

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

As we are shifting into the fall season, I would like to take the time to review a few things that have happened over the summer months.

We completed a successful Trash Bash with thanks goes out to Jim Deis for organizing this fund raiser and all the participants. In May we participated in Serve Arcanum with several high school students who helped us mulch and also clean all the windows in the house. This is a great program offered by the school and Jason Stephen's efforts in this is a great asset to our community.

While I am writing this report before the Darke County Fair begins, I want to mention Bev Rench who serves as chair for this huge project which involves a lot of man hours to fill all the time slots. So, thank you to Bev and all the volunteers.

We have had some wonderful programs this summer and I would like to commend Annette Stewart and Cary Wogoman on their efforts for the Walking Tour in July. It was unfortunate that the first date chosen was rained out and the second date had to be abbreviated because of rain. However, if you were unable to attend, please feel free to pick up a brochure at the house to take the self-guided walk.

I would also like to thank Johanna Hill for her the landscaping in front of the house, it was very much appreciated.

Thanks goes out to Fred and Dick Troutwine for their efforts on overseeing the refurbishment of the stage and in seeing about the repairs on the roof.

Cary Wogoman has completed a sign for in front of the house with collaboration from his wife Teresa. The sign is wonderful. Thanks to the two of them for completing it.

I would also like to thank David Kepler for his work on our finances. The tax exemptions he applied for were accepted. This will give a financial boost to our organization and we are greatly appreciative. Currently we have a checking balance of \$29,300.37.

As you can see we as a society have been very busy this summer and I know that this fall will be just as active with two additional programs and the Christmas Bazaar.

Thank you to everyone who I may have missed for all your help and dedication to making our moto of preserving the past for future generations go forward.

Fall Programs

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 articles, Annette plans to present their findings and have discussion while encouraging others to share their memories and stories of living and shopping in Pittsburg. Annette attended Franklin Monroe schools, is a DAR and AWTHS member and oversees AWTHS research and reference library.

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

January 11th 6:30 p.m. Annual Membership Meeting and Election of Officers

Join us January 11, 6:30 for pizza and salads provided by AWTHS and the board members. A brief meeting will be held to recap the past year.

An invitation is also extended to nonmembers who have helped in so many ways especially with programs, the fair gate, Trash Bash, Adopt-A- Highway and the Christmas Bazaar. Everyone's support through their time, energy, and skills are appreciated more than you know.

Memberships

We are sorry to report the passing of members Betty Sease and Alan Fourman. Our sincere condolences to their families.

Acquisitions Sharon Troutwine 937-692-5128 Carolyn Furlong 937-417-2966

22353 Ads, etc. all goes in Pitsburg Binder – using for Sept. Program	Annette Stewart
22356 Royer Potato Farm(Photos & Family info) in Pitsburg Binder	Joyce Miller
22357 Pitsburg – Leis Fertilizer Co. (Photos and Story) in Pitsburg Binder	Don Leis
22358 Ass. Photos, funeral card, memory book in Pitsburg Binder	Carolyn Temte
22359 1950 Long Winter Wool Overcoat, hat, & 2 Air Force uniforms	Ben Metzger's Family
22360 Arc. Gun club Patch 6" Diameter Circa 1950	Joel Sink
22361 Aqua Glass Ash tray Adv. For Northwest Radio – TV Arcanum- Ezra Simpkin	Karen Besecker
22362 Trinity Evangelical Church "150 yr." Booklet	Terri Brumbaugh
22363 Porcelain Dayton Union Railway sign (On Loan)	Liz Stephens
22364 1978 Darke County Plat Book, 1998 Darke Plat Book, 1985-86 Community Directory, 128 th Darke County Fair Flower Department booklet, 2 nd National Bank 1983 Edition	Ruth Kepler
22365 1992 Plat Directory of Darke County, old frames all cardboard, 1 wood frame	Ruth Kepler
22366 2023 Carillon Park Booklet – article about Dayton Racquet Factory	Bev Rench
22367 John Milton Smith Estate Receipt Ledger of John Smith Co. 1916, Picture of Hunt Family 1990	Leslie Smith Velasco
22368 1989 FM Year Book	Stacy DeCamp
22369 Pitsburg Church of Brethren old directory	Sue Besecker
22370 Old Photo inside Smith's Dept. Store	Jann Studebaker
22371 FM 3 rd grade cards Elementary, 5 FM Elementary Year Books, 1 mailed Grade Card	Tina Peters
22372 Lots of laminated (23+ pages) Copies of Fryman Families	Jenny Krickenbarger Darland
22373 6 pictures of Butler School, 1 picture downtown Arcanum	Bill & Pam Poppaw
22374 4 Daily Diaries of H. D. Howell 1909-1966, Also envelope of clippings from Mr. Howell	Janelle Brinksheader
22375 Arc Year Books 1957, 58, 59, 60; Arc class of 61's 50 th Class reunion Booklet. 1 framed picture of 3 Bailey kids on bikes, 5 elementary class photos, 1 envelope of individual students pictures.	Joe Bailey Family
22376 7 Resource Books	Miami County Historical Genealogy
22377 Long framed picture of Wogomon – Eubank reunion at the Grandstand at Darke County Fair- Aug. 2, 1919	Cary Wogomon
22378 Harold and Larry Feishans Collection from FM School.	

2023 Christmas Bazaar November 24 & 25

Please mark your calendars and invite everyone you know to attend our biggest event of the year!!!!

All Things Christmas *** Gently used Christmas Décor and More**

Friday November 24 5:30 – 8:00 pm

Saturday November 25 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

50- 50 Raffle Door Prizes Free Bits and Pieces on the Stage Christmas Bake Shoppe

Will you please make or bake items to sell? Our shoppers look forward to your home made goodies.

Deliver your items Friday, Nov.24 from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm.

When you make your delivery, bring a friend and you can have 1st choice of Bazaar shopping!

We really need your help after our regular program Thurs. Nov. 9th. to bring all the Christmas items downstairs!

After the Bazaar, on Monday Nov. 27 at 9:00 am, come and help us clean-up and put everything away!

It's hard work but the Community looks so forward to our yearly Christmas Bazaar.

Please leave donations of gently used Christmas items on the back porch up to the week before the bazaar.

Thanks so much for you continuing help and support!

Chairs: Sharon and Dick Troutwine 937-692-5128

Southern Darke County History

Annette Stewart 937- 417-3746

We've been busy in the reference library reorganizing some materials, handling inquiries, developing the brochure for the walking tour and getting information together to update the Pittsburg history binder. Chase Osterday designed a brochure for the "Arcanum's Industrial Section Walking Tour" of South Arcanum. The brochure is available at AWTHS as well as on line through our web site, <https://awths.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Arcanum-early-industrial-district-Walking-tour.pdf>

We've been interviewing people from Pittsburg for the September Pittsburg Business program as well as gathering information from different sources to update the binder on "Pittsburg". We are interested in your stories and memories. In preparation for the September program, we will feature blogs on our web site about several different businesses and families: The Stutz Family and Stutz Garage; Leis Fertilizer Company; and Virgil Royer, The Potato Man. There may be other stories so check it out! Awths.org. Our goal is to update Pittsburg history including businesses, families, memories and the social story of Pittsburg. The binder will feature ads, stories, newspaper articles and photos.

Virgil Royer, The Potato Man

Story from Joyce Miller (Virgil's great niece)

Virgil graduated from Franklin Township. Attended Manchester College in Indiana. Attended Ohio State University. Married Florence Miller of Greenville. Parents of four daughters: Lois MacDonalds, Virginia Chase, Marjorie Weeks and Alice Jean Kreider.

Virgil began planting potatoes in 1923 becoming one of the largest distributors of Potatoes in the Midwest. As he grew his potato crops, he built a potato storage house with a capacity to store thousands of bushels. It was located 2 ½ miles north of Pittsburg. The business enlarged to include selling seed potatoes from Maine, Pioneer Seed Corn, Tenneco fertilizer, Green Belt products plus other fertilizers and spray materials. They also sold parts for potato harvesting and Hardie field sprayers.

Potato Field Day was held on the Royer farm for over 25 years. Scientific methods were demonstrated for increasing the yields for corn and potatoes. The wives were entertained by representatives from the county 4-h clubs. Even though Virgil started with growing potatoes, he eventually enlarged by buying potatoes from all over the country. Pittsburg became an important part of his business as that was where the railroad would drop rail cars full of potatoes from all over the country from California to Maine. These were shipped to Pittsburg in refrigerated train cars in 100# bags. They were transported to the farm where they were repackaged in 10- and 25-pound bags to be delivered to local restaurants, schools, and grocery stores. Don Ditmer had a daily route and took the orders to be delivered in his truck. He had numerous helpers but his twin sons, Donnie and Ronnie, helped him in the summer.

Virgil had four farms where potatoes and seed corn were grown. These were farmed by his brother, Harold Royer, Harold Wyan, Alva Auckerman plus his home farm. As his business grew, he hired his nephew Joe Miller, as his general manager In 1951. Virgil ran for the State Representative for Darke County in 1961 winning as a write in candidate. Virgil and Joe went to Maine every fall to meet with the Aroostock Potatoe Growers to buy seed potatoes for the spring planting.

Royer had a tent at the Darke County Fair for many years. They displayed fruits and vegetables grown by their customers. There were also representatives from the companies to help answer the farmers questions about their products.

Madonna Miller helped with the bookkeeping through the years and also worked during the potato harvest in the fields collecting tickets from the bags the workers used to claim their wages. After Virgil went to Columbus, she worked in the office full time.

Joe passed away in 1964 and Madonna took over as general manager. Virgil passed away in 1966. The business closed in the fall of 1967 after the largest harvest of potatoes on record.

Virgil was a member of: Charter President of the Pittsburg Lions Club; Greenville Chamber of Commerce; Ohio Potato Growers Association; Agricultural Extension Advisory Council; 4-H Club leader; United Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association; Darke County Farm Bureau Association; Painter Creek Church of the Brethren.

Virgil's motto was always "Keep Smiling" and lived by that motto all of his life.

Given to AWTHS 2023 by Joyce Miller and Marjorie Weeks. Note: Royer's employed many people in the Pittsburg area in all the aspects of farming from planting, growing, harvesting and rebaqqing the potatoes.

Histories of Arcanum Publications for Sale at AWTHS

These books make excellent Christmas Gifts! They will be available to purchase at the Christmas Bazaar.

The Secret Town – Story of the Founding of Arcanum, Ohio Author William Gunder (Great Grandson) \$20
Early Lot Owners -Deeds Recorded by year Thru 1900
Expansions of the village through the 1990s/Additions, Subdivisions and Plats
Brief Biographies of the Founder's 14 Children and Descendants of the Founder (William Gunder)

Arcanum, Ohio Business History (1852-1968) Author Anita Short \$35
Businesses are listed by: street names, street number or lot number, dates at that location, proprietors or building owner
The book is indexed by last names.

(This book was recently reprinted which accounts for the increase in cost. The book is valuable when researching local businesses and families.)

Arcanum Chronicles Authors Anita Short & William Gunder \$20
Stories of life in Arcanum: Opera House/City Building & Township Building Arcanum Sports
Arcanum Parades and Celebrations Brigadier General Edward Sigerfoos Grassville Quartette
Christmas In The Village Arcanum Chautauqua Fast Hoar
Twin Township District 7 School At Ithaca

Arcanum Chronicles Volume 2 Author William Gunder \$18
Arcanum Fire Department (1877-1970) Arcanum Public Library & Historic Ivester House

About the Authors

Anita (Bowers) Short -1938-2009 Author, Nationally known Certified Genealogist and Local Historian
 Anita's interest in Arcanum was first nudged by stories by her father, Dale Bowers, told to her about the first twenty-five years of his life in Arcanum before leaving for Richmond, Indiana. Later in the 1970s her interest was nudged a little further by stories about Arcanum by stories about Arcanum told to her by her son-in-law, Duane Sowry, which were passed on to him by George Stephens. About that time, her neighbor, Chester "Duke" Cheadle, added to her collection of Arcanum information.

Besides the books on Arcanum's history Anita authored many books supporting Ohio genealogy and research. These books were published by The Genealogical Publishing Company and Clearfield Company.

William "Bill" Gunder 1928-2015 Local Author and Historian

Bill developed an interest in local history after discovering that his great-grandfather, William Gunder, was the Founder of Arcanum, Ohio. He grew up believing that no Gunder relatives existed and had been searching since 1975 for the date and place of his grandfather's death. During this research he discovered that his grandfather, William Gunder, Jr was the youngest son of the Founder of Arcanum and he was able to identify hundreds of family members.

Many of the newspapers Anita and Bill obtained information from for the Arcanum books are available at AWTHS for the public to read. The newspapers are preserved in special binders.

More Arcanum Books

Arcanum . . . a secret place Arcanum Sesquicentennial 1849-1999 150 Years of Progress
Arcanum . . . a secret place The Sequel

AWTHS frequently has requests to purchase the Arcanum Sesquicentennial Book and The Sequel. These books were published before 2004, the files are not available for reprinting.

AWTHS would gladly accept these books for resale. If you come across these books in good condition at estates sales, garage sales or auctions please consider making a donation of the books to AWTHS.

Farmers Market Report

We are so excited to report that this year's Farmers Market is doing very well (weather permitting) with an average of 5-8 vendors each week offering a great variety of items including beautiful & delicious breads, fresh vegetables, and unique handmade items. We thank the vendors for their hard work, creativity, and dedication. We also appreciate the community for their interest and support in the Farmers Market! If you haven't visited the Market, it will continue through September as long as vendors have things for sell. Come by to support our local vendors.

Ivester Park Lighting Display

AWTHS will be helping to light up our park for the Christmas season. Cary and Teresa Wogoman have again agreed to plan and set-up a display. We thank them for all of their hard work and creativity.

Civil War Trivia

At the time of the Civil War 22 million people lived in the North. Of the 9 million people who lived in the South nearly 4 million of whom were slaves.

The Issue of Slavery and Central Power divided the United States.

The Civil War started April 12, 1861 ended May 26, 1865.

Union Army - "The North" Confederacy Army - "The South"

The bloodiest battle of the Civil War was the Battle of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

"Best Looking Girl in Darke County" The following was extracted from "The Darke County Boy".

Who was the best looking girls in Darke County between the years 1850 and 1860?

That question came up for settlement in a mass meeting (of men only) in 1861, but the war broke out and every man in the meeting enlisted and went to war. Those that came home alive married every one of the best looking girls and no one has ever dared to spring the question again.

Darke County Wife's Letter to Her Civil War soldier.

The families' of soldiers began in midwinter to suffer. The following extract from the letter of a wife to her husband, a volunteer from Darke County, will show a trial among others borne by the soldier in the sense of helplessness to aid his loved ones. It is commended to the perusal of any who think war a pastime.

She wrote: I have so far been able to support myself and our dear children, with help that the relief committee* gave me; but I am now unable to work, and the committee has ceased to relieve me. I am warned that I will have to leave the comfortable home which you left us in, and I will have to scatter the children. Where will I go and what will become of me? Don't leave without permission, as it would only be giving your life for mine. I will trust to God and live in hope, although things look very discouraging. Do the best you can, and send money as soon as possible,"

During the earlier part of the war, letters told minor matters, but later accounts were brief and fringed heavily with tidings of battles, wounds and deaths.

*The relief committee referred to above was the "The Ladies' Association of Greenville for the relief of Darke County Volunteers". The committee solicited donations of money and clothing.

Source: freepages.rootsweb.com

Civil War Darke County Roster and GAR Roser Post, No. 379

The book "Arcanum . . . a secret place" dedicates chapter nine to those who served in the different wars. Many Arcanum men who served in the Civil War are listed there as well as information about Roser Post, No 379.

Roser Post, No. 379 was named after John F. Roser who died from wounds suffered in battle in 1864. Roser is buried in a military cemetery at Winchester, Virginia. John Roser is an ancestor to the Rosser family who had the Rosser Lumber Yard in Arcanum. John choose to spell his name with one "s". Some reference sites use spelling "Russer" Post.

AWTHS Officers

President Jenny Quigney 459-8090
 Vice President Dick Troutwine 692-5128
 Treasurer David Kepler 692-5903
 Secretary Connie Wells 692-8085

Directors

Carolyn Furlong 548-6556 Joyce Colville 692-8685
 David Hayes 545-9507 Jim Deis 662-0119
 Cary Wogomon 623-5857 Fred Troutwine 692-8939

Calendar of Events

Open House Hours First Saturday of the Month 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
To make an appointment – Annette Stewart awthsresearch@gmail.com
 Euchre Parties 1st and 3rd Friday of each month 1:00 p.m.
 Board Meetings 1st Tuesday of the month 7:00 p.m.

Sept. 14 Program: Pitsburg Business History – Presenter: Annette Stewart 7:00 p.m.
 Nov. 9 Program: “A Tale of Two Civil War Veterans” Presenter: Brenda Arnette 7:00 p.m.
 Nov. 24 & 25 Christmas Bazaar Friday 5:30 pm -8 pm Saturday 9 am – 4 pm
 November 27 Clean up after Bazaar 9:00 a.m.

2023 Membership Form	2023 Membership Dues	January 1st
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 <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		
Your additional tax deductible contributions are also greatly appreciated \$ _____		
Please check the area where you would like to help.		
<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"/> Publicity <input type="checkbox"/> Publications <input type="checkbox"/> Adopt A Highway <input type="checkbox"/> Displays <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		

AWTHS Contacts

Facility Rentals Carolyn Furlong 937-417-2966
 Research Appointments and Tour Annette Stewart 937-417 3746 awthsresearch@gmail.com
 Publications and Newsletter Barb Deis 937-662-0119 awthsnewsletter@gmail.com
 Farmers Market Vendors and Membership Sharon Troutwine 937-692-5128
 Acquisitions Annette Stewart awthsresearch@gmail.com
 Treasurer David Kepler awthstreasurer@gmail.com
 President Jenny Quigney awthspresident@gmail.com

Reminder

Leave Christmas Bazaar donations on the back porch any time.
 Also, AWTHS continues to recycle aluminum cans. Put cans in provided containers or have cans secured in plastic bags.