129 or Todd Durham, 2<sup>nd</sup> National Bank, 548-2206

**AWTHS WEBSITE [www.arcanumhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.arcanumhistoricalsociety.org)**

Bill Gunder will maintaining our website. A big thanks to Deb Williams for her skills in designing the site, maintaining it and also paying the hosting and domain name fees. Necessary transfers are in process, the website will be up and running by the end of July. Hopefully the look will be the same, Deb did a great job.

**WORKING TOGETHER TO PRESERVE YOUR MEMORIES OF OUR COMMUNITY**

Arcanum Wayne Trail Historical Society, Inc.

123 W. George Street

P.O. Box 4

Arcanum, OH 45304