

Sharing The Secret

January 2015

Volume 11 Issue 1

Arcanum Wayne Trail Historical Society, Inc., 123 W. George St., Arcanum, Ohio 45304

Incorporated 2004 web-www.arcanumhistoricalsociety.org email - webmaster@arcanumhistoricalsociety.org

President's Remarks - Larry Wallace 937-620-2800

We are now into Dec 2014, Thanksgiving is over. The Christmas Bazaar is done for another year. Sharon and Dick Troutwine put on a great Bazaar this year. I have never seen so much stuff going out the door. The two hours we were open on Friday night the 28th was a great idea. There was a line of people waiting outside in the cold for the door to open. Dick and I handled the money while others named off prices. I didn't look up for almost an hour and a half. The next day was a steady flow of people in and out. The total sales for 2014 will be mentioned later in the newsletter.

That will bring us to the next fund raiser and that is the Darke County Trash Bash. We will be working to get more teams out there on the roads in the spring of 2015. The more teams, the more money for the AWTHS. Annabelle Wallace has volunteered to chair that committee and bring more teams together.

I can't say enough about the **Tribute to the Military** held on November 1st. What a great day for Arcanum and the Historical Society. The weather didn't cooperate with us, but it didn't keep our veterans and their loved ones away. I wish to thank the American Legion from Greenville. Tom Magee and his Color Guard did a great job. Also Bruce Shank and the Harmony Quartet. Another job well done. Much thanks to Barb and Jim Deis for going out of their way, above and beyond to chair a great committee. Helpers were many and all did a fantastic job. Thanks to all.

Looking ahead to January 8th, our Annual Membership Meeting with the Election of Officers and Directors along with the carry-in-dinner. Please try to attend and enjoy some good food and conversation.

The membership has grown some since the Tribute and the Bazaar. Not enough, but we picked up 7 or 8 new members. Your membership fees for 2015 are due Jan 1st 2015 please pay and encourage others to join our great organization.

The bank account as of December 5th is \$11,679.51. This year has been very good to the AWTHS. Let's all join in to make 2015 a successful and prosperous year.

Carry-In Dinner January 8th 7:00 p.m.

**The first initial of your last name indicates which food item you should bring. -
A thru F - Salad or Vegetable * G thru P Meat or Meat Dish * Q thru Z Dessert**

AWTHS Officers and Directors

President	Larry Wallace	620-2800
Vice President	Rob Lindenborn	621-3709
Treasurer	Jerry Kramer	692-5764
Rec. Secretary	Pat Jones	689-5387
Corres. Secretary	Gayla Metzcar	692-5904
Directors	Keith Furlong	548-6556
	Dave Flora	692-8413
	Jeff Puterbaugh	692-5302
	Jenny Quigney	459-8090

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March 12 - 7:00 p.m. Program

Coffee and Conversation with Marilyn Rosser Strickler

The Rosser Family Lumber Company was part of Arcanum's landscape from 1880 until 1962. Marilyn Rosser Strickler has so many letters, journals and other materials that not only tell the history of her family but also the history of Arcanum. Giving back to the people who supported their businesses, the Rosser men and women were active in the community through their involvement with the school, Trinity Methodist Church, civic programs and by bringing revenue into town with new business ventures.

After graduating from Arcanum High School and then college Marilyn made her home in Dayton with her husband Dr. Jack Strickler and their 2 children. Marilyn never lost her ties to Arcanum and still has many friends here. Come Thursday March 12th and enjoy another Coffee and Conversation session. Marilyn will want you to join in the conversation and share your memories.

Committee ReportsMembership

AWTHS welcomes new members: Herb Anthony, David & Dixie Kepler, Gary & Maxine Kingrey, Peter & Connie Menke, Gene & Nelda Morris, Scott & Kim Morrison, John and Shirley Winger, and David Hamlin. As the AWTHS 10th anniversary year comes to a close it is nice to have new friends in the historical society to help carry on the mission of preserving Southern Darke County history. If you have not yet renewed your membership now is the time.

Farewell It is with sadness that we note the passing of member Marion Cooper.

Ways and Means

Christmas Bazaar Richard and Sharon Troutwine 692-5128

Thank you to everyone who helped make our 2014 Bazaar a huge success for AWTHS and a wonderful event for the community. Total income was \$3716.28.

The 50-50 Raffle awarded \$150 to Jody Fair, \$100 to Marilyn Graeff and \$60 to Leo Kramer. Thank you for selling and buying tickets.

The In-House Raffle winners were: Santa - Jenny Quigney, Poinsettia donated by The Rose Post - Sue Patterson, Snowman - Trina Brown, Bell Wreath - Connie Shilt, Sleigh - Ardis Trigg, Candle Center Piece - Linda Snyder. Connie Shilt won the Saturday door prize.

Every year we think our Bazaar can't possibly get bigger and better--yet it always does. We appreciate all donations and this year we would like to give special recognition to Sally and Nick Rader, Amy and Peter Jeffers and Jana Deeter for sharing so many items with AWTHS.

We want to acknowledge Jeannie Miller for her effort in advertising our event. Thank you to Carolyn Furlong and Jenny Quigney for making Beck's Boutique so glittery and beautiful and to Barb for planning our Cookie Walk and organizing our festive Country Store. Thank you members for all of your wonderful baked items and other delicious goodies.

We also would like to thank Carolyn Trump for her hand-made doll clothes; Fred and Carolyn Troutwine for their painting, creating, and assistance. Joan Rench and Sue Besecker for helping with pricing; Annabelle Wallace for helping with tree set-ups and lights; Connie Payne for her many donations and creativity; Jim Deis for providing Friday night's luminaries; everyone who helped carry items downstairs and also packed away the leftovers.

We appreciate any and all help and encouragement you've given us. It's a big job but with your help we hope to make AWTHS Christmas Bazaar 2015 bigger and better than ever.

Remember no Spring Fling or the summer Rummage Sale. We will only be taking Christmas items for 2015.

SOUTHERN DARKE COUNTY HISTORY - Annette Stewart 692-6462

PRESERVATION IDEAS AND HELP NEEDED

May is National Historic Preservation Month. A meeting will be held at the end of January to discuss how AWTHS can take part in National Historic Preservation Month.. One idea is to have a self guided driving tour of historic landmarks in each of the southern Darke County communities.

Each community has a unique history. We need a couple people from each community to help identify interesting locations to feature on the tour. Many of us drive through an area but don't realize how prosperous that small town was before modern transportation, consolidated schools, and larger businesses started taking folks out to the bigger communities.

Did you know Ithaca is where pioneers from the surrounding areas came for their supplies before Arcanum, Gordon and Castine were founded?

There is much to be discovered about southern Darke County. We need the help of residents of these areas to help put together this information to make an interesting tour. The mission of AWTHS is: "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--". The self guided driving tour will provide a look at some of our past.

Contact Annette, 692-6462, let her know if you would like to help. "The goal is to have the driving tour finalized for publication in the April newsletter.

****The Reference Library has a new **laptop computer** to use for research. We are in the process of loading materials and learning how to use the programs. The computer will be available in the coming months. Contact Annette, 692-6462 to let her know you would like to help.

Remember to visit during Open Hours the First Saturdays of each month.

Veterans Photos

Many thanks to those who contributed military photos for our display November 1st and reference library archives. For those who missed the opportunity, you may still submit photos or stories. Please contact Annette Stewart. Copies of photos can be mailed or dropped off at the house during our open hours or by calling for an appointment. Those photos that are emailed will be available in our digital archives.

Arcanum memories from the grandchildren of Rowland and Lela Rensch

I remember spending many days at Lester's blacksmith shop (120 W. George St.). I would spend all day watching him shod horses. As a small child it was fascinating when the horse made Lester mad, he would take that big hammer and crack the horse on the behind, then they would do what he wanted them to do. He had a flyswatter made from a horse tail. Cousin Steve and I would try to hit each other with it and boy did it hurt when Steve connected! I also remember the tobacco picker Lester was building. It was always popping hydraulic hoses, oil going everywhere. Sometimes I think my time spent at the blacksmith shop made me want to be a sculptor. **Mark Grote, Professor of Sculpture, Loyola University, New Orleans, LA**

Reflections from Debbie (Rensch) Wilcox, Brockville, Ontario and David Rensch, New Lebanon, OH:

Living in Arcanum was like growing up on the Andy Griffith Show. Grandma Lela gave me a quarter to buy myself something in town. I bought Grandma a watermelon at Sutton's. I was so excited I dropped it before I got to Grandma's. Dave remembers Granddad Rensch taking him to Grandma's candy store, (Rensch's Candy Store, 7 W. George St.) where he ate so much candy that he would throw up after he got home. Debbie has visions of penny candy, toys and beautiful dolls that she wanted desperately but Grandma would not give her one because they belonged to the candy store. When Grandma worked at Louise's Little Dress Shop (17 W. George St.), she would let Debbie try on dresses. The beer joint next to Grandma's at 113 N High St smelled like R.G. Dunns. It was scary to ride our tricycles past there because we had no idea what evil things went on in a beer joint. Lester Myer's blacksmith shop was the main attraction for the boys. Watching the horses get shod was always entertaining. David has fond memories of riding with his Grandpa Harter to the city dump where he would get to shoot the rats! There was the annual Easter Egg Hunt in Investor Park. The hunt would begin by the mayor shooting a gun. There would be hundreds of colored and numbered eggs. The numbered eggs were special as they represented a gift to the finder.

I have so many memories of Arcanum because I spent nearly every summer there from the time I was 4 years old until I was 16. The blacksmith shop was one of my favorites, also the grain elevator, and as I got older going into Smith's Dept. store and Bob Sink's Jewelry. Of course, I frequented Grandmother's candy store for lots of "treats"! I loved my summers with my grandparents in Arcanum. **Susanne (Rensch) Billions, Birmingham, AL**

Growing up on a grain farm, my childhood Arcanum memories are of the John Smith Grain Elevators: #1 uptown on West George St. and #2 on Sycamore St. During harvest the streets would be lined with orange and red hopper wagons and big trucks full of grain. If it was a bumper crop and the elevators were full, the farmers would have to wait until the grain was transferred from the elevator to train cars. I fondly remember Timmy Smith, John Milton and John Martin. **Beverly Rensch, Dayton, OH**

Darke County Center of the Arts Presents "Bettman & Halpin"**April 16th at AWTHS 7:00 p.m.****Purchase \$10 tickets from DCCA or at the door**

The music of this dynamic duo creates a fully acoustic, delightfully eclectic sound far greater than the sum of its parts: taking the listener from up-tempo down home fiddlin', to soulful sorrowful ballads, to super hooky folk/pop with catchy melodies and lyrics that will stick with you long after the concert is over. Touring together since 2008, Bettman & Halpin have been recognized in various Regional and National competitions. **Stephanie Bettman** is at the least a triple threat. An accomplished writer, singer, and fiddler: her lyrics are infused with wit and wisdom, poetry and insight. Vocally she draws comparison to the soaring soprano of Joan Baez. **Luke Halpin** is a renowned multi-instrumentalist. A master of the guitar and the mandolin, impressive on fiddle, banjo, and adept at nearly anything he picks up. Halpin draws inspiration from the likes of Sam Bush, Mark O'Connor and Tony Rice and holds his own in comparison.

For tickets: Contact DCCA at 547-0908 or online centerforarts.net.

Be sure to join us April 16th at 7:00 for an evening of fun music and "hooky" refreshments.

A Tribute To Our Military

On Nov. 1st almost 200 flags were flown in honor of veterans and those currently serving whose names were submitted for this special occasion. The flags were in place at the Veteran Memorial Park adjacent the Historical Society until after Veterans Day,

Guests of honor Lloyd Hunt and Herbert Anthony placed a wreath at the Veterans Memorial. Both men serviced in WWII. MSGT. Hunt served between 1939 and 1945 while TSGT Anthony served from 1945 to 1947. We were pleased to have two other WWII veterans attending: Duane "Duke" Hunt Army (POW) and John Byron Davis, Navy.

In attendance was William McDaniel whose son MSGT William L. McDaniel II Air Force was killed in 2002 in a helicopter accident. William II attended Arcanum elementary.

Taking part in the ceremony were the American Legion Post #140 Honor Guard of Greenville, Harmony Quartet, AWTHS members and AHS student Michaela McGraffie. Immanuel Baptist Church Youth Group were there to help as needed. We also appreciate the help of Larry Fox in placing the flags.

During the reception following the ceremony visitors were able to view photos of our military men and women and to visit with our honored guests.

A "Missing Man Table" was displayed. Each item on the table was symbolic of the love of country and family, and the hardships of the missing servicemen and their concerned families.

The solemn event concluding with a 21 gun salute and taps.

Those who submitted names of their honorees were invited to take the flags after Nov. 11th.



Placing wreath at Veterans Memorial are Lloyd Hunt and Herbert Anthony. Also pictured is Rick Hunt, son of Lloyd Hunt.

Interview with Earlene Netzley Morris of Gordon by Annette Stewart

AWTHS Reference Library contains histories of several area families and stories of Southern Darke County small villages. Excerpts of an interview with Earlene Netzley Morris appears below.

Earlene Netzley was the daughter of Glen Netzley and Elizabeth Thompson Netzley. Siblings include: Jerald, Wayne, Betty, Pharol Jean, Ann Marie, Marilee, Lynn and Sandra. The family always lived in the Gordon area. Earlene attended Monroe High School and her husband Carl Morris graduated from Franklin.

Having farmed for 16 years east of Gordon, Carl Morris operated the Morris Market located at 210 Main St. for 22 years, which also included the post office, where he was post master. Down the street was a second grocery store Armatiage Grocery Store. Carl also sold gasoline supplied by the Pure Oil Company located in Gordon, owned by Ora Hickman and delivered by Don Hangen and Glenn Eley.

Earlene continued to work at Sears Roebuck in Dayton while Carl ran the store and post office. Their children Judy (Molitor), Jane (Brown), and Gene all worked in the store as well as Helen Gentner and Delores Bruner.

Jane, along with her mother Earlene, tell of the time the store was robbed. "Our grocery store, Morris Market, was robbed at gun point one evening. My dad Carl Morris, a customer, Onda Bruner, and me were all in the store. He cleaned out the cash register and had us all lay on the floor until he got away. He acted like he had a gun - pointed it at us out of his pocket. Thankfully the sheriff department caught the robber in just a few days with the help of some townspeople. The robber was living with a family who lived across the corn fields from Gordon, they traced his footsteps right to the house he was living in".

Carl retired in 1978 and went back to farming, helping his son-in-law Gary Brown. Carl died in December 1999. Earlene still lives in Gordon south of where the grocery store was located. Earlene's grandparents, parents, siblings, and relatives attended St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Ithaca where Earlene continues to attend along with many of her family members.

More information is obtainable in our binder on **Small Villages**. Also available are two of Abe Lincoln's books about Gordon as well as digital files containing more notes and photos about Gordon from Jane Morris Brown and copies of the "Gordon Gazette", a monthly newsletter about the village of Gordon. If anyone has the volume about Gordon written by Abe Lincoln "A Place To Live" we would appreciate a donation to our reference library.

On Going Projects

Euchre Parties - First and Third Friday of each month - Dave & Beth Flora 692-8413

Hall Rental - Carolyn Furlong, 548-6556

Aluminum Can Recycling - Keith Furlong, 548-6556

For Sale - Historic Arcanum books, Bill Gunder, 692-8000

Arcanum Note Cards

Donation of Appreciated Stocks - Richard Troutwine, 692-5128 or Todd Durham, 2nd National Bank, 548-2206

Books for Sale * History of Arcanum Contact: Barbara Deis 678-7832 or Bill Gunder 692-8000

The Secret Town - The Story of the Founding of Arcanum, Ohio **\$20**

Arcanum, Ohio Business History (1852-1968) **\$25**

Arcanum Chronicles-Opera House, Sports, Parades& Celebrations, Brig. Gen. Ed Sigerfoos,
Grassville Quartette, Christmas, Chautauqua, Fast Horses, District 7 Ithaca School **\$20**

Arcanum Chronicles Volume 2 - Fire Department and Arcanum Public Library **\$18**

Use the form below to renew or join for the first time

Please fill in your email address if you wish to receive the newsletter by email.

Please consider volunteering your time or services. "Many hands make light work"

-----clip and include with your payment-----

2015 Membership Form

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

Name _____ New _____ Renewal _____

Phone Number _____ Receive newsletter by Email? add address _____

Address _____

City, State and Zip code _____

\$15 Single \$25 Family \$50 Sponsorship \$150 Corporate \$1000 Lifetime

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

Your participation is needed for AWTHS to exist and for continuous growth. Please check the area where you can serve.

Acquisitions Newsletter Membership Programs Ways & Means

Historic Sites Education Nominating Flower Garden Care Yard Care

Genealogy Publicity Design/Displays Publications

Adopt A Highway Typing Research Papers Clipping newspaper articles

AWTHS
P.O. Box 4
Arcanum, OH 45304

**Visitors Hours 9 a.m. - Noon Reference Room 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
September thru May AWTHS open the 1st Saturday of each month**

All membership dues are payable January 1, 2015

Calendar of Events

January 2 & 16, 2015	Euchre Card Party	1:00 - 3:30 p.m.
January 7, 2015	Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.
January 8, 2015	Annual Membership Meeting with Election of Officers and Directors Carry-In Dinner	7:00 p.m.
February 4, 2015	Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.
February 6 & 20, 2015	Euchre Card Party	1:00 - 3:30 p.m.
March 4, 2015	Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.
March 12, 2015	Program: Coffee and Conversation with Marilyn Rosser Strickler	7:00 p.m.
March 6 & 20, 2015	Euchre Card Party	1:00-3:30 p.m.
April 16, 2015	DCCA Music Program at AWTHS	7:00 p.m.

Just a Reminder

Annual meeting and carry-in dinner Jan. 8th
Pay your membership dues
Invite a family member or friend to join AWTHS
Conversation with Marilyn Rosser Strickler March 12th