

FULTON COUNTY PIONEER



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

Volume XX No.4

Fall 2023

Annual Member Dinner

October 3, 2023

Museum of Fulton County

5 :30 P.M. Social Hour 6:00 P.M. Dinner

Reservation required

Call 419 337 7922 or purchase under “events”
on our online store @
museumoffultoncounty.org

Lauber Hill History Program
Centennial Farm Awards
Business Meeting

Open House

Lauber Hill Meeting House

Sunday, October 15, 2023

2:00-4:00 P.M.

7094 Co. Rd. 21 Archbold



Christmas at the Cabin

December 8 , 5:00—8:00 P.M.

December 9, 4:00—8:00 P.M.

Fulton County Fairgrounds

\$15.00 per car

No reservations required

 MuseumofFultonCounty.org



Haunting History Tours

Walking tour of downtown Archbold

October 20 and 21, 2023

6:30—8:15 P.M.

Starting at the Library

205 Stryker Street

Archbold, Ohio

Adults \$15.00

Members and Children \$13.00

Reservations required

Santa at the Wauseon Depot

November 25, December 18—22, 2023

6:30—8:00 P.M.

Share your wish list with Santa and enjoy the
Model Train Display at our depot.



These events are sponsored
by the Wauseon Chamber
Rotary Club, the Wauseon
Fire Department and the
Fulton County Historical
Society.

Historic Fayette:

150 Years Aug 7, 1873 — Aug. 12, 2023

For many years the date of Fayette's incorporation was in limbo. The town even celebrated the centennial a year early in 1972. Kathy Fix in her new book has laid all the controversy to rest. The date was officially August 7, 1873. They actually incorporated the village on that date to control the animals (chickens and pigs) that ran around loose!

Although the village seems a little distant or out of the main stream, it has many notable accomplishments. In the 1800s, the Fayette Normal University was established there, and it later became the Fayette Normal Music and Business College where C.S. Morrison composed "Meditation", a published work for the piano. The Opera House was also opened in the late 1800s and was known as the Town Hall. Today, Fayette continues to reinvent itself and remains an integral part of the history of Fulton County.

Kathy Fix, the author of Historic Fayette, has lived in Fayette her entire life. Kathy was born, grew up, got married, raised a family and retired in Fayette. She loves the village and all of its history. Her mother, Vivian Gamble Ford, loved the community also. Vivian kept pictures and documents regarding special events and even wrote a booklet about the first hundred years for the centennial celebration in 1972. There were boxes of information to go through before writing this book! Kathy and many other Fayette citizens have put many hours of hard work into the publishing of this book. This book is a real time line of Fayette history.

Books will be available at the Legacy Shop and the History Center in Fayette as well as other locations. The price is \$25.00. Proceeds will be divided among the Library, the History Center, the Opera House and the History Museum.

Check out this newest addition to the library of Fulton County history You won't be disappointed.

Recent Acquisitions



A recent photo album donated by Susan Williams contained some surprise photographs. The men in these photographs are two sons of Frank and Emma Bard. Charles on the right was Frank's son from his first marriage, and James on the left was their youngest. He played in the Wauseon orchestra, competed in the school debate club with Marjorie Whiteman, and became a dentist in Chicago later in life.

The oil paintings below were brought to the museum by Betty Jo Van Winkle of Bluffton IN. The artist was Vachtik Seaman, local artist and historian from the Delta/Wauseon area (circa 1902-1979). The paintings were gifted to Charlet Peffley on the death of Ester Bowerman, Charlet's aunt. The winter scene was painted specifically for Ester, as was inscribed on the back of the painting. They have remained in the Peffley family until they were gifted to the museum in August.



Meet Me At The Fair !



*Heritage Alliance
Tent
Shelby Tipping
Volunteer*

*Doris Piercefield
With all her
Merchandise
from the
The Legacy Shop*



*The Canfield
Cabin*

*Carolynn Powers
Blacksmith*

*Blacksmithing is
the art of creating
objects from iron
by heating and
cooling the metal.*

*Carolyn has been
at the fair for
many years.*



From The President

Dear members and Friends,

The locusts are singing, there is a slight chill in the air, and it is time for the Annual Meeting. It is time for us to reflect, assess, be thankful, and look forward as we continue to guide the path of the Historical Society. I have pointed out in past messages that this is a period of change for the organization and that continues to be evident. We wish the best to Kate Huiskins, our Marketing and Events Manager, who left us for a full-time position with Fulton County Economic Development. For the remainder of the year, the Board has contracted Kim Kreiger for marketing services. Kim has been increasing our social media presence and developing promotional opportunities for our upcoming events. We anticipate some changes will be coming to our website along with a revised marketing plan that expands our outreach to attract more visitors.

Two long serving volunteers have also decided to step away from their work with the Society. I want to express our sincere appreciation for their dedicated service to the mission and operation of the Historical Society. Carlan Badenhop has been a pivotal member of the Pioneer Endowment Fund over the years. As Secretary/Treasurer of the Fund he has kept meticulous records and ensured that the Fund was operated prudently and responsibly. The Board of Trustees has granted Carlan Emeritus status on the Endowment Fund Committee so we can continue to receive the benefit of his knowledge and experience.

Jerry Rupp worked with several of our directors over his tenure as a volunteer, Registrar, and most recently volunteer document scanner. Jerry's extensive knowledge of the materials housed in our collection helped in the curation of several exhibits over the years, especially the in the creation of the new museum. Jerry also helped train members of the Heritage Alliance in the use of our common cataloging program, Past Perfect, which has had a lasting benefit for the museums and researchers.

Thank you to Carlan and Jerry and all our volunteers who make the success of the Museum and Historical Society possible. A reminder that our annual year end campaign will be starting soon. Envelopes will be in the mail. We hope you will consider the museum in your year end giving.

We hope you all enjoy a wonderful holiday season with family and friends.

Sincerely

John Myles

Meet Me At the Fair

The Fulton County Fair is 166 years old this year. The first site was just east of Ottokee on ten rented acres. Everyone pitched in and readied the grounds and built some buildings, but it was too small for a race track so the main forms of competition were plowing and wood chopping.

In 1865, thanks to Colonel Howard and friends, the Agricultural Society moved the Fair to its present site. The original plot was 40 acres and cost \$500.00. It took a lot of work with oxen to fit the grounds and build a race track at the cost of \$1,500.00, but the Fair opened on time in 1911.

When the work was complete, the Agricultural Society deeded the land to the county commissioners.

Horse racing has always been a big part of the fair. The 1900 Fair featured a race between a horse and a newfangled contraption, the automobile. The horse won the first heat, the car won the second and went on to set a speed record in the third.

Some Fair trivia:

Junior Fair began in 1918.

The fair opened at night in 1926.

A couple was married there in 1936.

A master plan for ground layout was created in 1945.

In 1947, the board decided to start the fair on Labor Day.

In 1957, the Fair celebrated its 100 anniversary and was named Best County Fair in the state.

Camping started in 1964.

Big Name entertainment came in 1977. A few of the famous included The Lettermen, The Oak Ridge Boys, Alabama, Barbara Mandrell, Reba McEntire, and Roy Clark.

Attendance reached 100,00 in 1972.

One main focus of the fair has been on the youth, the 4-H clubs, FFA and FHA and their projects. 4-H clubs were organized in 1916 by C.P. Weber and had 50 members the first year. By 2002, there were 52 clubs, 1137 members and 246 advisors. Everyone has a favorite story about the fair. It is an institution in Fulton County. It continues to grow every year with new attractions and new events.

Come to the museum to our new exhibit and share the early days of "fair going" with your children and grandchildren.

Heritage Alliance Events

Lyons Area Historical Society

December 3, 2023

Santa at the Depot

1:30—4:00 P.M.

Fulton County Genealogy Society

Meet

Second Tuesday of every month

March—December

Trinity Lutheran Church

410 Taylor Street

Delta, Ohio

Everyone is welcome

Parking in rear of church

Bean Creek Valley History Center

The History Center at Fayette has 2024 Calendars for sale.

The pictures are of the barns that have been featured through out the area by artist, Robert Kroger

You can pick one up at the History Center or at the Legacy shop at the Museum. They would make great Christmas gifts. 2024 will be here before we know it.



The Legacy Shop

We are ready for

Christmas with all kinds
of great gifts

Do your shopping early
for the best selection

Meet Me At The Fair

A big part of the fair in the 20th century 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. Many owner/trainers would stable their horses over the winter months in Wauseon. It was also close to other tracks in Cleveland and Michigan.

The first fair site was only 10 acres , so when they 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 .

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 Fulton County Fair.

The Harmon Family

Chalmer, little boy in front

Glen with White horse

Then Harry, Father James and Bert on end holding 2 horses

