SAVE THE DATE
ANNUAL MEETING
SATURDAY, October 10, 2020

Our corporation requires an annual meeting of members. In 1883, the Pioneer Association met every summer for a picnic meeting. In case we can’t gather inside this year, plans are being made for an outdoor, “tail-gate” style picnic. The meeting will be at noon with socializing at 11:30. Individual meal tickets will be sold. Come enjoy and hope for a warm day. If successful, we may change the day to Saturday in future years.

BOOK OF THE QUARTER
Women Who Dare
By Linda Skeen

This is a book about 52 women who were fearless, daredevils, adventurers and rebels. There are one page stories about each of the 52 women, many of whom you have never heard of: for example, Annie Edson Taylor went over Niagara Falls in a barrel and Ida Lewis was a lighthouse keeper. and Bessie Coleman was an ace aviator. You and your daughters will love these read aloud short stories.

For those of you who cannot visit the shop, we now have an on-line store at www.museumoffultoncounty.org

Guided Quilt Exhibit Tours with a “Bed Turning” on Dorothy Biddle’s antique bed frame in the exhibit is available by appointment for groups of 10 or less for an additional dollar.

(These 10 quilts are layered on the bed and can only be seen during these tours)
NEW BARN QUILT TRAIL ADDITIONS

The Black Swamp Arts council and Sauder Village are sponsoring a display of barn quilt art. New designs are popping up throughout the county and even our “Museum Barn” is going to have one. There is a brochure with the map of the Quilt trail available at the museum and through the county visitor bureau at www.visitfultoncounty.com

Don’t JUST Volunteer

Research shows that in order for adults to reap the health benefits of volunteering, certain criteria must be met.

Amount of time: Volunteering regularly for 40 –100 hours annually.

Level of Engagement: Enjoy and be engaged in what you are doing.

Motivation: People who volunteer without concern for their own interests have a lower risk for death. If you are not sincere about volunteering, you won’t reap any benefits.

There are several opportunities to volunteer at the museum—even if you are sheltering in place. Contact our volunteer coordinator, Scott Lonsdale at (419)337-7922 or email him at store@museumoffultoncounty.org.

Don’t Forget to buy your gala ticket!

THANK YOU

A Thank you note was received from the County Commissioners for our assistance with the Courthouse Tours/Open House last winter. We wanted to pass this thank you along to all of you who helped in any way. We commend the commissioners for their interest in preserving our local history.

Quilt Frame Recently Donated

Steven Lauber recently donated a family quilt frame to the museum in memory of his Grandparents Ammon and Emma Lantz (above) who raised nine children at their home in Pettisville.

Make sure you visit the museum and see the sitting room where one of Emma’s frames is on display.
GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR

These last three months have seemed like years. But, pausing our museum operation has actually helped our board, Scott and myself have the time to do some behind the scenes work that we usually don’t have time to get to. Here are some things we have accomplished over the past few months:

- We are opening an on-line gift shop on our website
- Have added newly acquired and very valued artifacts to our permanent exhibit
- Refurbished the landscaping of the History Manor
- Transcribed Colonel Howard’s hand-written boyhood stories
- Made way for our new quilt exhibit, “County Quilting Bees”

Many large attractions, amusement parks, and museums have been hit hard by the lack of funding during this pandemic. Sauder Village has sent plea letters out for financial help and the Ohio Historical Society in Columbus is laying off staff and cutting salaries for those left behind. I personally want to assure all of you that because of YOUR membership, donations, and our corporate sponsorships, we are able to meet our 2020 expenses. We greatly appreciate your continuing support this year for next year’s operating budget.

We will soon be interviewing college graduates for a Ohio History Corps position at our museum. We will be Region I (the 12 counties in the upper left corner of the state) site for AmeriCorps. This post will be filled in September. The candidate will be working with our Fulton County Heritage Alliance members, history groups in the other 11 counties, and with us here to create new Distance Learning opportunities for visitors that can’t attend our events or come into the museum. Creative ideas to reach county school children will also be part of their mission.

We were able to host our 1942 Deja vu Spring Gala this year, which normally funds programming for the following year. Instead, you will find an invitation to an “UN-gala” tucked inside this newsletter. These funds will help us sponsor our new AmeriCorps team member and equip him or her with a computer and work station. Please consider any gift from $25 to $100 toward our $5,000 goal.

On a personal note, I wanted to let you know that I am joining Amy Craft, Director of the Allen County Museum in Lima, Ohio in serving as a co-board member for Region I of the Ohio Local History Alliance (our state history alliance, in association with our national organization, “American Association of State and Local History”). I will focus on history groups in Fulton, Henry, Defiance, Lucas, Williams, and Wood counties, and Amy on the lower 6 counties of the region, We will be hosting the regional meeting at our museum in a couple of years.

For more information about AmeriCorps and the Ohio Local History Alliance, visit the Ohio History Connection’s website: www.ohiohistory.org/preserve/local-history-services. See you soon at the museum or on-line!

Sincerely,

John Swearingen, Jr.
Director
QUILTS! QUILTS! QUILTS!

The history of quilts and quilting, the stitching together of layers, padding and fabric, may date back to 3400 BCE. Early quilts were used as physical protection and insulation. As years went by, decorative elements were added and today, many are primarily art pieces.

Quilting history is reflected by the times. Changes in methods, fabric and color reflect the period. By 1840, fabric was readily available and quilting became more popular. Quilts were made for various reasons: bedding at home or for soldiers, tokens representing friendship or made as political protest statements.

Quilting became less popular during WWII as there was less time to do the intricate hand sewing needed to complete the piece but it has been revived in the 1980s, especially the invention of quilting machines. There are many types of quilts such as Amish, appliqued, Autograph, Album, Crazy, embroidered, and patchwork.

The museum has 25 quilts in its collection dating from 1840 – 1998. These will all be on display when the exhibit opens. Many of these old quilts were in disrepair and several of the Trustees and spouses have worked many hours to restore them. This sewing took many hours per quilt.

The Mikesell Quilt that has been completed will be raffled off at the annual dinner in October. Thanks to many area quilters it has been completed!

FYI

The following dates and events are tentatively on the museum calendar. Check our website for updates:

- Fulton County Fair September 4-10
- Wauseon Depot open third Sundays in July and August, with “Hobo Day” on September 26th
- The new exhibit on the century before suffrage will open on September 25th as well

The museum has returned to its normal hours of Mon.—Sat. from 10am-4pm and Sun. from Noon-4pm.

Group tours of 10 or less available.

Tickets for the raffle are $5.00 each and may be purchased at the Legacy Shop, Freedom Bound Quilt Shop on Shoop Ave. in Wauseon, or call (419)337-7922 and we can take a payment over the phone and mail you tickets.

Questions? call the museum store or email Scott Lonsdale at: store@museumoffultoncounty.org