NEW EXHIBIT!
Our newest exhibit will be exploring the little known side of Winameg. A members-only open house for this new exhibit.

A TIME FOR TEA FOR TWO
Our popular HistorTEA program returns on February 14th, 2021 but with a twist! Our delicious baked goods, 2 cups, 2 saucers, loose leaf tea, and recipes for our favorite sandwiches will be pre-ordered for pick up on Friday. A historic program will also be included.

$28 each, $23 for members
will be on January 29th from 4—7 P.M. and the public can view the exhibit for the first time on Saturday, January 30th.

SAVE THE DATE
The Museum of Fulton County, OH Annual Gala
Saturday, April 24, 2021
Honoring Fulton County’s Veterans of WWII
Hors d’oeuvres & Beverages 5:30 P.M.
Dinner 6:00 P.M.
The main gallery will be transformed into an USO Canteen
PIKE TOWNSHIP

In our effort to make the history of Fulton County come alive, we are exploring little known stories of forgotten areas of the county.

This is the story of Pike Township and its seat, Winameg. This township is probably the most historic in Fulton County—originally part of the Michigan Territory and on a road between Toledo and Angola, IN, which was heavily traveled by settlers moving west.

Mound builders and American Indians were the earliest inhabitants—avid hunters and trappers that produced quality furs for trading. The township’s first trading posts were built by Edward Howard, the father of Dresden W.H. Howard, and his uncle Robert.

The first permanent settlers in the township came in 1833 from New York, and their numbers increased annually. The first physician, Dr. William Holland, arrived in 1843 and he built the first frame house.

Elizabeth Trowbridge opened the first log school in 1835, and the first frame school house was built by Jacob Tappan in 1850. Travelers at this busy crossroad were offered rest by innkeeper, Robert Howard, and this inn was used in 1850 as a temporary county courthouse.

In later years, Howard McClarren, great grandson of D.W.H. Howard, who was a very progressive thinker, saw the advantages of having a single school building to service the educational needs of the children of Pike Township.

As president of the board, he circulated a questionnaire among the citizens of Pike Township to discover whether or not they would be agreeable to support a tax levy to build a consolidated school system. This tax levy was approved and the school was soon erected. Six one-room buildings were closed and the children were consolidated in one building at Winameg—a central location.

The McClarrens donated the land for the new brick building which opened in 1938. Four of the McClarren children were on the student roster and were members of the first graduating class.

The original two-story building consisted of four moderate sized classrooms with two grades in each room. The school had indoor plumbing and running water. Transportation was provided via a modern school bus. The children were delighted!

In 1950, a gymnasium/auditorium, cafeteria and office were added. The school became the center of community activity. Students often presented programs and plays (see photo at left). Family nights of the Etna Grange next door often were held at the school.

Following junior high graduation, depending on high school bus routes, 9th graders could attend school in Delta, Wauseon, Lyons or Chesterfield.

Don’t miss more interesting artifacts and stories inside the new Winameg Exhibit in January!
Dear Members and Friends of the Museum,

We have survived a horrendous year of illness, unrest, and the segregation of thoughts and ideals. A forward-thinking New Year’s Day has seen our challenges behind us and a path toward a unified nation and county.

As your museum of local heritage, we show the good, bad, and ugly of society’s past in order to help visitors find common ground and understanding of people who are different and have a different opinion.

To do just that, the Board of Trustees and the County Commissioners have provided a beautiful, accessible, safe, and clean facility for every visitor’s experience. In this museum, we have judiciously obtained, preserved, and managed a marvelous collection of items and provided a space for “history detectives” to research in person, and soon, on-line.

We have recently updated our collections’ software in union with our county Heritage Alliance partners. Being “in the cloud” will enable us to share information with the public and interact with each other. These resources will especially be useful in creating exhibits.

This is YOUR “edutainment” museum and time spent here is both educational and entertaining. We are excited that you and our new visitors will be in the gallery again and that our normal programs and events will be back soon.

In the meantime, have a safe winter.

Sincerely,

John Swearingen, Jr.
Director

UPDATE ON PIKE TOWNSHIP LETTER FROM WINTER NEWSLETTER

If you thought the Pike School story was cut short without a proper ending you were correct. The following paragraph completes the story.

However time marches on and another consolidation would occur. In 1987 Pike Twsp School would become part of the Delta School Systerm along with York Twsp. The building in Winameg remains but is uninhabited at this time.

Imagine a cold trip to the post office in a horse-drawn sleigh in 1900. At left, you can see a newly acquired foot warmer. Coals were placed in the punched metal box which was put on the floor of the sleigh to keep the riders feet from getting frostbit.
A Nurse's Civil War Story

Ellen Dudley was born in 1842 in Flemingsburg, Fleming County, Kentucky, to Joseph and Harriet Dudley. In the first year of the Civil War, Ellen became a nurse in a Franklin County Hospital named Octagon Hall (a museum today shown below). This Confederate Hospital was taken over by the Union after they won the Battle of Perryville (known by the South as the Battle of Chaplin Hill) in October of 1862.

Martin Baxter, son of Benjamin and Ann Baxter of Raker, OH, was born in 1837. At the age of 24, he enlisted as a private in the 3rd Ohio Volunteer Cavalry, and during the Perryville battle, was wounded and was taken to Octagon Hall.

Martin and Ellen became friends and fell in love during his stay in the hospital. The two married in Cincinnati, and after Martin was discharged in 1864, they settled in Swan Creek Township.

Ellen died in 1908 and is buried in Raker Cemetery. Both of them received pensions from the federal government, and Ellen was even credited for the years she was a confederate.

Example of a love token pin made from a quarter sent to Harrison Wise of York Township by his sister Sara during the war.

Gift of Roger Morr

RECENT ACCESSIONS

The McClarren family has again honored us with memorabilia from the lives and times of their family. Marjorie Whiteman (last year’s exhibit) and the McClarrens were related by marriage. Norma Whiteman, Marjorie’s sister, married D.W. Howard McClaren, grandson of D.W. H. Howard. Above is a picture of this grandson, his sibling, cousins, and his grandparents, Mary Bruce-McClarren and William McClarren.

Mary’s mother, Mary Agnes was responsible for building the “new house” standing today. The only thing left from her mother, Mary Blackwell-Howard’s original house is the porch posts. Photographs of the original house will be in the new Winameg exhibit on display in the Worthington Industries Gallery. The floor plan of the 1915 house indicates why the family probably needed room for a larger family.

Other items of interest from the collection are pamphlets, certificates, store receipts, post cards, and daguerreotypes that date to before the Civil War.

Support has been provided by Ohio Humanities the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Federal Cares Act of 2020