

# FULTON COUNTY PIONEER



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## SOUND OF THE HAMMER

### STROKE OF THE PEN

A new exhibit in the Worthington Gallery will celebrate the amazing life of Carl Britsch. The opening is scheduled for members on January 28, 2022, and for the general public on January 29th .

Born and raised in Archbold, Britsch graduated from the School of Architecture and Design at the Carnegie Institute of Technology in Pittsburgh in 1916. After serving in the Army in WWI, he opened an office in Toledo. Then in 1927, the partnership of Britsch and Munger was formed— later reorganizing as Britsch, Macelwane and Associates.

Carl wrote articles for the *Ohio Architect* and *The National A.I. Journal*, and his talents are on display everywhere in Northwest Ohio. He designed many churches, schools and housing developments.

He was a man of many talents. As an author, he compiled the history of his family and the families that settled the area around Lauber Hill. This book, *Sound of the Hammer*, was published in 1963.

Britsch was also an artist and painted many beautiful water colors— some of which will be on display. Mark your calendar. You won't want to miss this exhibit.

*Biographical information taken from the dust cover*



## **MURDER AT THE MUSEUM 2022**



This event is returning by popular demand! We will be solving another murder mystery this year.

***Date: March 26, 2022***

Reservations will be required again this year. Watch our website and Facebook page for more information or call the museum (419)337-7922.

## VALENTINE TEA



Our annual Valentine Tea will be on Saturday, February 2, 2022.

Hear romantic stories and taste delightful traditional afternoon tea baked treats.

Get your reservation in early on-line or call the

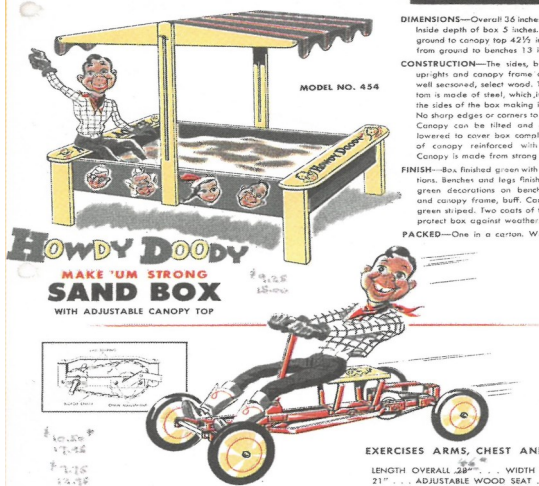
## PETER GENDRON

This is the fifth and final story about our current exhibit and the creators of those fascinating things we call toys. Peter Gendron was born in Quebec, Canada, in 1844, and was one of ten children. When he was 10, the family moved to New Hampshire where his father engaged in his woodworking trade. The children worked in the woolen mills to earn money to purchase a farm in 1859. The Gendrons farmed, were carpenters and built wagons. It was here that Peter became very creative and introduced many improvements in his trade.

In 1865, he married Delima Trudeau. That same year, he and his brother, Alfred, and their wives moved to Toledo, Ohio, where they worked as pattern makers for "Thayer's Novelty Works". They became naturalized citizens in 1869.

Peter's first company was building children's carriages. He was intrigued by the wheels. Wooden wheels that were popular at that time were heavy and costly to produce. He conceived the idea of wire-spoke wheels which made the carriage much lighter. Financing was always a problem, so he found a partner and they built a small factory to produce wire wheels and baby carriages. Business grew which soon called for more space. By now there were four partners and a site on the corner of Orange and Superior Streets was selected for the new factory. In 1882, Peter applied for patents related to the hub and spoke arrangement of the wheel. The hub of the wheel was made with pockets on both halves, then a piece of wire formed in a "V" shape provided two spokes. The company claimed it was indestructible and not affected by weather or exposure to wet or dry climates. As the business continued to grow and prosper, they moved to Rossford and then to Archbold. They made all kinds of bicycles, tricycles, carriages, velocipedes, pedal cars and later invalid chairs. They also made playground equipment for which they obtained a license to use the Howdy Doody trademark to boost sales.

**PLAY EQUIPMENT**



**MODEL NO. 454**

**Howdy Doody**  
MAKE 'UM STRONG  
**SAND BOX**  
WITH ADJUSTABLE CANOPY TOP

**Howdy Doody**  
MAKE 'UM STRONG  
**RACER**

**Gendron**

**DIMENSIONS**—Overall 36 inches x 48 inches. Inside depth of box 5 inches. Height from ground to canopy top 42 1/2 inches. Height from ground to benches 13 inches.

**CONSTRUCTION**—The sides, benches, legs, uprights and canopy frame are made of well selected select wood. The box bottom is made of steel, which is mortised to the sides of the box making it leak-proof. No sharp edges or corners to cause injury. Canopy can be tilted and can also be lowered to cover box completely. Frame of canopy reinforced with steel rods. Canopy is made from strong canvas.

**FINISH**—Box finished green with buff decorations. Benches and legs finished buff with green decorations on benches. Uprights and canopy frame, buff. Canvas canopy, green striped. Two coats of finish used to protect box against weather.

**PACKED**—One in a carton. Weight 37 lbs.

**EXERCISES ARMS, CHEST AND BACK**

LENGTH OVERALL 26" . . . WIDTH OVERALL 21" . . . ADJUSTABLE WOOD SEAT . . . RUBBER HAND GRIPS . . . COLOR—RED FRAME, YELLOW WHEELS AND DECORATED HOWDY DOODY SEAT.

No. 460—BALL BEARING CRANK AXLE DRIVE . . . 1" RUBBER TIRES.  
No. 462—BALL BEARING SPROCKETS, CHAIN DRIVE ADJUSTABLE . . . 1 1/4" RUBBER TIRES.

In October 1997, the company celebrated its 125th anniversary with an open house held at the Archbold plant. Antique pedal cars, wicker doll buggies, bicycles, tricycles, wagons, scooters and wheel chairs were all on display. In 1999, The Pioneer pedal car was reintroduced. Production was licensed by Pedal car classics of San Francisco to produce full-size replicas of the 1940 Pioneer Roadster. In 2001, Hallmark, Inc. was licensed to manufacture reproductions of miniature pedal cars as "Kiddie Car Classics". The Gendron company remains at the forefront of medical equipment manufacturing. They developed a line of bariatric chairs, beds and stretchers for patients weighing up to 450 pounds which is in use in hospitals and clinics across the world. The plant is now in Bryan, Ohio.

Information for this story was taken from *Gendron 1872—2007* by Frederic W. Strobel. There is a copy of this book in the Spiess Research Center if you would like to read more about Peter Gendron.



Dear Members and Friends of the Museum,

I hope you all enjoyed a wonderful holiday season with family and friends. With a new year, comes the opportunity to explore new ideas and how they relate to the past.

Was new technology a good thing or a bad thing? Was moving from the farm to the factory a good move or a bad one? These are some of the things we will explore, and we hope that you will find them interesting.

The Britsch exhibit takes us from the German Township farm where Carl grew up to architecture school in Pittsburgh, PA, and eventually to designing a famous building in Washington, D.C.. How would the landscape of Fulton County look if he had stayed in the family business?

The next topic we will explore is the world of automation. Should we have continued to use horses and oxen for farm work or would we have made less impact on the environment if the gasoline engine had never polluted the atmosphere? These are the thought-provoking topics that we will discuss in 2022.

The new Heritage Alliance On-line Collection is ready for use. Anyone in the world can visit our website and find out what is new and exciting in all five of our local history group's collections. This was one of the projects that our Americorps member, Kyle Driscoll, developed while he was with us in 2021. He spent many hours working with all of the partners in the Alliance and the staff at Past Perfect.

Visit us soon for another exciting year at the Museum of Fulton County!

Sincerely,

John Swearingen, Jr.  
Director

We recently acquired several copies of the "NORTHWESTERN REPUBLICAN". The pages are about 36" square and the type font is about a 5, so there is a great deal of news on every page. The article below is an copy of some of the wonderful information found on its pages. If you have the time and the curiosity, stop by the Spiess Research Library and check out our great collection.

## **NORTHWESTERN REPUBLICAN**

**April 22, 1880**

### **WHEAT GROWING MAXIMS**

**Somebody has been at the trouble of condensing a great deal of information about wheat growing, as follows, into a very small compass and somebody else has set it afloat without giving credit to the author.**

- 1. The best soil for wheat is a rich clay loam.**
- 2. Wheat likes a good, deep, soft bed.**
- 3. Clover turned under makes just such a bed.**
- 4. The best seed is heavy, oily, plump and clear.**
- 5. About two inches is the best depth for sowing the seed.**
- 6. The drill puts in the seed better and cheaper than broadcasting.**
- 7. From the middle of September to the last of October is the best time for sowing.**
- 8. Drilled, one bushel of seed per acre; if sown broadcast, two bushels**
- 9. One heavy rolling after sowing does much good.**
- 10. For flour, cut when the grain begins to harden; for seed, not until it has hardened.**

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## NEW ACCESSIONS



We are privileged to be the recipient of a treasure. A gentleman stopped by last fall and wondered if we might be interested in the graduation robe of Marjorie Whiteman!!! Needless to say we were excited. The robe is 51" long with facing of purple velvet

around the front. The sleeves are oval shaped with 3 purple velvet bands attached. The lining is satin. Inside is a label with gold lettering M.W. The purple is the designation of a law degree. She received a Carnegie Fellowship and graduated again from Yale in 1928, with a J.S. Doctorate in Jurisprudence and International Law. The robe is currently stored with the rest of the Whiteman collection.



This is the new logo for our county Heritage Alliance. It is what you will see when you go to: [www.fultoncounty.catalogaccess.com](http://www.fultoncounty.catalogaccess.com). This page allows the researchers from around the entire world to visit our site and see our collection.

## MEMORABELIA FROM THE HORSESHOE ASSOCIATION

The Horseshoe Association was a part of the Fulton County Fair for over 40 years. Many fair goers looked forward to watching these competitions. Due to loss of members and lack of participation, the event was discontinued. They have shared their trophies, plaques, certificates, trophy, ribbons, scoreboards and club rolls with us so they will be available to future generations.

We want to thank those who donated these items. They will become a piece of the history of our county and particularly a part of the history of the County Fair.

## SAVE THE DATE

APRIL 30, 2022

Get your saddle shoes out, press your poodle skirt and get ready for the

“SOCK HOP”



