

Sharing the Secret

July 2010

Volume 6 Issue 3

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

Website – www.arcanumhistoricalsociety.org

President's Report by Fred Troutwine

Everyone seemed to have a great time at the many Old Fashioned Days activities. There was a lot of traffic through the Historical House during the Quilt Show. The quilts were attractively displayed, enhancing the downstairs rooms.

The windowsill replacement project continues to move along thanks to the efforts of Jim Hill and Keith Furlong. You must drive by and see the difference the new sills make in the outside appearance of the House.

We have recently been notified of a financial gift from The Village Singers. Their organization has decided to disband and voted for the Historical Society to have this contribution. We greatly appreciate their gift.

The May Membership Meeting included a tour of the new school. Led by the Superintendent, Joe Scholler, and Treasurer, Matt Huffman, thirty-five of our members were taken on a very informative walk, through the new facility. I was thinking as I walked, "how far we've come" from the schools in the earliest years of Arcanum. In 1876 the Arcanum Grade & High School was built. It had two stories with four rooms on each floor. The cost of the school was \$10,000. Soon the student population grew, and classes had to be held in some of the buildings up town. The State condemned the conditions in these places as not having appropriate bathroom facilities, lighting, fire safety, and recreation areas and demanded that a new school be built. In February 1923, Mattie Ivester agreed to sell six acres of land for \$3,500 for a new school. This building was completed at a cost of about \$164,539 and the first day of school was September 8, 1924 with 378 students. Which brings us up to today. Our new PK-12 school is being built at a cost of \$29,420,342 with the State paying \$16,380,342 and citizens of Arcanum paying, \$13,040,000 of the total cost. Classes in this new school will begin after the Christmas holiday. Thanks to the generosity of the community, our students will have every advantage possible to further their education.

Please join us for the number of events that will be happening this summer: soup and party mix sale at the Farmer's Market, genealogy workshop, displays at Open House and garage sales, just check the schedule.

Enjoy the summer. The crops, yards and flowers are magnificent.

AWTHS Officers and Directors

President	Fred Troutwine	692-8939
Vice President	Becky Dynes	621-4814
Treasurer	Jerry Kramer	692-5764
Rec. Secretary	Pat Jones	662-9114
Correc. Sec.	Annette Stewart	692-6462
Directors	Dave Flora	692-8413
	Keith Furlong	548-6556
	Terry Mills	692-5582
	Jeff Puterbaugh	692-5302

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September 9, 2010

Membership Meeting

7:00 p.m.

"What is That?!" Antique Tools and Household Items

The September 9th meeting will feature a presentation of antique tools and household items used by our great grandfathers and grandmothers, but cause us to ask: "what the heck is this thing"....presented by Richard Rinehart and Jeff Puterbaugh. If you have an item you've been wondering about, please bring it along for an assessment. This will be a fun evening.

Committee Reports

Genealogy Annette Stewart 692-6462

Genealogy Committee

We need additional volunteers on the Genealogy Committee. Also needed is help during summer open hours to assist with research, and help in the AWTHS Genealogy library. Hours are 9 a.m. to noon. Please call or email me if you can help. If you would like to help but are not familiar with genealogy or researching, we can train you. Please don't let that be a hindrance to helping.

Workshop July 17th

A **Genealogy Workshop is planed for July 17 from 9 a.m. -1 p.m. at the historical house.** This will be a "hands on" workshop where we plan to use the materials on hand to complete Family Group Sheets (FGS) of your family history. This will help to familiarize everyone with our genealogy library, and how to complete a FGS. We'll help direct you elsewhere to find additional information you may need.

Please bring family records you have, such as birth/death/marriage records, family Bible records, obits, or anything with sibling or family connection records. Once your FGS is completed, it can be submitted to our library files to help other researchers.

This will be an excellent starting point for those who don't know where or how to start. It also serves as a refresher course. It offers excellent training for those wishing to help the AWTHS genealogy committee.

RSVP by July 12th @ 692-6462 or ajstew@embarqmail.com would be appreciated.

Genealogy donations

We are getting great donations of family histories, pictures and a variety of materials. You may submit your family history on computer software programs, or in story form. It will be an excellent reference material for others, and everyone loves to read stories. Please tell your friends and family about our growing library. We currently have a "help" notebook, which includes genealogy tips and web site updates with current articles about Facebook, finding ancestral maiden names, and valuable info about cemeteries and what those "stone pictures" mean. Check it out

AWTHS Website- Genealogy Menu

Check out our new "Genealogy Menu" on the AWTHS website which was updated by Bill Gunder. We appreciate his hard work and help. This contains a reference list of resource material on hand, which we work to keep updated. Included is a surname list of Family Group Sheets and/or histories. .

Membership Carolyn Furlong 548-6556

As of May 15, 2010, AWTHS has 160 members generating a revenue of \$2,415.00. In addition, there were generous donations totaling \$1,630.00. Thanks to all who have renewed their membership for this year.

Renovations Keith Furlong 548-6556

Limestone Window Sill and Lentil Project Update

Last year the Board decided to replace 20 limestone window sills and repair 5 lentils for the cost of \$14,500. We have now replaced 14 window sills. Also, a large repair was made to the north wall which required the removal and replacement of approximately 70 bricks.

Thus far, we have spent \$6,468 on this project. The remaining 6 windows and 5 lentils will cost approximately \$5,500. Work will continue as additional funds are received. Completion is expected in 2011.

The Board would like to thank Mr. Bill Oler for loaning us his hydraulic lift for this project. We are indeed appreciative of his generosity.

Ways and Means Richard Troutwine 692-5128

The results of Arcanum Old Fashioned Days are in: Sheep A Go-Go winner of \$100 was Nate Garber. Net profit to AWTHS was \$400. Nine teams competed in the Corn Hole tourney with \$50 going to the historical society. Thanks to Cary Wogoman and Brad Flora for organizing the teams. Roger Alexander's team came in first. The bake sale brought in \$216.50. Thanks to everyone who contributed and helped.

Ways and Means report continues

Starting the last Saturday in May and continuing each Saturday through August 14th is our Farmer's Market. We will be selling frozen soup and items from the Trophy Nut Company from 9 a.m. until noon. Help is needed to make soup and staff our stand.

The "World's Longest Yard Sale" on State Route 127 is August 5th, 6th and 7th. Bring in your donated items any time prior to July 24th. No Clothing please. Call Fred (695-8939) or Richard Troutwine (692-5128) and leave your items on the back porch. A pre-sale/rummage sale will be held at AWTHS the two Saturdays (9 a.m. - noon) prior to taking items over to the American Legion Hall, St. Rt. 127, West Manchester, OH.

Finally, The Darke County Fair gate number 3 will be operated by AWTHS beginning Friday, August 20th. Three shifts per day starting at 7 a.m. and concluding at 10 p.m. is required. Help! SOS! We will be calling you.

Wayne Trail Grange Metal Chairs

Have you ever wondered about the metal chairs with names on the backs which are used at historical society activities? These chairs were purchased from Wayne Trail Grange at the time the building was bought at auction in 2004

In 1963 the Grange solicited businessmen and members to purchase folding chairs to be used at their meetings. In turn the purchaser's name was painted on the back of the chairs. Does anyone know the amount paid for an individual chair?

Pictured below are chairs with the names of four businesses: Amee's Beauty Shop, Arcanum Aluminum Factory, Arcanum Bakery, and Arcanum Bowling

We would like your help. Tell us anything you know about the businesses, the owner, where it was located, who worked there, a funny story, or any story that helps us record what was happening in our community 47 years ago. Do you have a recipe from the Arcanum Bakery? We want to hear from you.

Contact Keith Furlong at 548-6556 or email furpatt@voyager.net. Or, mail to AWTHS, P.O. Box 4, Arcanum OH 45304



Are you going out of town to visit relatives???

A nice host/hostess gift would be a book about Arcanum's Local History

Check page 7 for information on books available from AWTHS

The Reading Event - May 23, 2010

The meeting room in the Arcanum Wayne Trail Historical House was filled to capacity with over one hundred people gathered to listen to 5th grade students from Arcanum Butler School read their history essays. The previous week, the entire fifth grade had participated in a three-morning presentation of the town's history by members of the historical society. All students were asked to write an essay of their choice from a list of assigned topics.

Our presenters turned textbook topics into real life experiences with stories of earliest days of Arcanum. Students were able to examine arrowheads and artifacts found in surrounding areas as well as handle examples of skins of many animals that were hunted and traded years ago.

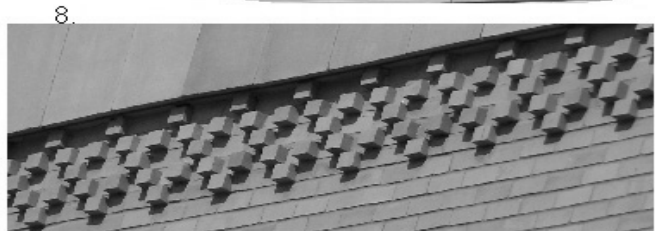
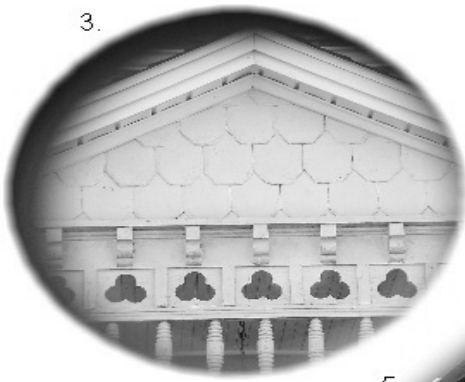
Bill Gunder spoke of his great-grandfather and the "Founding of Arcanum", JoAnne Hill, great-granddaughter of John Smith, talked about the beginning of the John Smith Store and the impact it had on the prosperity of the community, Tom and Liz Stephens talked of the significance of the railroad, Fred Troutwine's talk was about transportation - "Buggies to Autos", Annette Stewart's presentation was on "Farming, Then and Now" and Carolyn Troutwine took the students back in time with a discussion of early Arcanum pioneer life focusing on education then and now.

The purpose of the Essay Writing Event was to help students understand the importance of sharing and preserving Arcanum's history. It is our hope that these young people will remember our example as presenters, and likewise, pass along the story of Arcanum.

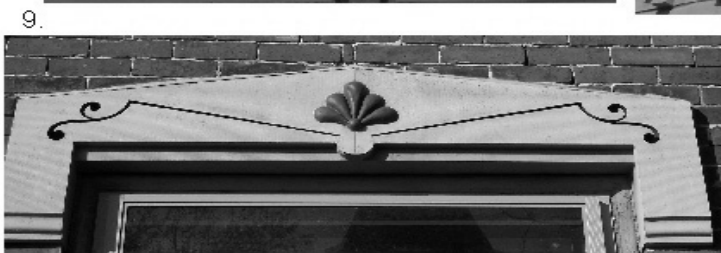


Pictured are the children who read their essays during Arcanum Old Fashioned Days .

Back Row: Matthew Monroe, Chloe Price, Madison O'Daniel, Shelby Horzsa, Brenna Loxley, Alli Moore, Victoria Stump, Katie Ernst, Sarah Penny. Front Row: Kaitlyn Zell, Shelbi Fourman, Marina Mehaffie, Madison Baker, Marlee Hess, Samantha Ewing, Franchesca Hackworth



10.



Locations of Architectural Features

Did you take time to “look up” and find the architectural features pictured in the April newsletter? You’ll find the answers below.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Arcanum-Butler School, 310 N. Main St.-Built 1924 | 2. Old Arcanum School, 110 E South St. Built 1876 |
| 3. Residence, 402 W. South St. circa. 1875 | 4. Residence & Businesses, 2 S. Main St. -circa. 1875 |
| 5. Residence, 307 W. Second St. Built between 1910-1920 | 6. Residence, 9 S. Main St. - circa. 1875 |
| 7. Business, 11 W. George St. - circa. 1876 | 8. Business, 19-21 W. George St. - Built 1913 |
| 9. Residence, 7 E. South St. - circa. 1892 | 10. Residence, 109 S. Main St., circa. 1875 |

Stories A Building Could Tell

If buildings could speak to us some would tell interesting stories. Such is the case of the house at 109 S. Main St. John and Amy Poffenbarger lived here about 1929 until mid 1940s .

Every day Johnny walked across the street to his blacksmith shop. One item Johnny kept busy making was tobacco spears. Every day he closed his shop at 4:30 to join his friends at McGuire's Tavern (now Miller's Tavern) to discuss the happenings of the day.

Amy was known in the community for her fine cooking. She opened their home each day to those looking for a good mid day meal.

Mrs. Poffenbarger served only the noon meal. Her lunches, or dinner as it was called then, were served daily and always with a linen table cloth and napkins on white Haviland china. Mrs. Poffenbarger used a wood burning cook stove and only a pump at her sink.

Her clientele was primarily businessmen within the community. The meal was served family style at one table which seated 12 guest. One can imagine the day's business being discussed, as well as the development of Arcanum. Families came on the weekends to enjoy a meal around Mrs. Poffenbarger's big table.

There was a lot of activity in this section of town, with many businesses located here during the years Mrs. Poffenbarger served dinner in her home. New York Central Railroad (Big Four) Station, Rosser Lumber Company, Grain Elevator & Warehouse, Paff Wagon & Repair Shop, Burd Junk Yard, and Arco (flour) Mills were a few. Many of the tobacco warehouses and coal yards were in this section of town. Downtown was only 2 blocks away, not too far for the bankers and shop keepers to go for dinner at Mrs. Poffenbarger's.

Mr. and Mrs. Poffenbarger had one child, Hazel, who died at an early age.

To learn more about local businesses read "Arcanum, Ohio Business History (1852 thru 1968) by the late Anita Short.

Arcanum Old Fashioned Days

The Arcanum Old Fashioned Days Festival is an event to bring family, friends and neighbors together for a fun time. One highlight of our festival is the parade. Parades have been a part of small community life from early days. A parade was, and still is, a great way to celebrate any and all occasions: winning a sports championship, holidays, homecomings, end of a war and of course a festival.

Arcanum Area Business Association organize this festival for the 3rd weekend of May each year. There were 44 units in parade this year beginning with the color guard, followed by grand marshals, Lew and Eva Williams. Throughout the parade there were bands, horses, floats of all kinds representing many facets of village life, fire trucks, of course politicians, and much more.

The theme of the historical society's float this year was "Tobacco Farming". AWTHS members Dale and Betty Sease rode on the float representing the many people in our community who raised tobacco with their parents and later on their own farms, as well as the many young "hired hands" who worked in hot fields and cold barns.

Various items were used on the float to show a few of the steps in raising tobacco; a covered seed bed, faux green tobacco stalks, fabricated dried leaves, bailing box and harvesting tools.

It is said that it was the trains that brought people to Arcanum, it was tobacco that brought wealth into the community. Tobacco seeds were introduced to Darke County farmers in the 1850s. Many local farmers discontinued raising tobacco in the 1970s and 80s due to the low price they were getting for the type of tobacco being grown here. Growing tobacco was, and still is today, very labor intensive, with most of the work done by hand. Raising tobacco was a family operation, with a task suited for all ages- watering the seed beds, picking the green worms from the leaves, topping the plants and stripping the leaves. There are many stories to be told, just ask someone who "helped in tobacco".

Read more about Parades and Celebrations in "Arcanum Chronicles" by Bill Gunder and Anita Short.

Betty and Dale Sease are pictured riding on the AWTHS float in the Arcanum Old Fashioned Days Parade May 22, 2010. The float is pulled by Richard Rinehart with his restored 1948 Ford 8N tractor.



Publications: Barbara Deis 678-7832

Books Available For Purchase	Title	Author	Price
The Secret Town – the Story of the Founding of Arcanum, Ohio	1999	Bill Gunder	\$20.00__
Arcanum, Ohio Business History 1852-1968	2003	Anita Short	\$25.00__
Arcanum Chronicles	2008	Anita Short & Bill Gunder	\$20.00__
Arcanum Chronicles – Volume 2	2008	Bill Gunder	\$18.00__
		Postage & Handling	\$ 5.00__

Mail Orders to: AWTHS Attn: Publications Chairman, P O Box 4, Arcanum, OH 45304

Also available at the Historical Society and Farmer Brown’s Restaurant

2010 Membership Form – Due
Clip and Mail to AWTHS, P O Box 4, Arcanum, OH 45304

Name _____ Phone _____ New ___ Renewal ___

Address _____ City, State & Zip Code _____

Annual Membership Fees

___ \$50.00 Sponsorship ___ \$15.00 Single ___ \$25.00 Family
 ___ \$150.00 Corporate ___ \$1,000 Lifetime

Your tax deductible additional contributions are also greatly appreciate \$ _____

Your participation is needed in order for AWTHS to exist and for continuous growth. Please check the area where you are willing to serve.

- | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Acquisitions | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Ways & Means |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Sites | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Nominating | <input type="checkbox"/> Flower Garden Care | <input type="checkbox"/> Yard Care |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Genealogy | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity | <input type="checkbox"/> Design/Displays | <input type="checkbox"/> Publications | <input type="checkbox"/> Adopt A Highway |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oral History Preservation | <input type="checkbox"/> AWTHS Open Hours Hosts | <input type="checkbox"/> Set up for Hall Rentals/Meetings | | |

