

Sharing The Secret

April 2015

Volume 11 Issue 2

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

Incorporated 2004 web-www.arcanumhistoricalsociety.org email - webmaster@arcanumhistoricalsociety.org

President- Larry Wallace- 620-2800

We are happy it is April and spring is here.

That cold weather with the snow hung around far too long as far as I am concerned. We can now think about putting the snow blower away, and checking the oil on the mower. Another clue is all the lawn care people calling wanting to treat your lawn, what a deal they have for you. I kind of like doing it myself.

The last couple of Board Meetings were attended by new and old board members. It was a pleasure to have more people around the table to discuss different issues. We have the Troutwine brothers, Fred and Richard, Bill Metzcar and Bill Gunder now serving as directors along with Dave Flora and Keith Furlong. That is a total of 6 from the original 4 Directors.

As of March 11th 2015 we have \$11,155.38 in the checking account. AWTHS is healthy and moving forward looking for another great year. The Trash Bash this month will add to the account. We have 4 teams this year.

If anyone has their membership check waiting to be mailed please send it in to be counted for 2015. Talk to friends and relatives about joining the AWTHS and learn about your community's history.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Darke County Center of the Arts Presents "Bettman & Holpin"

April 16th at AWTHS 7:00 p.m.

Purchase \$10 tickets from DCCA * At the Door * Ben Franklin Store

The music of this dynamic duo creates a fully acoustic, delightfully eclectic sound taking the listener from up-tempo down home fiddlin' to soulful sorrowful ballads, to super kooky folk/pop with catchy melodies and lyrics that will stick with you long after the concert is over. An accomplished writer, singer, and fiddler Stephanie Bettman's lyrics are infused with wit and wisdom, poetry and insight. Luke Halpin is a master of the guitar and the mandolin, impressive on fiddle, banjo, and adept at nearly anything he picks up.

Be sure to join us April 16th at 7:00 for an evening of fun music and refreshments.

For tickets: Contact DCCA at 547-0908 or online centerforarts.net. * purchase at Ben Franklin Store or at the door.

Please note the May membership meeting is changed to May 7th

May 7th, 7:00 p.m.

Program: Lowell Thomas and His Global Connections

Linda Newbauer, local Arcanum resident, graduate of Arcanum High School and volunteer for Garst Museum in Greenville will speak at our May 7th meeting. Her topic will be "**Lowell Thomas and His Global Connections**".

Lowell Thomas, born in 1892 in Woodington, OH, evokes a number of images; broadcaster, author, world traveler, explorer, adventurer, and war correspondent. He was probably best remembered as a radio news commentator whose crisp and authoritative voice was heard over the CBS network stations across the nation. His nightly newscast has been very significant in the history of broadcasting in America. On January 5, 1977, he married Marianna Munn, an Arcanum area resident. After their marriage they made their home in Pawling, N.Y.

Please join us in learning about this very colorful Darke County native and his interesting story!

Coffee and Conversation Summer Series Returns

Saturday Mornings 10:00

June 13th, July 11th and Aug 8th

The series is a relaxed time to exchange memories about growing up in Arcanum, Gordon and Southern Darke County. It is a time to tell stories; your stories and those of our host, or just come and listen.

June 13 Earlene Morris lived all her live in the Gordon area where they raised their family, worked a farm, ran the grocery store and was post master of the Gordon Post Office. Gordon was a busy village at that time.

July 11 Rick Hunt and Sue Hunt Besecker and their siblings kept their parents, Lloyd and Myrna Hunt, busy while growing up in Arcanum in the 50s and 60s.

August 8 To be announced

Each of our hosts have great memories of people you know. Part of the fun is you telling your stories too.

Acquisitions Carolyn Furlong 548-6556 and Carolyn & Fred Troutwine 692-8939

14011	White cloth lady's purse, adult, bonnet, white apron, petticoat, yellow print two-piece lady's dress and Laura School Booklet	Clara Palmer
14012	March holder (very old)	Charles Musselman
14013	Photo 1913...	Annette Stewart
14014	A collection of Advertising fans (5) and 2 ink blotters	
14015	Advertising - Dayton Steel Racquets, Arcanum Federal Savings bottle opener/knife combination, The John Smith Co. 100th anniversary cake cutter	
14016	1936 Monroe Yearbook and Fourman/Davison History	Carolyn Fisher
14017	Photo of McKnight Family, Archaeology Book of Prophetstown... found at rummage sale	
14018	Many articles and photos from Sesquicentennial 1999...	Marilyn Graeff
14019	Memories of Class of 1936 Monroe Twp. (booklet), "Stepping Stones"...	Family of Marie Fourman North
14020	(2) Arcanum Federal Savings and Loan bottle opener/knife advertising items...	Jerrilyne Hart
14021	The First National Bank Note Agreement, Ninth Annual Arcanum Chautauqua schedule 1917, Insurance policy issued to John Poffenbarger Blacksmith Shop-1917, Knight of Pythias schedule-John Poffenbarger, Jan. 31, 1911 The John Smith Co. check issued to Cincinnati Glass Co., letter to John Smith Co. from N.C. Ireland, various newspaper accounts of Sesquicentennial , picture Billie Klar (Dr. Klar's wife).. E.L. Smokery Arcanum, OH Trade Coin, Sunoco Station picture circa 1950's, certified bread advertising, Army-Navy insignia guide WWII	JoAnne Hill Collection
14022	Wayne Trail Grange, Keith Hamilton's school photos and bldg's., 1950 Parade photos, pennant from Arcanum Centennial, 1963 photos of Beck Hotel/Grange	Denise Hansbarger
14023	Arcanum Tornado Newscasts (1/22/92)...	Marilyn Rosser Strickler
14024	Math book.. Found among items donated for Rummage Sale	
14026	Two booklets: Trojan Country 1969 State Championship and The Ohio H.S. Athlete 1970	
14027	1925 Directory - Monroe, Franklin, Van Buren, and Twin Twp.	
14028	Photo and article written by Joe Bailey (History and Memories), Church Program 1944 U.B. Church...	Joe White Bailey
14029	Framed Arcanum Senior Photo Class of 1926, (6) unidentified Class pictures, Ads from Millers , Arcanum Savings and Loan, Arcanum Federal, R.J. Warner, S.S. Shuff, Record Book Fireman's Convention 1938, Old checks in case - Ezra Simpkins	Karen Besecker
14030	Old autograph book (fragile) containing names: Carl Smith, Howard Radcliff, Elma Crowley, Gracie Smith (schoolmates) date 1889, many names and poems...	JoAnne Hill
14031	Many photos of Monroe School (some have no I.D.) Monroe Glee Club, Band, Basketball team - 1937-38, other pictures of Pitsburg area	
14032	Letter written 1945 to Bud Younce, Camp Fannin, Texas 1945 from Sgt. Bowser	
14033	(6) Daughters of American Revolution medal pins (found behind woodwork during renovation of Historical House (Beck's Hotel).	
14034	Photo of Jesse Hyer (Civil War), Randy Brown's ancestor - Randy Brown was the speaker Nov. 2013 at AWTHS...	Randy Brown
14035	WWI items - Red Cross dog toy, army hat, miniature, pin (lapel) and army compass - Guy Chellis (Mr. Chellis is the Great Uncle of Gary Wright)...	Gary Wright
14036	Acqu Bend Mini Blind Slat Bender - invention of Dave Flora and Frank Barberine	
14037	Ruler: Stutz and Sando - Funeral Directors...	Richard Troutwine
14038	FM yearbooks, photos Franklin old and new pictures of classes: 50, 54, 55, 56, 57, 60, 64, 65, 67, 68, 71, 72, 83...	Gary Hutchinson
14039	Wooden stand made from wood from Arcanum Bowling Lanes (torn down in 2014)	Harold Alley
14040	Arcanum Senior Class picture - 1904 and Jobs-Taylor sign Cleaning, Pressing..	Sue Cummings/Glynn Marsh
14041	Address book (Brown's Service Store) Notebook - the Arcanum National Bank	Karen Besecker
14042	Painting of Covered Bridge by Arcanum artist, Dave Hill	Mike & Connie Payne

Membership - Sharon Troutwine 692-5128

AWTHS is happy to welcome new members: Ardis Trigg, Becky York and Brian York. We are sorry to note the passing of Jewel Puterbaugh, John Hicks and Ivan Brown.

SOUTHERN DARKE COUNTY HISTORY

Annette Stewart 692-6462

NEW VIDEOGRAPHER

I would like to introduce Stuart Schram who has graciously volunteered to video our AWTHS programs and events for this year. Stuart also organized our photos on the computer for our research library last year.

If you need someone to video an AWTHS event please contact Stuart at stuart.schram@gmail.com. If he is unable to video, please find a replacement or contact Annette Stewart or Bill Gunder so arrangements can be made in a timely manner.

ACCEPTING ACQUISITIONS FOR REFERENCE LIBRARY

Regarding donations of photos and items for reference library – Due to storage and display issues, please try to keep photos to 8 X 10 size or smaller to put in binders. For large pictures such as diplomas please contact Annette for availability. Larger items could be “loaned and displayed” for certain time periods. Again, we accept plat maps which are larger and other research items but if in doubt please ask before donating. Guidelines are on our web site. We accept originals, quality copies, or digital files if you wish to e-mail a document/photo. We also accept CD or DVD copies. If you have questions or need something scanned to donate check with Annette at 692-6462 or ajstew@embarqmail.com. Those donating are asked to complete an acquisition card and to arrange for a drop off time as photos and paper items do not weather well if left on the AWTHS outside porch or in the door.

HISTORIC DRIVING TOUR

AWTHS has put together a self guided driving tour brochure of southern Darke County focusing on the Ithaca area. To kick off the tour refreshments will be served May 2 from 9am-noon during AWTHS regular open hours. Stop in and pick up a brochure to take the scenic drive through the beautiful spring countryside or drop in at the AWTHS house on your way back from the tour. Brochures will also be available on the AWTHS website to download as well as various businesses in town. Let's take a quiz and see how much you know about southern Darke County:

- (1) Where is Beech Grove?
- (2) What are the names or numbers of the one room school houses still standing in Twin Township near Ithaca?
- (3) Can you find the stone of Ithaca's founder in the Ithaca Cemetery? Do you know his name?
- (4) Did you know a Revolutionary War Solider is buried near Ithaca? Do you know the interesting story of his marker?
- (5) Where is the speculated location of the first settlers in southern Darke County?

Drive our tour and find out these answers plus about the mill outside of Ithaca and where the toll house was between Darke and Preble County.

OPEN HOUSE AND HOSTING

We will need volunteers to host on Saturdays for the house during the Farmers Market hours. During the Coffee and Conservation sessions a host will also be needed to assist and welcome guest. Hosting is an excellent way to meet interesting people as well as brush up on local history. Please see Annette to help.

NEW LAPTOP COMPUTER AND RESEARCH INFORMATION

The photos have been organized and put on the new laptop along with research notes. Researchers are welcome to view by appointment. Please call Bill Gunder or Annette Stewart. New photos are being added periodically along with family histories and other research notes

AWTHS Officers and Directors

President	Larry Wallace	620-2800
Vice President	Jenny Quigney	459-8090
Treasurer	Jerry Kramer	692-5764
Recording Sec.	Gayla Metzcar	692-5904
Corres. Secretary	Gayla Metzcar	692-5904
Directors	Keith Furlong	548-6556
	Dave Flora	692-8413
	Fred Troutwine	692-8939
	Dick Troutwine	692-5128
	Bill Gunder	692-8000
	Bill Metzcar	692-5904

Inside This Issue

President's Remarks	Page 1
Coffee & Conversation Series	Page 1
DCCA Program and Lowell Thomas Presentation	Page 1
Acquisitions	Page 2
Membership Report, Southern Darke Co. History	Page 3
Board Members and Inside This Issue	Page 3
Self Guided Driving Tour	Page 4
Lloyd Hunt-Military Hall of Fame	Page 5
Membership form/Book order form	Page 5
Calendar of Events	Page 6

Self Guided Driving Tour of Southern Darke County

Arcanum Wayne Trail Historical Society has planned a self guided scenic drive through southern Darke County focusing on the Ithaca area. Annette Stewart and Bill Gunder planned the tour highlighting points of interest giving a glimpse of times long ago. Included here is more information about the area.

Ithaca was the first settlement to prosper in Twin Township serving as a trading center for what is now southern Darke County. When platted in 1832 by John Colville Ithaca was known as Twinsborough taking its name from Twin Creek. State Route 503 was known as Ithaca Pike, before that it was a trace used by Gen. Anthony Wayne marching north from Ft. Washington (Cincinnati) through Ithaca, Beech Grove to Ft. Jefferson and on to Greenville.

In the busiest days Ithaca provided everything residents of a small village needed, finding a place to hitch up a buggy on Saturday was difficult. The electric traction line going from Cincinnati to Union City stopped in Ithaca giving residents a quicker way to travel for visits and business. As with most small villages the direction of their future changed when railroads bypassed them.

The yellow building located on the end of East Cross Street is part of local history having been a grocery store in the early years up until recently and had also been the post office.

* **Beech Grove** This settlement located at the intersection of Arcanum Hollansburg and Ithaca Pike was named due to the large number of beech trees growing in the area. John and Harry Karn owned properties from Arcanum Hollansburg Rd north to Neave Township. There was a large number of family members living in this section. The Atlas of Darke County 1875-1888 shows the cemetery, church, first school (each established in the mid 1850s) and store as well as several residences located on their properties.

"Beech Grove is the title of a new post office just established at the residence of John F. Roser, Esq. in Butler Township, Roser is P.M. This office was much needed; and we hope our friends through the region will now avail themselves of the opportunity to have a county paper sent to them free of postage." (Greenville Telegraphy, Wednesday, Feb. 18, 1852. This is the John F. Roser-Rosser, who later lived in Arcanum and died in the Civil War.

"David F. Dubbs who has resided south of Beech Grove for many years where he has been engaged in the manufacture of brick, and tile (and crockery) has quit business and left Sunday for Kinderport, Mo where he will make his home. (Arcanum times Oct. 14, 1909)

"Beech Grove Service Station, owned and operated by R. L. Homes is now open for business--they built a modern filling station and carry the usual line of gasoline, motor oils, groceries, candy, cigars and tobacco." (Arcanum Times Aug. 18, 1932) Located on a small section of the southeast corner near a current residence.

The legend of the corner house, 5007 Arcanum Hollansburger Rd., has been passed on to each owner. The house dates back to the early days of Beech Grove when Rt. 503 was a busy pike used by the military, settlers moving north and families going to Greenville, the county seat. It's reported to have been a stage coach stop and served as a place for a wake for a couple soldiers killed in the area.

The 1875-1888 Atlas does not show a plat map of Beech Grove.

Stagecoach Stop The owners of the house at 630 N Main St. in Ithaca share the history of the house having been passed from home owner to home owner. It is known the northern section of the present home is built of log. The story told is that the house had been a stagecoach stop. In "History of Darke County " Mrs. Barney Collins recalled the following; "that was in the days when Hen Wikle drove stage (hack) from Lewisburgh and Euphemia to Greenville twice a week. Several Greenville girls attended that college-among them my sister Lucinda- and these girls always rode to and from college in Wikle's hack".

The college mentioned by Mrs. Collins could well have been the Lewis Institute in Euphemia on Rt. 503 a short distance north of Rt. 40. The structure used by the Lewis Institute was last used as an apartment building, it was razed a few years ago following a fire. Many wanting to continue their education following 8th grade attended here as did George W. and Daniel Gunder, sons of William Gunder.

It is reasonable that Mr. Wikle would stop in Ithaca and Beech Grove to pick up or leave off travelers going to or from Lewisburgh and Greenville.

* **Toll Gate House** "No turnpikes were built before a railway was constructed in the county. Ithaca Free Turnpike Road was granted on petition in June 1858." Questions presented here are where did this "turnpike" start (at the Preble/Darke County line?) and where did it end (Rt. 121/Wayne Lakes?) and how was the turnpike funded? "Of course the burden of taxation is heavy and not every farmer is in condition to pay \$4 an acre road tax. Some were obliged to sell off the land to enable them to meet assessments, but hard as it was, even such gained in the end by the rise in local values".

Self Guided Driving Tour continues

Some property owners resorted to putting up a toll gate to cover some of the cost needed to pay the taxes and also to cover the cost of maintaining the road. Toll gates could have been on main roads which were not yet deemed a turnpike and also on "feeder" roads or side roads which crossed their land leading to the turnpike.

It is known that a toll gate stood in Preble County at the cross roads of Rt. 503 and Darke Co. Preble Co. Line Rd. * **Earliest Settlement** As stated in the book "The Secret Town - The Story of the Founding of Arcanum, Ohio" by William Gunder, great grandson of the Arcanum's founder, the speculated location of the earliest settlement in Twin Township was south of Ithaca along Twin Creek near Darke County Preble County Line Rd. These early pioneers located here about 1815 because it was near the trail coming from the south, for the good water source and flat land protected by higher ground. Carolina, the sister William Gunder and her family were part of this settlement. Often threaten by Indians the pioneers returned to Lewisburg in Preble County only to come back to Twin Township to establish their homesteads. Reference: "History of Darke County Ohio, From Its Earliest Settlement to The Present Time", Vol. I by Frazer E. Wilson published in 1914.

Lloyd Hunt Inducted Into Military Hall Of Fame

Lloyd Hunt from Arcanum, Ohio will be inducted in the Military Hall of Fame on Friday April 24, 2015 in the State House Atrium in Columbus, Ohio. There will be 29 inductees that day and will commence at 11:30 am. The ceremony will be televised and is open to the public. Lloyd Hunt enlisted in the U.S. Army February 26,1941 as a Private First Class and rose to the rank of T/SGT at the time of his commendation for the Silver Star, May of 1944. Brig. General Arthur Rogers presented his award on July 28,1944. Lloyd also received the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Combat Infantry Badge, EAME ribbon with 5 battle stars, American Defense Service Medal, American Campaign Medal WWII Victory Medal.

Lloyd's mother died February of 1942 while he was in Fort Lewis Washington. His comrades took up a collection for a train fare so he could go home for her funeral. His brothers Duane Hunt, Leo Hunt, Milford Hunt and twin Boyd Hunt also served in the war. All should be commended for their service during the war. If it were not for my father and his brothers and thousands of other men and women who so bravely fight for our freedom we wouldn't have what we have today.

Hopefully, we won't lose those freedoms. God bless America.

Ornamental Grasses Keith Furlong 548-6556

The ornamental grass at the house will be cut down in March. We need to thin out all of them. Please help yourself, but leave just a little bit for them to re-establish. Give me a call if you have any questions.

On Going Projects

- Euchre Parties - First and Third Friday of each month - Dave & Beth Flora 692-8413
- Hall Rental - Carolyn Furlong, 548-6556 Aluminum Can Recycling - Keith Furlong, 548-6556
- For Sale - Historic Arcanum books, Bill Gunder, 692-8000 Arcanum Note Cards
- Donation of Appreciated Stocks - Richard Troutwine, 692-5128 or Todd Durham, 2nd National Bank, 548-2206

Books for Sale * History of Arcanum Contact: Barbara Deis 678-7832 or Bill Gunder 692-8000

<i>The Secret Town - The Story of the Founding of Arcanum, Ohio</i>	\$20
<i>Arcanum, Ohio Business History (1852-1968)</i>	\$25
<i>Arcanum Chronicles</i> -Opera House, Sports, Parades & Celebrations, Brig. Gen. Ed Sigerfoos, Grassville Quartette, Christmas, Chautauqua, Fast Horses, District 7 Ithaca School	\$20
<i>Arcanum Chronicles Volume 2</i> - Fire Department and Arcanum Public Library	\$18

**Please fill in your email address if you wish to receive the newsletter by email.
Please consider volunteering your time or services."Many hands make light work"**

-----clip and include with your payment-----

2015 Membership Form

Mail to AWTHS, P.O. Box 4, Arcanum, OH 45304

Name _____ New _____ Renewal _____
Phone Number _____ Receive newsletter by Email? add address _____
Address _____
City, State and Zip code _____

___\$15 Single ___\$25 Family ___\$50 Sponsorship ___\$150 Corporate ___\$1000 Lifetime

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

Your participation is needed for AWTHS to exist and for continuous growth. Please check the area where you can serve.

- ___Acquisitions ___Newsletter ___Membership ___Programs ___Ways & Means
- ___Historic Sites ___Education ___Nominating ___Flower Garden Care ___Yard Care
- ___Genealogy ___Publicity ___Design/Displays ___Publications
- ___Adopt A Highway ___Typing Research Papers ___Clipping newspaper articles

**AWTHS Visitors Hours 9 a.m. - Noon Reference Room 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
 Open each Saturday June through August
 September thru May open the 1st Saturday of each month**

Calendar of Events

April 3 & 17, 2015	Euchre Card Party	1:00 - 3:30 p.m.
April 14, 2015	Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.
April 16, 2015	DCCA Music Program at AWTHS	7:00 p.m.
April 18, 2015	Trash Bash	
May 1, 2015	Euchre Card Party	1:00 - 3:30 p.m.
May 7, 2015	Membership Meeting	7:00 p.m.
	Program: Lowell Thomas - Presenter: Linda Newbauer	
May 12, 2015	Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.
May 15, 16 & 17, 2015	Arcanum Old Fashioned Days	
June 5 & 19, 2015	Euchre Card Party	1:00 - 3:30 p.m.
June 13, 2015	Coffee and Conversation Session	10:00 a.m.
	Earlene Morris - Gordon	

Just a Reminder

Purchase tickets from DCCA for April 16th program at AWTHS
 If you have not paid your 2015 membership fee, it is time to do that now.
 Attend Program- Lowell Thomas and His Global Connections at AWTHS
 Attend and bring a friend to the Coffee and Conversation series this summer
 Be a host during Saturday morning open hours
 Take the self guided historic driving tour of Southern Darke County