

## Sharing The Secret

January 2019

Arcanum Wayne Trail Historical Society, Inc., 123 W. George St., Arcanum, Ohio 45304      Volume 15 Issue 1  
web-www.arcanumhistoricalsociety.org      email-contact@arcanumhistoricalsociety.org

President's Remarks Jenny Quigney 937-459-8090

Happy New Year everyone! However, in reality I am writing this on December 1<sup>st</sup>. We have just finished the Thanksgiving celebration and the completion of the Christmas Bazaar. In the spirit of Thanksgiving I would like to take a moment to remind myself and everyone reading this about all that we have been blessed with this past year. There have been many wonderful membership meeting programs and Coffee & Conversation sessions which I have enjoyed very much and I'm sure all of you have as well. I would like to extend a special thank you for all the effort that the members have made in making these events possible. A special thanks to Kirby and Lori Sutton and Josh Urlage, the Pittsburg / FM school district (Norma Baker, Ruth Kepler, & Betty Sease) and JoAnne Hill for their commitments to our Coffee and Conversations series this past summer. Also, a thank you goes out to Curtis Shafer with the Arcanum Public Library, Dr. David Farst, David Hart (Supporting Purple Heart Recipients and Gold Star Families) and the Darke County Genealogy Society for supporting AWTHS by presenting these programs. I can not state enough the appreciation I feel for the members that made these speakers possible this past year.

I would like to give a shout out to Jim Deis, Tom Jones, Dick Troutwine and Larry Wallace for their help on the Adopt A Highway committee; Lynn Trump for taking care of our aluminum recycling; Dave and Beth Flora for taking care of the Euchre Card Parties which are held here twice a month. A special thanks to Jim Hill for all his help around the house. I would especially like to thank Fred Troutwine for being my back up this past year as the Vice President. Last but not least a huge thank you to Keith & Carolyn Furlong for scheduling the fair gate this year and a special thank you to Bev Rench for taking over that committee next year. Annette Stewart continues to do a wonderful job maintaining our references and resources library while also helping researchers who contact AWTHS for information. Thanks Annette for your many hours of helping others and the research you do. This is just a small example of the members that help to keep our organization running and that could not happen without each and every one of them, there are so many others that continue to serve and work towards the betterment of the AWTHS. Thank you all!

Please plan to attend our next meeting on January 10<sup>th</sup> with a pizza party. This is the annual business meeting and election of officers. Also, if anyone knows of a friend or family member that would like to be a part of our organization please invite them to our January meeting. We always welcome and encourage new memberships.

In closing I would like to state that it has been a pleasure to serve as your President and I am looking forward to the new year with anticipation. It is sure to be a good year. Thank you everyone and Happy New Year.

### January 10<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m. Annual Membership Meeting and Election of Officers

Join us for a pizza party, with pizza, salads and desserts provided by the board members. A brief meeting will be held to elect a president and vice president and also to select one new board member.

### March 14, 2019      Guest Speaker - Jerry Stichter      7:00 p.m.

Have you had concerns about what to do with the items you have accumulated over the years, whether they are antiques or just your favorites? Our guest Thursday March 14<sup>th</sup> will help answer your questions. Jerry Stichter has over 40 years of experience as an auctioneer and appraiser. He is not only an auctioneer, he is someone who likes to talk with groups to help keep people from making mistakes when faced with these decisions. Jerry will have helpful guidelines for people with different situations. Jerry will be there to answer your questions.

Jerry was the auctioneer for the John Smith Company, "The Big Store", in 1995. He will share stories from the two day auction which drew buyers from across the country, like the old metal sign that was nailed down to cover up a hole and sold for big bucks..

Join us March 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 for an informative and enjoyable evening.

### March 7, 2019 7:00 p.m.      Darke County Center of the Arts Coffee House Performance

Join us at AWTHS for an evening with Lee Murdock a talented instrumentalist on six and twelve string guitars who combines ragtime, Irish, blues and folk styles with a flair for storytelling in his songs. Enjoy this fun evening. Tickets may be purchased through DCCA, Fourman's Variety Store or at the door.

**Reports****Memberships** Sharon Troutwine 692-5128

We are glad to welcome new members John and Kathy Daugherty and also Tom Pedtke.

It is almost January 1st and that means it's time to renew your membership by paying your dues.

If you didn't get around to renewing last year then do it right now! You can turn your money and form into Treasurer Jerry Kramer at Roth and Co. or to any board member. Thanks for your prompt renewal.

**Christmas Bazaar Report** Richard and Sharon Troutwine 692-5128

Thank You for helping to make our Christmas Bazaar a big success. Your donations, your purchases, your time and effort all are appreciated. Without you we could not provide this special community event. The profit was over \$3100 and money is still trickling in.

Congratulations to all of the Bazaar winners. In the 50/50 Raffle winners were \$175 to Martin Hanshoe; \$125 to Kirk Honeyman; and \$75 to Kate Smith.

In-House Raffle winners were: Dawn Arnett – Father Christmas; Linda Snyder – Star Wreath; Joyce Feitshans-Coke-A-Cola Santa; Sue Graham- Holiday Basket; Cornelia Barnett – Mystery Surprise Box; Dana Williams – Centerpiece.

Door Prize Winners were Phyllis Miller- Glitter Candle set and Sharon Doan – Nativity Music Box

Unsold items were used to decorated AWTHS for Christmas, some were packed away to try to resell next year, and some were labeled for the Free Room. Non-Christmas items were taken to Faith Church for their Spring Rummage Sale.

Please start collecting items for Bazaar 2019. Mark your new calendar for the week-end after Thanksgiving and plan to help with the Bazaar. This fundraiser takes a lot of manpower and hours. We need You!!

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**Research Sources** **Annette Stewart****Koehler Family**

Amanda Koehler was a researcher who came into AWTHS to look at our materials on the family business. Amanda had some interesting photos to share with us of the family and one of the old meat market business. These are available digitally as well as some family and business notes on the family we gathered from searching the digital files on laptop. Note: Many of these interesting tidbits included here are from the old newspapers as well as info Bill and Anita gathered previously.

We find John and Manda Koehler came to Arcanum in 1879. They lived at the corner of W. George and Sycamore which was the Larry Fourman's house and two houses west of the historical society. They had nine children per John's obit: Mrs. H. J. Morrison, Mayme Grant, Mrs. Lula Hall, Roscoe, Fred, Arthur, Walter, Charles and Clark. John is buried at Abbottsville Cemetery.

Their first meat market business was located at 22-22 W. George Street where Belle Fiole Tanning is located today. However, while being at the location it is not this present building. In the digital files we read: This building was replaced in 1906 by the Farmers National Bank Building and would be located where the east and east part of the center portion of this building now stands. The former building was a one story frame building with a door centered between two large windows. If anyone has a photo of this business we would appreciate a copy.

The business then moved to 7 W. George which was the location of Fox's Pharmacy. Note Fox's was built in 1962 and was not the building they used for the meat market. Again, anyone with an old business photo we would love a copy for our file. We read the meat business ran for over 50 years.

**Baker Family Update**

**Baker Related Families** Our second meeting of the "Baker Family Group Project" will meet Saturday, January 5, 2019 at 1pm at AWTHS. This is of the Michael Baker and Catherine Smucker line as well as Henry Baker, Sr. and Elizabeth Poe and related families.

Our group will be discussing the facts of the genealogical line to prepare for a master file and perhaps a book in the future.

Please join us. Message or contact Annette Stewart [contact@arcanumhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:contact@arcanumhistoricalsociety.org) with questions as well as Annette or new member Tom Pedtke at [tom@pedtke.com](mailto:tom@pedtke.com) to be included in our group email to keep updated. More info on AWTHS FB event page.

Presenters January 5<sup>th</sup> will be: Gale Honeyman, Bill Baker (presented in November), Tom Pedtke and Annette Stewart.

**Vintage Toys on Display** Carolyn Furlong – 548-6556

When I think of Christmas I think of toys for girls and boys, as the song says. Toys, “plural”, but when my husband Keith Furlong was growing up in a family of nine siblings, that was not often the case. Many gatherings around the tree each child would get a gift of socks, maybe a handkerchief as an added surprise. One toy was meant to be shared by all. Maybe some of you can relate to this story.

One particular Christmas a very special toy was under the tree, “The Busy Bridge”. This tin windup toy with many moving parts was manufactured in 1937 by Louis Marx. Cars and trucks moved across the Busy Bridge. Now that cherished toy sits on a shelf in my husband’s office.

The bridge, along with other toys from or by-gone years, will be on display at the AWTHS house. We all have stories of a favorite toy of our youth. Visit the historical society to see the toy display and just maybe relive some memories of your own.

For those of you who would like to loan us a vintage or favorite toy to display in our enclosed cases for a time, as long as you choose, please contact me.

AWTHS is open for visitors to view displays and also for research the first Saturday morning of each month or by appointment



**SOUTHERN DARKE COUNTY HISTORY****ANNETTE STEWART****417-3746**

We wish to thank John and Kathy Daugherty for their work and help with the backup of our computer files on the AWTHS laptop. With so many digital files from the works of Bill Gunder and Anita Short along with research done since, we wouldn't want to lose those files and years of work, along with our many digital photos. FYI some of our interesting photos are ONLY on digital. Some are only in binders and the library, a few are both places. All sources of info and ways to research at AWTHS.

**ARNETT FAMILY** We had the Arnett Family Photo on loan from Kathy Fout. The family members are: Tobias (Abraham's son), Abraham Arnett, Leah Friend, Margaret Arnold (Tobias wife) and his children in back row, Oral and Charles Albert.

Per the Pitsburg Bicentennial History 1976 and History of Darke County, Vol. 2 "From It's Earliest Settlement to Present Time" 1914 by Wilson we read:

Son Tobias lived Pitsburg, Ohio. At 22 years of age he married in 1868 Margaret Arnold. They had two children-Oral and Charles.

Tobias built a cottage style house on father's farm. One year later he purchased 73 acres in Monroe which he sold and purchased 173 acres also in Monroe Twp. He built another home in Pitsburg-the Metzger home possibly 1894. After 12 years went to Norwich, ND.

His father was Abraham, born 1825 and died in 1907. Wife was Leah Friend. Their three children were: Tobias, Margaret and Sarah Ann. Both girls died young.

Abraham settled in Monroe Twp. In 1885 Mr. Hansbarger bought tract where Pitsburg is now but venture unsuccessful. He sold the 8 acres to Mr. Arnett and later Abraham built a house near Hammel and Arnett Elevator. Later erected a brick house on S. Jefferson St. opposite of Tobias. They were members of the German Baptist Church.

Per the History of Darke County 1880 by Beers we read Abraham's parents were Henry and Mary Arnett.

This was written by Kathy Feitshans Fout and follows her family line:

Abraham Arnett, son of Henry John Arnett, platted the town of Arnettville in 1882. One son survived, Tobias, who had sons Oral and Charles Albert. Charles Albert had three daughters-Susan, Harriet and Mary. Harriet died at sixteen.

Susan married Raymond Bristley and had five children. Susan died in the influenza outbreak of 1918. Mary Margaret was raised by Charles Albert and wife Jenny, the grandparents.

Mary married Howard Feitshans and they had six children: Marcia, Larry, Sue, Tom, Kathy and Joelene. Marcias's daughter, Lynn, still resides in Pitsburg today. (2018)

Our questions is: Was Pitsburg and Arnettville two separate communities? And with Arnettville changing to Pittsburg did the "old Pitsburg" dissolve? (See old plat maps 1888 and 1910)

It looks like Pitsburg was on Oaks Road and Arnettville was where Pitsburg is located presently.

History written by Annette Stewart 2018

Finding Arcanum History In The 1912 John Smith Co. Business Ledger

As told by JoAnne Hill to Barbara Deis

The accounts paid ledger with invoices from purchases made by The John Smith Company, "The Big Store", from August 1912 through March 1913 is the pride and joy of JoAnne Hill, great granddaughter of John Smith. It is so interesting, so much can be learned from the invoices.

The meticulous record keeping of Miss Nelle Dingleline provides an insight into the general store business of that era.

Many grocery items were still being purchased in barrels, which the employees then packaged in sizes suitable for households and businesses. Such as baking powder, brown sugar, granulated sugar, coffee, and crackers. Vinegar came in casks. JoAnne remembers in 1950 when she started working in the store grocery vinegar was still being sold in casks. A hole was drilled in the top of the barrel, a pump inserted and then they filled the customers' own jugs which were brought from home.

One of JoAnne's treasured items is a Royal Baking Powder tin from the store given to her by friends. Two friends were at the same auction where they recognized the label on the tin reading "John Smith Co.". They each knew it was from JoAnne's family store. Unbeknownst to the two bidders, they were bidding against each other with the same intention of giving the baking powder tin to JoAnne. JoAnne loves the story and loves having the family heirloom.

The ledger is a record of apparel styles of the times. How often items were reorder tells the popularity of items or the necessity of the item.

Yards and yards of tobacco canvas purchased by area farmers helps tell the story of how much tobacco was being grown in our area.

It is interesting to learn the names of companies across the county Smith's purchased from in 1912 which are still in business today: Florsheim Shoes, Carson Pirie Scott Dry Goods, Marshall Field & Co. and H. J. Heinz.

Some Greenville wholesaler suppliers were The Henry St. Clair Co. Wholesale Grocers, M. Amato-Bananas, Oranges, Lemons, Foreign and Domestic Fruits, etc. and James Frost Wholesale and Retail Florist.

The Big Store sold text books from American Book Company, Cincinnati for the local schools. JoAnne remembers trying to find the teachers' guide which had test answers. She was never successful in her search.

At that time most merchandise was shipped by railroad. It is also interesting to read the shipping directions on the invoices. Some examples are: P H RR Via Union City; Via Traction FRT (from Columbus); "We do not guarantee against shipped Parcel Post"; Traction VIA Dayton, Ohio (from Covington); Shipped US Express.

This is the only ledger JoAnne kept. Some ledgers were given away, many were sold at the 2 day auction in 1995 after the store closed.

In 1912 the Smith family members operating the business were the son of John Smith, Milton M who was the President and Treasurer. Grandsons Howard D. and Carl M. served as Vice President and Secretary, consecutive. Milton was JoAnne's grandfather.

On the store's invoices they boast -- John Smith Co. - *retailers of general merchandise and shippers of grain, - Largest and Best Equipped General Department Store in Western Ohio.*

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

**2019 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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the area where you would like to help.

Acquisitions     Newsletter     Membership     Programs     Ways & Means     Historic Sites     Education     Flower Garden Care

Yard Care     Genealogy     Publicity     Displays     Publications     Adopt A Highway

Help Reference Librarian     Serve as Host/Hostess during Open Hours     Type Research Papers

Transfer Acquired Photos & Documents to Laptop

AWTHS  
PO Box 4 (123 W. George St.)  
Arcanum, OH 45304

**Calendar of Events 2019**

Visitors Open House Hours	First Saturday of each month	9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Euchre Parties	1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month	1:00 p.m.
Board Meetings	1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month	7:00 p.m.
January 5	Baker Family Group Project Meeting	1:00 p.m.
January 10	Annual Business Meeting and Election of Officers and Board Members Pizza Dinner	6:30 p.m.
March 7	Darke County Center of the Arts Presents Instrumentalist Lee Murdock	7:00 p.m.
March 14	Guest Speaker Jerry Stichter, Auctioneer & Appraiser	7:00 p.m.
April 13	Trash Bash – sign up to help in March	

**Just A Reminder**

January is the month to pay membership dues.  
Attend annual membership meeting and enjoy a pizza dinner.  
Attend March 14<sup>th</sup> program, speaker is Jerry Stichter  
Join friends at the Euchre parties.