

## Sharing The Secret

May 2023

Arcanum Wayne Trail Historical Society, Inc., 123 W. George St., Arcanum, Ohio 45304  
website: [www.awths.org](http://www.awths.org)

Volume 19 Issue 2

Incorporated 2004

email: [awthinfo@gmail.com](mailto:awthinfo@gmail.com) (new)

President's Remarks – Jenny Quigney 937-459-8090

It is the beginning of a new year and one that holds many exciting times for this organization. Our annual membership meeting and election of officers was held on January 12<sup>th</sup> with pizza, salads and of course desserts enjoyed by all. The election of officers are as follows: Jenny Quigney – President, Dick Troutwine – Vice President, Connie Wells – Secretary, David Kepler – Treasurer. The Board of Directors are as follows: Carolyn Furlong, David Hayes, Cary Wogomon, Joyce Colville, Jim Deis and Fred Troutwine.

We are preparing for our next fundraiser which is the Trash Bash. I have it on good authority that Jim Deis has it under control. Please see the upcoming events outlined in this newsletter. There are several and I feel sure that something will pique your interest. Our next membership meeting will be held on May 11<sup>th</sup> and will explore Arcanum and the surrounding area gas wells. A lot of research has been devoted to this program so please attend and enjoy. These meetings are not only a wonderful time to socialize but a valuable experience in learning about our history.

I am sorry to announce that Barb Deis will be stepping down as our program director at the end of this year. She has devoted an enormous amount of time over the years to making sure that our programs go off without a hitch. Thank you, Barb, for your dedication over the years in planning very interesting and enjoyable programs. You will be missed. Barb plans to continue working on our newsletter and I for one am very grateful for that. With that being said we are looking for someone to fill her shoes. So, if you have an interest or know someone who does please contact any board member.

Please note the new AWTHS general information email is changed to [awthinfo@gmail.com](mailto:awthinfo@gmail.com). To contact Annette Stewart use: [awthresearch@gmail.com](mailto:awthresearch@gmail.com).

I wish all of you a happy spring and will see you at our meetings. Don't forget to check out the rest of the newsletter for all upcoming events.

### **May 11 7:00 p.m. Local Natural Gas Wells and Arcanum Gas Company**

The Historical Society is "drilling" for information about the natural gas wells in and around Arcanum to add to our business history records. There were several gas companies over the years. Last one being owned by Ira Dull.

Realizing the importance of natural gas to the village, first efforts to obtain natural gas was made about 1886. *Some names associate with area gas wells: Dull family: Welcome, Amiz, Ira – Martha A. Gilbert - M.L Weisenbarger – A.E. Cline – W.E. Francis - S.S Coons N.M. Markley – David Wilson, - J.F. Heck – J.W. Houk*

Is there a capped gas well in your yard or somewhere on your property? If you know about the gas wells or know of someone who can provide information please join us to share information.

Email – [awths@awths.org](mailto:awths@awths.org), Message through Facebook, Contact a board member

### **July 8 9:00 a.m. Walking Tour "Industrial District"**

*Cary Wogomon will lead a walking tour of Arcanum's early business section in the south part of Arcanum. Meet up with the group at 9:00 at Herbal Reflexions located at the corner of W. South and S. Main Streets. Cary will start the tour at 9:30 walking south on Main St.*

*There is a lot to learn about early businesses in the square formed by South St. to Water St. and S. Albright to S. High. This may be considered the industrial section of the village. Tobacco warehouses, Saw Mill, Kaylor Furniture Factory, natural oil wells and the Big 4 train station & yard are a few businesses Cary will talk about. Join us to learn more Arcanum History. Cary invites you to share what you know about this area during the walk. There is much we can learn from each other. You are welcome to follow along in golf carts and on bikes.*

### **Farmers Market \* Arcanum Veterans Park**

*Each Saturday Morning June through September 9:00 – Noon*

*Vendors – No Fee No Pre-Registration - Sell what you have when you have it!*

*Eggs – Vegetables – Flowers - Honey - Baked Goods - Crafts – Artists*

*Contact - 937-692-5128 For more information*

Looking Ahead to Fall Events

**Sept. 14 7:00 p.m. Pittsburg Business History** - Annette Stewart will talk about various Pittsburg businesses through the years. From interviewing residents, looking at school yearbook ads and researching newspaper article, Annette plans to present their findings and have discussion while encouraging others to share their memories and stories of living and shopping in Pittsburg.

**Nov. 9 7:00 p.m. "A Tale of Two Civil War Veterans"** *Looking back at the service of Maternal Great Grandfather John Brandon and Paternal Great Grandfather Levi Sharp. Presenter: Brenda Arnette, AWTHS and DAR member. Brenda, retired AHS math teacher, works at Garst Museum.*

**Nov. 24 & 25 Christmas Bazaar** Donations can be placed on back porch anytime. Porch is check daily.

Acquisitions

22340	Genealogy Materials /Darke/Preble/Miami, & Montgomery Books Glenna Thompson Collection	Kathy Shambaugh
22341	Book – Stories by W. C. Light	Greenville Library
22342	Zippo Greenkeeper – Repairs Marks on greens, mark balls, & clean spikes on golf shoes	Anita Amsbaugh
22343	6 Advertising Pencils, Old Fash. Days Ref. Magnet, Freedom Documents compliments of Troutwine Auto Sales, Inc.	Ruth Kepler
22344	1900 Railroad Map of Ohio Framed by B&B Gallery	David Kepler
22345	Glass Sodo Pop Bottle made in Arcanum – Schofields Hansbarger	Dewayne Med
22346	Blue Ray Disc – Monroe 1944 "The Review"	Kaye Bratka
22347	Pictures of J. L. Primmer Farm in early 1930's 307 W Main St., Arc. 1956 - 50 <sup>th</sup> Reunion Booklet, 1976 Arc-Bicentennial	Ester Lenhart for Sam Brubaker Family
22348	Troutwine Auto Sales old car calendars (7)	Ted & Mary Hickman
22349	Greenville's Old Homes, Gettysburg 1808-1976, The Secret Town- Arcanum, Arcanum Public Library- Calling Hollansburg Home, 1838-1988 – The Sixth Census of U.S., Lutheran Heritage of N. Darke Co., Darke County plat book 1978, Millers Funeral Home Records 1917-1950, History of New Madison 1841-1968.	Preble Co. Genealogy Dept.
22350	Chautauqua Poster	Chris Reke, Buckeye Antiques
22351	Hauke & Miller 1928 Calendar	Annette Stewart
22352	2020 Spring sports Senior Banner	Abbi Van Hoose
22353	40 – 50 yr. old Pennzoil Adv. Sign used at Pennzoil Stations	Kenny Reigelsperger
22354	1972 Pop Corn Festival Newspaper Page (front & back)	

Memberships

We are happy to welcome a new member – Kathy Shambaugh.

Congratulations Class of 1973 50 Year Anniversary

**Principal** - Willam Combs

**Superintendent** – Victor Dunlap

**Eight-Six Graduates**

**Class Officers**

**President** – Chris Reynolds

**Vice President** – Larry Munn

**Treasurer** – Bruce Bryson

**Secretary** – Jane Moyer

**Reporter** – Linda Mills

**Arcanum Businesses** that placed ads in the 1973 Arcette:

Cole's SOHIO Station, Klopfer's Flowers, Ludy's Harley Davidson Sales, Grand 5 Cents and \$1.00, Times Publishing Co., Dan & Pat's, Allied Mills Incorporated, Ellison's Alignment, Brown's Service Store, Trojan's Pizza, Blevin's Popcorn Company, Smith's Department Store, Complete Real Estate Service, Huston's Restaurant, The Daisy Beauty Shop, Arcanum TV and Appliance Service, J. V. Products, Arcanum Service Center, Arcanum Bowling Lanes, Kincaid Kleeners, John Paulus – Business Men's Insurance, Town & Country Golden Brush Salon, John Smith Grain Co., Arcanum Bakery, Glen Ressler Realty, Crouse's Men & Boy's Store, Roger's Hardware, Nancy's Beauty Salon, Northwest Radio and TV, Troutwine Auto Sales, Sutton's Super Value, Paulus Plumbing & Soft Water, Miller's Tavern, Hite's Market, Besecker Delisle Elevator, Baird's Floor Covering, Arcanum Federal Savings and Loan Assoc., Gower's Plumbing & Heating, Stephen's Lumber Company, Norm's TV Service, RJ Warner Insurance, Arcanum National Bank, Bailey's Motors, Paul Clark Realty, Fox Pharmacy, Herman M Baker- Baker Airport, Prime Battery and Metal Company, Lew Williams Printing, Mondic's Plumbing.

**Southern Darke County History** Annette Stewart 937-417-3746 [awthsresearch@gmail.com](mailto:awthsresearch@gmail.com) (new)

AWTHS thanks Kathy Shambaugh for her mother, Glenda Thompson's, genealogy collection of various records from Darke, Preble, Miami and Montgomery County. We now have a pretty complete collection of vital records (births, deaths, marriages, probate, census, newspapers) for Preble County and a pretty extensive collection for Darke with the exception of births and some probate records. Included is also records for Miami and Montgomery County.

Please consider donating to AWTHS your family collections of needed records and a copy of your family history. Thanks to the Thompson and Shambaugh families. Glenda was a devoted DAR member of Greenville and later the Piqua-Lewis Boyer Chapter and loved doing research and family genealogy with many of her family being from Indiana and Pennsylvania.

*Thank you to Noah DeCamp for assisting in getting records moved around to make ample storage for the new materials.*

**Blogs**

AWTHS has been running blogs, usually weekly, on the various topics and lately we've been focusing on William Gunder's children. These stories were written from clips from the "The Secret Town" along with Find-A-Grave notes and other sources. Please check them out as well as our FB page and events. According to relative, Wayne Gunder, there has been some new research notes on the Founder's parents as well as his siblings since the book "The Secret Town" was published back in 1999.

**Volunteers and Training**

There are various jobs in the research library and volunteers are always needed. We have newspaper clippings to organize, articles to find in the Arcanum Times and materials to be organized and refiled. If you would like to volunteer or learn, please contact Annette Stewart or come in during Open Hours the First Saturday Morning of Each Month to learn. Volunteering in the reference library is a way to learn how to do you own research on your family. Hosts are always needed as well.

**Farming and Getting Crops to Market Early 1800's** *From History of Darke County 1880* *By W. H. Beers*

Page 271: "Darke County was first settled by an industrious, hardy race of pioneers poor men who had been renters in other parts of the state. As soon as they were able to raise \$100 or upward, they came here and invested it in land in order that they might have a home of their own and not be compelled to work one-third of their time for an exacting landlord. As about all the means of the settlers were out in land and as there was a heavy growth of timber all over the county to be cleared away before there could be anything raise to live upon."

To procure breadstuff milling had to be done many miles from home. A single trip occupied from two to five days. Salt and leather must be had once a year by a journey to Cincinnati which required from seven to ten days. If as was sometimes the case, some products were in excess of the family need and it was desired to sell, there was no market nearer than Piqua or Dayton and the roads were so intolerably bad that it required a good span of horses in the most favorable season of the year to haul twenty give bushels of wheat.

Page 272: Under the impulse of making, having living at and enjoying a home the people in their poverty labored diligently, lived frugally and contentedly cleared up their farms, minded their own business, helped their neighbors and were accorded the favor and blessing of their God.

Money payment was out of the question and the settlers (teacher in this case) needs were great. He said I was poor and scares of money and my clothing was not the kind suitable for winter. I went to the grist mill five miles away for corn meal at night after school." \*The story goes on to tell of the teacher needing clothes. He had no money. At the store the owner told him he didn't want his services as a teacher in trade for the clothes or the corn, potatoes or produce. But would take whiskey. So the teacher went to the distillery between Greenville and Mina and sold the mill the teachers corn in exchange for whiskey. The corn was lower than the market but the whiskey higher value and used that to settle the store account for the clothes.

**When It Happen**

*Conversion Scheduled at 7:00 a.m. On Tuesday, December 3; All Phone Numbers Changed In New Directory*

The Arcanum Telephone Exchange will be converted to Automatic Dial operation next Tuesday, December 3, it was announced today by H. F. Clapper, Greenville District Manager for Ohio Telephone Services Company.

In order to take full advantage of the daylight hours, the conversion is scheduled to begin at 7:30 in the morning. According to Mr. Clapper, all "city" telephones will be converted simultaneously from the new central office, and "city" subscribers will know that their dial service is in operation when they can lift their telephone receivers and hear the dial tone. In the rural area, however, party lines must be converted one at a time, but extra installation crews in the Arcanum area on Tuesday are expected to complete the rural conversion before sundown. *Arcanum Times Nov. 28, 1957*

**The GREAT Darke County Fair** Bev Rench 937-623-0468 bkraz85@gmail.com

Are you ready for lemonade shakeups, midway sights, animal smells and the roar of diesel tractors? The GREAT Darke County Fair will be held this year August 18-26. This is one of the larger fundraisers for the Society. As scheduling coordinator, I look forward to working with the volunteer gate attendants. If you have not volunteered before, please contact me and I will get you added. Working the gate is a GREAT opportunity to see old friends and make new ones. Beginning August 1, I will be contacting everyone that worked in 2022 per the attached schedule. Feel free to contact me before that to confirm your scheduled time. Thank you in advance for your participation!

### 2022 Darke County Fair Gate #3 Schedule Friday August 19 thru Saturday August 27

	<i>7 am -12 noon</i>	<i>12 noon - 5 pm</i>	<i>5 pm -10 pm</i>
<b>Fri 19</b>	Jim & Barb Deis 662-0119* Charlie Harris 417-9607	Sally Sharritt 692-5245 Jenny Quigney 459-8090 Fred Troutwine 692-8939	Connie & Mike Wells 692-8085 Tasha Anderson 621-4569
<b>Sat 20</b>	Bruce Shank 564-2891* Jana Deeter 547-0705 Sue Besecker (10-12) 417-6038	Wallace & Trump 620-2800 548-6116	Carol & Earl Hightower 692-8875 Jody Flora Fair 692-8413
<b>Sun 21</b>	Denice & Jason Trimble 416-7178* Jim Piel 564-3248 Brad Troutwine 423-0530	Sally Sharritt 692-5245 Carolyn Hollinger 417-4216 JoAnna & Bill Hill 530-0744	Dick & Sharon Troutwine 692-5128 Bev Kramer 513-379-6792
<b>Mon 22</b>	Dave & Ardis Hamlin 623-8963* Sue Besecker (10-12) 417-6038	Jenny Quigney 459-8090 Liz Stephens 459-0884 Bruce Shank 564-2891	Dick & Sharon Troutwine 692-5128 Linda Newbauer 417-1166
<b>Tues 23</b>	Jim & Barb Deis 662-0119* Barb Ganger 937-682-5374	Jana Deeter 547-0705 Joyce Colville 417-3344 Linda Riley 564-5023	Bev & Kirk Honeyman 623-0468 Monty & Ty Clark 692-5155
<b>Wed 24</b>	Lynn* & Carolyn Trump 548-6116 Carolyn Furlong 417-2966	David Kepler 423-1067 Linda Riley 564-5023 Linda Pease Brown 266-2598	Mike & Karen Fout 467-6534 Mike Schwieterman 417-0985
<b>Thurs 25</b>	Fred Troutwine 692-8939* Alan Fourman 692-8635	Marilyn Krinker 262-496-4101 Linda Newbauer 417-1166	Amy & Teresa Wogoman 692-5877
<b>Fri 26</b>	Gene & Nelda Morris 423-5347 Fred Troutwine 692-8939*	Shirley Winger 678-7864 Dave & Ardis Hamlin 623-8963	Dick & Sharon Troutwine 692-5128 Cheryl Gray 423-1549
<b>Sat 27</b>	Annette & Rex Stewart 417-3746*	Carolyn Trump 548-6116 Carolyn Furlong 414-2966	Kenny & Holly Daugherty 564-0589

\* Will pick-up cash box at Fair office under Grandstand.

**On Call: Bev Rench 937-623-0468**

**Arcanum Preservation Society Up Date** Submitted by Angela Herron

The *Arcanum Preservation Society* restoration crews are hard at work. The auditorium crew continues working on removing the false ceiling in the Opera House auditorium. The two man crew carefully planned out the removal which required extensive bracing to prevent catastrophic damage to the structure of the building and has now successfully removed all but one of the large beams. The window crew took a well-deserved break but is now back to work. The restoration of the Mayor's office has been delayed until the beam removal upstairs is complete.

The *Heritage Committee* has been working on putting together a comprehensive history of the building and recently found a photo from 1912 that we look forward to revealing on social media soon. The *Finance Committee* has been working with our grant writer to identify grant opportunities. The *Communications, Events & Social Presence Committee* continues to work on the 2023 event schedule while also concentrating on social presence. They reached out to our local State Representative, US Representative and Ohio Senator, inviting them to tour the building. These efforts were rewarded when Senator Stephen A. Huffman toured the building on March 13th. Representative Warren Davidson's office did reply but as of yet has not been available to tour.

Be sure to watch for details about the annual **4<sup>th</sup> of July Picnic and Childrens Parade** held in Ivester Park planned by the Preservation Society.

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and/or Twitter.

You can contact us at [arcanumpreservationsociety@gmail.com](mailto:arcanumpreservationsociety@gmail.com) or 937-459-1157.

**2023 Brick Street Block Street August 11th and 12<sup>th</sup>**

The family fun event in downtown Arcanum is a fundraiser for the Give Thanks Foundation. One organization to plan an activity for this event is the Arcanum Preservation Society. Check out the Preservation Society and/or the foundation's website for list of activities.

**Giddy Up Move Along**

Written by JoKay Miltenberger - Included in the book *Arcanum Sesquicentennial 1999* .

What do local people who love their horses and enjoy working with them on beautiful spring weekends do? According Ron Kauffman, who with his wife Teresa, fits this category – they make plans. Along with about five other families, the Kauffmans, Jim Mills, Lloyd Stryker, Bob Beisner, Bob Baker, Dwaine Minnich and Myron Emrick decided to pack up their vittles, get the wives and kids and form a wagon train.

During 1991 the wagon train became a reality. One bright Saturday morning 11 wagons met at the Bill Young farm, and with Dwaine Minnich as wagon master, made their way to Hency's farm in Preble County. There they took care of the horses, built fires and arranged the wagons much as the pioneers had.

Kauffman says in 1992 the wagon train had grown to 52 outriders, 70 horses and 11 wagons or carts being pulled. What do you do when evening comes? Just like they did in the "old days", Kauffman said. "We sit around and talk, trade stories and pictures and just relaxed".

The local couples have enjoyed the wagon train trip to Preble County or another site each year since.

2023 AWTHS' follow up to JoKay's article. When ask about the Wagon Train Dwaine Minnich remembers that at one time there were 17 wagons. Dwaine was Wagon Master for 11 years; the group stayed together a few years after that. At times hog roasts and entertainment was planned. Dwaine expressed appreciation of the Sheriff Dept. and State High Patrol for always assisting when the Wagon Train crossed state routes.

**History of Arcanum Books for Purchase**

<i>The Secret Town - The Story of the Founding of Arcanum, Ohio and William Gunder Family</i>	\$20
<i>Arcanum, Ohio Business History (1852-1968)</i>	\$25
<i>Arcanum Chronicles Includes - Opera House, Sports, Parades &amp; Celebrations, Brig. Gen. Ed Sigerfoos, Grassville Quartette, Christmas, Chautauqua, Fast Horses, District 7 Ithaca School</i>	\$20
<i>Arcanum Chronicles Volume 2 - History of Fire Department and Arcanum Public Library</i>	\$18

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

	<b><u>AWTHS Officers</u></b>		<b><u>Directors</u></b>	
President	Jenny Quigney	459-8090	Carolyn Furlong	548-6556 Joyce Colville 692-8685
Vice President	Dick Troutwine	692-5128	David Hayes	Jim Deis 662-0119
Treasurer	David Kepler	692-5903	Cary Wogomon	623-5857 Fred Troutwine 692-8939
Secretary	Connie Wells	692-8085		

**Calendar of Events**

Open House Hours	First Saturday of the Month	9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
<u>To make an appointment – email awths@awths.org</u>		
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> Tuesday of the month	7:00 p.m.

<u>June through September</u>	<u>Farmers Market</u>	<u>Veterans Park</u>	<u>Saturdays</u>	<u>9 - Noon</u>
May 11, 2023	Program: Arcanum Natural Gas Wells & Ira Dull Arcanum Gas Company			7:00 p.m.
July 8, 2023	Walking Tour – Early Arcanum Businesses	Rain Date July 15 <sup>th</sup>		9:00 a.m.
August 18-26	Darke County Fair – AWTHS work north fair gate			
Sept 14, 2023	Program: Pittsburg Business History			7:00 p.m.
November 9	Program: A Tale of Two Civil War Veterans”			7:00 p.m.

<b>2023</b>	<b>Membership Dues</b>	<b>January 1st</b>
<b>2023 Membership Form</b>	<b>Clip and Mail to</b>	<b>AWTHS, P.O. Box 4, Arcanum, OH 45304</b>
<b>Name -</b> _____	<b>New</b> _____	<b>Renewal</b> _____
<b>Phone Number</b> _____	<b>Receive Newsletter by Email? Add email</b> _____	
<b>Address</b> _____		
<b>City, State and Zip Code</b> _____		
<b>Annual Fees</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Single	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Family <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Sponsorship <input type="checkbox"/> \$150 Corporate <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 Lifetime
<b>Your additional tax deductible contributions are also greatly appreciated \$</b> _____		
<b>Please check the area where you would like to help.</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Acquisitions	<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter	<input type="checkbox"/> Membership
<input type="checkbox"/> Programs	<input type="checkbox"/> Ways & Means	<input type="checkbox"/> Historic Sites
<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Flower Garden Care	<input type="checkbox"/> Yard Care
<input type="checkbox"/> Displays	<input type="checkbox"/> Publicity	<input type="checkbox"/> Publications
<input type="checkbox"/> Adopt A Highway	<input type="checkbox"/> Help Reference Librarian	<input type="checkbox"/> Genealogy
<input type="checkbox"/> Type Research Papers	<input type="checkbox"/> Serve as Host/Hostess during Open Hours	<input type="checkbox"/> Christmas Bazaar
<input type="checkbox"/> Organize Refreshments for Membership Meetings	<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly Keeper of the House	

**Farming in 1957 Tomato Tour Scheduled Friday**

Darke County tomato growers and canners will visit six farmers in this area Friday, July 19, when they take their annual tour to observe the conditions of the plants and to assist with production problems.

Assisting in the day's discussion program will be E.C. Wittmeyer, extension vegetable specialist, and Dr. Lyle Coleman, extension plant pathologist, Ohio State University.

The tour will begin at 9 a.m. when the group will assemble at the Union Foods Products company, Front St., Greenville. The first stop will be at H. D. Rhoades farm on R.R. 2, Arcanum, where direct seeding in 42 and 30 inch rows will be observed. After a visit to the Aaron Brumbaugh farm, R.R 2 Arcanum, the group will tour the Hobart Manufacturing Company, East Third Street, Greenville.

In the afternoon, tourist will meet at the Ansonia school at 12:46 p.m. to visit the following farms: Donald Swank, R.R. 1 Rossburg; Henry Stucke, R.R. 1, Maria Stein; Herbert Bergman, R.R. 1 Maria Stein, where Urbana and Rutger tomatoes are grown, and at the Bud Dull farm R.R. 1, Maria Stein, where five fertilizer demonstration plots will be viewed.

Darke county growers, canners and the agricultural extension service are sponsoring the tour, which is open to the public.