



# Ottawa County Historical Society



[www.ottawacountyhistory.org](http://www.ottawacountyhistory.org)

Spring 2018

**2018**

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Photo courtesy Paul Moon

## **30<sup>th</sup> Year at the Keeper's House**

Wednesday June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018, is a landmark day for members of The Ottawa County Historical Society and for residents of the Danbury Peninsula alike. At 1:00 PM at the Keepers House the Peninsula Chamber of Commerce will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony launching the Society's 30<sup>th</sup> year at the Keepers House and the revelation of substantial new improvements to The House. Refreshments will be served thanks to the Marblehead Bank, and all are invited.

During the month of April Masonry Construction, which has worked with us on The House from the very beginning, undertook substantial structural repairs and a much needed "facelift" of our beloved 1822 Kelly built home. We always suspected, but did not know for sure, that The House had been covered in stucco originally. After removing nearly a ton of stucco and mortar which had severely deteriorated over time we knew for sure. The removal revealed Kelly's original magnificent stone work. Choosing to tuck-point or repoint the joints rather than doing another stucco job maintains the structural integrity of the building and reveals the magnificent stonework for all to see, forever! What we did not know was that the rear and two ends faces of The House had been white-washed originally. Masonry Construction power washed the entire building twice and then did limited repairs as needed to the rear and two ends of The House. The Keepers House is in better condition now than at any time since our acquisition, remains it's historically significant old self and is a joy for all to see. Come June 6<sup>th</sup> and experience our newly restored treasure!! This very necessary project was funded entirely by The Ottawa County Historical Society.

PAUL MOON

**Bay Township Town Hall:  
"Harvesting History" Event  
April 14, 2018**

The Society held its first "Harvesting History" event at the Bay Township Town Hall. Building upon the photo and story collection drive while preparing the county's 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary book as well as part of the Page&Stage Oral History project, the Society recognizes there is a treasure trove of history in family photo collections. Our desire is to help preserve these photos as well as capture the background story surrounding the photo.

At the event Society members scanned photos and discussed family histories with fellow Township residents. Personal appointments were also scheduled to gather more information on family histories. Future events are planned in other locations around the county.



**Clara Dracka shares a family photo  
with Linda Huber.**



**Mark Seggaard displays an article  
to Rich Norgard  
*photos courtesy Linda Huber***

**OCHS Members Enjoy  
Spring Meeting at the  
Oak Harbor Golf Course  
April 29th**



**Photos by Kathy Leonard**



The Lakeside Heritage Society is sponsoring a weekend conference Friday, October 26 through Sunday, October 28, 2018 on the Lakeside Chautauqua campus. The 2018 conference theme is “The Art of Storytelling”---Developing Themes, Packaging Stories, and Sharing Exhibits. This is an opportunity to join historians, museum professionals, librarians, and students as they share innovative methods used for telling unique stories. Sessions include ‘Oral Histories: Turning Rough Notes Into Histories’, ‘Monuments As Memories’, ‘Interactive Museums’, ‘Curating Johnson’s Island’, ‘Why Major in History’, and ‘Presenting Archival Treasures’. OCHS President Patrick O’Keeffe will present a session ‘Packaging 175 Years of History’ discussing how he wrote the Ottawa County history book. The Saturday keynote dinner speaker is Brian Ellis who will be ‘Steamboatin’ Down the Mississippi with Mark Twain’. On Sunday morning, local librarians from Ida Rupp, Oak Harbor and Harris-Elmore will have a panel discussion on the changing nature of libraries. Registration for the three-day conference is \$140 per person on or before June 1 and \$160 after June 1. Space is limited. Please visit the Lakeside Heritage Society for more information on the conference and registration details at [www.lakesideheritagesociety.org](http://www.lakesideheritagesociety.org).

## Keeper’s House 2018 Spring Cleaning

Saturday, May 12  
from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



Bring light cleaning supplies and join the Boy Scouts for a morning preparing the inside and outside for the 2018 Season. We’ll be sweeping out the cobwebs inside the Keeper’s House and outside raking the old leaves making room for this year’s flowers. We’ll start at 10:00 a.m. and pizza will be served at noon. All welcome!

## Replica of Lighthouse Keeper's Boat House Under Construction

The Port Clinton Lighthouse Conservancy is currently at work building a replica “Keeper’s Boathouse” which will be placed at the west end of the Derby Pond in Waterworks Park by the end of May. The 12 by 18 foot structure will serve as a museum/giftshop for the lighthouse, providing a place for visitors to obtain further information on the lighthouse and serving as a starting point for lighthouse tours. Conservancy President Rich Norgard came across the original plans for the boathouse while doing research for the book *Lights at the Portage: A History of the Port Clinton Light Station, 1833-1952*, which tells the story of Port Clinton’s lighthouses, and of the restoration and relocation of the pier light. Architect Dan Frederick of Milan used those original plans to draw the plans being used for the construction. Some modifications to the original plans were made. For example, the plans originally called for boat doors at both ends of the boathouse, but the finished boathouse had only one such door. The boathouse was built in 1902 on the southern end of the east pier at the mouth of the Portage River to provide a place for the lighthouse keeper to dock the boat he needed to cross the river and travel to the lighthouse at the end of the west pier. Following up on the example set with the restoration and relocation of the lighthouse, the boathouse project gathers together an array of local talent and cooperation to create something important and lasting for the community. Minderman Marine of Port Clinton offered the use of one of their buildings for the project.

RICH NORGARD

## Help Support the Ottawa Co. Historical Society

**Online:** Using PayPal, you can make a donation directly to the Society by clicking the PayPal button on our new website.

**Through purchases you make:** When you purchase items through AmazonSmile (Amazon's charity website) or through Kroger supermarket and designate your charity as Ottawa County Historical Society, a portion of your purchase will be donated to the Society.

## Ottawa County Barn Quilt Trail

The Ottawa County 4-H Program and the Greater Port Clinton Area Arts Council have teamed up to create the Ottawa County Barn Quilt Trail. Barn quilts are painted quilt squares fashioned on boards and mounted on a barn or other building. Unlike cloth quilts that are made up of a series of squares, a barn quilt is almost always a single square. The concept of barn quilts began in Adams County, Ohio in 2001. Today, barn quilt trails can be found in over 200 communities in 47 states.

The Ottawa County Barn Quilt Trail is an invitation for visitors to take a driving tour around the county to view the quilt blocks mounted on barns and buildings and enjoy the unique character of Ottawa County. In addition to promoting tourism, the Trail fosters an appreciation of barns, tells the story of an agricultural community, and displays the art, craft and legacy of quilt making in the region.

The barn quilts created and installed through Ottawa County is a result of a collaborative project made up of barn owners, artists, carpenters, and sponsors. The first completed barn quilt was installed June 2017 at the Damschroder Hall at the Ottawa County Fairgrounds. The goal is to have 20 installed by the year 2020. At the project's completion there will be an informational brochure with a map of the Trail, identification of each quilt pattern, the sponsor, and the name of the club or organization that painted the square. Please visit the Greater Port Clinton Area Arts Council website for information on how you can help with the project at

[www.ottawacountyarts.org](http://www.ottawacountyarts.org).

Here's a list of the installed barn quilts to date:

**1) June 2017, Damschroder Hall, Ottawa County Fairgrounds, 7870 W SR 163, Oak Harbor, OH, "Stars in the Attic":**

**2) Scheduled April 21, 2018 at 12:00 noon:**  
Diefenthaler Barn, 7177 N. Elliston Trowbridge, Martin, OH

Please visit our website at

[www.ottawacountyhistory.org/community/barn-quilt-trail](http://www.ottawacountyhistory.org/community/barn-quilt-trail) for updates as the project progresses.

## Oil Gusher Wowed 'Em Back in Old Days

The Daily News  
Quasqui Centennial Edition  
March 15, 1965



*Editor's note: This story was submitted by a Daily News reader and dates back to the early days of Ottawa County's oil boom.*

Elmore and vicinity became greatly excited Wednesday when the news spread that the greatest oil gusher hereabout in years had been struck on the Adam School farm that morning, about 9 o'clock.

For more than two hours after the well had been shot, the oil shot into the air and could not be brought under control. Finally, a pond was made by throwing up the dirt and in this some of the oil was caught.

Later, the man succeeded in piping the oil by tow lines into the big supply tanks and from these the oil was pumped steadily into the main lines to make room for the rapidly flowing oil.

News of the big gusher soon spread and there was a steady stream of autos to the farm until nightfall. People came from far and near to view the strange and wonderful sight.

Few if any of them had ever seen a pond of oil and the thought of two large pipe lines flowing steadily full of oil simply from the pressure in the well, was a genuine thriller and made a deep impression on most of the visitors.



Quilt Barn at the Fairgrounds

*photo courtesy Linda Huber*



## **Gwen Addy**

**July 14, 1940 –March 1 2018**

“A great lady I was blessed to call wife for 57 years. The mother of our children who loved children and music.

Honey, you will be in my heart until we are together again.” Keith Addy

When Gwen and her husband Keith made their home in Lakeside almost 30 years ago, they brought with them a wealth of faith, good will and inspiration. I did not know Gwen as long as many, but her quick and easy smile, her readiness to pitch in when help was needed became legendary. As a member of the county chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, an International society promoting professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education, Susan Taylor remembers how Gwen’s energy and friendliness invigorated the entire group. Gwen loved music and played at many public events. When I asked Keith about her favorite music, he said it didn’t matter. You gave her something to play and she played it. Bill Coder remembers Gwen as the “Premiere Docent” at the Keeper’s House, gathering groups of visitors together to tell the stories of Benezah and Rachel. “She was relentless,” says Paul Moon. “I have seen her pursue visitors right out the back door if she thought they had not gotten the full story!”

Gwen was a natural teacher and story teller. In her oral history interview (*The People of Ottawa County, Vol. III*), Ottawa County Historical Society, she brings back the drama of the islands and this shoreline environment where we live. “It is an interesting experience,” Gwen told us, “to be on an island because you are isolated,

and you don’t realize that until it happens when you can’t just come and go when you want to.”

“Fog is a major problem because the island is surrounded by such a big piece of water. Lake Erie is treacherous and shallow and fog happens all the time. You can’t fly when it is so dense, so that is a problem, and the other is the wind. The winds across the lake and popping off those islands can be very treacherous and so the wind can be a problem. It may be a beautiful and sunny day, and you can’t get the plane down on the island.”

To get to school each day, she was picked up by a local plane and pilot and flown to North Bass and back. “One time” she told Ed Isaly, curator of the Lake Erie Islands Historical Museum. “it was spring break and at that point, we were only having Easter weekend, Thursday through Monday. They were bound and determined in Port Clinton that they were going to come and get me. I had a very gutsy pilot who came in. The winds were 50 plus, and I tell you, it was a ride and a half to get back, but he was so good, and I knew he wouldn’t do it unless he really could.”

Gwen’s life was filled with grace and wisdom. She would not want us to be silent about the Alzheimer’s illness of her last few years. A celebration of Gwen’s life will take place in Lakeside on July 21, 2018 with interment in Lakeside Memorial Garden.

A teacher’s fondest times are when the lights go on when someone else is learning, so rest in peace, dear Gwen. You taught us well.

NANCY DUNHAM



**North Bass Island School**

## Who Was Moses Tappen?

At the northeast corner of the parking lot adjacent to the Yellow Warbler mural on west Second Street in Port Clinton, behind the old Dupps building and under a metal fire escape! lies a marble, unblemished and intact grave marker with the following inscription:

*In Memory of  
MOSES Q. TAPPEN  
Who Died  
June 27, 1858  
Aged 54 years and (obscured by  
metal stanchion) Months  
Death cannot make our souls afraid  
If God be with us there;  
We may walk through the darkest shade  
And never yield to fear.  
I could renounce my all below,  
If my Creator bid;  
And run, if I were called to go  
And die as Moses did.*

T W. Woodruff, Toledo, Ohio

The inscribed words are from a hymn of Isaac Watts, 1709, and set to music by William Billings (1746-1800), America's first great composer. My take on this, especially from the poem used, is that Moses Q. Tappen was a run-away slave. What do you think? Does anyone know more on this subject?

PAUL MOON



Moses Q. Tappen Tombstone

## Coming OCHS Events

**June 2 - 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Wolcott Keeper's House,  
9999 Bayshore Road, Marblehead, OH

Come and experience fireplace cooking in authentic frontier home. Docent guided tours, gift shop and museum open.

Free and open to the public.

**Wednesday, June 6, 2018, at 1:00 p.m.**

Wolcott Keeper's House  
9999 Bayshore Road, Marblehead, OH

The Ottawa County Historical Society is celebrating 30 years at the Wolcott Keeper's House. To help celebrate, the Marblehead Chamber of Commerce will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony. Refreshments will be served and all are invited!

**Saturday, July 14, 2018, 11:00 to 3:00**

Wolcott Keeper's House,  
9999 E. Bayshore Road, Marblehead, OH

The Ottawa County Historical Society hosts the Rotary Club of Port Clinton Fish Wagon. Delicious perch sandwiches and dinners (often referred to as "famous") are the specialty. Fireplace cooking demonstration. Docent guided tours; gift shop and museum open.

**Thank you for your  
contributions to OCHS and  
the Keeper's House!**

Paul & Maria Moon

**Ottawa County Historical Society Website:  
[www.ottawacountyhistory.org](http://www.ottawacountyhistory.org)**

## Liberty Aviation Events

**May 12 & 13**

**Spring Arts, Crafts, & Gift Shopping Event**  
Sat hours (10am-4pm), Sun hours (10am-3pm)

**June 16**

**Corvettes at the Museum**  
9:00am-3:30pm

**June 29 - July 4**

**Liberty Aviation Museum's 1928 Ford Tri-Motor  
"City of Wichita"/"City of Port Clinton" Rides**  
9am-5pm each day

**July 23 - 27**

**Junior Pilot Camp (advance registration re-  
quired) (Call airport to register 419-734-6297 or  
email: info@portclintonairport.com)**

**July 28 & 29**

**"Bob Crane: The Definitive Biography" ("Hogan's  
Heroes") Book Signing Event**  
with author Carol Ford.

Special presentation on Bob Crane at 1pm, both days.  
Book Signing: 10-Noon, 3-5pm (Saturday) 10-Noon,  
3-4pm book signing (Sunday)

**July 28 & 29**

**Military Vehicle & Equipment Show at the Liberty  
Aviation Museum (2 day show!)**

**August 3 - 6**

**Liberty Aviation Museum's 1928 Ford Tri-Motor  
"City of Port Clinton" Rides**  
9am-5pm each day

**Big Band Hangar Dance with Dan Zola Orchestra**  
featuring vocalist Dianne Palmer.  
7:00pm-10:30pm

**August 5**

**"Restore the Ford" Pancake Breakfast**  
8:00am-Noon

**Note:** For Yankee Air Museum Yankee Air Museum  
WWII B-25 Mitchell Air Adventure Rides WWII B-17 Air  
Adventures, Yankee Air Museum WACO Biplane Air Ad-  
venture Rides, and Yankee Air Museum WWII Douglas C-  
47 Skytrain Air Adventure Rides contact the museum  
at 419-732-0234

## Port Clinton Lighthouse Festival

**Saturday, August 4, 2018, from 11:00 to 5:00**

Port Clinton Lighthouse,  
205 E. Perry Street, Port Clinton

The Port Clinton Lighthouse is the last remain-  
ing timber frame pier light on Lake Erie. Once  
common on our inland seas, only four of these  
unique structures remain on the Great Lakes to-  
day. In operation from 1896 to 1952, the Port  
Clinton Lighthouse has been fully restored to its  
original condition, thanks to a dedicated group  
of local volunteers. Come and enjoy the day  
along with area residents for the 2nd annual Port  
Clinton Lighthouse Festival. For more informa-  
tion, visit [www.portclintonlighthouse.org](http://www.portclintonlighthouse.org).

### Port Clinton Lighthouse Tour Schedule

**Regular Tour dates** - Each Friday, Saturday &  
Sunday from May 25 thru September 2

**Special Tour Dates** - May 10-13 Biggest Week  
in Birding; May 28 Memorial Day, July 4 Inde-  
pendence Day, September 3 Labor Day, Sep-  
tember 14-16 PC All Class Reunion and October  
13 Marblehead Lighthouse Festival

**Rock the Light Music Festival**  
September 7-8

## Genoa Sesquicentennial Celebration

Genoa will be celebrating their 150<sup>th</sup>  
birthday this June 1-3, 2018.

Please visit their website at  
[www.ottawacountyhistory.org](http://www.ottawacountyhistory.org)  
or the Village of Genoa's website at  
[www.genoahio.org](http://www.genoahio.org)  
for information on the sesquicentennial as it  
becomes available.

OTTAWA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
PO BOX 385  
PORT CLINTON, OH 43452

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**OTTAWA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**2018 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES - due in January of each year**

*(If your address label does not say 2018 or Life Member it is time to pay dues.)*

Single \$15\_\_\_\_\_ Family \$25\_\_\_\_\_ Student \$10\_\_\_\_\_

Sustaining \$35\_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor \$50\_\_\_\_\_ Patron \$100 or more \$\_\_\_\_\_

Contributions \$\_\_\_\_\_ Keeper's House \$\_\_\_\_\_ Other \$\_\_\_\_\_

*The OCHS is a non-profit organization.. Your contribution may be tax deductible.*

Name\_\_\_\_\_

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Total enclosed\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_ Check #\_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to: OCHS, P.O. Box 385, Port Clinton, OH 43452**

I am interested in volunteering.