

Sharing the Secret

July 2013

Volume 9 Issue 3

Arcanum Wayne Trail Historical Society, Inc., 123 W. George St., Arcanum, Ohio 45304
Incorporated 2004 website www.arcanumhistoricalsociety.org

President - Larry Wallace 620-2800

The 2013 Arcanum Old Fashioned Days are history. Riding on the float was a first for Annabelle and me. We wish to thank Richard Rinehart for pulling the historical society's float with his restored 1948 Ford 8N tractor in the Old Fashioned Days Parade. The large, very large, old hogshead barrel featured on the float drew a lot of attention. We want to thank Richard for preserving this barrel and for showcasing it on the float. Our float won the 2013 civic award.

The Spring Fling and Bake Sale held on the grounds of AWTHS was successful. We wish to thank Sharon and Richard Troutwine for organizing this event, and also everyone who helped during the 2013 Arcanum Old Fashioned Days celebration.

The Fire Station was a busy place on Saturday. A pancake breakfast was served by the Fire Department. At noon the Lions Club sold BBQ chicken dinners. Both meals were well attended.

Spring is over and summer has arrived. Keith and Carolyn Furlong would like to have some volunteers to help with the yard and flower beds this year. They make the old house look as good outside as it does inside.

The historical society building was constructed for Louis Deitrich in 1894 as a hotel and saloon. A plaque has been placed near the door on the front porch telling this part of our town's history.

Thanks to Keith Furlong and Dave Flora, who designed, built, then installed the racks in the storage room to hold the metal chairs.

Another thanks goes to Annette Stewart, genealogy and reference librarian, for the great display at the Arcanum Public Library, as part of National Preservation Month.

On May 3rd Arcanum High School held a "Serve Arcanum" day allowing students to help residents, businesses and organizations by doing a variety of jobs. Students helped at AWTHS with painting, spreading mulch and pulling weed. They photographed old school houses and pick up litter as part of the AWTHS Adopt-A-Highway program. We appreciated all their hard work.

Host and/or Hostesses are needed from the membership for Saturday mornings during visitors open hours. We have wonderful displays which help tell the story of our community and Southern Darke County. Please contact Annette Stewart (692-6462) to learn more about being a volunteer.

We need our members to contact their friends and relatives to join our society. We also need our members to send in their dues if haven't done so. Please fill out the form on page and mail it in. Contact Carolyn Furlong at 548-6556 if you have questions about you dues.

Thanks to all who helped with our winter, spring and summer fundraisers. The checking account on 5 June 2013 was \$9,190.42. The Rummage Sale and Farmers Market will add to this, which will help with upcoming expenses.

Annabelle and I wish all a great summer and we will see everyone at Fair Gate #3.

AWTHS Officers and Directors

President	Larry Wallace	620-2800
Vice President	WE NEED YOU	
Treasurer	Jerry Kramer	692-5764
Rec. Secretary	Pat Jones	662-9114
Corres. Secretary	Gayla Metzcar	692-5904
Directors:	Keith Furlong	548-6556
	Dave Flora	692-8413
	Terry Mills	692-5582
	Jeff Puterbaugh	692-5302

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September 12, 2013 Program: Judy Deeter, Flood 1913

The Miami Valley is crisscrossed by the Great and Little Miami Rivers and their tributaries, which drain into the mighty Ohio in the southwest corner of the state. A welcome source of transportation, water, and power, the Miami watershed has also had its dark moments, such as the great flood of 1913.

Though the flood was a statewide disaster, the Miami Valley was so hard-hit by the floodwaters that in the late 1910s its citizens embarked on one of the largest flood-control projects ever undertaken, constructing a system of dry dams and levees that still stand – and still doing their job admirably. For the Sept. 12th meeting, Judy Deeter of the Troy Historical Society will be telling us the tragic story of that flood, and how it affected our entire area. Her hometown of Troy, a young vibrant, growing town directly on the Miami River, was greatly impacted. She will relate how people survived, rebuilt, and thrived with words and pictures. Come join us for this informative, interesting program about our area.

Acquisitions - Carolyn Furlong 548-655 and Carolyn Troutwine 692-8939

11109	(1) Elementary diploma, (1) High School diploma belonging to Lavon Dovelbiss	
11110	Rogers HDW wooden sign	
11111	Irene Weisenbarger painting - flowers in vase	
11112	Arcanum Greenhouse wooden flat box	
11113	"Pottery at Bear's Mill" - photo by Marlene Creech, July 31, 2006	Marlene Creech
11114	The Arcanum Times laminated collection of articles	
11115	Ex-Lax metal sign	
11116	Dayton Steel Tennis/Badminton racquet display stand	
11117	Painting by May Baker (1970) copy of "Quiet Reflections"	
11118	Painting by Sharon Archer -Little Boy and Girl Feeding Chickens	
11119	Rosser Lumber Co. - Distributor resource book	
11120	Clothes Rack	
11121	Saw Blades	Dave Flora
11122	(2) Arcanum National Bank magnetic signs	
11123	(1) Cola Nip sign - found in wall of Historical House (AWTHS)	
11124	Warner Insurance Agency sign with Wayne Trail Grange Insurance on other side	
11125	Wayne Trail Grange No. 2647 Arcanum, OH sign	
11126	Antique Quilt rack	Faye Ary
11127	Smith's General Store magnet advertising	
11128	Arcanum National Bank ruler/letter holder	
11129	Metal measuring gauge	Dave Flora
11130	Fox Pharmacy medicine bottle (glycerin)	
11131	Pease Implement Store umbrella	
11132	Photo for WWII display -Lynn's uncle, Robert McGill, Army/Air Force	Lynn Trump
11133	Framed memories of Arcanum tornado - 1992	Tom Staley
11134	1944 soldier, Army, Lynn Trump stationed on submarine, Key West	Lynn Trump
11135	(3) pictures framed of Main & George St., Arcanum, OH	Second National Bank
	(1) by Joan Dunlap of Train Stations, Steamer, City Building, etc.	

Education - Carolyn Furlong 548-6556

Arcanum 3rd grade curriculum is focused on the history of area community. For several years the historical society has been part of that learning experience. This past May we hosted four Arcanum 3rd grade classes.

The first phase is a walking tour of downtown Arcanum lead by Fred Troutwine. He talks to the students about the founding of the village and the founder William Gunder, the location of the first log cabin, Ivester library history and various businesses through the years. He also takes time to answer their many questions. Some of their favorite things are the Farmers National Bank Vault, the site of the old Carriage Shop where the ramp is still in tack, the oldest tree in Arcanum and the site of the very first school building in the village.

The second phase is visiting the historical society, hosted by Keith and Carolyn Furlong. Keith talks about the construction of the hotel which is home to the society presently. He also touches on the two railroad systems that ran through Arcanum, the village movie theater and historical fire truck, "The Pumper".

Carolyn talks about what it must have been like for a child growing up at the turn of the century and fashions of the day. They learn how very different life was, cooking and cleaning, what a child's chores may have been, water pumps, flour bins, and so on. They also see photos of area one- room school houses and pictures of the students.

Keith takes them on a tour of the second floor and their favorite things are the claw foot bathtub, the ten foot broom, the bedroom chamber pot, and the wooden mechanical rendition of the Darke County Fair. Over the summer months a few students will return with their parents for a visit of the historical house.

Farewell It is with sadness that we note the passing of AWTHS friend and supporter Bill Oler. Bill was always there to loan us equipment to do repairs on the building.

Ways and Means**Results:**

Old Fashioned Days Spring Fling Sale- Sharon and Richard Troutwine 692-5128

Thank you to everyone who baked the beautiful homemade goodies; potted plants and herbs to sell; donated garden items for our "Bird and Bloom" Flea Market tables; worked at the sale; bought at the sale; and helped to set-up and clean-up. Our profit was \$618.25. This is not as much as we made last year, but we had no big ticket items so we're happy with the amount we took in.

A very special thanks to Jeff and Susan Puterbaugh for loaning us their tent, to Dean and Sue Pitzer for donating many of the flowers, wreaths, and containers; to Larry and Annabelle Wallace for the wooden bird houses and to Harold Alley for the small wood crafted garden chairs.

On Going:

Farmers Market -Annabelle Wallace 620-9806

Our Farmers Market is off and running on Saturday mornings from 9 am to noon, until the week of the Great Darke County Fair. We are selling homemade frozen soups, cookies, quick breads and assorted bake goods. We would love to offer fresh produce this year. So all you *back yard farmers* would you be willing to donate some of your bounty? Do you have a family favorite bake good that you are eager to make and donate? Maybe you make a mean "soup de jour" you'd like to share. We will furnish the plastic containers and lids. If you have permanently retired from the kitchen and are willing to work a Saturday we would be thrilled to have your help. You can get catch up on the latest gossip and sell our wares. Contact Annabelle Wallace for further details. Help support the Historical Society and recommend the Farmers Market to a friend. The proceeds from the Market help support the upkeep of the "Old House" and allow us to continue adding new exhibits.

Up Coming:

Rummage Sale - Richard and Sharon Troutwine 692-5128

AWTHS will again hold the Rummage Sale at the AWTHS house. Any items (except adult clothing and electronics) may be dropped off at the front or back door, or call 692-5128 for pick up. Can you help? Give us a call.

Rummage Sale Schedule:

Monday, July 15 and Tuesday July 16th	9:00 a.m. Set-Up and Pricing
Wednesday, July 17	1:00 - 6:00 Sale
Thursday, July 18 and Friday July 19	9:00 a.m. - 4:00 Sale Continues
Saturday, July 20	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 Clean up 12:00 - 1:00

The Great Darke County Fair-Gate 3 -Keith Furlong 548-6556

Attached is last year's schedule (with updated calendar) that will be in place for 2013. Several things I need: **1.** Will you be able to participate this year? **2.** Please let me know if you trade with someone else. **3.** Verify your ph.#. **4.** Call me to verify your status and any questions you may have. If you did not help in 2012 but want to volunteer this year please contact me. Thanks for your willingness to participate.

*****Darke County Center of the Arts Presents "Wild Carrot" September 19th at AWTHS*****

The "Wild Carrot" duo will perform Sept. 19th. 7:00 at AWTHS

Purchase \$10 tickets from DCCA or at the door

Pam Temple and Spencer Funk are sure to please all types of folk music fans. Rooted in traditional American music, their repertoire branches in diverse directions: from original tunes to swing, blues, Celtic and traditional songs, using guitar, mandolin, dulcimer, concertina and vocals.

Join us for a very enjoyable evening.

Southern Darke County History - Annette Stewart 692-6462 ajstew@embarqmail.com

Save the Date - July 6 What? Photo & Paper Preservation Workshop 9 - 11:30 a.m.

At the AWTHS house Pastries and Beverages Provided

Presenters Carolyn Furlong on creative scrapbooking with old as well as new photos

Annette Stewart on preservation, organization, and storage of photos, old letters and paper items

RSVP to Annette by phone or email.

If you currently scrapbook please bring your own materials to work on you projects. Scrapbook and heirloom ideas currently in display case house. Handout available (\$2) at workshop and for those interested.

National Preservation Month Held in May

The AWTHS had the opportunity to partner with Main Street Greenville and several local organizations to raise support and community awareness of preserving our communities through preservation efforts which helps to foster economic growth. We had great coverage by Main Street Greenville, local newspapers and local radio station.

Our society sponsored these May events: Kick-off at house on May 4th with display on AWTHS House Restoration; Presentation by Bill Gunder on May 9th, "The first Five children of Founder William Gunder"; display at Arcanum Public Library on following: old businesses photos, Ivester House, Christopher Walker National Register of Historic Places, our society house, Etzler farm and Rex and Annette Stewart generational farm. Research and interviews were conducted on these homesteads which appeared in local newspapers; Jason and Janelle Brinksneider, Gene and Joan Rench, Schaurer generational farm. and Julie and Greg Burns New Madison home.

Another purpose of the project was education about researching a home's history and providing stories for our reference library, which is recording history

We are still collecting photos and research of old homes (1920 or older). Please submit you information on your own home or ancestors. Suggested sources of information are: current or past owners, deeds and tax records from the court house, old newspapers, your local historical societies, old letters and paperwork, photos, info from family members or relatives and plat maps. View <http://www.preservationnation.org> for more information.

Old School Houses in Twin, Van Buren and Butler photographed

During Arcanum High School "Serve Arcanum" day, the old school houses in these townships were photographed by several students. These photos will become part of our archives. We are currently working on putting together a time line of the schools. We are interested in old photos, especially Butler School and 8th grade graduation photos as well as any old school photos or stories, Thank you AHS staff and students. Another example of preservation, including recording history.

Building Doctors to Visit Xenia

The Building doctors will hold a clinic in Xenia, October 17 & 18. They teach owners of old buildings how to recognize and solve some of the most common problem sources in maintaining older buildings. Day one starts with a seminar and day two is "house calls" to examine old buildings in the area. Visit www.building-doctor.org for more information or call the Ohio Historic Preservation Office at 800-499-2470.

Hitching Post

A tornado touched down in 1992 in the southern section of Darke County causing damage to many structures on the south side of Arcanum. One of the buildings damaged was the home of the late James and Glenna Sluterbeck on East South Street. When it was determined the home would not be repaired the home was dismantled by Bill Oler. Later he gave some of the salvaged material to Tom Jones. From a stone step Tom cut the hitching post, and then buried it in the ground for several months to give it an aged look. The hitching post has been set in front of the historical society house.

Trivia

The John Smith Co. this week discarded the old system of delivering goods with a horse and wagon and have purchased a new auto delivery wagon that is a hummer. (05/11/1917)

The Gathering At Garst

Reflecting on the History of Darke County Towns and Villages is the theme for the third annual summer event on the grounds of Garst Museum. AWTHS will be showcasing Arcanum's unique history while collaborating with All American Clothing Company in featuring fashion through the years using photos and memorabilia of Smith's Big Store, Opera House, Ivester House, Chautauqua, and Electric Traction Line.

Visit our booth under the large tent with other towns and villages. Hours are Saturday, July 27, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday, July 28th, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Electric Railroad (1900-1925)- alias Traction Line and Street Railroad

In the early 1900s Arcanum residents were very fortunate to have two passenger & freight steam train lines as well as the electric railroad stopping in their community.

Shortly after the invention of reliable traction motors and the subsequent electrification of local street railway systems, entrepreneurial individuals began applying the technology to longer haul routes to serve territories that were lacking meaningful transportation.

In our area the traction line came north from Cincinnati through Dayton into Darke County up to Union City then entering Indiana. The typical electrical system was 600 volts DC. Because of the limits of DC transmission, substations were required every 5 to 10 miles to feed the running wire, with high voltage AC transmission lines connecting the substations to the central power plant.

With that in mind substations were probably in Verona, Arcanum, Greenville and Union City. We know the substation in Arcanum was at 6 N. Main St. The double stack chimneys are still in place. There were stops in Gordon, Ithaca, Arcanum, Abbottsville/Jaysville, Greenville, and Union City.

The interurban system provided an efficient passenger service to many small towns in western Ohio between major cities. Traveling at 25 mph the small electrically powered cars could accelerate much more quickly than steam trains, they could tackle steep grades and tight turns so they could make more frequent stops. The interurban scheduled cars every hour and the fare was 1/3 to 1/2 the cost of the steam train.

Students from Gordon and Ithaca rode the traction cars to and from high school in Arcanum. It was safe for children to travel by themselves to visit relatives in near by communities. The electric cars were a convenient way to travel from the county into the villages for business or pleasure. It was easy for a farmer to hop on the car daily to take fresh produce, eggs, chickens, etc. to sell to residents or to the grocery stores. Both the electric train and railroad added extra cars to their line during the Darke County Fair.

If you wanted to phone the Depot you dialed 86. In 1921 the fare for a trip to Dayton was raised from 81 cents to 98 cents one way; to Greenville it was 35 cents one way. In 1925 when passenger use declined reduced rates were offered; a round trip for the price of one way trip to Columbus, Springfield, Dayton or Lima.

The most serious accident in the history of the Dayton and Northern Electric Railway happened Dec. 3, 1908 west of Steele Point School House (near Rt.49 and Delisle Foureman Rd). Ten passengers were hurt when the car overturned due to a loose axle.

With the growth of car travel, as well as new bus and trucking lines, there was increasing pressure in the 1920s and 1930s to get the rails off the roads. Towns began to see the tracks in their streets as a nuisance, especially as the traction companies began deferring maintenance of the road around their rails. Out in the country, state and county governments tried to close down some of the interurbans so they could use their right-of-way to widen the adjacent roads. Local newspapers reported conflicts between the local government and the electric railway company.

"Traction will stop service December 31. Will make last run Thursday, December 31. Agents were officially notified. (Arcanum Times 12/24/1925)

Through the 25 years the electric train provided service through Darke County it was operated under the names of Dayton & Northern Electric Railway, Ohio Electric Railway or Indiana, Columbus, Eastern Traction Company.

The historical society has several very nice photos of the electric railroad including one showing the traction lines and track on Main St. and one of a traction car in Ithaca taken on the first day of service in 1901.

Chautauqua

July 20, 1913 the 5th Arcanum Chautauqua opened with an estimation of over 1,000 people in attendance. During the eight day event speakers included Timothy Hogan, Ohio's Attorney General; Dr. Frederick A. Cooke, Arctic explorer; Judge Saddler of the Chicago Juvenile Court who gave a lecture on "The Criminal in the Making" and Clinton N. Howard spoke on "Why God made Woman". Many music group preformed as well as plays presented. Divine Services were held both Sunday mornings.

The Chautauqua movement was started in 1872 in Chautauqua, New York by a minister and businessman to train Sunday School teachers on how to conduct an outdoor summer school camp format. The word Chautauqua is a Seneca Indian name meaning "child". The movement grew to entertaining and educating the entire community, and soon spread across the country.

The Arcanum event was held in a grove of trees on the property of Martha J. (Mattie) Ivester, which was known to the residents as Ivester Grove, where many community and family activities took place. When advertising the Chautauqua was referred to as "Chautauqua Grounds." In the early days families came by horse, buggies, trains and electric railroad. They brought picnic meals or purchased food from the refreshment stands operated by the ladies of Arcanum. Camping was available on the grounds.

Each year there was a variety of talent, lecturers and instructional courses. Although tickets were sold, businesses and citizens contributed financially to cover the expenses. In 1917 season tickets were: \$2 for adult, \$1 for a child and a family was \$5. Single admission for each session was 25 cents. In 1918 due to WWI, a 10 per cent war tax had to be added to each ticket.

Arcanum was the only community in Darke County to hold the event for 23 years, starting in 1909 and continuing each summer through 1932. Arcanum became known as the "Chautauqua Town".

By 1932 the area was being effected by the depression. Amusement parks, auto race tracks, sports events and activities of this nature would become more prevalent forms of entertainment.

(Information taken from "Arcanum Chronicles" by Anita Short and Bill Gunder)

The Fight For Light

Greenville and Versailles constructed water and light plants in the early 1890s. An effort was made to obtain a light plant for Arcanum as early as 1895 as recorded in the Versailles Policy of December 26th.. "The electric light question was recently submitted to the people of Arcanum and carried 137 to 62. Last week council met and threw out the 137 votes and declared the electric light proposition defeated unanimously".

This remained a bone of contention in the village and was recorded from the beginning of The Times in 1899 up through the early part of the first decade of the 1900s by editorials "for a light plant for Arcanum".

From 1900-1904 there were some lights in Arcanum. During this period some businesses purchased electric generating plants consisting of dynamos run by gas or steam such as was obtained by The Times in 1900. Many of the other businesses obtained this form of lighting even to the extent that the Weisenbarger store had their own boulevard street lights which were run by their generating plant.

The plants used in individual homes were most often acetylene plants that generated gas to provide lighting. These generators used a combination of water and calcium carbide (lime) to produce the acetylene gas to light a home.

A special election was held in February 1905 for voters to approve the issuing of bonds for the erection of a water and light plant. The results were 147 votes for and 44 votes against the bond issue.

During 1905 the Arcanum Water & Light Plant was erected, wells were drilled, pipes were laid, lines were strung, and a steam electric generating plant was obtained.

(Text from "Arcanum, Ohio Business History 1852 thru 1968 written by Anita Short).

Calendar of Events

No board meetings scheduled for July and August

July 5, 2013	Euchre Party	1:00 p.m. - 3:30- p.m.
	No Euchre Party July 19th	
July 6, 2013	Preservation Workshop	9:00 a.m. to 11:30a.m.
July 17, 18, 19, & 20, 2013	Rummage Sale (see page 3 for times)	
July 27 & 28, 2013	Gathering at the Garst	
August 2, 2013	Euchre Party	1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
	No Euchre Party August 16th	
August 16 - 24, 2013	Darke County Fair	7:00 a.m. - 10 p.m.
September 4, 2013	Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.
September 6 & 20, 2013	Euchre Party	1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
September 12, 2013	Membership Meeting	7:00 p.m.
	Program - Flood 1913	
September 19, 2013	Wild Carrots Duo - Folk Music	7:00 p.m.

AWTHS Visitors Hours 9 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Reference Room 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Summer through August 10 - each Saturday (except July 6 & 20)

September through December - First Saturday of the month

For an appointment Contact 692-6462 or 692-8000