From the President

Dear Society Friends and Members,

Since our last newsletter, our future Museum & Welcome Center of Fulton County, Ohio has been awarded $1,000,000 from the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission. These funds will not be available until 2015. In the meantime, we have been working with our local officials to design the facility.

The main façade is currently proposed to be a replica of the first Fulton County Courthouse as it looked from 1851 till it was destroyed by fire in July of 1864. The original courthouse was “a large, commodious and airy building, presenting a tasty appearance with the large dome on its top” according to Aldrich’s 1883 History of Henry and Fulton Counties. The courthouse was built by Amos Jordon of Royalton Township and cost somewhere between five and six thousand dollars ($2,620.00 value in 2014 comparison w/prevailing wages, and $150,000 if non-union). The opening of the courthouse was celebrated with a ball held in the second floor courtroom.

A sister courthouse in Maraposa County, California is still standing, and is being used for measured drawings. The south wing of the new facility, which will house museum exhibits, mimics typical area Civil War era barns.

Soon, a “coming soon” sign will appear at the proposed site (just north of the Robert Fulton Building on State Route 108. More funding will be needed before any construction can begin, and our development committee is actively developing a giving plan. Visit us at our existing county museum, or at our buildings at the 2014 Fulton County Fair to learn more about how you can be part of this exciting project.

Carl Buehrer,

President

Museum Hours thru November:
Tuesdays - Fridays 10am - 4pm
Saturdays 10am -2pm
$4 General Admission
$3 Seniors
$2 Students

Train Depot Tours
scheduled through the Museum

This year’s Hell & Homefront guests were treated to finger sandwiches and mini scripts to play 1864 Georgia visitors on their way to Johnson’s Island prison to see their loved ones. Bev Ernst played Mrs. Hayes, Kalli Hintz portrayed Mrs. Hill (both husbands were POWs), and Chad Borton presented James Borton who was a Union guard on the island.
Distance Learning at the Museum

Many schools, like Wauseon Exempt are no longer taking field trips, which has hurt many museums in the United States. Through a generous grant from the Baumker Foundation, our group was able to test a new distance learning museum tour with every third grade student in Wauseon, OH this spring.

Mrs. Nafziger and Mrs. Bernath received a box with reproduction local history primary sources, i.e. photographs, documents and objects. Using a Skype computer account, the teacher’s classroom Smart Boards were able to see real objects and compare them to the hands-on materials as Judy Warncke and “Siebring the Squirrel” gave the kids a tour of the Native American and early pioneer gallery.

Learning what worked best for the tour, including timing, question sessions, and e-mailed post-tour communications were part of this initial tour test. In the future, additional galleries will be added to make connections to other time periods of Fulton County’s rich history.

Re-purposing our Existing Museum

The Museum committee has been working on a plan to re-brand and re-utilize our existing county museum building if the museum moves to Dover Township.

The historic site will be re-named “The History Manor” and will become what is known in the museum world as a “house museum”. Similar to Thomas Edison’s Birthplace in Milan, OH, and Rutherford B. Hayes’ home in Fremont, OH, The History Manor in Wauseon, OH will contain period rooms that will reveal the many layers of history within the 1868 Romanesque building.

One room is proposed to be a restored Wauseon High School classroom as it would have appeared in 1885. One half of the downstairs rooms will appear the way they did when Frank Mercer lived here twenty years later in 1905, most of the second floor will contain Wauseon Hospital rooms from two decades later in 1925, and the remaining half of the first floor will step forward in time another 20 years to 1945 when Ruth and Rease Campbell bought the building from Doctor Murbach and started renting apartments.

The remaining outbuildings and storage rooms in the existing building will continue to house off-site storage for artifacts in the collection.
New 2014 Acquisitions

The County Heritage Alliance (Sauder Village, Lyons & Area Historical, Metamora Area Historical, Bean Creek Valley Historical Center, and the Fulton County Historical Society) are now working to define their collective “Fulton County local history stories” so that each group can make collection policies and priorities for museum space allocation. Donors approach all of our museums throughout the year, and a good collection policy will help us decide what we can, cannot, and should not collect. Defined local history stories being told throughout the county will also re-direct collections to the museum where they will be most useful.

At the Fulton County Museum, recent acquisitions include: The Randolph Pence WWII Navy Collection, the uniform of Lowell Warncke, the Ayers Family Bible, Civil Defense Shelter supplies, the photograph collection donated by Rick Volk, Civil War Records via the Wauseon Public Library, The Herbert Zieman Barney Oldfield Collection, and the upright grand piano of the Oldfield family when living in Wauseon.

Above, this trade card from the store of J.J. Waffle in Wauseon, OH was donated last year to the archives (2013.25.18). Note the similarity between the Sohmer piano in the trade card and the Stoltz & Bauer piano that was purchased by the Oldfields. The opera singers and pianists in the trade card were all popular in the late 1880s.
FULTON COUNTY PIONEER
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SAVE THE DATE NOW!
FULTON COUNTY
Haunting History Tours
October 17, 18, 24 and 25, 2014

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