

## Sharing the Secret

January 2009

Arcanum Wayne Trail Historical Society, Inc. 123 W. George Street  
Website - [www.arcanumhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.arcanumhistoricalsociety.org)

Volume 5 Issue 1  
Arcanum, Ohio 45304

### President's Report by Dick Troutwine

Finally, the Historical Society building will meet safety and handicap accessible codes. A beautiful new front door with a panic bar was installed by Neil Fasick. Also, he replaced the rear door with the same type of hardware as well as widened the door way between the conference room and the north room (summer kitchen). About the first of the year Bud's Electric will install a lighted exit sign above the doorway. The rear wheelchair entry cement ramp and pad was completed by Todd and Snyder Construction. Ivan and Geraldine Brown contributed \$1000 towards the front door project. Total expense for all the above came to \$8500.

Once again I would like to thank Jenny Quigney and everyone who worked on the Christmas Bazaar and especially those who donated items and sold raffle tickets.

On January 8, 2009 we will be having our election of officers and board members for the year. A new president will be elected as I have completed my third year as president (term limited by our by-laws). A carry in dinner in lieu of a program will take place.

Lastly, I would like to thank my fellow officers, committee chairpersons, members and volunteers for giving their time, talent and effort to make the Historical Society a success.

### ***Membership Meeting \* Thursday Jan 8<sup>th</sup> \* 7 p.m.***

#### ***Election of Officers***

#### ***Carry In Dinner***

**The first initial of your last name indicates which food item you should bring.**

***A thru F Dessert***

***G thru P Salad or Vegetable***

***Q thru Z Meat or Meat Dish***

#### **Officers and Directors**

President	Richard Troutwine	692-5128
Vice President	Fred Troutwine	692-8939
Treasurer	Jerry Kramer	692-5764
Rec. Secretary	Pat Jones	662-9114
Corres. Secretary	Annette Stewart	692-6462
Directors	Dave Flora	692-8412
	Keith Furlong	548-6556
	Wendell Miller	692-8425
	Jeff Puterbaugh	692-5304

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### **March 12 \* Album Quilts of Ohio's Miami Valley \* Presented by Sue Cummings**

The subject of this program is taken from the new book researched and written by Sue Cummings, Union, OH. Her interest in Ohio-made quilts began 40 years ago. The search for quilts and the research into the stories behind the quilts has taken her on an amazing journey leading her to thirty-two examples of Miami Valley album quilts. Sue tells about the quilts, the quilt makers and the recipients.

Album quilts have family names and important dates sewn into or written on the fabric. The term "album quilt" includes three different subcategories: friendship quilts, sampler quilts, and presentation quilts. Sue's collection include twenty-five quilts in the "presentation quilt" category and sixteen of these have the very distinctive Miami Valley Eagle block on them..

Some of the Darke and Miami County quilts featured in her book are from the families of Peter Shank, Herman Olinger, Gertrude Arnett, Ditmer Brothers and Daniel Long who were located in the communities of Laura, Monroe Township, Phillipsburg, Pitsburg, Potsdam, Verona and West Milton.

Sue will be showing slides and will have one or two quilts with her when she speaks to AWTHS March 12 at 7:00 p.m.

A retired Wright State University Chemistry Professor, Sue and her husband Glynn Marsh are charter members of Randolph Township Historical Society and friends of AWTHS.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

<b><u>Acquisitions</u></b>	Dick Troutwine	692-5128	Thank you to all who have donated items. They have been cataloged and added to our inventory. It is these items that help tell the history of our community and surrounding area.
0890	Side Board Table/Mirror		Tom Jones
0891	Darke County Fair Fan - 1928		Gertrude Brehm
0892	Darke County Fair Fan - 1930		Gertrude Brehm
0893	Arcanum 1969 State Champ sweat shirt		Gertrude Brehm
0894	Reigle Insurance items		Gertrude Brehm
0895	Linda's Dress Shop mirror		Gertrude Brehm
0896	Arcanum Federal Savings and Loan rabbit dime saver		Gertrude Brehm
0897	The John Smith Co. 1851 to 1976 Invitation		Gertrude Brehm
0898	Ohio State Sales Tax Receipts		Gertrude Brehm
0899	Arcanum Federal Savings and Loan bottle opener		Dave Flora
0900	Hency's Inc. coin holder		Chester Burns
0901	Horn's Electric Hatchery thermometer		Chester Burns
0902	1921 Arcanum School "Arcana Annual"		Anita Short
0903	Oak Table 3 ½ by 6 feet		Arcanum Lions Club
0904	1934 Webster Pocket Dictionary of Margurite Bloom		Joan Rench
0905	3 Dining room chairs		Joan Rench
0906	Arcanum Lions Club charter 1928		Arcanum Lions Club
0907	John Smith Grain Co. mirror		Dave Flora
0908	Brandenburg and Cline Bed pan		Jeff Puterbaugh
0909	Stutz and Sando yard stick		Jeff Puterbaugh
0910	Darke County Directories		Lynn Trump
0911	Cast Iron space heater		Lynn Trump

**Adopt A Highway** Jim Deis 678-7832 Litter was picked up along Rt. 49 and Alt. 49 in November.

**Education** Cheryl Gray 692-8905 All past newsletters were put in a binder for the third grade teachers to use in the social studies curriculum when teaching about the Arcanum community.

**Historian** Bill Gunder 692-8000 and Anita Short 692-8715 Much of the information in the books written by Anita Short and Bill Gunder was taken from newspaper clippings collected over the years. AWTHS needs a couple of people to *clip from the newspapers* any thing printed pertaining to our area and put the clippings in scrapbooks. This will be very important for future research. You don't have to leave your nice warm house to do this service.

**Membership** Carolyn Furlong 548-6556 **Membership Fees Are Due Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>**  
Thanks to all for renewing 2009 memberships and welcome to our new members. Listed are members who renewed as of Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Lifetime Members**

Dr. Samuel and Mrs. Lucy Brubaker Phyllis Hahn Harry and Hana Hanes Galen and Sara Lenhert

**Honorary Members**

Phil Garbig Lew Williams

**Single**

Brenda Arnett Jean Aukerman Merrie Ann Brown Norman Dohner Glenna Hayes Helena Kinsler  
Jenny Quigney

**Family**

Joe & Wanda Bailey Ivan & Geraldine Brown Ned & Marian Brown Jack & Marlene Creech  
Richard & Carolyn Davison Jim and Barb Deis Martin & Eleanor Freese Keith & Carolyn Furlong  
Dick & Marilyn Graeff Eldene & Phyllis Lambert Michael & Linda Newbauer Tim & Peggy Sanders  
Tom & Liz Stephens Richard & Sharon Troutwine Lynn & Carolyn Trump

**Sponsorship**

Paul & Linda Pease

**Corporate**

John & Ella Stevenson

**New Members**

Tom and Denise Wetzel

### Committee Reports continues

**Program** Call a board member with your ideas for programs. We would love to hear from you!

**Publications** Barb Deis 678-7832

**BOOKS -Arcanum Chronicles - Volume 2** is the latest book written by Bill Gunder about life in the Arcanum community. Containing two smaller books bound in one volume.

The first, "The Arcanum Fire Department (1899-1970)" includes 46 pages of information never released to the public since its completion in 2003. Information includes names of chiefs, company members, accounts of fires, location of fire houses and fire wells, steamer and fire engine history along with the history from the department's inception. Eighteen pictures are included.

The second, "Arcanum Public Library and Ivester House" originally published several years ago in a very limited number. It includes the original Dedication and Forward with brief biographies of each librarian, board member lists and original architectural drawings. It tells about the library from its inception to 1999. You will also learn about the Ivester family and others who lived in the home up until the time the home was sold to the library. Again, approximately 70 individual pictures and diagrams are included.

AWTHS is so grateful to Bill Gunder and Anita Short for giving us the printing rights to the books they have written about life in Arcanum. This is very generous and we are most appreciative. Material from years of their research was used to write these books. See page 7 for list of books now available for purchase.

It is the hopes of Anita and Bill that other people will step up and contribute to future volumes. Contact Bill at 692-8000 or [gunder1@yahoo.com](mailto:gunder1@yahoo.com) and Anita at 692-8715.

**WEBSITE** - [www.arcanumhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.arcanumhistoricalsociety.org). Bill Gunder is doing a great job setting up & maintaining our website. All newsletters are available on line as well as current events, membership information and 1898-1907 records listing burial permits, birth and death certificates. Thanks to Anita Short for helping to list these permits and certificates.

**Ways and Means** Jenny Quigney 692-5994 / 459-8090 Christmas Bazaar Nov. 29th

The Annual Christmas Bazaar was a huge success. Not only with making a profit of approximately \$2440 but also showcasing work of some of Arcanum's very talented crafters. This year local historians Anita Short and Bill Gunder were on hand to sign their books. Friends took time out from shopping to visit. A big *THANK YOU* to members and friends of AWTHS who donated new and gently used Christmas items as well as baked goods and handcrafted items, and to those who helped with setup & take down and served as hosts. Thanks to Dick and Sharon Troutwine for staging the bazaar. Thanks to the team who worked on the 9 "goat trees". John Trigg and Fred Troutwine hand crafted over 100 wooden goats. The goats, which help tell the story "Trees of the Dancing Goats", were painted by Carolyn Troutwine. Annette Stewart, Carolyn Furlong and Carolyn Troutwine embellished wreaths and garlands, many of which were donated. Keith Furlong made wooden stars & snowmen. Jenny Quigley & Glenna Hayes were busy again this year- Jenny making snow men, Glenna crocheting dish clothes. Thanks to one and all.

Raffle Items: \$100 Money Tree

Winners: Tanya Deis Simpson

Clay pot Snow Man made by Jenny Quigney

Kornelia Barnett

Ball ornament hand painted by Chuck Weiner

Karen Shuttleworth

Santa hand craved by John Wiesenberger

Brenda Arnett

Nativity Set donated by Carolyn Furlong

Liz Stephens

### **AWTHS MISSION AND PURPOSE**

As we begin the new year let us be reminded of our mission and purpose.

**Mission Statement:** To collect, preserve, and foster an appreciation for our past and promote an interest and knowledge of past historical events for citizens of all ages, which may act as a foundation for future generations and instill a sense of pride in local history.

**Purpose:** The purpose of the historical society shall be the collecting and preserving of records, artifacts, memorabilia, materials. And genealogical research pertaining to the history of the Arcanum area. The identifying and marking of buildings and location of historical significant as well as the preserving of skills and building techniques shall be considered part of the purpose of the society.

**Flat Iron Building 1851 circa.**

The Rose Post

111 West George Street

Many communities have a building constructed in a triangular shape which is often referred to as a "flat iron building".

Arcanum's flat iron building is presently home to "The Rose Post" which opened Sept. 1995 by Rose (Wetzel) Lambert and Pam Post. The flower/gift shop has been owned by Rose since 1997. The brick flat iron building and a block building located on the north end of the property were purchased from Delbert Bender.

Rose and Pam made structural changes, removing an interior wall making one larger show room and adding a large west window letting light in to show off the interesting shape of the building. A window for drive through service, where Chuck and Kelly Zell served ice cream, sandwiches and pizzas for 12 years, is still in the corner nook. Arcanum Dairy & Pizza Lane had dine-in and carryout service with a video rental in the north room, now the florist's workroom.

Constructed in 1852 by Jacob 'Jake' Schafer the structure is thought to be the oldest building presently in use. John Smith's brick structure, Smith's Big Store, was built after the flat iron building. Through the years the original structure was added on to, the brick covered with siding and most recently window and door awnings were added.

This structure had a lean-to at the north end which was torn off in the 30s. An 1875 Atlas indicated the railroad depot was at the rear of this address. From sketchy accounts found in newspapers (Arcanum Visitor, 8-25-1876 and Arcanum Times, 6-11-31) it is thought the depot was located in the lean-to.

The structure was a saloon when first constructed. Twice it was a hotel, Central Hotel (1888) and Gavin Saloon & Hotel (1890). The Weekly Times, later known as the Arcanum Times, started here in 1899. Tobacco warehouses (Voorhis and Shank & McCue), Kindy Upholstery Shop, piano stores (Fetterly and Fulton), real estate & insurance (Ed McCue, Ed Wild, Berman K. Smith and J. B. Mundhenk), Burge Photo Gallery, Auto Tool & Manufacturing (Earl Howe & C. A. Weisenbarger), Shewmon Tire and Bicycle Shop, and Beck Harness & Shoe Repair, Shep Shoe & Harness Repair Shop, were all businesses located here over the years. During the 50s William Unger converted it into apartments. For a short time in the 60s Stull Shoe Repair Shop was in business there.

Some local residents remember a gum factory operated at this site. To date no information to document this has been found. If readers know anything about a gum factory please share the information with the historical society.

Rose is an 1976 Arcanum High School graduate. Kurt graduate in the Franklin Monroe class of '76.

**Cook Building**

Village Flower Shop

115 N. Sycamore St.

Clarence and Versia Cook constructed the present cement block building in 1948. It was built inside the old tin structure with the walls being torn away after the building was completed. Built in 1909 by J. W. Taylor, the first business was The Arcanum Auto Garage. Some line of auto business continued at this location for most of those years. For a short time it was a coal yard. Names associated with businesses at this property are: W.C. Weaver, H. C. Raile, J. J. Morrison, C. Cleary, Earl Wiesenberger, Ray Replogle, Harry Hanes, Archie Lacey, James McCue, Joe R. Warner, and Dewey Warner.

These earlier businesses sat more on the back of the lot and closer to the railroad. It was only under the Cook ownership that their tin building and the one presently there were erected on Sycamore or on the west side of the lot fronting Sycamore.

A grocery was added when the Cooks built the new structure. The grocery was run out of the front part of this building. They continued the business they started in 1933 in the tin building, selling auto parts out of the rear section, the garage was located between the residence and the later building. The wrecking yard was behind the building. Gas pumps sat along Sycamore St.

The present owners of the property are their grandson, Danny Garber and his wife Sandy. They operate a yard care service from the north and rear sections of the building with the flower shop where the grocery had been.

After Clarence and Versia retired in the early 70s Myrna Lephart opened Village Flower Shop. She was there for 7 years before Mary Piel purchased the business from Myrna. For 31 years Mary has enjoyed serving families, some for 3 generations, through both happy and sad times. Mary's one regret is that she didn't buy the D&U railroad depot. She thought it would have made a wonderful flower shop.

Mary and her husband Hilbert moved here from Gibsonburg, OH when Rev. Piel assumed pastoral duties at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Ithaca and Trinity Lutheran Church in Pitsburg.

**Arcanum Trivia**

*How well do you know your hometown? You will find the answers in the April newsletter.*

1. Where is the Veteran's Memorial located and what organization dedicated it?
2. What kind of gum did veterinarian Dr. Dan Cox carry with him for his patients children?
3. Where was the location of Arcanum's founding family's log cabin?
4. What were two places where whiskey was made in Arcanum?
5. What was the name of the "junkman" who collected scrap iron and other stuff in the 40s?
6. Name original business buildings moved from George Street.
7. Where is the last train crossing sign still standing?
8. Who built the entrance posts on N. Main Street leading to Ivester Park?
9. How many telephone systems did Arcanum have at one time?
10. What is the history of the cannon on the lawn of the Library?

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**2009 Membership Form**

Mail to AWTHS, P.O. Box 4, Arcanum OH 45304

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State & Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Membership Fees                      \_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00 Single                      \_\_\_\_\_ \$25.00 Family  
 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50.00 Sponsorship                      \_\_\_\_\_ \$150.00 Corporate                      \_\_\_\_\_ \$1000.00 Lifetime

Your tax deductible additional contributions are also greatly appreciated      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Your participation is needed in order for AWTHS to exist and for continuous growth. Please check the area where you are willing to serve.

Acquisitions                       Newsletter                       Membership                       Programs                       Ways & Means  
 Historic Sites                       Education                       Nominating                       Flower Garden Care                       Yard Care  
 Genealogy                       Publicity                       Design / Displays                       Publications                       Adopt A Highway  
 Oral History Preservation                       AWTHS Open Hours Hosts                       Set Up for Hall Rentals/Meetings

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**Books Available For Purchase**

<u>Title</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Price</u>
The Secret Town - the Story of the Founding of Arcanum, Ohio      1999	Bill Gunder	\$20.00 _____

The author writes of his great-grandfather, William Gunder, the founder of Arcanum and his descendants. Personal papers of the family, discovered during research, allowed Bill to document in detail the story of how the town of Arcanum was founded and the events that profoundly effected its early development and growth.

Arcanum, Ohio Business History 1852-1968                      2003	Anita Short	\$25.00 _____
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Indexed by street names and numbers, every known business and proprietor is listed at that address up to and including 1968. Dated newspaper clippings are included.

Arcanum Chronicles                      2008	Anita Short & Bill Gunder	\$20.00 _____
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The book contains 130 pages describing the Opera House/Town Hall, Chautauqua, Sports, Christmas in the Village, Grassville Quartet, Brig. Gen. E. Sigerfoos, Fast Horses, Parades & Celebrations and Ithaca School

Arcanum Chronicles - Volume 2                      2008	Bill Gunder	\$18.00 _____
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Volume 2 contains 2 smaller books bound as a single book: *Arcanum Fire Department (1877- 1970)*  
*Arcanum Public Library & Historic Ivester House*

Postage and handling \$5.00

MAIL ORDERS TO:      AWTHS      Attn: Publication Chairman      P.O. Box 4      Arcanum, OH 45304

