

Sharing The Secret

January 2020

Volume 17 Issue 1

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

Greeting everyone! It is December 2nd as I am writing this report to all of you and we have finished up our annual Christmas Bazaar. Everyone was amazing, the volunteers, the little elves (Sharon, Barb, Carolyn, and Connie to name a few) that devoted so much time in preparation, and all the shoppers that arrived to make this a very successful event. I would like to send out a special thank you to Rose Lambert, she supplies us with fresh greenery every year for the stage at Veterans Park and offers all of us her wisdom on all thing’s flowers. What a blessing it is to have friends like her and of course everyone that donates so much of their time and knowledge to our organization. Where would we all be without that kind of blessing.

Please be sure to check out the rest of the newsletter to see what events and programs are on the schedule. Also, our web page is being updated thanks to Annette Stewart and Kathy Daughtery. We will have that information on our website as well.

As the year ends I want to thank all members who have stepped up to service as hostesses for our membership meetings and for the Coffee & Conversation Series providing delicious refreshments. I am also thankful to those who act as host during the Saturday morning Open Hours greeting visitors and showing them around to view displays and to our reference library.

The new front porch floor looks so nice. Money was used from a \$1,600 grant awarded AWTHS by Darke County Foundation to replace the front porch floor. Jerry Snyder was the contractor.

It was time to seal the exterior brick again. The job was completed at a cost of \$1,900.

We end November with a bank balance of \$16,966.94.

As I sit here and reflect on all the memories made over the past year I realize that our organization is truly blessed with each and every one of you. It has been a pleasure to serve as your president over the past year and I look forward to making more memories in the new year and wish God’s blessing for each of you.

January 9th 6:30 p.m. Annual Membership Meeting and Election of Officers & Dinner

To show how much our AWTHS members are appreciated a dinner is planned for January 9th. Please join us for dinner - pizza, salads and desserts - provided by the board members and AWTHS. A brief meeting will be held to elect a president and vice president and also to select one new board member. We will also review the past year. Note the time- 6:30 p.

February 27, 2020 7:00 p.m. Darke County Center for the Arts At ATWHS

You’ll be tapping your feet to music performed by Siusan O’Rouke and Zig Zeitler when DCCA returns this season for a Coffee House Series event. Enjoy traditional and original Irish music Thursday February 27 at 7:00 p.m. Tickets may be purchased through Darke County Center for the Arts or at Fourman’s Variety Store on George St.

March 12, 2020 - 7:00 p.m. Membership Meeting - Presentation by Arcanum Preservation Society

Preserving the history of Arcanum is the vision shared by both the Arcanum Preservation Society and AWTHS. Join us to learn the progress and goals of the recently established non-profit organization “Arcanum Preservation Society” (APS). A group of residents came together in 2019 with the same interest - saving the Arcanum Town Hall & Opera House. Many only know it as the City Building - the place where you pay your utility bill. The building is rich in history. Learn about the building and the plans to restore it to once again being the center of our community.

AWTHS Officers

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

Membership Sharon Troutwine 692-5128

Thank you to the many people who have already renewed their 2020 dues. January is the month for all dues to be collected. You may drop off money and form (\$25 for family & \$15 for single) to Treasurer, Jerry Kramer, mail it to AWTHS, or bring it to our January meeting. These membership fees are so important to help keep AWTHS a functioning organization.

Christmas Bazaar Report 2019 Sharon and Dick Troutwine 692-5128

We thank you all for the wonderful help, support and encouragement that you gave us. We surely couldn't do the Bazaar without your donations, your purchases and your assistance. Our total income was \$2,954. We will still have some additional money trickling in.

The 50-50 Raffle awarded to Betty Rehback- \$195; to Jerry Beatty - \$135; To Terry Rench - \$100.

The In House Raffle awarded: Kris Kessler – Burlap Wreath; Carol Curl – Father Christmas; Trinia William – Snowman; Tammy Pugh – Metal Centerpiece; Angie Lear- Carolyn's Mystery Box, and Jeff Wills – Advent Musical Christmas Tree.

Friday Night Door Prize of Christmas Ornaments – Laura VanHoose and Saturday Door Prize of Ornaments – Kari Hart. Congratulations!!

Our Bake Shoppe was organized by Sally Sharritts and filled with your yummy treats—thanks for making and baking.

Special thanks to Barb Deis, Carolyn Furlong and Sally Sharritts for creating new decorations for Bazaar 2019. Also, to Carolyn Trump for her cute doggy coats; Lynn Trump for the wood crafted ornaments; to Charles and Andrea Lange for the handmade deer and trees; Jean Aukerman for the handmade sewn items; Sally Rader for all of the great donations; to Annette Stewart for her help with social media; to Jean Hillis for her help with advertisement; to Bev Rench for her excellent job of organizing and display; to Rose Lambert for donating the cedar garlands used on the Veterans Stage.

THANK YOU EVERYONE! We are looking forward to the 2020 Bazaar.

House Keepers - Sharon Troutwine 692-5128

We are now using volunteer house keepers to tidy up the house for renters and to check the house following the rental, doing light cleaning as needed. The house keeper also meets with the renters to go over the rental regulations and to give them the house key. Your help is needed - sign up to be a house keeper for one month.

2020 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 _____

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 Publicity Publications Adopt A Highway Displays
 Help Reference Librarian Genealogy Type Research Papers Christmas Bazaar
 Serve as Host/Hostess during Open Hours Provide Refreshments at Membership Meetings House Keeper

History of Arcanum Books for Purchase

The Secret Town - The Story of the Founding of Arcanum, Ohio and William Gunder Family \$20

Arcanum, Ohio Business History (1852-1968) \$25

Arcanum Chronicles Includes - Opera House, Sports, Parades & Celebrations, Brig. Gen. Ed Sigerfoos, Grassville Quartette, Christmas, Chautauqua, Fast Horses, District 7 Ithaca School \$20

Arcanum Chronicles Volume 2 - History of Fire Department and Arcanum Public Library \$18

Purchase books at AWTHS during open hours, website, or contact board members

Southern Darke County History

Annette Stewart

417-3746

Clarification

In last newsletter we wrote about the "Shields Family". The article got a little jumbled so just to clarify:

This was the Isaac Shields family.

The home they are referring to is the large white stucco looking house north of Arcanum on Alt. 49 North on the right (east) side of the road. I've passed this house for years and never knew the history or relation to Anita Short as well as Carolyn Furlong descendants.

They are buried in Abbottsville Cemetery and you may have noticed the extremely large stone as you pass by.

The farm was sold and when Chester Baker drove over the barn floor it fell in because of the still there from previous years.

For a complete history visit this site or check our research library: **Webpage by: Audrey (Shields) Hancock of Portage, Michigan**
<http://freepages.rootsweb.com/~grannyapple/genealogy/SHIELDS/BIO-IsaacMSHIELDS.html>

Fryman Family

The Fryman family was researched and studied because of the log house coffee session that I did this summer. The old two story log house from around late 1850's era was on my parent's farm, Dale and Betty Sease, on Karr Road in Monroe Township. Upon exploring why the building was leaning we discovered a leaking roof which had led to southwest corner log damage of the house. After discussions and arriving at a solution the log house was taken down in the summer of 2017, stored for a year in the barn and then shipped to North Carolina to be "put back together". Today it is home to Montana.

Thus this history was discovered from old deeds, census records, and obits and the history of the family and farm went with the log house. When the log house was being taken down, a couple of names were discovered on the logs one resembling Noah ___mon and Noah's name is in the deeds.

Found this about Noah Fryman in 1880 "History of Darke County, Ohio" page 628 in Monroe Township-farmer, Section 13 PO Box Arcanum. One of the old settlers of Darke County and was born in Montgomery Co., Ohio August 2, 1835 and is a son of Jacob and Catherine Fryman both old residents of Montgomery Co. Our subject was reared a farmer's boy and labored on his father's farm till his 21st year when he began life for himself and followed the occupation he was reared to. He removed to Darke Co in 1848 and settled on Sec. 6 where he remained till 1859 and then removed to the place where he now resides. He first settled on 40 acres of wild land that took years of toil and privation before he had it in good condition that makes farm labor agreeable and profitable, by great industry and good management he added to his little farm till now he owns 125 acres of choice farming land all in a high state of cultivation. He has been very successful in life....He celebrated his marriage with Miss Elizabeth, daughter of Nicholas and Leah Niswonger April 5, 1859. Her parents were residents of this township. Her father was killed Sept. 16 1864, her mother died in 1851. Mr. and Mrs. Fryman are the parents of 10 children viz George, Ananias, Nicholas, Mary, Lewis, Hetta, one son and three daughters died in infancy. Mrs. Fryman was born April 27, 1840. Members of German Baptist Church.

This narrative pretty much sums up Noah's life and his family. At the July Coffee and Conversation, descendants of the Fryman family were guests and presented many photos of the family and info to be added to the story and file about the Fryman's. Mary Lou Fryman Neff has a photo of Jacob Fryman's old home place on Gettysburg-Pittsburg Road. Jacob was Noah's father.

William Gray, who is a descendant of Noah, sent many photos of the Karr Road farms and family. In looking at the plat maps we discover three Fryman's living on the west side of Karr Road. A. Fryman (possibly son Ananias), Noah, and George. We believe many of the photos are taken at George's place which was down the road close to Grubbs-Rex Road intersection. At that time it looked like the farm extended to the corner of Karr and Grubbs-Rex and extended west. There appeared to be a house there as well.

Some of the children's names are listed in the little souvenir books as attending at Germany little one room school house which sat on the north side of Grubbs-Rex near the "S" curve at the woods. Lewis Fryman bought the farm from Noah, his father, and from a photo Noah must have moved to Pittsburg. Lewis was in business with Fred Troutwine's family, grandpa Web and his brother Oscar Troutwine

Fryman Family continues from page 3

before Troutwine's Auto started. Fred is also related to Noah's daughter, Catherine, who married Daniel Fourman.

Jacob Fryman and family are buried at Mote Cemetery as well as Noah and his wife, Elizabeth Niswonger. The Niswonger's were plentiful also in Monroe Township and many built log homes as well according to their accounts in Darke County history. The Niswonger family stones are also in Mote Cemetery however I haven't discovered Elizabeth's mother, Leah, yet.

For further research, see our digital photos on laptop of the Fryman's as well as the old log house photos and various record sources. We also have a few records on the Nicholas Niswonger family as well as newspaper accounts of Lewis Fryman.

The Fryman family is also listed as "First Families of Darke County" by the Darke County Genealogical Society which signifies that the families were living in Darke County by 1831-1850.

Written and Researched by Annette Stewart 2019

Thank you to Kathy Daugherty who has developed a new web site for AWTHS. The site will be public soon. We encourage you to check it out! One of the new features is a calendar to also announce events as well as a separate calendar to book the facility for rentals. The web address will be www.awths.org. Another feature is "blog" features which also are shared on our FB page. We will also have a section to join, volunteer, and donate as well as history of AWTHS and our town.

Arcanum Preservation Society

The **Arcanum Preservation Society, Inc**, a non-profit being organized by residents to preserve the historic *Arcanum Town Hall & Opera House*, is in the process of laying the groundwork of this exciting adventure. This beautiful old building is part of the very fabric of our community. It is our history, our present and, God willing, our future. We need to preserve it with as much accuracy as possible. Together we can accomplish great things The goal of the group is to utilize the knowledge and talents of our local residents to restore Town Hall and then apply what we've learned to continue improving our community, one project at a time. We are asking those interested in preservation, history and our community to be involved and skills in construction, historical records and building as well as village history would be helpful.

APS appreciates the support of our mayor, village council and Twin township leaders. Arcanum alumni, Roger Snell (rogersnell.com), has pledged a percentage of the profits from the sale of his beautiful painting "A New Day in Arcanum" to the group. The painting is on display at Sutton's. Please feel free to leave us a note at our display in Sutton's as you're in supporting our hometown grocery (#savesuttons, shop local). Also look for **APS** at upcoming events.

Our monthly meetings are at 7pm at the old Town Hall. Check our website for the dates. Interested in helping, have suggestions or just want to watch our progress? Follow us on Facebook (@arcanumpreservationsociety). You can also contact us at arcanumpreservationsociety@gmail.com.

Angela Herron, Committee Chair

Communications, Events & Social Presence Committee

Arcanum Preservation Society, Inc.

History of the Town Hall and Opera House can be read in the book "Arcanum Chronicles" written by Anita Short and William Gunder. Books can be purchased at AWTHS or through AWTHS website. This excerpt is from their book.

The Arcanum Village Council and the Trustees of Twin Township on October 1, 1888 purchased lot 65 in Houk's addition to Arcanum for \$2,150. The Village paid \$1,433.33 and Twin Township paid the remaining balance of the total cost.

Opera House and City Building history continues from page 4

It was on this lot that they would construct a combined City or Town Hall and Township House. The second and third stories of this building would contain the Arcanum Opera House, which would serve the community as its social center until the late 1920's.

Although with two railroads and later the traction, the residents of Arcanum could travel to Dayton, Cleveland and elsewhere for business and entertainment, the focus of both the business and social lives during this period was centered in Arcanum. The Opera House served as "the heart" of the local social activity. The Opera House was the home of entertainment and lecture series; but it also was used for many important local events such as commencements, home talent events, ciphering and spelling contests, the Farmers' Institute and meetings held to give election results. It essentially served as the centerpiece of the community needs and social entertainment.

Originally the Opera house was under the direct operation of the Village Mayor. Later it operated under a manager who was contracted by the town council on a yearly basis.

The last event recorded was December 7, 1927. For all practical purposes, the Opera House's days of glory were over.



Calendar of Events

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

Euchre Parties 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month 1:00 p.m.

Board Meetings 1st Monday of the month 7:00 p.m.

****All 2020 Membership fees are due January 1st ****

January 9, 2020 Annual Membership Meeting and Election of Officers Pizza Dinner 6:30 p.m.

February 27, 2020 DCCA presents evening of Irish Music 7:00 p.m.

March 12, 2020 Membership Meeting and Program: Arcanum Preservation Society 7:00 p.m.

On Going Projects

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

Donation of Appreciated Stocks – Richard Troutwine 692-5128 or Todd Durham, 2nd National Bank, 548-2206 *

Adopt-A-Highway – Jim Deis 662-0119 * Arcanum Books by Anita Short and Bill Gunder for sale at AWTHS, contact a board member, through our website.

Gentle Reminder

Pay your 2020 AWTHS dues.

Attend Membership Appreciation Pizza Dinner January 9th.

Offer to help with the many responsibilities needed to keep AWTHS viable.

Attend DCCA music evening February 27th.

Attend presentation about Arcanum Preservation Society March 12th.