

# SHARING THE SECRET

January 2008

Volume 1, Issue 4

Arcanum Wayne Trail Historical Society, Inc., 123 W. Geon?;e St., Arcanum, Ohio 45304

## President's Report by Richard Troutwine

I am extremely happy to report the conference room is 98% complete. Yes, there are a few odds and ends to do. A big thanks to Joan Rench, Barb Deis, Fred Troutwine, Dave Flora and Keith Furlong. These people refinished the floor, made and installed storm windows, and made curtains for the windows. We had some help with the plaster around the windows and doorway from Chuck and Chad Brunner.

Even with a lot of volunteer labor the cost to rehab this room was approximately \$6,000. Much of which was electrical wiring and ceiling lights/fans. Looks Great! We were able to complete this work because of a \$5,000 grant from the Lydia Schaurer Memorial Trust Fund. AWTHS is very thankful to the trustees for granting our request.

The next step for the 1st floor is to sand the floors in the first and second rooms and apply polyurethane.

Upstairs, period ceiling lights have been restored and installed in rooms 6 and 8. These lights were donated by Grif Jones. Two more lights, donated Jeff Puterbaugh, will be installed in rooms 4 and 7. A couple registers (wall and floor) have been purchased and installed in rooms 7 and 8.

Dave Flora has been working on a hand rail for the front porch. Also, next spring a new front storm door needs to replace the existing one. The exterior has been sealed and in some areas the bricks were cleaned.

The Christmas Bazaar/Raffle was extremely successful. A "Big" thanks to Jenny Quigney, Carolyn Furlong and Carolyn Troutwine. The net results was approximately \$2,500.

As of November 30th the Checking/Savings balance was \$2,922.59. Our debt stands at \$8,900. Three payments of \$1000 each were made against this loan in 2007.

Please note that we are very grateful to the Arcanum Chapter of the Eastern Star for the donation of \$250 and for the many items to the historical society.

Don't forget to renew your 2008 membership.

## January 10th - Scott Phillips - PBS TV personality-The American Woodshop

A master woodworker, Scott Phillips has a thorough knowledge of his craft. His reverence for the intricacies of wood and its possibilities has helped make The American Woodshop a favorite among public television audiences over the past 15 years. Scott, a resident of Piqua, judges the annual wood toy show held at Ansonia Lumber.

Join us Thursday, January 10th at 7:00 for the annual membership meeting and elections of officers, and also to hear Scott tell of his exciting television career and share his enthusiasm for the art of woodworking.

## March 13th - Tom Petkewitz - "Glimpses of Darke County Fishing and Hunting Heritage"

Tom is an avid and experienced vintage fishing lure, tackle, hunting smalls and photograph collector and related historian. His collections have been featured in Miami Valley newspapers. Tom is a staff columnist for the Outdoor Guide which is distributed in much of Ohio. Tom promises to touch on some unusual, interesting and Informative revelations about the people behind some of the collectibles many fervently pursue.

### 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
Corres. Secretary	Barbara Deis	678-7832
Directors:	Keith Furlong	548-6556
	Wendell Miller	692-8425
	Dave Flora	692-8412
	Jeff Puterbaugh	692-5302

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## Committee Reports

### Acquisitions - JoAnne Hill, Chairman

Eastern Star Chapter 429 has been a part of Arcanum since it was organized April 22, 1920. When disbanding in 2007 many wonderful items were donated to A WTHS. These items will help tell their history. Their charter has been framed and is on display.

#### Items Donated by Arcanum Chapter Order of Eastern Star

768 Two silver tea sets	778 Electric Organ
769 Holy Bible with Eastern Star symbol	779 Three antique Hull pitchers
770 Original Charter	780 Large Fostoria punch bowl-American
771 Two badges-flag at top and OES	781 Seventy-five dessert plates with cups
772 Worthy Matron Gavel	782 Library table
773 Worthy Patron Gavel with Masonic Emblem	783 Small marble top table
774 Two small pins-Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron	784 Round Mirror
775 Eastern Star pin and gavel in original box given to the chapter	
776 Journals of Grand Chapter of Ohio 1919-1920	785 Five Star Point Pedestals
777 Newspaper article - History of Eastern Star	786 Metal broom cabinet
	787 Many volumes of Eastern Star Books

### Historians - Bill Gunder and Anita Short

Historian activity for 2007: I. All known Arcanum historical photos have been scanned into a computer and are now archived in a two volume CD set. These photos are available for anyone researching to reprint or copy for other use.

2. Arcanum Fire Department History has been completed and is ready for future publication.
3. The history of the Opera House and City Building is now being edited and revised as needed.
4. We are asking anyone who has or knows of existing photos of the Opera House interior to contact Bill. 692-8000 or Anita, 692-8715.

### Ways and Means - Jenny Quigley, Chairman

*Holiday Bazaar November 24<sup>th</sup>* was the main money maker this fall. The profit from the raffle was \$405. Winners were: Bill Guntner won the Longaberger basket donated by Doug Milliken, Buddy Baker won \$100 and Frank Stevens won the framed photograph donated by Marlene Creech

We took in \$2,360 from the baked goods and Christmas items. Items have continued to sell through December. The profit is estimated at \$2,500.

A WTHS was fortunate to receive a large selection of Christmas items from Tom and Sandy Workman and also from Linda Pease. Local artists Chuck Weidner, John Weisenbarger and Jenny Clark donated their works and Linda and Mike Schwieterman donated a meal for four. Maureen Deis designed the artwork for the A WTHS Christmas card. We had many wonderful handcrafted items made by our members.

A huge thank you to all who donated items and to those who gave their time to make the bazaar a success.

A Longaberger Basket Party is being planned for Feb. or March. The aluminum can recycling program and euchre parties continues to bring in revenue. The hall has been rented several times during the holidays.

### New Committee Forming

It is very important to record the stories of our residents. A new committee is being formed to record the oral history of our community. Needed is a group of people to organize the questions and facilitate the interviews, a video recorder and someone to transcribe the interviews. Our older residents are passing on and their stories and memories are being lost. If you would like to help with this project call Keith Furlong, 548-6556 or Richard Troutwine, 692-5128.

### Religious Heritage

Religious Heritage of Arcanum and the surrounding area continues.

#### *Grace Methodist Church - Founded 1897*

750 Arcanum Ithaca Road. Ithaca

Grace Methodist Church is a blend of Pitsburg United Methodist and some members of the former Ithaca United Methodist. The first service of Grace Methodist in Ithaca was March 2000 following the last service of Ithaca United Methodist June 19, 1999. After part of the membership left to form a new church in Arcanum, there were not enough members to continue Ithaca UM. At that time Pitsburg UM, which was founded in 1897. was looking for a new location. They had outgrown their church and building restrictions prevented them from adding on or rebuilding. The Ithaca building met their needs. The church and the parsonage were gifted to them by the United Methodist Conference The name was changed to Grace United Methodist.

Ithaca United Methodist can trace its history back to 1838 when the church was founded by the United Brethren. Prior to that horseback riding preachers of the United Brethren Church stopped at homes. It is one of the oldest churches in Darke County. Through the years five buildings were constructed at three different locations in Ithaca. Three times fire destroyed the churches. The most memorable and widely publicized was in 1954 when an Air National Guard fighter lost 2 wing tanks, one hitting the church, the other falling between a house and a chicken coup.

At the time of the accident the church was Evangelical United Brethren and located on what is now Pearl Street. With a settlement from the Air Force a new church was built at 750 Arcanum Ithaca Road. This was the site of the first school in Ithaca. The Dedication Services were December 9. 1956.

The Evangelical United Brethren later merged with the Methodist Church becoming United Methodist.

Since relocating to Ithaca, Grace United Methodist has continued to grow. A residence adjacent to the church was recently purchased for used by the youth.

#### *Ithaca Open Bible Church - Founded 1945*

6715 Cross Street Ithaca

Ithaca Open Bible Church received their charter on January 1, 1945. Beginning in Arcanum, the Arcanum Open Bible Church held services in a little gray building at 101 S. High St. The structure had been a coal shed for the railroad. In 1950 a building was purchased in Ithaca. Church services were held there until 1956 when a new church was constructed on the present site. The mission minded church changed its name to Ithaca Open Bible Church. A parsonage was built beside the church in 1959.

*"Ithaca Open Bible Church 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration 19-15-2005" was the source for this article.*

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#### Renovation Expenses Since Purc/wsing A WTHS Building 2004

Cost of the building, closing cost and renovations November 2004 through November 2007 - \$75,395.00

Building & Closing Cost	\$22,028.00	Furnace	\$2,950.00
Electrical	10,883.00	Exterior	19,034.00
Porch	1,851.00	Windows	10,870.00
Landscaping	396.00	Interior	6,708.00
Plumbing	675.00		

A question may be "How is all this being paid for"? Grants, donations, fund raisers, membership dues and memorials is the answer. Renovation cost would be much higher without skilled tradesmen in our community who donate labor and in some cases, materials. Members have worked thousands of hours, donated supplies and made major purchases. Every member and friend of AWTHS is important. THANK YOU. Renovations are not finished, more funds will be needed.

Contact Jerry Kramer, 692-5764, if you would like a financial statement.

WE REMEMBER Compiled by Marilyn Graeff

*Berman Henninger* - Probably the biggest event that happened in Arcanum was the bank robbery in 1978. Berman Henninger was president of Arcanum National Bank at the time. The three ski mask robbers entered through the back door with a drill. There was no alarm system in place at the time. As each employee showed up for work, they were taped and bound and kept in the back room.

Berman leisurely came to work that morning and talked to the brick layers who were building the annex bank across the street. He then entered the bank and went to his office, thinking it strange that none of the tellers were there. All at once, a 357 magnum gun was pointed to his head and was told, "don't do anything foolish, just open the vault". He couldn't do it alone so Jim Bixler helped. Berman explained he could open the main vault and was then told, "if you don't open it, you're a dead man. Just remember your daughter Marena".

About that time Fannie Hillis was coming to work and saw the gun held to his head. The robbers escaped with all the money they could get from the drawers. Six weeks later the FBI arrested the four men (the one who made the plan, was Arcanum's own police chief.) They were sentenced to federal prison.

*Avon Roberts and JoAnne Hill*- In October 1959, the big fire happened in Arcanum. The big building which was know as the Weisenbarger building was completely destroyed. It housed the post office, library, a meat locker and hardware store. Avon Roberts was working at the library at the time and Margaret Hawley was librarian. Edna Calvert and Alice Fenton, both teachers, were also employees. It happened at night, (I was in the hospital with Lisa) and Dick was on top of the roof with Roland Gilbert. At one point Red said, "okay Dick, it's time to get down". All of those businesses were gone. Ed Brown was the postmaster. The post office moved temporarily to North High Street where Lew Williams now has his business. Many people lost lots of meat in the locker belonging to Jay Henry. From the second floor of Karns Furniture Store, volunteers worked for months sorting through the thousands of donated books, which came from everywhere. Marj Heyduck, columnist for the Dayton Journal Herald, explained the fire and the need for books in her column. That is how so many books came from Dayton.

Wendell and Avon Roberts came to Arcanum in 1953. He worked in real estate before establishing the Roberts Insurance Agency. They first lived in the Bailey apartments on E. First St. They helped in getting the new Baptist Church started in 1955.

In 1961, the library reopened in the downstairs home of Dick Kincaid. Marjorie and Spencer Shank had recently moved to town after retiring from University of Cincinnati. They were a big help. It remained there until a permanent home was found at the home of Eddie Troxel in 1964, where it remains today.

*Bob Wiesenberger*- Bob remembers helping his dad, Wilbur Weisenbarger and partner Leon Clark in the building business. This had to be after boot camp and before going to Korea. Bob thought about 1953. These two gentleman built the Bowling Alley, many houses on Woodside and Ivester Lane, plus a grocery in West Milton and property west of Verona. Later Forest Bridenbaugh, Emerson Hunt and Steve Condon joined the builders.

Ed Brown - Until recent years the Postmaster of Arcanum did not change very much. Edgar Brown was sworn in December 1942 and remained in that position until December 1976, giving 34 years to Arcanum. Before Ed was Ed Wild with Bill Fledderjohn as the clerk. Since they both retired, Eddie Brown had to get a new clerk which was Myrna Clark Hunt. The rural carriers during that time were Julien, Parker and Blose. A city carrier was Clarence Floyd then Charlie Strayer. After the fire destroyed the post office they were moved to North High St. where it remained until the new building was built around 1969.

*Gene Rench* - Gene can remember some novel tricks that were done in downtown Arcanum at Halloween. One being a wagon that was placed on a business roof and another time a cow was tied to some com shocks in the middle of town. The cow got too much water and com and died before anyone could rescue him.

*Larry Foureman* - Larry remembers as a kid, the comer of High and George St. was the center of activity, corn shocks were the norm but on occasion an "out house" was brought into town and the owner then transported it back home, but another one would show up the next night. Some disturbance would take place in a different part of town to distract the town cop. The younger kids looked forward to the pranks and thought that was just a part of Halloween.

*There will be more stories from Arcanum residents in the upcoming issue.*

Renovation Photos

Porch



Kitchen



Meeting Room



Meeting Room



**Warming Kitchen**



**1<sup>st</sup> floor West Middle Room**



**2<sup>nd</sup> floor Southwest Comer Room**



**2<sup>nd</sup> floor Northeast Comer Room**



Membership Report

Thanks to everyone who have renewed their membership and welcome to our new members.  
 Fees are due Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>. Listed are new members and those who renewed 2008 memberships as of Dec. 15. 2007.

Single and Family

Brenda Arnett	Jean Aukerman	Joe & Wanda Bailey
Ivan & Geraldine Brown	Merrie Ann Brown	Phyllis Bunger
Ernest & Marion Cooper	Robert & Marian Davison	Jim & Barbara Deis
Michael & Kathy Fout	Peter & Elaine Fox	Keith & Carolyn Furlong
Lena Garber	Richard & Marilyn Graeff	Tom & Jean Hanes
Joseph Hill	Lloyd & Myna Hunt	Esther Lenhart
Philip & Miriam Lockman	Betty J Murphy	Howard O'Dell
Richard & Marilyn Rinehart	Dale & Betty Sease	Helen Shank
Jane Staley	Sue Stammen	Fred & Carolyn Troutwine
Phyllis Troutwine	Richard & Sharon Troutwine	Lynne & Carolyn Trump
Wayne & Claire Wilt		

New Members

John Trigg

Sponsorship

Paul & Linda Pease

Corporate

Staley's Antiques

Lifetime Members

Phil Garbig -Honorary                      Phyllis Hahn                      Galen & Sara Lenhart                      Lew Williams- Honorary

Along with membership fees. donations of \$130.00 were made by renewing members. Thank You.

A Farewell

It is with sadness that we note the passing of two members, Leonard Norris and Richard Rosser.  
 Leonard served the community as mayor 1984 to 1987 and was a long time sports fan  
 Richard was the son of Harold Rosser. owner of Rosser Lumber Yard until it was sold to Carter Lumber Yard.

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Membership Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_.

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City. State & Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Check: New Member \_\_\_\_\_

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, Inc.  
 P.O. Box 4  
 Arcanum, Ohio 45304

Additional Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

