SHARING THE SECRET

April 2008

Volume 2, Issue 4

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

President's Report by Richard Troutwine

As I reported to you in the last newsletter the 1st floor entry room and second room on the Westside of the building needed refinished. My brother, Fred and I accomplished this feat by scraping the paint off the floors, sanding, staining, and then applying two coats of satin polyurethane. Other then sore backs and knees the floors turned out fine. Another piece of carpet has be serged identical to the existing one in the first room. It look very nice.

Dave Flora now has the front porch hand rail installed. In the spring or summer a new front storm door and transom will replace the present configuration.

In the conference room the movie projector from the Ritz Theater is now on display. This projector was donated by the Harry Sarver, Jr. family. The theater ticket booth owned by Tom Staley has been donated and is on display with the projector. Please note an old RJ Warner Insurance electric clock has been donated by Cary Wogoman. This clock hangs at the north end of the room, it also serves as a night light. Two long boards with pegs have been mounted to the walls so that various pictures/items can be hung from the pegs. More boards will be installed.

Annette Stewart replaced Barbara Deis as the corresponding secretary. Barb gets a big thank you as past secretary and will continue to be in charge of the newsletter.

During the "Old Fashioned Days" weekend the Historical Society will have an Open House. Please come and look over the items in the display cases as well as the upgrades to the building.

We would like to have a large portable TV, up to 36", to view CDs and tapes which have been made from movies and pictures given to the historical society. Contact me or any board member if you have a TV for us.

Financially, as of February 29th the checking/savings balance was \$3219.71. Our debt stands at \$8202.58. The checking/savings account was bolstered by \$ 680.00, a profit from the Longaberger Basket party held

March 15.

March 15. <u>May 8th - Speaker - Arcanum's Mayor Wallace Alderman Jr.</u> AWTHS looks forward to having Arcanum's newly elected mayor, Wallace Alderman Jr., speak at the membership meeting May 8th. Mayor Alderman brings to this position much energy and enthusiasm. He is a hands-on mayor who welcomes you to stop in and see him. Join us Thursday, May 8 at 7:00 to meet our mayor. <u>Summertime</u> May 8 will be the last membership meeting before adjourning for the summer. Card parties and membership meetings will resume in September. Although there are no membership meetings, the board continues to meet the first Tuesday of each month during this time. If you have a concern or idea, please call our president. The board welcomes your input. The summer months are busy with various fund raisers. Read the Ways and Means Report on page 2. Your involvement is important to the success of these activities. Contact Jenny Quigney or a board member for details. member for details.

2008 Officers and Directors

Inside This Issue President Richard Troutwine 692-5128 President's Report, Board Members, Page 1 Vice President Fred Troutwine 692-8939 May Meeting and Speaker Treasurer Jerry Kramer 692-5764 **Committee Reports** 2 Rec. Secretary Pat Jones 662-9114 List of Acquisitions 3 Corres. Secretary Annette Stewart 692-6462 Acquisitions Continue & Arcanum Library 4 Directors Dave Flora 692-8412 Income Jan. through Dec. 2007 & Early Cars 5 Keith Furlong 548-6556 **Religious Heritage** 6 7 Wendell Miller 692-8425 Rosser Family Lumber Company 8 Jeff Puterbaugh 692-5302 Calendar of Events

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Committee Reports

Historian - Bill Gunder

Remember to share your photos with Bill Gunder. He is scanning all known Arcanum historical photos into a computer program. To date, he has a two volume CD set which is available for anyone researching, to reprint or copy for other use. <u>Memberships - Carolyn Furlong - Chairperson</u>

A hardy thanks to all who have renewed their memberships. Listed are members who renewed since our last newsletter. Take a minute to look over the standing committees listed below and volunteer to help. As a non-profit organization, we need your participation in order to exist and fulfill our mission to preserve the past for future generations.

Single & Family

	LUCAL DE LE			
Ed & Janice Armacost	Mancel & Margaret Blankenship	Lawrence Boyd	Edgar & Lova Brown	
Rodman & Phyllis Brown	Paul & Jo Chastain	Miriam Clark	Robert & Joyce Colville	
Gene & Patricia Cox	Jack & Marlene Creech	Peggy Didier	Mark & Lois Eilerman	
David & Beth Flora	Bev & Janet Fourman	Martin & Eleanor Freese	Cheryl Gray	
Velda Gray	Harry & Hana Hanes	Glenna Hayes	Mildred Hoover	
Mark Hughes	Dick & Cheryl Hunt	Christine Jones	Tom & Pat Jones	
Donald & Helena Kinsler	Jerry Kramer	Doug & Nora Mahoney	Doug Milliken	
Dick & Dee Mathais	Bill & Gayla Metzcar	Wendell & Jeannie Miller	Terry & Jean Mills	
Yula Jean Munn-Hillis	Ted & Mary Murphy	Michael & Linda Newbauer	Lonnie & Connie Norris	
Carol Null	Richard & Mary Posey	Jeff & Susan Puterbaugh	Jewell Puterbaugh	
Jenny Quigney	Beverly Rench	Gene & Joan Rench	Terry & Darla Rench	
Anita Short	Marilyn Skillern	Annette & Rex Stewart	Edward Tick	
Edward & Jacque Trick	John Weisenbarger	Bob & Susan Weisenbarger	Cary & Teresa Wogoman	
Sponso	rship	Corporate	New Member	
Dean & Marcia Sue Pitzer	Marilyn Strickler	John & Ella Stevenson	Samuel R. Lenhert	

Along with membership fees, donations of \$245.00 were made by these renewing members. Thank you so much. We have one new member and 90 memberships who have renewed. Income from memberships is \$2,210 with donations of \$400.

Ways and Means - Jenny Quigney, Chairperson

<u>RESULTS</u> <u>LONGABERGER BASKET PARTY</u> held March 15th profited \$860.00. We are thankful to the many sponsors who offset the cost and helped make this event a huge success. Major sponsors who gave \$50.00 or more are: Sutton's Super Value, Troutwine Auto Sales, R.J. Warner Insurance, Greenville National Bank, McMiller's Carry-Out, Sound Tech Communication, Keith Troutwine Insurance, System Design Group, Inc., Eyler Installation & Asbestos. Regular sponsors: Hi-Tech, Sink Jewelers, Lyle Bixler Realty, Davis Refrigeration, Inc., Garbig & Blinn LLC, Second National Bank, Shortstop Barber Shop, The Rose Post, Miller's Tavern, Staley Antiques, Tony Roberts Insurance, Bud's Electric, Modern Impressions, Nancy's Beauty and Tanning, Huston's Restaurant, Farmer Brown Restaurant and Arcanum Veterinary Service. Raffle Winners were Shelly Yingst, Tara Keskler and Jenny Quigney.

UP-COMING OLD FASHIONED DAYS * May 16, 17 & 18th Goat Drop will be held Saturday May 17th, 100 tickets will be sold @ \$5.00 each. Winning ticket holder will take home \$100.00. This is the 3rd year for this fun activity. FOOD STAND - Lions Club Cruise-In June 21st. We will need workers to set-up at 4:00 and man the food stand from 5:00 until 8:30 p.m. This is a fun evening and a quick way to make some money.

<u>WORLD'S LONGEST YARD SALE July 31, Aug. 1st and 2nd</u>. AWTHS will rent the lower level of the American Legion Hall at 450 St. Rt. 127 in West Manchester as we did last year. Wanted are nice items of all kinds, but *no clothes* please. Call an AWTHS board member for pick up. Set aside a morning or afternoon to help on these days or to help set up on July 30th. People come from miles around, traveling St. Rt. 127 from state to state in search of "treasures".

		2008 Standing	Committee Chairpersons		
Acquisitions	Richard Troutwine	692-5128	Hospitality	Sharon Troutwine	692-5128
Design	Carolyn Furlong	548-6556		Glenna Hayes	692-8334
	Carolyn Troutwine	548-8939	Landscape	Rose Lambert	692-8513
Education	Cheryl Gray	692-8905	Membership	Carolyn Furlong	548-6556
Historians	Bill Gunder	692-8000	Publications	Barb Deis / newsletter	678-7832
	Anita Short	692-8715		Jeannie Miller / publicity	692-8425
Historic Sites	Fred Troutwine	692-8939	Programs	JoAnne Hill	692-8330
Ways and Means	Jenny Quigney	692-5994		Anita Short	692-8715
		Special Co	mmittee Chairpersons		
Adopt-A-Highway	Jim Deis	678-7832	Aluminum Recycle	Wendell Miller	692-8425
House Set-Up	Keith Furlong	548-6556			
	Fred Troutwine	692-8939			

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ACOL	OUISITIONS List complied by JoAnne Hill		
	s donated by Marilyn Rosser Strickler - many from the Harold and	Margaret Rosser Estate	
788	Book "Anthony Wayne and the Ohio Indian Wars"		
789		46	
790			
791	Copy of Constitution of United States		
792	Ledger - W.F. Rosser Lumber Co names of customers 188:	-1884	
793			
794		oration 1907	
795			
796			
797			
798			
799			
800			
801	Register Rosser Lumber with many Arcanum names - Open F	Jouse Jan. 22, 1934	
802		(0100 vill) 22, 190 v	
803		County	
804		county	
805		vil War Picture of him and many letters written by h	im
805	including his last letter to his wife Lucy.	in war. Therare of him and many featers written by h	um
806		pers for the U.S. Constitution	
807		cas for the 0.5. constitution	
808		in simply addrassed Aroanum Sulvester received the	letter in fiv
000	days.	in shipiy addressed Areanani. Syrvester received die	ieuer mino
809			
810		un Halan Wright niece of Mattia Ivester	
	Program of "One Hundred Years of Arcanum Evangelical Un		
811 812			v Chastain
		osser Lumber Co (This is the first house benind Re	v. Chastani.
813		deaths II tassa	
814		sketball team	
815		22 1029	
816		une 22, 1938	
817			
818			
819			
820	Three stock certificates for Arcanum Bowling Center		
821	Many newspaper articles about Arcanum Basketball Champio	n	
822	Three Arcanum Alumni Association Programs 1972-73-76		
823	Photo of Arcanum House Hotel	i ci la Pr	
824	Hundred photographs by Harold Rosser of Arcanum, it's orga	nizations, parades, Etc.	
More i	e items donated by Tom Staley		_
827	Many pages of advertising and price lists from Dayton Racque	et factory	
828			
829			
830	Dayton Daily News "Camerica" - Story about "Racquets are	his Racket"	

- 830 Dayton Daily News "Camerica" Story about "Racquets are his Racket"
- 831 2 photos of site of Fort Nesbit and a history of the Loy family and their relationship with Fort Nesbit- Contributed by Phyllis Loy Davis
- 832 Book "History of Darke County Bar" written by Hugh Staley and contributed by Marion Cooper
- 833 Photo of Tar Bucket School 1912 1914 from Bill Young
- 834 Photo of older gentleman by photographer Wm. Love of Arcanum from Jean Munn Hillis
- 835 Three Arcanum year books from Connie Loxley

Items donated by Vivian Garrison Von Ausdal

- 836 Memories of Arcanum in the days of the AHS Class of 1933, written by Vivian
- 837 Photo of construction of the new Arcanum High School in 1924

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ACOL	JISITIONS LIST CONTINUES	
838	Photo of cast of "The Mummy" Junior Class Play - 1931	
839	Class picture of Martha Garrison first Grade-1931 Miss Fenton teacher	
840	Photo of high school graduates - 1910	
841	Photo of Ward Stutz with car in front of furniture store	
842	Photo of restaurant owned by Mary and Edgar Troxel	
843	Photo of Arcanum School Faculty - 1912	
844	Two McGuffey Readers from Gay Metzcar	
Items d	onated by JoAnne Hill	
845	Receipt for Dave Hill from Clarence Klopfer 1961 for papering bedroom - \$11.63	
846	Newspaper article of Arcanum Eastern Star donating items to AWTHS	
847	Business card "G.F. McGriff Veterinary Surgeon- 3 miles south and 2 miles east"	
848	Blotter of Guarantee Mutual Insurance - G. T. Browder agent	
849	Paper fan from Kreitzer Funeral Home	
850	Blotter from Riegle Insurance Agency	
851	Yearbook Arcanum High School - May 1921	
852	Obituary and celebration of life fro Richard (Dick) Rosser	

The Arcanum Times 11-24-1910 Some of Arcanum's enterprising ladies have taken up the project of a library association with the ultimate idea of forming a public library. Come to the first meeting at the M.E. Church Wednesday evening Nov. 30th at 8 o'clock and help boost the plan.

(Note: The enterprising ladies were members of the Criterion Club.)

The Arcanum Times 12-8-1910 Much enthusiasm was created at the meeting held in the M.E. Church last Wednesday (Nov. 30) evening for the purpose of organizing a library association in this city. Quite a large crowd was present, principally members of the different society clubs. An organization was perfected and an option on a room has been secured and in a course of a few weeks a fine library will be established in our town. A membership fee of 50 cents will be charged and the possibility for a large association is very promising, as the small membership fee ought to encourage a large percent of our people to become members of the association. The following officers of the association were elected: President, J.A. Smith; Vice President, Nellie Eichelbarger; Secretary, Geo. T. Reigle; Treasurer, Belle Sigerfoos. (Note: The room secured for the library was on the second floor of Smith Big Store. The circulation of books was 450 in 1911.)

Devastating Fire 1959

After a fire destroyed the library, which was then located on George St., the community came together to replace the books and start again. In 1963 the Ivester property was secured and became the permanent library.

Year 2007

Statistics for the Arcanum Public Library for 2007 are:			
Circulation of Books - Adult, Juvenile, Periodicals, Pamphlets		71,300	
Circulation of Audios - Adult, Juvenile and audio books		1,178	
Circulations of DVD's, Videos and Films		16,798	
Plus circulation of puppets, puzzles, microfilm, CDROM, Games	Total	99,165	

More from The Arcanum Times

8-15-1963 *Library Given Rare Collection of Books* Daughters of J. M. Bunger of Union City, Ohio gave their fathers' collection of rare books to the Arcanum Public Library. Mr. J. M. Bunger had been superintendent of Arcanum Public Schools from 1892 to 1894 and Darke County Superintendent. He died in Union City in 1938 with his wife dying last year (1962). The collection is quite old with many first editions.

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Income January through December 2007					
Activities			Donations		
	Net	(Gross)			
Aluminum recycle	\$1,018.80		Change	\$ 24.00	
Basket Party	878.55	(\$1,778.55)	Memorials	1,540.00	
Card Party	206.00		Other	2,950.00	
Christmas Bazaar	2,588.46	(\$2,746.00)	Renovations	300.00	
Christmas Raffle	405.00		Total	\$4,814.00	
Corn Toss	30.00				
Fair Gate	800.00		Hall Rental- Total	\$ 950.00	
Yard Sale	535.06	(\$ 610.06)			
Food Sales	360.71	(\$ 637.25)	Membership or Sponso	r	
Goat Drop	400.00	(\$ 100.00)	2006	\$ 15.00	
Total	\$7,731.66		2008	835.00	
			2007	1,625.00	
Sign Sold	\$ 28.00		Total	\$2,575.00	
		TOTAL	\$16,098.66	William	

More Cars Are Coming To Arcanum - 1908

Arcanum Times 6-18-1908 *Now a Law* The state law requiring a license for automobiles became effective Wednesday (June 17, 1908). Under this law owners of gasoline automobiles must pay the Secretary of State \$5.00 and electric vehicle owner \$3.00. Owners of automobiles must report to the Secretary of State office giving name of car, name of manufacturer, horsepower and serial number if there are any. There are several machines in Arcanum and vicinity upon which the tax must be paid.

Arcanum Times 7-16-1908 More cars are coming to Arcanum. C.O. Hoffman has an automobile, he ran it so fast on his way home from work that his hat and wig blew off. He lost all the time he made recovering his hear gear.



Bill Freese - Photo is not dated

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Religious Heritage

Religious Heritage of Arcanum and the surrounding area continues.

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church - Founded 1847

6825 St. Rt. 722, Ithaca

The St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church was officially organized on August 23, 1847. The constitution adopted on that day provided for the building of a frame house of worship located southeast of Twinsboro (Ithaca). Due to the growing congregation the old church was dismantled to make room for a larger brick structure in 1865, with the men sitting on the east side and the women sitting on the west side. This church served the faithful will until 1922 when the present church was constructed on the same site.

The founding families had gathered together for many years, probably as early as 1835, to worship whenever a pastor or missionary came their way.

A cemetery subscription fund was established in 1857 to provide for the Christian burial of family members. Provisions were made for the burial of spouses and/or children of members. In 1872 it became necessary to provide space for "strangers" - ones who were not members of the church. It was determined that no burials should be made on either side of the church, and that strangers would be buried along the outside edge. Burials were made in chronological order, with adults in one row and children in another. In 1879 the question of developing family plots was raised. It was decided that the idea was impractical, because there was not enough space. The last burial was in 1978

In the early years Lutherans were generally not English-speaking people, even though they had immigrated into an English-speaking land. Geographically, the churches were far from the influence of a Lutheran seminary. Many congregations met with the Reformed group, and in many cases, made no distinction between the two denominations. There were few Lutheran books of worship, usually printed in English, with little reference to their German background, and carried primarily by preachers. The rigors of the frontier caused the people to welcome anyone who spoke the Name of the Lord. It wasn't until 1903 that the change to the English language for all services at St. Matthew's was completed.

When the first building became too small in 1865, it was disassembled, sold to the Trinity Lutheran Church and reassembled on State Route 49 near Midway. From the time of the its founding, Trinity and St. Matthew's have shared a pastor. During their joint history there has been discussion as to whether they should consolidate the two congregations, separate completely, or continue jointly as they have. They have continued jointly as a two-point parish, holding joint services through-out the year. In 1914 St. Matthew's congregation built a parsonage Arcanum, a location between the two churches. After all was completed, financial arrangements for the shared use of the parsonage were worked out with the Trinity congregation, as well as that of the pastor.

Through the years many pastors have served St. Matthew's, leading the congregation spiritually and by sharing their individual talents and interest. Pastor Hilbert Piel was interested in the preservation of the old church records, and arranged to have them microfilmed and placed in the Archives Library of Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. In 1974, the Greenville Chapter of the D.A.R. transcribed and typed these records. *This information was taken from "A Narrative History: St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church" published 1989.*

News From The Past

The Arcanum Times May 22, 1952 A total of 485 Railroad Fan Club members last week participated in an excursion through Greenville on the Dayton and Union Line. It was the first passenger run on the old route since 1928.

The Arcanum Times Oct. 21, 1909 *Filling Gravel Pit* A large force of men are now at work filling the old Townsend gravel pit east of the Abbottsville Church, preparatory to getting it in readiness for the laying out of burial lots. The land being filled and leveled up comprises 3 acres of ground and when completed will make the most beautiful part of the entire cemetery. It required 35,000 yards of dirt to fill up this hole.

Sharing the Secret

April 2008

Rosser Family Lumber Company 1880-1962

Thirty years after Rosser Lumber Company was sold to Cashway Lumber Company, a subsidiary of Carter-Jones Company of Akron, the tornado of 1992 destroyed the business William Franklin Rosser and W. H. Francis organized in 1880.

First located at 110 S. East St., the Francis & Rosser Lumber Company relocated to 205 E. Second St. where it remained. With the coming of the Indiana, Bloomington & Western Railroad businesses moved to make room for the tracks or moved nearer for the convenience of receiving and shipping materials by rail. In the early years they bought local lumber and also manufactured shingles which they sold at their business.

For 82 years 3 generations of Rosser men supplied building supplies for the growing community of Arcanum and the surrounding area. Carl A. Rosser joined his father in the business followed by Carl's son Harold A. Rosser. A number of Rosser family members also owned an interest in the company and served as company officers from the time of its incorporation in 1905. Over the years the name changed, although the name was always a variation W. F. Rosser Lumber Company.

After 25 years, in 1905, the partnership between W. F. Rosser and W. H. Francis dissolved, when Francis left to move to Troy to care for his business interests in that town. Although not partners, they continued a long business relationship, each having interests in lumber yards located in West Manchester, Lewisburg, Gordon Pitsburg and Lynn, Indiana.

By the time Harold Armond Rosser became president and general manager, following C. A. Rosser's death, the company had enlarged their line of merchandise and was selling fence posts, sewer pipe, tobacco boxes, lath, paint, corncribs and as well as lumber, shingles, doors, blinds and other home improvement products.

A change of direction took place when Harold took the helm. In 1937 the lumber company constructed a model home at 2 Ivester Lane, then followed with more homes on the same street a few year later.

The home construction business grew as the community grew. LU-RE-CO Homes were manufactured by the W.F. Rosser Lumber Company and erected on S. Albright Street, S. High Street and the Westview Development. Harold Rosser also organized Rosser Purchasing Company, opened a retail store and Better Homes & Gardens Idea Center. Harold operated the Rosser Purchasing Company from an office on the second floor of the First National Bank Building at 19-21 West George St. from Feb. 1952 to Dec. 1962.

At the request of officials of the West Ohio Conference of the Methodist Church, Harold moved to Worthington, Ohio to find a site and oversee the establishment of the Wesley Glen Retirement Center. At completion he was named it's first Director. While living in Worthington, he continued to keep a home in Arcanum and served as President of Arcanum National Bank.

Giving back to the people who supported their businesses, the Rosser men and women were active in the community through their involvement with the school, Trinity Methodist Church, civic programs and by bringing revenue into town with new business ventures

Away from the lumber business Harold was one of the original incorporators of the Arcanum Bowling Alley and was one of the men who started the Arcanum Locker Plant, which was located below the library that burned on George Street. He also built the Rosser Tennis Courts located near what is now the historical society.

Following Harold's death an era of the Rosser family promoting, encouraging and supporting the community ended. Harold's son, Richard, after 20 years as a career Air Force officer, held outstanding positions in higher education including time as President of DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana. Daughter Marilyn made her home in Dayton with husband Dr. Jack Strickler and their 2 children.

Information for this article was taken from Anita Short's Arcanum Business Book, the Arcanum Sesquicentennial Book I and from talking with Marilyn Strickler.

Arcanum Weekly Times - Aug. 9, 1906 You may get some idea of the extent of the tobacco crop in Darke County from the purchase of 1,500,000 feet of lumber for the box trade this fall by W. F. Rosser Son & Co.

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Arca	num Wayne Trail Historical Society Calendar of	f Events
April 1, 2008	Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.
April 4 & 18, 2008	Euchre Party	1:00 - 3:30 p.m.
May 2, 2008	Euchre Party	1:00 - 3:30 p.m.
May 6, 2006	Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.
May 8, 2008	Membership Meeting	7:00 p.m.
	Program: Arcanum Mayor Wallace Alderm	ian Jr.
May 16, 17 & 18, 2008	Arcanum Old Fashioned Days	
June 3, 2008	Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.
	Euchre Parties will resume in September	
June 21, 2008	Food Stand at Lions Club Cruise-In	5:00 - 8:30 p.m.

 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

 Donation of Appreciated Stock(s) - Richard Troutwine, 692-5129 or Todd Durham, 2nd National Bank, 548-2206
 Aluminum Cans Recycling

WORKING TOGETHER TO PRESERVE YOUR MEMORIES OF OUR COMMUNITY

Arcanum Wayne Trail Historical Society, Inc. P.O. Box 4 23 W. George Street Arcanum, Ohio 45304