

FULTON COUNTY PIONEER



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

Volume XIX No.2

Spring 2022

1950s Sock Hop

PARTY FROM THE PAST

Saturday, April 23, 2022
at

Sully's Bistro

*206 N. Fulton Street
Wauseon, Ohio*

(roast beef & chicken)

Doors open at 6 P.M.

Dinner at 7 P. M.

Cash Bar

Silent Auction & Raffles

Best Costume Contest

DJ and Dancing

\$40.00 each \$75.00 per couple

Reservations due by April 11th

By phone or on line.



**Third Annual
Great Fulton
County Road Rally-
and
Chicken Dinner**
Sat. June 25, 2022



NEW EXHIBIT OPENING



Opening Friday
June 3, 2022

For members

*Open to the
public on*

June 4

Mother's Day Tea

At the History
Manor
Sat. May 14,
2022

*Reservations
due by
May 11
Suggested
donation
\$20.00*



SOUND OF THE HAMMER EXHIBIT

It is difficult for us, with all of our creature comforts, to imagine the natural conditions that existed in Northwest Ohio in the year 1838. It is also very difficult to imagine the conditions in Northeastern France and Switzerland at that time. Peasant life in the “old world” was difficult to say the least and freedom of worship was a great incentive to look to the “new world” for a better life. In October of 1865, Adam and Anna Maria Brutsch, with their two children, left Europe for the New World. It took fifty days of storms, rough seas, little food to eat, and being exposed to disease to reach New York. Adam succumbed to an illness on the ship and died at sea. Everyone was quarantined for seven days before disembarking. Think of the courage this woman had— she had to face this adventure without a husband, was unable to speak English, and had limited resources. Arrangements had been made for transportation to Toledo where they met friends who brought them to Archbold.

Hans George, son of Adam and Anna, was indentured to the Goll family until the family’s passage was paid for. This is where he learned the art of cutting trees and shaping them into beams for barns, schoolhouses, and other important buildings. Impressive barns were important in Fulton County, as they were a statement of a successful farmer.

George’s talents for building became well known in the area, so Jacob Kutzli sought him out to replace his barn with a new and bigger structure. Anna Kutzli, Jacob’s daughter, and George secretly fell in love. George made all of the preparations for the barn raising (which had to be flawless) as well as a secret wedding earlier in the week. George obtained the license at the courthouse in Wauseon, and on the Sunday afternoon, before the barn raising, George and Anna took a buggy ride to Archbold and were married in the home of Justice of the Peace Betts.

(continued in next column)

Everyone kept the secret until the following Thursday when the barn raising was held. When the barn was finished, Anna’s brother Jacob brought out a keg of beer and made the announcement that George and Anna were married— so there was a double celebration: a barn raising and the wedding reception.

George went on to have a very successful career in Archbold building barns and other needed buildings. He even built a new Victorian Italianate home for his new bride next to the Roman Catholic Church on the main street of town. The couple had six children— three boys and three girls. Carl Conrad was number five, born in Archbold April 12, 1889.

Right: The Britsch brothers A.J. standing and Carl sitting.



HERITAGE ALLIANCE EVENTS

The Bean Creek History Center in Fayette is sponsoring a very special program on the underground railroad. This program had been rescheduled because of the COVID virus.

“Sons and Daughters of Thunder” is the name of the movie. It is one hour and thirty minutes long and it portrays the beginning of the end of slavery. The producers of the movie will be present to answer any questions you might have. They will also have a display and props from the movie. Local history groups will also be present with their abolition history resources.

Date: June 25

Place: The Opera House

Time: Doors open at 1 P.M. Movie at 3 P.M.

Prices: Adults \$12.00

Seniors \$10.00

Students \$8.00

Tickets and information, call: 419 388 3518.

MARVIN R. LEATHERMAN

February 19, 1950—February 27, 2022

“Marv” was a very special guy. He was a husband, a father, and a grandfather. He was a plumber by trade. He was also a carpenter, a designer, an innovator, a history buff, a collector, a story teller, (boy could he tell stories!). He had an infectious laugh and usually had a smile on his face. He was thoughtful and kind and always ready to help with whatever needed to be done.

He served on the Board of Trustees of the Historical Society for over 20 years and was the Chairman for several of those years. He was instrumental in building the new building and creating a special place where all could come and learn about the history of Fulton County.



HE WILL BE
MISSED
BY ALL.



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Despite a still looming global pandemic, 2022 looks to be a banner year for the Historical Society. The number of visitors to the museum and Spiess Research Center is increasing. Folks are getting out and about and we seem to be on their list of things they have been waiting to experience.

I lost one of my dearest friends and volunteer trustee members last month. Marvin Leatherman’s contribution to the Museum can not be measured in time or money. He was one of a kind. No job was too small or too big for him to tackle, and he was always here when we needed him. He helped design and build every special exhibit you have seen since I started in 2009. It will take many hands to replace him.

The Britsch exhibit has opened and has been well received. Carl Britsch is now little known, but in his day was a talented man who made many contributions to Northwest Ohio— not only in architecture, but in the fine arts.

Our new exhibit “The Yoke’s On You” should be fun and thought provoking. Save the date, June 3rd for the opening.

Thanks again to all of you who donate your time, talents and gifts to the museum. I look forward to seeing you this spring!

John Swearingen, Jr.

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NEW ACCESSIONS

Late last year we were given some original scores from the collection of Janet (Rupp) Linker. Janet grew up in Delta, Ohio, and studied piano and organ first with Helene Short. Her first organ position was at the Evangelical Mennonite Church in Wauseon at the age of 15. She received her B.A. & Master's degrees in organ performance from Capitol University and the University of Michigan.

She held church organist positions in Lubbock and Waco, Texas, Sacramento, California and Columbus, Ohio and she has played the Mighty Morgan Theater Organ at the Ohio Theater in Columbus. She was on the faculty at Capital University for over 30 years. She published eighteen books of organ music as well as Handbell arrangements. Her first book, *The Last Verse*, was written in memory of her parents, Elroy and Ida Rupp. This collection is unique in that it contains her original pencil composition and the transition to the printed version of the music. Janet donated her manuscripts to the museum while she is still alive so they could be intact and available for us to study and enjoy.



to

BARNEY OLEFIELD DOLL

Barney Oldfield's family doll passed down through the family, belonged to Barney's sister. It was given to her cousin, George Benton Oldfield's wife, Ellen Angeline Mason-Oldfield. Ellen died and left it to her daughter, Florence Mercy Mason-Riddle. Florence left the doll to her daughter, Mary Ann Riddle-Phillips. Mary Ann died leaving the doll to her daughter Marjorie Phillips-Kress who then left it to Nancy Potter-Kast. It was Nancy Potter-Kast who brought it to the museum.

This is a Rene Poulin doll. Rene Poulin patented dolls with head and limbs made of metal in 1861. By 1886, most of these dolls were made in Germany by Max Dittrich, Joseph Schon, and later by Robert Hiller. The German metal doll heads were stamped from sheet metal, then welded together and painted.



They were used as a replacement for bisque or China doll heads. We believe this doll was made in Germany 1887—1890.

NEW LOCATION FOR MAHS

The Metamora Area Historical Society has acquired a 1920 brick home at 345 W. Main Street. The house was the home of the Sam Rice, Sr. family from 1934-1960. Rice was known nationally in the grain business, developed popular sugar beet flavored oats, and started a co-op for farmers. Fred and Virginia (*daughter of Sam and Laura Rice*) Duncan lived in the home until 1991.

Strategy planning meetings are underway and renovations will begin this spring. A public open house is planned for this summer.

MAHS will continue to maintain their exhibits at the Evergreen Community Library in Metamora for public access. Grants and donations will be sought through a capital campaign. Inquires can be mailed to MAHS, PO Box 174, Metamora, Ohio 43540 or emailed to:

metamoraareahistoricalociety@gmail.com

