

## Sharing The Secret

April 2017

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

Incorporated 2004

web-www.arcanuhistoricalsociety.org

email-contact@arcanumhistoricalsociety.org

President's Remarks – Jenny Quigney 937-459-8090

Well here we are at the time of year when everything is new again. And I would like to encourage you to remember that we will have open dates for the house through the summer. We will also be opened April 22nd for the Trojan Alumni Homecoming on from 1-4 p.m.

At our annual membership meeting in January the slate of officers was approved and they are ready to begin the New Year. The officers are listed in this newsletter. There were no changes this year.

At this time we have a balance of \$11,547.19 in our checking account. I would like to thank Jerry Kramer for keeping us all straight. With the upcoming Trash Bash in April we will be adding funds to that balance.

Also please check out our display in the library during the month of May, a few of our members have been working on this. Speaking of May we will be placing a float in the Old Fashioned Days parade and if anyone is interested in helping you would be more than welcome.

Our Coffee and Conversation series is being planned as I write this message. Please be sure to mark your calendars for these meetings. They are very enjoyable and give a great deal of insight to our history of Arcanum and the surrounding area.

Check out around town and see if you can spy the new historical markers that have been placed on historical buildings. This could make a good item for a scavenger hunt with your young ones this summer.

Our next membership meeting will be May 11th. Please plan to attend to hear Arcanum Post Master Gary Naylor present a program on the history of the Postal Service both nationally and locally.

On a sad note I would like to mention the passing of one of our members. Dale Sease passed away on Tuesday March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Our condolence to his family.

In closing I would like to thank all committee members and the board members for all their help this past year and I look forward to working with them in this year.

**May 11th**  
**"Postmarked Arcanum"**

**7:00 p.m.**  
**Presented by Arcanum Post Master Gary Naylor**

**Program**

**Gary Naylor followed in the footsteps of his father who had a 36 year career in Dayton with the U.S. Post Office. A graduate of Meadowdale High School, Gary became a letter carrier in 1990. He has been with the Arcanum Post Office since 2006.**

**Gary will present a brief history of the Postal Service including the Pony Express, a bit of local history and changes in processing mail occurring over the past 20 years.**

**Come early to view the postal service artifacts Naylor has collected over the years. Also see the post master's desk and letter sorting box from the John Smith Co. Store where Arcanum's early post office was located. The desk and sorting box are on permanent display at AWTHS.**

**"Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night  
stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds."**

**Don't let snow, rain, heat or gloom of night keep you from attending what promises to be an interesting evening. Mark your calendar for Thursday, May 11th. Program begins at 7:00 p.m.**

President	Jenny Quigney	459-8090
Vice President	Fred Troutwine	692-8939
Treasurer	Jerry Kramer	692-5764
Recording Secretary	Connie Norris	692-8085
Corres. Secretary	Connie Norris	692-8085
Directors	Keith Furlong	548-6556
	Dave Flora	692-8413
	Larry Wallace	620-2800
	Dick Troutwine	692-5128
	Joyce Colville	692-8685
	Bill Metzcar	692-5904

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\*\*\*\*\* **2017 Summer Coffee and Conversation Series 10:00 a.m.** \*\*\*\*\*

Our Coffee and Conversation Series continues for the fourth summer. Those attending the past sessions have enjoyed sharing laughs, memories, and stories of growing up in Southern Darke County. Each session will feature a different guest with a little different background and different experiences. They will be sharing their stories and they want to hear your stories too.

Enjoy a cup of coffee and a donut while reminiscing with neighbors and friends. You are welcome to bring memorabilia to share with us during these morning sessions. Each session begins at 10:00 a.m. on the second Saturday of the month.

Chet Wurring is our guest at the first session planned for June 10th. He was the pizza king at his pizzeria, Trojan Pizza, for many years in Arcanum. Other sessions are planned for July 8th and August 12th.

Mark your calendar for the second Saturday of June, July and August so you don't miss a morning of laughing, learning and sharing. The event is free, everyone is welcome.

### **2016 Annual Committee and Ongoing Project Report**

**Publications** *Quarterly Newsletter* Average number of newsletters sent by US mailed and email each quarter **135**.  
Number of newsletters distributed to local businesses and Garst Museum for handouts **30**.

Printed by Minuteman Press, annual cost **\$ 410**

*Books* Number sold **5** Income **\$120**

**Membership** Number of Members **132** Income from dues paid **\$ 1,965** Income from member donations **\$375**

**Programs** *Summer Coffee and Conversation Series* **3** session *Membership Meeting Programs* **4**

**Ways and Means** *Trash Bash* **\$150** *Darke County Fair Gate* **\$1,250** *Christmas Bazaar* **\$4,089**

**Historical Sites** Number of 2016 designated sites **0**

**Education** Arcanum 3rd Grade Students visit AWTHS and are guided on walking tour of Arcanum's historical sites

**Hall Rentals** Number of Rentals **24** Income **\$1,815**

**Adopt A Highway** Number of Pick Ups **2** Number of bags **18**

**Aluminum Can Recycling** **\$308**

**Donation of Appreciated Stocks** Number of Donations **0** Amount **0**

*Contact AWTHS treasurer Jerry Kramer, 692-5764, for a complete financial report.*

### **World War 1 \* "The War to End All Wars" \* 100th Anniversary \* Brigadier General Edward Sigerfoos**

April 6 marks the 100th anniversary of the date when the United States entered the Great War in Europe. Many Ohioans participated actively in World War 1. A total of 200,293 draftees, volunteers, and Ohio National Guardsmen represented the state in the military. Approximately 6,500 Ohio troops died from battle wounds or disease during the war. Ohio hosted Camp Sherman (near Chillicothe), one of the largest military training camps in the United States.

One of those to die from battle wounds was Brig Gen. Edward Sigerfoos. An 1885 graduate from Arcanum High School, and in 1891 from Ohio State University, Edward entered the Army as a lieutenant. Brig. Gen. Sigerfoos was the highest ranking American officer killed during World War 1. He died in Meuse-Argonne, France on Oct. 7, 1918. He is buried at Arlington National Cemetery with his wife Opal beside him. Brig. Gen. Sigerfoos was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal.

The dress sword worn by Brig. Gen. Sigerfoos and his commendations were donated to the Garst Museum by his son Col. Edward Sigerfoos. The sword and his duty list can be viewed at the museum in the first floor military room display. *More can be learned of Brig. Gen Sigerfoos' career in Arcanum Chronicles & Arcanum Sesquicentennial Book.*

**SOUTHERN DARKE COUNTY HISTORY**

ANNETTE STEWART 417-3746

**CORRECTION DIETRICH FAMILY:** Lewis Dietrich's wife's name is **Christina** Roh and not Elizabeth as named in the January 2017 newsletter. They were the first owners of the building at 123 W. George Street, a saloon and hotel; presently home to AWTHS.

**OLD SCHOOL HOUSE DRIVING TOUR**

Springtime will kick off our second Self-Guided Driving Tour. One and Two Room School Houses in Twin and Van Buren Townships in southern Darke County will be featured on the 2017 tour. The **kick off is planned for May 6th at AWTHS from 9 a.m. to noon.** Brochures with maps showing the 11 points of interest will be available May 6 and anytime AWTHS is open. The brochure may be download from our web site, and possibly through Face Book .

**September 10th \* Center School Will Be Open For Class.**

**Save this date for our On-Site Tour Stop and Class Lesson on Sunday, September 10, 2017 from 2-4pm located at the Center School, 6891 Grubbs-Rex Road. Class starts at 2pm sharp and the school house is only open this day. Be on time to learn about this old school. Past students will share their memories. Refreshments will be served and materials will be available. After class take the driving tour of the area. "Class" will be held unless extreme weather conditions.**

Keep updated about the event through Face Book where any changes will be posted. Please note all properties on the tour are private and most of these are homes. Please respect their privacy. We would appreciate borrowing your photos and artifacts from these schools for the day.

If you know of someone who would like to open their "old school house" for tour please contact me.

**NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION MONTH**

During May we will be recognizing preservation month by having a historical display at the Arcanum Library as well as kicking off our driving tour of the old school houses on May 6 from 9-noon. We hope you will take the driving tour and enjoy learning the history of these early schools. A map will be on display at AWTHS featuring the school house locations, and tour brochures will be available.

**Summer Open Hours Change \* Volunteers Needed for Hosting.****Summer hours -- June through August**

First and Second Saturdays 9 am to 12 noon (Note: this is a change from previous years.)

Reference room open 9 am to 11:30am

Reference room open 9 am to 10am when "coffee" sessions are scheduled.

**Volunteers needed for hosting.** Please contact Susie Weisenbarger with the dates you are available.

If you have not hosted before or need a refresher, Susie will arrange orientation.

If you need to have the "house" unlocked, please contact Susie.

Susie's contact information: phone 692-5597 or cell 423-2014

Email: rweisenbarger@woh.rr.com

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**Membership Report - Sharon Troutwine 692-5128** Welcome to our newest members: Ty & Monte Clark and Marilyn Wilt Krinker. Thank You for the many memberships renewals. Check to be sure you've sent yours in for 2017.

**Farmers Market June 3 through August12 Veterans Park, W. George Street**

Shop for breads, pies, jams, fresh vegetables and fruits and much more Saturday mornings from 9:00 - noon. Returning vendors and new vendors are welcome to set-up shop whenever they have something to sell. In the past we have not had an egg vendor. Vendors do not need to register. Those with questions can contact Sharon Troutwine, 692-5128.

**Darke Count Fair - Gate #3 Friday August 18th - August 26th** Keith Furlong 548-6556

Listed below is last year's schedule (with updated calendar) that will be in place for 2017. Again we will work in 3 shifts.

**Several things I need to know.**

1. Will you be able to participate this year?
2. Please let me know if you trade times with someone else.
3. Verify your phone number
4. Call me to verify your status and with any questions you may have.
5. If you didn't help in the past but would like to help this year or if you can't help this year but want to volunteer next year, please contact me. Thanks for your willingness to participate.
6. Recruit friends and relatives to help us.

**2017 Darke county Fair Gate #3 Friday August 18th thru Saturday 26th Schedule**

	<b>7 am-12noon</b>	<b>12 noon - 5pm</b>	<b>5pm - 10-pm</b>
Fri. 18	Connie Norris 692-8085 Deo Miltenberger* 678-0185	Jean Aukerman 692-9922 Karen & Mike Young	Tom & Liz Stephens 459-0884 Need Volunteers
Sat. 19	Deo Miltenberger* 678-0185 Tom Staley 693-8634 Bill Metzger 692-5904	Wallace & Trump 620-2800 548-6116	C Furlong & Jeff & Kelly Baron 548-6556 765-964-5310
Sun.20	Need Volunteers	Jim & Barb Deis 662-0119 Sally Sharritts 692-5245	Linda Newbauer 996-8264 Dick & Sharon Troutwine 692-5128
Mon. 21	Carol Hightower 692-8895 Allen Fourman* 692-8635 Dave Hamlin & Ardis Trigg	Marilyn Graeff 692-8140 J. Aukerman 692-9922 Susie Weisenberger 692-5597	Dick & Sharon & Linda Newbauer 692-5128 996-8264
Tue. 22	Jim & Barb Deis* 662-0119 Annette & Rex Stewart 417-3746	J. Delk 692-5569 & Jenny Quigney J. Colville 417-3344 459-8090	Jerry & Bev Kramer 692-5764 Bev Rench 623-0468 Deo & Pam Furlong
Wed. 23	Jeff Puterbaugh 692-5302 Jenny Quigney* 459-8090	Need Volunteer Wendell & Jeannie Miller 692-8425	Terry & Judy Mills 692-5582
Thur. 24	Fred Troutwine* 692-8939 M & L Schweiterman 417-9816	Sue Stammen 692-0164 Jean Aukerman 692-9922	Cary & Teresa Wogomon 692-5877
Fri. 25	Gene & Nelda Morris 884-5425 Fred Troutwine* 692-5128	Dustin Meyers & Fred Troutwine 692-8939	Dick & Sharon Troutwine 692-5128 Cheryl Gray 692-8905
Sat. 26	C & K Furlong* 548-6556 Carolyn Trump 548-6116 * will pick up box at Grand Stand	Larry and Annabelle Wallace 620-2800 on call: Carolyn Furlong 548-6556 Cell 417-2966	Beth and Dave Flora 692-8413

**2017 Membership Form**

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

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Receive Newsletter by Email? Add email address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State and Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**Works Progress Administration \*WPA\* 1935-1943      Local Projects**

The Works Progress Administration evolved from the Federal Emergency Relief Administration created by President Herbert Hoover in 1932. WPA (1935-1943) was a program of President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal initiative. The WPA provided jobs and income to the unemployed during the Great Depression. At its peak in 1938, it provided paid jobs for three million unemployed men and women, as well as youth in a separate division, the National Youth Administration. Between 1935-1943, when the agency was disbanded, the WPA employed 8.5 million. Most people who needed a job were eligible for employment in some capacity. Hourly wages were typically set to the prevailing wages in each area. Full employment, which was reached in 1942 and emerged as a long-term national goal around 1944, was not the goal of the WPA, rather, it tried to provide one paid job for all families in which the breadwinner suffered long-term unemployment. (Source: Works Progress Administration - From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia)

**The following excerpts from 1936 The Arcanum Times newspapers tell of some of the WPA Projects in our area.**

**January 9, 1936**      **"Sewing project** sponsored by the federal government whereby new materials as well as old clothes are made or remodeled for needy children of the county". "The Parent Teachers Association is assisting with this clothing project. If anyone has any clothing which they have cast aside or any materials which can be made into clothing, they are requested to take same to the school building where all work on the project is being done. "

"Other WPA projects in this vicinity include the recent completion of **repairs at the school building and building new sidewalks**. Work is now being done to the city hall, two **new restrooms** are being installed and **furnace** work is on the way."

**February 6, 1936 (Ivester Park Improvements)**      "The Works Progress Administration approved the local project Saturday, and allowed a sum of \$11,356 to the improvement. According to the Darke County WPA Director \* work will be started this week. Approximately 110 men will be employed for a period of 2 months on the project.

The improvements scheduled include a new driveway from the swimming pool\* to the park. The driveway will follow the creek from the pool to the park. Other changes will be the construction of stone entrances to the park, construction of tennis courts behind the school building, building of ovens, building of shelter house, extensive landscaping, etc. "

**Feb. 20, 1936 Stone wanted for New Park Project**      "Stone of all kind is requested, boulders, cut stone, flag stone, or whatever you have. Teams, wagons, sleds, tracks, men for hauling. Farmers in the community are urged to haul as many loads of stone to the park as they can furnish. Those who have teams, wagons, sleds or trucks but no stone are asked to make the fact known and state how many loads they will haul. Men who can drive trucks or work as loaders, etc are requested to offer their service. A complete record will be kept of all services and materials furnished and the same will be published in the newspaper giving credit to those who by their service and contribution have made the new Park possible."

"Officials have been considerate and gracious in allowing the community to furnish stones, materials and labor instead of cash."

**March 26, 1936 Shrubbery Wanted** "If any local citizens are cleaning out their shrubbery or making changes and feel that they have an excess amount of shrubbery and can afford to give some to a worthy cause they are asked to get in touch with any member of the park board."

\* Notes: 1. Ed Brown was Darke County WPA director. Mrs. Kate Lowman of New Madison supervised the sewing project in Darke County.

2. At that time the swimming pool was at 8 & 10 Weisenbarger Court; now location of private residences.

**Arcanum Swimming Pool \* 8 & 10 Weisenbarger Court \* 1921-1939** Project of the Arcanum Athletic Company. "Sam Harleman, contractor, was in charge of the concrete work with 150 men and boys pledging a donation of work and services. A large part of the work was done at night." "1924 and 1925 the Boy Scouts were managing the pool." (Read more in Arcanum, Ohio Business History (1852-1968) page 222 by Anita Short)

**Let us know if your family was helped through WPA or how they helped with WPA projects. Contact 662-0119.**

**Calendar of Events**

**AWTHS Visitors Hours 9 a.m. - Noon Reference Room 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**

**September thru May open the 1st Saturday of each month**

**June, July and August open 1st and 2nd Saturday mornings of each month**

**Other times by appointment. Contact 937-417-3746**

April 4, 2017	Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.
April 7 & 21, 2017	Euchre Party	1:00 p.m.
April 22, 2017	Trash Bash	8:30 a.m.
April 22, 2017	Special Open Hours - Trojan Alumni Homecoming	1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
May 2, 2017	Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.
May 6, 2017	Kick off of One & Two Room Schools Driving Tour	9:00 a.m.
May 5, 2017	Euchre Party	1:00 p.m.
May 11, 2017	Program - "Postmarked Arcanum"	7:00 p.m.
May 19, 20 & 21, 2017	Arcanum Old Fashioned Days (Parade Saturday)	11:00 a.m.
June 6, 2017	Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.
June 2 & 16, 2017	Euchre Party	1:00 p.m.
June 10, 2017	Coffee & Conversation	10:00 a.m.
July 8, 2017	Coffee & Conversation	10:00 a.m.
August 12, 2017	Coffee & Conversation	10:00 a.m.
September 10, 2017	Center School Open House	2:00-4:00 p.m.

**Just A Reminder**

- Bring a friend, attend Program May 11th "Postmarked Arcanum"
- Visit our reference library to learn more about Southern Darke County
- Volunteer to be host during open hours
- Help with Web Site, Laptop, FaceBook, Videographer
- Attend Coffee & Conversation 2017 Series 2nd Saturdays of June, July & August