

Sharing The Secret

January 2018

Volume 14 Issue 1

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

Incorporated 2004

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President's Remarks Jenny Quigney 459-8090

During the holiday season and the beginning of a new year we often take time to look back at where we have been. So I would like to take this time to look at where we started with this organization in 2004. A lot has happened over the years since we first purchased the house. It has taken the generosity of many individuals in our community to get us to where we are today. Their efforts were and are appreciated as we continue to protect and preserve our area history.

This past year has been no exception due to the efforts put forth in all of our membership meetings that included Hannah Wiest with her program of "Layers of History", Gary Naylor with his program on the history of the postal service in this area, and the "Military Round Table Discussion. A huge thank you goes out to all the veterans who participated. Your sacrifice is and was greatly appreciated. I cannot forget the evening with the Arcanum Agricultural Education Instructor and the FFA members who shared highlights of their year. I would also like to thank Annette Stewart for her work on the one and two room school house self guided tour and the Center School Open House.

During this time we also participated in several events such as Arcanum Old Fashioned Days, the Summer Coffee and Conversation sessions. In March we were pleased to have the Darke County Center of the Arts here at the house. As has been the practice for several years, we also had the Arcanum third graders here over two days as part of their studies on their community.

In addition to these events we have continued to open the house to visitors on the first Saturday of each month. We also host a community Euchre Party the first and third Friday of each month. A few of our fundraisers include the Trash Bash in April and manning the fair gate for the Great Darke County Fair.

Our biggest fund raiser each year is the Christmas Bazaar. This requires a lot of time and I would like to thank all of our elves who worked diligently to make this happen. Due to the fund raisers of the past year I can report that we have \$14,483.27 in our checking /savings account.

These are just a few highlights of what goes on at your local AWTHS and I would like to invite you, your friends and family to attend our programs and the other events we have throughout the year. We always welcome and encourage new memberships. Our next membership meeting will be January 11th along with the approval of the 2018 slate of officers, and a pizza party. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. We will be starting ½ hour earlier, at 6:30.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of my board members and committee members for all of their efforts, because of you all the Arcanum Historical Society runs very efficiently and it could not happen without each and every one of you.

Well that is about it for this time around so please plan to attend our next meeting and get ready for a event filled year. It has been a pleasure to be your president over the past year and I look forward to another wonderful year.

January 11, 2018 * 6:30 p.m.

Pizza Party

Annual Business Meeting and Election of Officers

Pizza, salads and desserts will be provided at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 11th. We will eat prior to the annual meeting and election of officers. Everyone is invited to share the casual dinner provided by AWTHS and board members. This is a time to reflect on the past accomplishments of our historical society and look to the new year.

Thursday *March 1, 2018 * 7:00 p.m.

Guest: Curtis Schafer, Arcanum Public Library Director

AWTHS welcomes Curtis Schafer, Arcanum Public Library Director, Thursday March 1st. Since being named director in 2017, Curt has been getting to know the library patrons and learning what they are interested in reading. Curt will share his vision for the library. Everyone is welcome to ask questions of Mr. Schafer and learn more about programs available at the library.

Please note this program is the FIRST Thursday of March. This change allows Curt to fulfill his library duties.

Acquisitions - Carolyn Furlong 548-6556

17001	Stand-up Post Masters Desk, the original from 1st Post Office in John Smith Co. General Store Arcanum Ohio	Bob Menker
17002	USA Army-Air Force Jacket	??
17003	Photo of Alonza Gray House and Dairy building. Used to bottle and distribute dairy products	Fred Troutwine
17004	1938 Football news article	??
17005	Donation of books, "Archeology of Fort Greenville" author Tony DeRegnacort, Arcanum resident	Susan Gray - Treaty of Greenville Commission Inc.
17100	Franklin Class 1941 & 1938, Info on Gordon and Bible records, School souvenir programs, Pitsburg area info	Annette Stewart
17101	Newspaper photo of AWTHS float, Old Fashioned Days 2017	AWTHS
17102	Fridgidaire Quarter Century Club 1954	Carolyn Furlong
17103	V.F.W. Women's Aux. (Arcanum OH) framed picture	Debbie Cheadle Springer
17104	1 coin Arcanum Sesquicentennial bronze 1849-1999	Marilyn Graeff
17105	Cymbal Arcanum Band Cap	Doug Albright
17106	Small cloth roller Skate Patch - Arcanum	??
17107	Guest book signed by some 1st guest of AWTHS	AWTHS
17108	Poplar Ridge photos, Monroe & FM cheerleaders, Pitsburg Lions Club Queen contest & Pitsburg Methodist church Baseball Team	Janet Rhoads
<i>Correction of October 2017 acquisitions list - Correct spelling of donor name</i>		
17063	5 cent token from A&B recreation	Deon Beane

Memberships - Sharon Troutwine 692-5128

All 2018 memberships are due on January 1st. You may drop off your money and form to Treasurer Jerry Kramer, mail it to AWTHS, P.O. Box 4, Arcanum, Oh, 45304 or bring it to the January 11th dinner meeting.

These yearly membership fees are so important to help keep AWTHS a functioning organization.

Several people renewed their memberships during the Bazaar and we do thank you for taking care of business. We are happy to announce that Esther Lenhert has become a Lifetime Member.

Farewell

It is with sadness that we note the passing of member Howard O'Dell, Jr.

Christmas Bazaar Report - Dick & Sharon Troutwine 692-5128

Our 2017 Bazaar was a fantastic success considering that AWTHS members spent only two weeks in preparation. Can you believe that our profit, as of December 1, was \$2504? WOW!!

Congratulations to all Bazaar Winners. The 50-50 Raffle awarded \$200 to Connie Norris; \$125 to Russ Julien; and \$90 to Annette Stewart. Our share of the raffle was \$415. Thank you for a terrific job of selling and buying Raffle Tickets!

The In-House Raffle winners were: Snowman Wreath - Carolyn Troutwine; Santa Cookie Jar - Kim Unger; Sleigh - Sue Graham; Snowman decoration - Ardis Trigg Hamlin; 2 tickets to DCCA - William Hill.

Door Prizes were awarded to Debbie Holsapple and Melissa Carmean.

We wish to thank you for your help, your donations, and your purchases - as always you have been generous!

Very special thanks to our AWTHS Bakers & Makers for outstanding goodies for our Bake Shoppe. Sally Sharritts did a great job of pricing and organizing all donations. 2017 may have been our greatest Bake Shoppe!!

Thanks so much for carrying all of those boxes down, helping pack-up & clean-up and carrying leftovers back upstairs. If only we had an elevator!

We also want to thank Carolyn Trump for making her "sweet" doll clothes; Nora Mahoney for the "tooth fairy holders", Tom Staley for donating tobacco lathes used to construct the snowmen and star; Fred and Carolyn Troutwine and Barb Deis for creating new items to "spruce" up the Bazaar; Annette Stewart for doing her best to publicize the Bazaar; and to Carolyn Furlong for organizing and working so hard on making Beck's Boutique so special.

We are planning the Christmas Bazaar 2018 so keep the donations coming--we have lots of storage space. Be sure to put the dates on your new calendar - November 23rd & 24th. Remember-- it's only a 2 week project! We're already receiving donations. Thank you.

The Naming of the Town of Gordon

For several years I've wondered why "Gordon" was called Gordon. I had read about the Gordon family who settled near the town and have read a few stories about them. Notations were that the town was named after them. But few actual facts and documentation were found.

This last year I was skimming the "Darke County Genealogical Society, Kindling, Volume 36 No. 1 2017" and low and behold there was an article wrote about David Lair and his obit submitted by Gale Honeyman, local noted historian and genealogy fact person.

Now, you may be wondering at this point what David Lair had to do with Gordon. In reading his obit we find the following facts: David Lair was born August 28, 1809. He was married to Sarah Gordon, October 2, 1832. They had 12 children. The Lair's moved from New Jersey to Darke County, OH in 1839 along with the Gordon's when the country was almost a wilderness and settled on the land where the town of Gordon now stands. He laid out the present town site in 1850 and named the town "Gordon" for his wife's father. Later the Lair's moved to West Milton, Ohio. On the 1857 map we see D. Lair with Lot number's 31-45 on the east side of town and also numbers 12, 31 and 32. In the business directory he is listed as a harness maker at the SE corner of Main and Perry which would be Lot #12.

David Lair died March 2, 1906 and is buried in Riverside Cemetery. His wife was born 1814 and died 1894.

One cannot tell the complete story without mentioning the Gordon family and history since we read about the naming of Gordon being from the "wife's father" who was Phillip Gordon 1788-1857. From the Greenville Advocate, Friday, April 28, 1967 we read Gordon's name originally came from France and was pronounced Gourdon. Due to troublesome times they fled to Scotland in the 12th century. In 1839 (Phillip and wife Elizabeth Harden Gordon) left Hunterdon County NJ and made their way to Ohio. Journey required 22 days. Neighbors were scarce, 25 miles to the nearest doctor. Nearest mill was Peter Wert's Mill at Ithaca. Their house was heated by fire places and cooking done on cranes in the fireplaces and bread baked outside in ovens. Their children were brought up here on the farm and some are buried on the family cemetery on the farm which is located today at the outskirts at the southern end of Gordon. At one time we read the first school sat near the cemetery and is on the earlier maps of Gordon. The Baptist Church also sat on their farm. These notes and following are from "The Gordons of Pitburg and of America" found in the Gordon file at Garst which is under the Darke County Genealogical Society library.

In the late 1850's a railroad was surveyed and built near his farm and for his assistance the railroad gave them the railroad station near his farm and named it Gordon in appreciation. (per "The Gordons of Pitlurg and American") Children of Phillip and Elizabeth who came to Ohio according to the diary were: sons, Andrew and Henry. Daughters Sarah Gordon Lair and Mary Gordon Karr. However, we read in Phillips will dated September 19, 1857 the following names as heirs: Wife Elizabeth, Franklin Gordon, Manda McLain, Sarah Lair, Mary Karr and Andrew Gordon.

Sometimes the more documents and sources you find and read leads to more questions: Mine being who is "Franklin"? Why isn't son Henry named in the will? Is Henry and Franklin one and the same? We do read about Henry having a son Franklin who was born 1861 per Harry Ebeling's notes who is a descendant. It also mention Frank S. Gordon as the son of Henry and mother was Nancy Owens. Nancy died young and Frank was raised by Amelia Temple and Hugh Vall. Frank attended Greenville School and later worked his way up the ladder and had the store called Gordon and Alter on Broadway in Greenville. Anyone with information or documentation about Henry and Frank or Franklin please contact AWTHS.

We could not find obits on Phillip or Elizabeth Gordon and only on Henry Gordon who died in 1914. His obit lists Franklin as his child along with three sisters. (Arcanum newspapers April 30, 1914)

David Lair, husband of Sarah, kept a journal of the journey from New Jersey to Ohio. Hence is where we find about their daily travels. This complete record is in the AWTHS Reference Library under the "Gordon" family. Also copies of the "Gordon and Karr Family Bible" records.

From the Gordon's, the Karrs, the Bonhams, the Haides, the Lairs and MaLains were early settlers of this area. Other family connected names are: Markley's, Elleman's, Swank's, Weisenbergers, Baker, Mattis, Hart, Falknor and Isenbarger.

The Bonham's, Karr's, and Phillip and wife Elizabeth Gordon along with son Henry and wife are buried at the Gordon Cemetery. Other Gordon's, including Andrew and wife Sarah are buried at Ithaca Cemetery.

In other notes we have a record of the deeds on the Philip Gordon farm from Mike Stump and copies of some of the deeds which shows the past owners and dates. The Gordon farm was located east of Gordon today on St. Rt. 722 and is section 36 NW qt. in Monroe Twp. and also Twin Twp. Section 35 NE qt. The farm was deeded by the President to Job Emmons in 1825. Followed by Jonas Albright in 1820 (recorded); to Jacob Tillman 1833; and to Phillip Gordon in 1839. The Gordon's names are throughout the records up to 1934. The family farm remained in the family for 100 years. Original deed was for around 80 acres and Mike has the old parchment type or animal skin deed. It survived a fire in the house along with some photos. We have some photos of Phillip and his wife along with two of the daughters. They are not the best copy but it's the best we've found. Franklin's name is not found on the deeds.

Researched by:

Annette Stewart - September 18, 2017

The Blevins Popcorn Company



The Blevins Popcorn "Factory" as locals called it, was located at the corner of South and High Streets, often referred to as "Popcorn Square", with a second location on Pop-Rite Lane.

Information found on the internet states that James Victor Blevins started the business in 1945 in Nashville, TN with plants in Arcanum and Ridgeway, Ill.

Notes taken from the Arcanum Business History:

Corner of High & South Streets - *September 9, 1953 - Warehouse where processing was done, original office building, and rooms behind were destroyed by fire. Bins remained intact. After fire, this location handled only purchasing, storage and warehousing of popcorn.* (page 136)

Pop-Rite Lane - *A new one story plant was erected at this location. This new plant through the use of modern equipment shelled, cleaned, graded, packaged, and vacuum packed shelled popcorn and also ear corn in large 10 lb. cans.* (page 206)

Blevins Popcorn Company is mentioned in the section titled *Christmas In The Village* in the "Chronicles". *For the December 18, 1948 Kiddies Yuletide Party Blevins Popcorn Company furnished 700 boxes of popcorn and 700 bags of peanuts for the party sponsored by the Arcanum Business Club, American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars.* (page 78).

AWTHS was given a large tin of popcorn (never opened) by Jean Cox Aukerman, once belonging to her father, Dr. Dan Cox, local veterinarian.

About the same time another donation was given by Rebecca Hill, a large burlap bag from the Blevins Popcorn Factory.

Both of these items are now on display to visitors during open hours, 9 a.m. - 12 noon every 1st Saturday of the month.

There is much more to learn about the Popcorn Factories in Arcanum. Read more in the next newsletter. Did area farmers grow popcorn for the Blevins Popcorn Factory?

How many years did they have popcorn festivals? Did you know there are other popcorn companies with different names listed in the business history book?



Your Help Is Needed

Trash Bash 2018 April 21, 2018 Deadline March 9th

Contact Person: Larry Wallace 620-2800 for forms and information.

AWTHS will again participate in the Darke County Solid Waste District's Countywide Clean-Up. AWTHS receives \$50 for each team of 4 or 5 people. Deadline for Release Forms and Team Sign-Up Forms is **March 9th.**

Each team covers an appointed 2 mile section of a county or township road. It takes approximately 2 hours.

Old Fashioned Days Parade May 19th

We are in need of someone to provide a vehicle and trailer to use for AWTHS's Old Fashioned Days Parade float. A big thank you to Richard Reinhart for the many years he used his restored antique truck or tractor to pull our floats.

OPEN HOUSE HOST

Our winter hours are: open the First Saturday of the Month from 9-noon. Please contact Annette if you can volunteer.

IDEAS-LIBRARY DISPLAY

Usually AWTHS does the display case in May at the Arcanum Public Library during Historic Preservation Month. If you would like to head up this project or help please see Annette Stewart. We would like to get some fresh ideas and help.

Also any ideas for future events or open houses, walking tours, etc. please inform the AWTHS board and pass your ideas along as well as offering to help. One thought was a guided walking tour of Arcanum or the designated historic sites. We appreciate your feedback.

News From The Past 1-5-1933 The Arcanum Times

Town Host Too Many Hoboes During 1932 According to Marshall Oscar Troxel, the Arcanum jail was used for sleeping quarters by 750 hoboes and unemployed wanderers during the past year. Many nights during the past few months, all available space was occupied in the jail. Under the rules, no one is permitted to stay more than one night. Marshall Troxel has required all of his guests to register and the register books shows many queer signatures.

AWTHS Officers

President Jenny Quigney 459-8090
 Vice President Fred Troutwine 692-8939
 Treasurer Jerry Kramer 692-5764
 Recording Sec. Connie Norris 692-8085
 Corres. Secretary Connie Norris 692-8085

Directors

Keith Furlong 548-6556
 Dave Flora 692-8413
 Larry Wallace 620-2800
 Dick Troutwine 692-5128
 Joyce Colville 692-8685

2018 Membership Form		Clip and Mail to		AWTHS, P.O. Box 4, Arcanum, OH 45304	
Name _____		New _____		Renewal _____	
Phone Number _____		Receive Newsletter by Email? Add email address _____			
Address _____					
City, State and Zip Code _____					
Annual Fees		_____ \$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 would like to help.					
<input type="checkbox"/> Acquisitions		<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter		<input type="checkbox"/> Membership	
<input type="checkbox"/> Care		<input type="checkbox"/> Yard Care		<input type="checkbox"/> Genealogy	
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic Sites		<input type="checkbox"/> Education		<input type="checkbox"/> Flower Garden	
<input type="checkbox"/> Publicity		<input type="checkbox"/> Displays		<input type="checkbox"/> Publications	
<input type="checkbox"/> Adopt A Highway					
<input type="checkbox"/> Help Reference Librarian		<input type="checkbox"/> Serve as Host/Hostess during Open Hours		<input type="checkbox"/> Keep Facebook Updated	
<input type="checkbox"/> Type Research Papers		<input type="checkbox"/> Keep Website Updated		<input type="checkbox"/> Transfer Acquired Photos & Documents to Laptop	

AWTHS
P.O. Box 4
123 W. George St.
Arcanum, Oh 45304

**AWTHS Visitors Hours 9 a.m. - Noon Reference Room 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
September thru May open the 1st Saturday of each month
Other times by appointment. Contact 937-417-3746**

January 5 & 19, 2018	Euchre Card Party	1:00 p.m.
January 11, 2018	Annual Membership Meeting & Elections Pizza Dinner	6:30 p.m.
February 2 & 16, 2018	Euchre Card Party	1:00 p.m.
February 6, 2018	Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.
March 1, 2018	Membership Meeting and Program Speaker - Arcanum Public Library Director, Curtis Shafer	7:00 p.m.
March 6, 2018	Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.
March 2 & 16, 2018	Euchre Card Party	7:00 p.m.
April 21, 2018	Countywide Clean-Up * Trash Bash	8:30 a.m.
May 1, 2018	Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.
May 3, 2018	Darke County Center of the Arts Coffee Series at AWTHS	7:00 p.m.

Just a Reminder

Euchre Card Party - First and Third Fridays of each month. Questions? Call Dave and Beth Flora 692-8413.

Annual Membership Meeting and Dinner, Jan. 11th. Pizza, salads & desserts provided.

Trash Bash - Organize your team - Contact Larry Wallace, 620-2800 for forms.

Curtis Schafer talks about his new position as Director of Arcanum Public Library, March 1st.

When you put away Christmas decor, remember we are accepting gently used items for the 2018 bazaar.