

FULTON COUNTY PIONEER



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

Volume XXI No.1

Spring 2024

“All Aboard” NEW Exhibit



Experience Fulton County history through the wonderful world of trains. The exhibit will include the New York Central, Wabash, Detroit, Toledo & Ironton, Toledo & Indiana and Toledo and Western railroad collections. Thursday, January 25, 2024
Member night 4—7 P.M.
Public opening
Friday, January 26, 2024
This exhibit will be open through
April of 2025

Valentine Day Tea at the Manor Program: With Heartfelt Goodbyes and Reunions



Saturday, February 17th
Seatings at 11 A.M., 12 Noon & 1 P.M.
At the History Manor
229 Monroe Street
\$20.00 per person \$18.00 members
Reservations required
By phone or on our web site

Murder at the Museum:
Mystery on the 20th Century Limited
Be a detective and help us solve our annual murder mystery at the museum on SR 108
Saturday, March 23, 2024
Two “seatings” 4 P.M. or 7 P.M.
\$25.00 person
\$22.00 members
Reservations required
by phone or on our
web site.



 MuseumofFultonCounty.org

email:info@museumoffultoncounty.org

(419)337-7922

Museum Open M-Sat. 10-4

Save the Date/Get Tickets Today!
Saturday, April 20, 2024



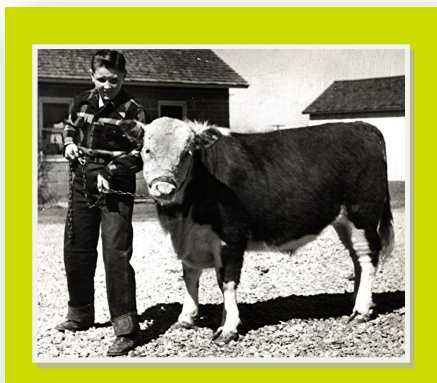
New York Central System's *20th Century Limited* and its exquisite dining car often starred in major Hollywood movies such as director Alfred Hitchcock's 1959 classic *North by Northwest*. In addition to the *20th Century Limited*, the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer film also starred Cary Grant, Eva Marie Saint and James Mason. Internet photo.

Join us for a memorable dining experience as we reenact the ride on the 20th Century Limited from the Plaza Hotel in New York to Carver's Café at Mt. Rushmore. During the "ride" Alfred Hitchcock's *North by Northwest* will be shown. Your meal courses will be prepared from recipes representing the different movie locations. Dress in 1958 attire if you want! There will be lunch and dinner seatings. Make your \$40 reservation early by phone or through our web site.

Richard Mull 1937—2023

We extend our condolences to the family of Richard Mull who passed on November 26th at his home. Richard was a big supporter of the Historical Society and served as trustee for many years.

He resigned due to health issues, and we will miss him. This is a picture of Richard as it appears on our lobby mural— A proud moment in his life when he had the Grand Champion steer at the Fulton County Fair.



Recent Additions



Native American Sacred Heart of Jesus

The object above is not yet an accession, but we hope it will be one day. It is currently on loan from Hope Schilling of West Unity. She has shared this wonderful creation with all of us to enjoy.

This soft sculpture combines the Roman Catholic and Native American cultures. It represents the love of Jesus and is made of red linen and burgundy velvet, filled with sawdust, sewn together with sinew, and decorated with brightly colored beads.

Walter and Hanna Taylor migrated to what was then Lucas County in 1835. They lived with the Native Americans in peace and tranquility. Hanna used the corn they raised to make mush and kept it in a kettle by the fire. Each day they made a new pot for the following day. One day, two Native boys came into the house, took the kettle of mush and departed without a word. This became a ritual. They would bring the empty kettle back and take a full one. Then one day when they returned the empty kettle, they left this item as a thank you. It was passed down through the generations and now is on display in the museum's permanent display.

We hope you will come to see this beautiful artifact from Franklin Township's past.

Kim Krieger



Kim Krieger is the newest member of our museum team. She comes to us from many years of doing the marketing for Sauder Village.

Since her retirement, she's been working with other small non-profit agencies creating ads and promotional materials. Her consulting for our museum allows her to work from home most of the time. She creates ads for radio, newspapers and social media. You may have seen her work for us at Skye Cinema. We think she is doing a great job!



Groups of 10 or more can now experience a guided tour of our gallery followed by a cream tea (scones & tea). Call Doris for a reservation and more

information at (419)337-7922.

The Legacy Shop will be featuring all kinds of new books about railroads to coincide with our newest exhibit.

There are ones for all ages. Stop by and browse, you may find one that answers all your questions about railroads.



From The President

Dear members and Friends,

Thank you to all who responded so positively to our annual appeal letter in December. Your generosity is crucial to ensuring we have the funds to operate the many facets of the Society's programming throughout the year. Your membership binds us together in a partnership dedicated to the preservation and sharing of Fulton County's rich history. We can not keep this mission alive without your continued faithful support.

In addition to the support from you, the Society participates in many other partnerships that support our mission. The trustees, staff and volunteers constantly partner in the development of exhibits, events, and the daily operation of our museum and other facilities. We have partnerships with the Fulton County Commissioners, the Fulton County Fair Board, and the City of Wauseon that allow us to have sites and operational supports for the Museum, the Reighard Blacksmith Shop, the Canfield Cabin, and the Wauseon Depot. Our most recent acquisition, the Lauber Hill Meeting House, is supported by a partnership with the Friends of Lauber Hill. The Fulton County Visitors Bureau and Ohio Means Jobs along with local businesses, civic and religious organizations join with us in promoting and sponsoring special exhibits and events like Christmas at the Cabin. Our membership in the Fulton County Heritage Alliance partners us with the Bean Creek Valley History Center, the Lyons Historical Society, the Metamora Historical Society, Sauder Village, the Swanton Historical Society, and the Fulton County Genealogical Society in sharing resources and information that supports programming across the county.

As we enter the New Year, I want to thank you and our network of partners for helping the Society to continue to grow into a stronger and more effective organization.

Best wishes for 2024!



Ray Sugg and one of his horses

The first fair site was only 10 acres, so when fair developers shopped for a new home, they made sure there was enough space for a race track. Converting the swampy ground to a dry exhibition ground and a excellent race course was a daunting task, but they completed it in one year so that a celebration could be held. The initial improvements cost approximately \$1,500.00 and many hours of volunteer labor. In 1865, it was considered one of the best trotting courses in Northwest Ohio. By the 20th Century, a big part of the fair was harness racing. Owners and drivers made it a point to come to the Fulton County Fair to participate in the races. The track was always in great shape, the barns were clean and well kept, and the purse for each race was adequate. It was also close to other tracks in Cleveland and Michigan. Many owner/trainers would stable their horses over the winter months in Wauseon.

In 1933, "Hoof Beats" official publication of The U.S. Trotting Association noted that racing would be offered at the Fulton County Fair and to enter you should contact Orla Whittecar, race secretary. That year horses came from places like Pontiac, MI, Murfreesboro, TN and Warsaw, IN to race at the Fulton County Fair.

The driver featured in our present Exhibit, *Meet me at the Fair*, is Ray Sugg, who was a driver/trainer of Standardbred harness horses for over 60 years, racing at tracks throughout the United States and Canada. At the age of 16, he was the youngest person to receive a driver's license from the United States Trotting Association. He enjoyed many summers racing at county fairs throughout Northwest Ohio. At the age of 70, he still liked to "Putzy" around the fairgrounds and the horse barns.



The Harmon Family

Chalmer, little boy in front, Glen with white horse, then Harry, Father James, and Bert on the end holding 2 horses The Harmon Horses were well known throughout the racing community.

