

## Sharing The Secret

April 2019

Volume 16 Issue 2

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

Incorporated 2004

web-www.arcanumhistoricalsociety.org

email-contact@arcanumhistoricalsociety.org

President's Remarks Jenny Quigney 937-459-8090

We have begun a new year and a new beginning, our fifteenth year to be exact. Yes, that's right fifteen years ago a small group of people met in the kitchen of Dave and JoAnne Hill with a vision. Keith and Carolyn Furlong, Fred and Carolyn Troutwine, Bill Gunder, Anita Short, Holly and John Trigg joined Dave and JoAnne recalling the important role Arcanum played in the development of southwest Darke County with 2 train lines crossing through Arcanum and fertile tobacco fields which brought people and wealth into our community. The question was "How to best preserve the history of Arcanum, our secret place?"

To achieve this they formed what is now known as the Arcanum Wayne Trail Historical Society. Their goal was to preserve the past for future generations. They began by purchasing the Wayne Trail Grange No. 2647, a place to meet and to house the memorabilia that has so generously been donated by members of our community. Through the efforts of many individuals in our community the building constructed in 1894 by Louis Dietrich as a Hotel and Saloon went through a transformation. Repairs were made, windows were replaced, the roof and the outside brick were repaired, interior painting was completed and the woodwork was stripped and stained along with other projects.

It's hard to name all the individuals who contributed to this effort but it should be noted that it was a community that made it all happen. Many donated their skills, time and gave financial support. None of this would have been possible without the fund-raising efforts put forth by various individuals associated with this organization. Thank You!

Over the years histories of Pittsburg, Gordon, and Ithaca have been added, the genealogy department continues to grow, outreach through social media has brought research inquiries, and hundreds of photos are digitized.

I am proud to serve as president of this organization. I would like to take this opportunity to invite everyone to view the last fifteen years through the displays at the house to commemorate this milestone beginning the weekend of Old Fashioned Days in May. Join us Saturday morning Sept. 7 for a brief talk about the AWTHS history including restoration of the building, then a walking tour of Arcanum. It is sure to be a fun and informative year.

In closing I would like to thank our founders, without their vision I would not be writing this today. Of the original founders Dave Hill, Holly Trigg, Bill Gunder and Anita Short are no longer with us; their contributions were invaluable. To each of the founders thank you for all your efforts in securing an organization which will preserve our past for future generations and a presence in our community.

*Speaker - Darryl Mehaffie*

*Topic - The Darke County Fair*

*May 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 P.M.*

Mr. Darryl Mehaffie, graduate of Arcanum High School and Miami University is a retired teacher from the Northmont School District. He is extremely active in community organizations, the Arts, Education, and Politics. Mr. Mehaffie has held many offices in the Darke County Agricultural Society and was a fair board member for 27 years.

His grandfather, Silven Mehaffie, at age 79, whittled a Fair Folk Art display that was donated to AWTHS by Garst Museum in 2008.

Please come and join us as we hear Mr. Mehaffie's behind the scenes stories of the Great Darke County Fair.

### **Old Fashioned Days AWTHS Activities May 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>**

\*Saturday and Sunday AWTHS will be open for visitors from 1:00 to 4:00. There will be special displays commemorating the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of our Historical Society. Visitors can view the ongoing displays which include toys, sports, local businesses, a vintage water heater and movie projector plus much more.

\*Riding on this year's parade float will be some of AWTHS's founding members; scheduled for 11:00 Saturday.

\*View a display at the Arcanum Library highlighting our founding and mission with pictures and items.

#### **AWTHS Officers**

President	Jenny Quigney	459-8090
Vice President	Dick Troutwine	692-5128
Treasurer	Jerry Kramer	692-5764
Secretary	Connie Norris	692-8085

#### **Directors**

Keith Furlong	548-6556	Joyce Colville	692-8685
Dave Flora	692-8413	Jim Deis	662-0119
Larry Wallace	620-2800		
Fred Troutwine	692-8939		

**2019 Coffee and Conversation Series 10:00 a.m.**

*Coffee and Conversation Series continues for the sixth summer. Those attending the past sessions have enjoyed sharing laughs, memories, and stories of growing up in Southern Darke County. Each session features a different guest with a little different background and different experiences. Our guests will be sharing their stories, they want to hear your stories, too.*

*Enjoy a cup of coffee and a donut while reminiscing with neighbors and friends. You are welcome to bring memorabilia to share with us during these morning sessions. Each session begins at 10:00 a.m. on the second Saturday of the month.*

*June 8<sup>th</sup> Kurt Troutwine Kurt has stories to share about growing up in Arcanum, joining his father, Keith, in his insurance business, becoming a volunteer firefighter then appointed Arcanum Fire Chief in April 2008.*

*July 13<sup>th</sup> To Be Announced*

*August 10<sup>th</sup> Annette Stewart Annette will share how she uncovered some of the history of a log house on her family's property, the decision to dismantle it after so many years, the steps of that process and finally the journey of the log house to its new location.*

**Memberships** - Sharon Troutwine 692-5128

I apologize for neglecting to include new member Georgia Pedtke in our January newsletter-- Welcome Georgia.

Thanks to all of you who have renewed your 2019 Membership dues. If you have not as yet done this, please drop off your dues to Jerry Kramer, Treasurer at Roth & Co or give to any of the AWTHS Board Members.

We are sorry to report the passing of members Ed Armacost and Bill Metzcar. Our condolences to their families.

**Roland Gilbert's Glass Slide Collection- Bev Rench**

Roland had an extensive glass slide collection which was sold at his estate auction in 1997. Gene Rench was fascinated by the slides and purchased over 150 at the auction. Joan has now donated these slides to AWTHS.

The slides are 3"x4" with the majority being black and white. The pictures are of people, buildings and animals. Some buildings are recognizable such as the current Rose Post. Several color slides are advertisements for Brandenburg & Cline Pharmacy, City Coal Co., Hartman's Variety Store and Selby Pierce Painting and Paperhanging. The slides are all numbered. However, a listing of the slide content was not obtained at the auction.

So many questions:

Who else bought slides at the auction?

Are the slides all scenes from Arcanum?

Who was the photographer?

What was the purpose of these slides?

Were they shown at a theatre?

What did the projector look like?

We are hoping someone in the community...who also purchased slides...may have a description list. Please contact Bev Rench at 623-0468 if you can assist in telling the story of these fascinating glass slides.

**Golden Replicas of U.S. Stamp Collection for sale**

AWTHS has 21 volumes of Golden Replicas US stamp collections which are being sold due to lack of storage space. The volumes are of different subjects and interest. To inquire about purchasing the stamps contact Dick Troutwine, 692-5128, for an appointment or via email: [contact@arcanumhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:contact@arcanumhistoricalsociety.org).

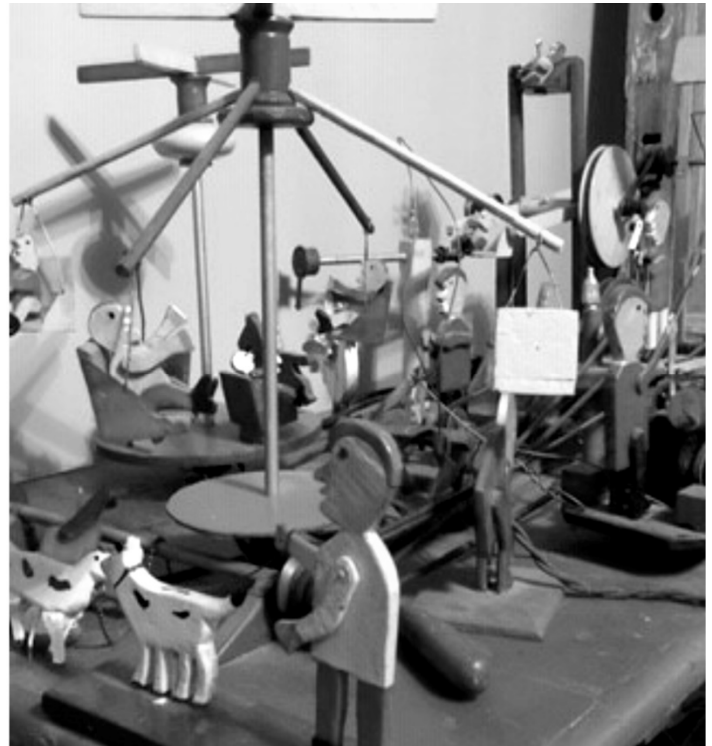
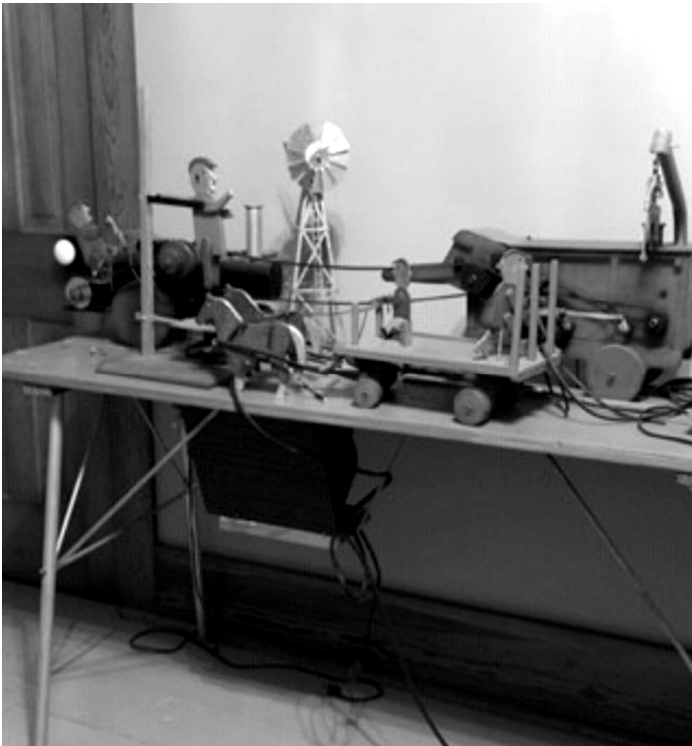
**Folk Art Rendition of the Great Darke County Fair**

In the 1999 Arcanum Sesquicentennial book *Arcanum...a secret place* Silven Mehaffie's daughter Betty Mehaffie Hisson Sutton tells how her father could "take his pocket knife and make any kind of an object out of bits and pieces of wood".

At age 79 Silven Mehaffie carved pieces to make a merry-go-round with horses, people riding on a Ferris wheel, a man sawing wood, a rooster flapping his wings, a man waving an American flag, and numerous other items which were mounted on a one by four foot board. He placed a motor on it and an overhead light and wired it with a switch. When he turned it on everything went into motion. He named this project "The Great Darke County Fair".

Another one of Silven's projects is a farm scene displaying a corn shucker to scale, a wagon with a team of horses including a man standing on the wagon with a pitch fork.

These wonderfully crafted pieces were donated by the Mehaffie family to the Garst Museum. Later after the organization of AWTHS the folk art was gifted to our historical society. The large display pieces are located on the second floor. Although the electrical features no longer work they are amazing pieces to enjoy. Visitors may see them by appointment; contact a board member, message us through facebook page, or email: [contact@arcanumhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:contact@arcanumhistoricalsociety.org).



**Acquisitions** We appreciate the donations which help tell the story of our communities. Please do not leave items between the doors on the front porch or on the back porch. Most photos, books, and antiques cannot withstand moisture and the adverse outdoor weather conditions. Call a board member or email AWTHS to arrange an appointment or drop off time. You can also bring them to AWTHS the First Saturdays of each month (see calendar of events on page 6 for date changes).

It is necessary to complete an acquisition card for item(s) at the time of making the donation. Forms are also on our web site. This information is needed to help Carolyn Furlong and Annette Stewart when numbering acquisitions and identifying items for display or storage.

**Southern Darke County History**

Annette Stewart 417-3746

**More on Albright Family**

John Hawley has donated a couple of photos to our library. One is of the Daniel Albright Family, son of Simpson Albright, the founder of UB Church on E. South St. in Arcanum. Second, is an AHS graduation photo of the class of 1906 in which his family member, Guy Hawley, is in the picture. Other digital photos of the family available on our laptop include 1911 Albright Reunion photo as well as photo of Simpson Albright's grown children which include: Johnson, Daniel, Henderson, Philip, Sally, William, and Adam. Most of his sons served in Civil War. William was a pastor. Johnson, Sarah, Daniel, Philip, and Adam are buried at Abbottsville and Henderson and William at Greenville Union Cemetery. Further info can be found under Find a Grave. By following the list of children's names and links you can view the family genealogy. From there verify with documents such as death certificate, marriage record, obit, etc. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/50674516/simpson-albright>.

**See the current Albright display at the historical society.**

Daniel Albright's children in photo are: (Simpson Albright's son)  
Back Row, front to back: Franklin, William, Mary Albright Hawley,  
Row 2 front to back: Pearl Albright Heater, Philipanna Albright Smith, Anderson, Della Albright Miller.  
Row3: Ruby Albright Wilson, Clara Albright Ford, Franklin.  
Row 4: Alta Albright Shank and Daniel.  
This photo is also on our web site under the "New Collections" tab.

**Sampson Albright**

In the Arcanum Business book compiled by Anita Short, we read about the Albright family members: Sampson was a mason-brick layer. Other businesses of Albright's included a harness and drug store; dairy, building of the Methodist Church by City Hall. Others include Sampson, Calloway and Calvin Albright (brothers) lot owners at the corner of South and Main St. Today is Troutwines Auto lot at the traffic light. Once was the Zimmerman residence torn down in 1929 and built by Sampson Albright who was the father of Mayor George Albright. In 1857 they had the Albright and Oliver Dry Goods and Groceries. Later this was torn down and the White Star Service Station built and located here. That was then torn down and today Troutwines has a car lot at this same location.

**Sampson and the Methodist Church located on West South Street:** We read from our church binder: Sampson Albright and Methodist Church: Arcanum M.E. Church by Mrs. C.A. Rosser. March 1856, in the purchase of lot no. 3 (now lot no. 62, our present site) from the heirs at law of James Houck for the consideration of fifty dollars. The question then arose whether to build a brick or frame structure. Each type had its supporters, but when Brother Samson P. Albright, by trade a mason, offered to lay the brick and stone as part of his subscription to the building fund, it was quickly decided to build of these materials.

**Albright, Sampson Province,** s/o Philip & Catharine Albright, died at 86y 6m 10d, res Columbus, Ind. Former res of Arcanum, Oh & pioneer of Preble Co, Oh., Left wife, 5 sons, 3 daus. Remains brought to son Geo W. in Arcanum. Born Knoxville, Tenn Oct 22, 1827—7th son of 16 children in family of 11 sons & 5 daus. When he was 8y moved to Ohio. Married Mar 16, 1836 to Susan Burgess & had 5 sons & 3 daus--the eldest son Edward Bidwell Thompson died at age 18y & eldest dau Martha Emily died in infancy. Wife died May 19, 1876. Married 2nd Susan Elizabeth Riegle, d/o Samuel & Sarah Reigle. Sampson died May 2, 1914; left wife, 5 sons, 3 daus, 15 grch, 1 sister. (5-7-1914)

*Obituaries from Arcanum, Ohio Newspapers*

Arcanum Times Jan 13, 1910 – Dec 31, 1915 <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/27660565/sampson-province-albright>

I believe that Sampson Albright who help build the "Methodist" Church by City Hall was a nephew to Simpson Albright who help start the UB Church east of Arcanum which is Faith United Methodist today. Sampson's parents were Philip Albright, Jr. and Anna Catharine Strader. Philip Jr. was a brother to Simpson. Philip Jr. and Simpson's parents were Philip Albright 1758-1820 and Anna Christina Clapp.

*Annette is trying to coordinate the many digital files on laptop and AWTHS collection especially on the old houses and Arcanum events. We receive many inquiries thru our FB page and email regarding these issues which we try to answer. We are attempting to write and put together some files to load to the web site where interested parties can view the documents there to help answer some questions and point them to the necessary steps and tools to use. One file will "Researching your Home" and the second will be "Cemetery and Stone Preservation". Anyone with research and writing skills in these areas is welcome to join Annette.*

**Around Town**

In the 1960s bowling was a very popular community pastime. You might see some familiar faces in these two photos. A Community album with photos and articles as well as other albums will be on display during Historical Society summer hours Saturday starting June 1st. Stop by to browse. Call Carolyn Furlong for more information, 548-6556

*The Arcanum Bowling Center, Inc. constructed in 1958 was located at 609 North Main Street. General Dollar store is currently located on those lots.*



Farmers Market      Veterans Park - George Street      Saturday June 1 - August 17 9 a.m. -noon

Shop for breads, pies, jams, fresh vegetables, fruit, woven rugs, crafts and much more. Vendors are welcome to set-up shop whenever they have something to sell. No registration required. Returning vendors and new vendors are welcome. Have a question - contact Sharon 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

Visitors Open House Hours First Saturday of each month 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Exceptions \* House will be open April 13<sup>th</sup> instead of April 7<sup>th</sup> – May 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> instead of May 4<sup>th</sup>

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> Monday of the month 7:00 p.m.

April 13, 2019	Open Hours to coordinate with Arcanum Alumni activities	1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
May 9, 2019	Speaker- Darly Mehaffie	7:00 p.m.
May 18, 19, 2019	Open Hours during Arcanum Old Fashioned Days	1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
June 8, 2019	Coffee & Conversation Series- Guest Kurt Troutwine	10:00 a.m.
June 1 <sup>st</sup> – Aug. 17	Saturday Farmers Market (Sell or Buy)	9:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.

#### On Going Projects

Hall Rentals – Carolyn Furlong 548-6556 \* Aluminum Recycling – Lynn Trump 548-6116 \*

Donation of Appreciated Stocks – Richard Troutwine or Todd Durham, 2<sup>nd</sup> National Bank, 548-2206 \*

Adopt-A-Highway – Jim Deis 662-0119 \*

#### Just A Reminder

Sign up to be a host during open hours on designated Saturdays.

Volunteer to coordinate open hours hosts schedule.

Visit during open house to see new displays and browse through local history files. This information is entertaining and very informative.

Join the Euchre group. There is a place at the table for you too.

Hear Darryl Mehaffie share stories about his 27 years on the Darke County Fair board.

Plan to attend Coffee and Conversation series this summer beginning June 8th - guest Kurt Troutwine