

Sharing The Secret

April 2018

Volume 14 Issue 2

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

Here we are a new year and a new beginning but let's look back over the past couple of months. At our January membership meeting we hosted a pizza party and elected the officers for the upcoming year. Yours truly was elected to serve an additional year as president of which I humbly accepted. Additional officers elected were Fred Troutwine as Vice President, Jerry Kramer as Treasurer, Connie Norris as Recording and Correspondence secretary. The Directors are Keith Furlong, Dave Flora, Larry Wallace, Dick Troutwine, Bill Metzcar and Joyce Colville. We then enjoyed an evening with great fellowship and lots of pizza.

At the March membership meeting Curtis Schafer, the Arcanum Public Library Director came and spoke with us about different activities that are happening at our library. He gave great information on the history of the library and the community support that the library received in the past and continues through today.

There are several events coming up . Dr. David Farst will be our speaker May 10h. On May 3rd we will host the Darke County Center for the Arts event featuring folk singer Jill Jack. We also have the Trash Bash in April, a fund raiser for our organization. The Coffee and Conversation series is being planned for the summer months.

Our monthly open houses are as scheduled on the first Saturday of each month with the exception of April. The April open house will be on April 21st. This coincides with the Trojan Homecoming and Alumni Banquet.

We are always looking for volunteers to help with the open houses and the other events that we have planned. Your help is invaluable and makes our organization great. Contact Annette Stewart, 417-3746 to schedule the day you can help during open hours.

As you can see we are springing into the spring season and I for one am ready for spring weather and all the beauty it brings. A huge thank you to all of the officers and board members that make my job easier and especially to all volunteers as your help means everything.

May 3rd 7:00 p.m. Darke County Center of the Arts Presents Jill Jack at AWTHS

Reserve Thursday May 3rd for a fun evening of music with people you know while enjoying yummy desserts and beverages.

Purchase \$10 tickets from the Darke County Center of the Arts or at Fourman's Variety Store (Formerly Ben Franklin)

AWTHS May 10th - 7:00 p.m. Dr. David Farst, Arcanum Veterinarian

Our guest speaker for the AWTHS program scheduled Thursday, May 10th, 7 p.m., will be Dr. David Farst who recently retired. Dr. Farst graduated from Ohio State University School of Veterinary Medicine. He took over the practice of Dr. Dan Cox here in Arcanum. We look forward to hearing tails of his years caring for our four legged friends throughout Darke County. Bring a friend, everyone is welcome.

2018 Summer Coffee and Conversation Series 10:00 a.m.

June 9 JoAnne Hill **July 14** Kirby & Lori Sutton and Josh Urlage
August 11 TBA

Enjoy sharing laughs, memories, and stories of growing up in Southern Darke County. Our guest will be sharing their stories, they want to hear your stories too. You are welcome to bring memorabilia to share with us during these morning sessions. The event is free, everyone is welcome.

AWTHS Officers

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

Directors

Keith Furlong 548-6556
Dave Flora 692-8413
Larry Wallace 620-2800
Dick Troutwine 692-5128
Bill Metzcar 692-5904
Joyce Colville 692-8685

Acquisitions - Carolyn Furlong 548-6556

| | | |
|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 18004 | Printer tiles for Rev. Aaren Cunningham, Gordon UMC | Janet Johns |
| 18005 | Arcanum Garden Club Binder- news articles, Purse Bingo, Generation Square | Arcanum Garden Club |
| 18006 | Many photos of vicinity, persons, families with ID | |
| 18007 | Paper design craft decorative item | |
| 18008 | 8X10 Class 1964 FM | Tina Lockhart |
| 18009 | Memory Card of Bill Gunder memorial | |
| 18010 | Greeting Card sent to JoAnne Hill from Friend | JoAnne Hill |
| 18011 | Decorative tin pencil box | |
| 18012 | Rosser Family Photo sent to Dick Patterson Family | Carolyn Furlong |
| 18013 | Photo of Heller School, Franklin Township with ID | |
| 18014 | Smith's Big Store Coffee and Tea Adv. 1933 World Fair ad | JoAnne Hill |
| 18015 | Many items of Arcanum business ads | Billy Baker |
| 18016 | Family History of Pearl May Fryman Krickenbarger DOB 1890/DOD 1983 | Ginny Krickenbarger |
| 18017 | Photo of Arcanum Hatchery | David Hayes |
| 18019 | Paper Tape Meas., Arcanum Sport passes, many items with adv . from Dr. Cox's office desk | Jean Cox Aukerman |
| 18020 | 3 plat books- 2002, 2008, & 2011 | Betty Sease |
| 18021 | Small orange banner announcing new water tower, Aug. 15, 1994 | |
| 18022 | DVD <i>Write When You Can</i> (WWII Years) | Diane Spitler |
| 18023 | Replica of button worn by Anthony Wayne, donation from AWTHS speaker | |
| 18024 | Area post cards | |
| 18025 | Thank you note for building rental | Judy Ulrich |
| 18026 | 1999 Alumna Banquet program | |
| 18027 | Garst Pamphlet - Annie Oakley | Garst Museum |
| 18029 | Arcanum Criterion Club memories | Ladies of Criterion |
| 18030 | Cradle Roll from local church with ID | |
| 18031 | Garst pamphlet Zachary Landsdown Lt. Cor. USN | Garst Museum |
| 18032 | Order Of Arcanum Eastern Star #429 program booklet (annual inspection) | |
| 18033 | 2003-2004 Arcanum Elementary School book | Karen Young |
| 18035 | Shields/Patterson Family photo of Ruby Cromwell Miltenberger | Carolyn Furlong |

Southern Darke County History Annette Stewart 417-3746**Help is Needed**

We've reorganized some of the storage areas. There are plenty of items to put in sleeves and put away. We can use someone to answer request through e-mail and FB for those wishing to donate some time.

New Displays

We've added some new case displays and photos so check them out.

TROJAN HOMECOMING AND ALUMNI

The AWTHS will be open Saturday, April 21 from 1-4pm for alumni and guests to visit. The honored classes will be 1968, 1993 and current 2018. Please let alumni know of these special hours, especially from these classes. NOTE* We will not be open the First Saturday of the Month in April to accommodate the April 21 time.

CALLING ALL FFA ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF AGRICULTURE

The Arcanum FFA has asked the AWTHS to help locate alumni as well as dig up some past FFA history and a time line for the agricultural organization. Currently we are going through yearbooks and taking photos of the pictures we've located. Anyone who can help by looking through articles and such please communicate with Annette Stewart. Or if you have info contact Janelle Smith Brinksneider directly. If you have photos or newspaper clippings we could copy or scan please, contact Annette. They can also be sent digitally to our email: contact@arcanumhistoricalsociety.org preferably in jpeg for photos. Some questions we have are: What happened to the plaques and memorabilia that was in the vo-ag shop-anyone remember if it was sold at auction? If you know alumni please share and inform us at AWTHS of their name and class. This is a simple request and doesn't require computer for you to volunteer.

Memberships - Sharon Troutwine 692-5128

We welcome Mar Lou Posey as our newest member.

Thank you for renewing your 2018 memberships. If you haven't yet renewed use the form on page 6. Members are the life blood of AWTHS.

We are sorry to report the passing of member Ted Murphy. Condolence to his family.

Farmers Market each Saturday June through August 9 a.m. to Noon

Support local vendors in the Veterans Park on George Street. Purchase fresh fruits & vegetables, baked goods and handmade items. There is no set-up fee. Feel free to set up a table and sell your produce and crafts. Vendors are always needed so please invite friends and neighbors to participate. For more information contact Sharon Troutwine 692-5128.

Write When You Can - DVD

AWTH has a unique donation from Diane Spittler and family; a set of 5 DVDs depicting a reenactment using letters and family memories during WWII. The historical society building, because of the furnishings and decor, was used as a backdrop, as the setting of history for family and friends. The set of 5 DVDs are available to our membership on loan to view. Those interested, please call Carolyn Furlong, 548-6556.

Disc 1: Introduction to family and friends, farm life after the depression, joining the Navy

Disc 2: War in Europe, America's neutrality, life in the Navy, Pearl Harbor attack

Disc 3: America at war, sinking of an aircraft carrier, joining the Army Air Corp, Radioman on an LST

Disc 4: The Normandy Invasion, behind enemy lines, war nerves, Army Air Transport, the homefront

Disc 5: War in the Pacific, flying the Hump, war is over, life after the war

Write When You Can

FAMILY CENSOR

Mr. Hale R. Adams
Squadron US-71
U.S.

A family's story during World War II

The People * The Homefront * The War

Write when you can

Albright Family Connection with UB Church by Annette Stewart, Sept. 20, 2017

In "Building The Church In Darke County Ohio With History of United Brethren Church" we read about early settlement of the wilderness of Darke County and our area especially pertaining to the early churches.

We find that the building of the church of Arcanum was delayed longer than in other parts of Darke County. Ithaca had preaching as early as 1817 by Frazee Doty. The first permanent work was in 1838 when Methodist circuit rider organized a class in and around Arcanum. The Albrights-Simpson and Mary with their 12 children, were principal organizers.

Per the BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY OF DARKE COUNTY, OHIO – Lewis Pub., 1900, Page 421-423 we read the following about Simpson Albright and his family:

Simpson Albright born at Lewisburg, Ohio on Nov. 2, 1804, married Nov. 9, 1828 at Anderson Co., Tennessee to Miss Mary Snoderly and lived in Tennessee until August 1832 when he came to Preble County, Ohio. Two years later he bought 80 acres in Twin Township, Darke County. He moved to Arcanum and lived, retired until his death May 17, 1886, his wife died Nov. 7, 1883. We're leading members of the United Brethren Church. Of his children—Sarah Ann born Feb. 13, 1845 Twin twp. married George F. Hapner and lives in Arcanum; Elizabeth born Aug. 13, 1848 Twin Twp., married Dr. Royston Ford of Greenville and died in Arcanum.

Per Find A Grave web site we read more details regarding Simpson: The entire bio can be read at <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/50674516/simpson-albright>. Simpson Albright was born in Lewisburg, November 2, 1804, and received only a limited education. He was an excellent reader but had little knowledge of other branches of study. As his father was lame and in limited circumstances most of the farm work fell to his sons, and when he died the family were left poor. Simpson was only thirteen years of age at that time and was forced to earn his own livelihood by working as a farm hand, being thus employed until his marriage. He drifted to Anderson County, Tennessee, where he met Miss Mary Snoderly, who became his wife November 9, 1828.

- After his marriage, Mr. Albright continued to make his home in that state until August, 1832, when he returned to Ohio and located in the northeast corner of Preble county. The following spring he rented a farm in Preble County, where he resided two years, and during that time bought eighty acres of wild land in Twin Township, this county. At that time no improvements had been made and there were but few families in the neighborhood. Philip Mullenix had squatted near the Albright farm and built a house, but William Nealeigh, of Lewisburg, had paid him a small sum for his right to the tract and entered the land. The property Mr. Albright rented until he could clear a small tract of his own land and erect a cabin thereon, which was accomplished in April, 1836. The house, which was sixteen by twenty feet, was built of round logs and contained but one room. He cleared his land and transformed it into a beautiful farm, finally selling it, after his children were grown, for one hundred dollars per acre. He then moved to Arcanum and lived retired until his death, which occurred May 17, 1886. His wife died November 7, 1883. They were leading members of the United Brethren church of Arcanum, and were very charitably disposed, their home being a refuge for the poor and needy. In early life the father was a Democrat, but in 1854 severed his connection with that party and later became an ardent Republican. He is buried at Abbottsville Cemetery. Parents are:
- Philip Albright and Anna Christina Clapp Albright. Children of Simpson: Johnson, Henry, Henderson, Daniel, Philip, William, Adam, Katherine, Sarah Ann, Elizabeth, and Margaret. Per the 1850 Twin Twp. Census of Darke County we find eight of the above listed children—Johnson, Henry and Margaret are not in this particular census.

For further research one could look into Preble County records as Simpson was born there and returned therein before coming to Twin Township or Arcanum area. Tennessee records could also be gleaned for a marriage record; however the earlier date records are sometimes missing, hard to find or not as detailed as the latter.

This history of the Albright family and UB Church will continue in a following newsletter. Notes for this article are in AWTHS "Church" binder as well as photographs, some are digital. Detailed info about the UB Church, parsonages and pastors as well as a genealogy chart of the Albright Family are available.

Blevins Popcorn Company

The Blevins Popcorn Company of Knoxville, Tn. purchased the Arcanum business, Ohio Popcorn Company, from Louis Harris in August of 1948. Louis had managed Valentine Tidswell & Son Popcorn Company at the same site during the 10 months the popcorn company was in operation. Owned by Valentine Tidswell and Katherine Harris, Louis became president and owner in 1946 changing the name to Ohio Popcorn Company.

James Victor Blevins liked to be known as the Popcorn King after he began to market his own version of the snack to movie and grocery chains in the 1940's. While working as a food broker he realized how demand for popcorn was surging along with movie audiences and that it was in short supply. Blevins founded the Blevins Popcorn Company in Nashville in 1945. He developed a fluffier, tastier hybrid corn as well as a buttery but low-fat seasoning. Besides selling wholesale he started selling retail.

Timeline for the Arcanum branch of the Blevins Popcorn Company begins in 1948 at the corner of High and South Streets in downtown Arcanum known as Popcorn Square. One can imagine three factors played into the decision to purchase the Arcanum company. 1) The Arcanum company was already contracting with area farmers to grow popcorn. 2) The factory was near the railroad line necessary for shipment. 3) Darke County's fertile ground, "a good corn growing area".

Blevins began immediately upgrading the machinery to process the corn by Blevins' patented methods. Plans were for Arcanum to also be a distribution center for the company's products; seasonings, boxes, peanuts, and more.

New storage facilities were built to handle the additional corn planted. Contracts were made with each of the farmers in the fall for the amount of corn to be planted and for the price to be paid at harvest time. Then disaster struck.

Arcanum Times, September 10, 1953 Blevins Popcorn Co. Gutted by Fire (7 South High Street)

The Blevins Popcorn Company High and South Streets was destroyed by fire Wednesday morning the fire starting in the warehouse, where the drying and processing plant is located. -- The office and rooms directly in the rear of the building were burned. Contents of the office were saved. --- The cribs were not touched by the fire and the Blevins Company will take in crops from farmers in this area.

Arcanum Times, January 4, 1962 Blevins Plans New Plant at Arcanum (Pops- Rite Lane)

Construction of a new modern processing plant at the south edge of Arcanum is part of the 1962 expansion program for the Blevins Popcorn Company. -- The new plant will be adjacent to the company's 11 concrete silos at the south edge of the village, with total employment upon completion expected to be 25 people.---- Since the 1953 fire, the Arcanum office has handled purchasing, storage and warehousing of popcorn A large amount of this supply is exported overseas. --- At the new one-story plant, the popcorn will be shelled, cleaned, graded and packaged through the use of modern equipment, according to Mrs. Dorothy Catlett, office manager of the Arcanum branch..

Arcanum Times, March 12, 1964 Blevins Begins Assembly Line

Mr. Ralph Bromagem of the Blevins Popcorn Factory has informed the paper they have started a new line of canning popcorn in 10 lb. cans--- The factory has already shipped 3 carloads of the 10 lbs cans and are shipping 6 more carloads as soon as possible. These carloads of popcorn go overseas. In the 3 carloads shipped there were 10,640 cans.

Many area people have responded to our request to share memories of the popcorn factory.

Deanna Robertson Wuttke, daughter of office manager, Dorothy Robertson Catlett remembers how busy her mother was after harvest getting local farmers to contract to grow popcorn and again just before spring planting supplying them with the seeds. She remembers riding with John Smith when he made deliveries to swimming pools and other businesses. Mrs. Catlett worked for Blevins in Nashville; she came to Arcanum with her girls when Blevins bought the Arcanum factory. Dorothy remembers every four years at the time of the presidential election Blevins some way marked the small popcorn bags so they could predicted the outcome of the presidential election by the number of bags select when people bought their popcorn at the movies, etc.

One of the many farmers in Darke County who planted for Blevins was the John Smith family. Jed remembers the tremendous amount of corn John and his sons planted each spring. Blevins was very particular about how the corn was handle when harvested, they didn't want the kernels damaged. It wasn't until around 1976 when the Smiths purchased a new combine that Blevins would allow them to shell the corn as it was harvested.

Many people responded to our request on social media to tell us about their family members or themselves either working for Blevins or enjoying the benefits of working there-- free fresh popped corn from the test kitchen. Some people sewed the bags the corn was shipped in. Some filled the bags and sacks. Some sorted the corn cobs.

What most remarked about were the Popcorn Festivals. Go cart races were held down town. Pony rides, fish ponds, bike races, cake walks, greased pig chase, and chicken BBQ dinner were held in Ivester Park. And a parade, King and Queen Contest, helicopter rides - the list goes on and on. Of course there was popcorn.

Share your memories with us. Can you answer this question? When did Blevins close and leave Arcanum? Respond by email - contact-arcanumhistoricalsociety.org, AWTHS facebook - contact Barbara Deis, 937-662-0119.

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

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April 2018

AWTHS Visitors Hours 9 a.m. - Noon Reference Room 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Open the 3rd Saturday of April * 1st Saturday of May * Each Saturday in June and July
Other times by appointment. Contact 937-417-3746

Board Meetings held 1st Tuesday of each month. 7:00 p.m.
Euchre Card Parties held 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month. Everyone welcome to play, 1:00 p.m.

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.

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