

FULTON COUNTY PIONEER

8848 State Highway 108, P.O. Box 104, Wauseon, Ohio 43567



Volume XVI11 No.4

A Publication of The Fulton County Historical Society, Inc.

Fall 2021

HAUNTING HISTORY

Haunting History tours will be in two spooky places this year.

We will be returning Oct. 22-23 to Winameg to explore NEW stories about the oldest settlement in Fulton County.

Then on Oct. 29-30th, Tedrow will be the center of interest where stories of the past will be told while walking through this "Ghost Town". Get your reservations in early so you are assured a time to visit these special places in our county.

\$15.00 per person

\$13.00 for members and children



©DESIGNALIKIE

CHRISTMAS AT THE CABIN

Celebrate the season with this festive event. Enjoy music, games, and holiday fun as the Fulton Co. Fairgrounds turns into the North Pole ending with a visit to Santa at his cabin.



Bring the family and enjoy the festivities!

Friday, Dec. 10
5-8 P.M.
Saturday, Dec. 11
10 A.M.— 2 P.M.

TEA AT THE HISTORY MANOR

November 27, 2021

Our annual Christmas Tea will be on Saturday, November 27th. The mood will be festive with garland and decorations to start off your holiday celebrations in style. Get your reservations in early.



Donations will be accepted.

ANNUAL MEMBER NIGHT

TUESDAY, October 5, 2021

Dinner at 6 P.M.

See enclosure for Reservations.



Remember your member discount in the

Legacy Shop

Unique Christmas gifts for everyone on your list!



JAMES JACOBS

This is the fourth in our series on toy inventors from Fulton County. Jim Jacobs became known for creating a book rack. He also held patents on a hobby horse and a cigarette filter.

Jim was born in 1914 in Bucyrus, Ohio, where he was raised with his twin brother, Doyle, and two half brothers. After high school, he attended business school in Tiffin, Ohio. He started his career at General Electric in Bucyrus as a Production Manager and followed that as a distributor for Shell Oil in Norwalk. From there, he went to Gulf Oil in Toledo as a manager from 1932—1943. In 1951, he built the first Gulf Oil distributor-owned bulk oil plant in Wauseon. He operated the plant and a service station on the corner of Shoop Ave. and Linfoot until 1972 when he retired.

Jim met his wife, Lillian, in Fremont, Ohio, where she lived and taught school. However, she was not allowed to teach after they were married. When they moved to Wauseon, she was encouraged to return to the classroom because teachers were in demand and the “silly restrictions” were lifted. Lillian taught first and third grade for many years and was loved by all her students.

Retirement didn’t fit Jim’s character too well. He liked to be “doing something”. Lillian gave him the opening he was looking for. The book-ends that the school provided for her to use were totally inadequate. She spent more time picking the books up off the floor than teaching her class. Jim solved the problem post haste. He developed a totally new version of a book rack. It had four pieces of wood connected by four metal rods. The inner wood pieces could be moved to adjust the

size of the space for books. It was an instant success. From this beginning, the Jacobs Manufacturing & Sales Company was born at 210 Depot Street in Wauseon. The book racks could be purchased at Lamson Brothers in Toledo or through the Hubbard Company in Defiance. They were distributed to schools in Ohio, Michigan, Indiana and Illinois. He sold 1500 racks the first year in production and planned to sell 12,000 the second year.

Jim was also very civic minded. He served on city council and the Board of Public Affairs, while being active in his church. He loved to problem solve and to be creative. The hobby horse that he developed was patented but never produced because financial backing was not available at the time. Later in life, he became a landlord, building some apartments, and then creating the Old Orchard housing development.

Jim was an entrepreneur ahead of his time

He died in 1981 at the age of 67.



Dear Members and Friends of the Museum,

This has been an up and down year. We had Covid, then we didn't have Covid, and now it is back again. Hopefully all of you have avoided serious complications.

The museum has endured and daily attendance is up. I never cease to be amazed at the people travelling on the Ohio Turnpike on family trips who stop by to visit. They are always impressed with the facility. Attendance at our events has also increased.

Thank you to all of you who volunteered at the county fair. You all make it fun for the kids as well as the adults who have little knowledge of our local history.

We received a generous gift from the Donald L. Juillard estate. He left the gift to our endowment fund from which the interest made can be used to further the mission of the museum. This is an amazing way to create an enduring gift for the work of the Historical Society.

We said "goodbye" to Kyle Driscoll after the county fair. His year of service through Americorps (Ohio History Corps) was a great aid to us and those he helped in Region I of the Ohio Local History Alliance. Kyle patiently guided the county's alliance members through the transition to Past Perfect in the "cloud". We will soon be able to share our collection with the world!

We will miss him, and wish him well.

John Swearingen
Director



THANK YOU

A big "Thank You" to the Harold & Carol Leupp Foundation for their generous contribution to the Museum through the Greater Toledo Community Foundation. This donation is being used for the general support of the museum.

HERITAGE ALLIANCE

The Alliance has been really busy this past year. Kyle Driscoll has been working with each member teaching them how to catalogue their collection. They learned to enter the items into the computer in a program called *Past Perfect*, a cloud based version, which enables everyone to work from any location and have all of the information available on our web site. It will also help us locate artifacts which we need to borrow for exhibits from other sites.

HERITAGE ALIANCE EVENTS

October 1, 2-4 P.M.
Polka in the Stacks
Evergreen Library Comm. Room

October 9, 10 A.M.- 5 P.M.
Fall on the Farm Sauder Village

October 29 & 30 10A.M.- 5 P.M.
Woodcarver's Show and Sale
Sauder Village

November 11, 7 P.M.
Meet The Author
Fayette Opera House \$10.00

Nov.27-Dec. 4 & 11
Holidays on Main Street
Sauder Village

December 5, 1:30 P.M.
Santa at the Depot Lyons, Ohio

 visitfultoncounty.com

RECENT ACCESSIONS

Who doesn't like a good mystery? Certainly not anyone at the History Museum of Fulton County. Let's begin: Two very large portraits were "dropped off" at the museum in July. They were of a distinguished man and woman. The frames were equally beautiful—approximately 36 in x 36 in in size. The lady who donated them said they were in the attic of a house she was cleaning. She thought they might be important to people in Ohio and didn't want to take them to a charity shop. She was coming to the "Crosley Show" at the fair grounds and remembered that we were across the road. This is the how they arrived in Fulton County.

With a little bit of detective work, we discovered that these life portraits were of Reuben and Mary Rice Wood, Governor of Ohio when our Ottokie courthouse was built! Natives of New England, the Woods family moved to the Cleveland area in 1818. Rueben qualified for the bar and became a successful lawyer in the area. He was drawn into politics and served 3 terms in the State Senate and 2 terms on the Supreme Court. In 1850, he was elected Governor and in 1860, was almost nominated to run against Abraham Lincoln. After 3 years as Ohio governor, Rueben accepted a diplomatic post in Chile. In 1855, he returned to Cleveland to practice law. That is when these two portraits were painted. The painting of Governor Wood that today hangs in Columbus' s Statehouse is a copy of this painting.

The paintings will be conserved and repaired to their former beauty, thanks to Governor Wood's great-great granddaughter, Mary McPherson. When complete, the art will appear in our lobby.



Governor Reuben Wood, 1862

BARNEY OLDFIELD

"A Fulton County Legend"
1878—1946

Barney Oldfield has been a household name to the older population of Fulton County. He brought fame to this little corner of the world through his "Fast cars" and racing.

New generations will be able to connect with this former hero through the collection of memorabilia that has been donated to the museum by two men, Richard Zimmerman and Herbert Zieman. They collected newspaper articles and other artifacts that followed Barney's career. They have been put into binders in chronological order so you can follow the racing career of this national hero. Barney was known throughout the land and was friends of Henry Ford, Harvey Firestone, Thomas Edison, and A.D.Baker.

Barney was born in Wauseon, Ohio, in 1878. The home is still standing on Elm Street. He started his career by racing bicycles in tournaments. As motor cars became more common, the natural progression was to see how fast they would go and Barney was just the man to do it. He raced all over the world, set and broke records, and defied gravity as he sped around racetracks.

Come to the Spiess Research Room at the Museum and read more. Bring your children and grandchildren so they can believe Barney's tag line: "You Know Me!" Another artifact that was recently shared with us is a doll belonging to Barney's sister, Bertha. It had been passed down through several generations and is now a part of the Oldfield collection at the museum.

BARNEY OLDFIELD, FOR SEVERAL YEARS
FAMOUS AS AUTO RACER, HAS RETIRED



Note: Driver to Devote Time to Tire Manufacturing.

