



Ottawa County Historical Society



www.ottawacountyhistory.org

Winter 2019

2019

Officers

President

Patrick O'Keefe ~ 419-635-5579

Vice President

Richard Norgard ~ 419-797-2917

Secretary

Linda Huber ~ 419-702-7060

Treasurer

Brennan Madison ~ 419-341-1538

Trustees

Nancy Dunham ~ 419-797-2244

Jennifer Fording ~ 419-862-3807

Kathleen Giesler ~ 419-707-2100

Linda Huber ~ 419-702-7060

Kathy Leonard ~ 419-734-9365

Richard Norgard ~ 419-797-2917

Patrick O'Keefe ~ 419-635-5579

Becky Shemenski ~ 419-898-3852

John Starcher ~ 419-656-0095

Past Presidents

Nancy Dunham ~ 419-797-2244

Paul Moon ~ 419-276-6593

Richard Taylor ~ 419-836-7449

Membership Chairman

Linda Huber ~ 419-702-7060

Program Chairman

Nancy Dunham ~ 419-797-2244

Corresponding Secretary,

Oral History Chairman,

Newsletter Editor

Martha Dykes ~ 419-732-1843

Frank Kuron to Speak at Two Meetings

Frank Kuron, author of *Thus Tecumseh Fell* will be the featured speaker at the OCHS Annual Meeting in November. He is also speaking to the Ottawa County Genealogy Society at their June 18th meeting, 6:30 p.m., at the Ida Rupp Public Library.

These two programs provide an excellent opportunity to experience two topics by this exceptional author. We encourage OCHS members to attend the Genealogy meeting on June 18th and Genealogy members to attend our November meeting (date TBA).

About the Genealogical Society program in June, Kuron writes:

Rumpsey-dumpsey, Rumpsey-dumpsey; Who Really Killed Tecumseh?

In 1836, Richard M. Johnson rode a wave of credit all the way to the vice-presidency of the United States for having bested the famed Shawnee leader Tecumseh in battle. However, there is overwhelming evidence suggesting that someone else may have actually done this deed. We'll review many of the eyewitness testimonies to Tecumseh's death as well as trace the events that led to the Battle of the Thames where he met his fate.

About the OCHS program in November:

A Clash of Cultures:

The Pivotal Meetings between Tecumseh and William H. Harrison

Learn how the lifestyle and attitudes of the Native Americans conflicted with those of the new Americans throughout the War of 1812 era. Hear the details of the strained meetings between Tecumseh and Harrison as they attempted to avoid war in the Northwest Territory. Gain insights into the Shawnee culture and the frontiersman's perspective of the day.

About Frank Kuron

Frank Kuron is a lifelong resident of Toledo, Ohio. He has been a graphic artist and copywriter for 35 years and an early American history enthusiast even longer. His wife Debra shares his interests in early American history and they have two grown children, Sara and Mathew.

Frank authored his first book titled, "*Thus Fell Tecumseh*" in 2011. For the 200th anniversary year of the War of 1812, he wrote guest history columns for the former *Toledo Free Press* newspaper. Currently, Frank is researching material for his next book on frontier American life.

From the President's Desk.....

Georgette and Ray

The reasons we participate in Ottawa County Historical Society activities are as varied as our members. Each of us is probably motivated in a number of different ways.

Whether it's re-enactments, publication of oral histories, storytelling, presentations, meetings, or any of a multitude of festive or learning activities, what we actually do can be placed under the tents of entertainment, art, and education, to name just a few. In short, we seem to do what we do because it excites the imagination.

And what we do requires a lot of comprehensive effort on the part of those who do it. I'm talking here about the women and men "behind the curtain." Since joining our Society, I've been nothing short of astounded by how readily so many members step into roles that cause our events, activities and accomplishments to look like they "just seem to happen." They don't, of course.

I just recently received a letter that brings to the forefront how relevant this characteristic of our organization really is. It was from Ray Machar.

Ray and Georgette retired some while ago to the Danbury Miniatta neighborhood, which is just down the hill from the Keeper's House, Ray from a long career in a Cleveland area Ford plant and his bride as the family homemaker. Right from the start, they became involved in the Historical Society.

Gardening, mowing grass, and just plain fixin' things, Ray put himself to work keeping things up around the Keeper's House facility and grounds. On work days, he has always been there. A skilled woodworker, he restored the rope-bed that now is part of the child's room in the house.

It wasn't long before they became acquainted with Sally Williams, whose enthusiasm for hearth cooking was instrumental in establishing that tradition among activities at Keeper's House events. In later years, as Sally's involvement grew more limited, Georgette and Ray stepped right in. They not only continued the tradition, dressing in period clothes and preparing meals in iron cookware just as it had been "way back when," but much expanded the activity to include, among other things, training programs to enable heightened participation in how our forbears lived day-to-day.

So Ray and Georgette have bid farewell to us as keepers of the Wolcott House hearth. As the new season approaches, we will become increasingly aware of how much we will miss them. Nobody will ever be able to do for us what they have done.

Yet the tradition will continue to go on evolving—no, not just the tradition of hearth cooking, but something much more than that. These two wonderful folks did not just teach us about how people in the past went about doing what they did. They taught us what it means to step in and do what we do. They taught us what it means to excite the imagination.

PATRICK O'KEEFFE



Ray & Georgette Machar serving a hearth cooked meal at the Keeper's House

Do You Like to Cook?

If you like to cook, and especially if you have an interest in hearth cooking as was done in the 1800s, please contact Becky Shemenski at 419-898-3852 or at:

becky.f.ski@gmail.com.

There is an immediate need for help with hearth cooking and a need for a fire builder, one to build and keep the fire at the correct temperature for cooking and baking during demonstrations.

We have lots of fun demonstrating hearth cooking during our events open to the public and offering samples of our results!

OCHS Spring Meeting

Save Sunday, May 5th, for the OCHS spring meeting. The program will take place at the historic Elmore Barn.

The program will be presented by Larry Michaels and Terry Breymaier, based on their fascinating research of Peter Navarre. They write: "Get to know Peter Navarre--a descendant of French royalty, pioneer scout, and master of Native American languages. He lived nearly his entire life in a cabin in the woods along the Maumee Bay. During the War of 1812, his considerable skills as a scout and woodsman were called into play for the fledgling country. He witnessed and played a part in the siege of Fort Meigs, the defense of Fort Stephenson, the massacre at the River Raisin, the Battle of the Thames, and the Battle of Lake Erie."

The program and luncheon will be held at the historic Elmore Barn. More information to come.



Recently, members of the OCHS program committee have been working with "the art of storytelling" as a way to enjoy and understand our heritage. This project involves gathering local stories--family legends, oral histories – that can be conveyed by a storyteller to an audience.

The Port Clinton Lighthouse Festival in August will be the occasion of our first performance. In keeping with the lighthouse setting, we are looking for stories around the theme of "water"— personal memoirs, historic experiences, lighthouse stories.

This project is designed to appeal to those interested in storytelling as a form of county outreach. Please get in touch with Nancy at ndcat@roadrunner.com to help or get more information. We need good stories as well as performers to bring the scripts to life.

NANCY DUNHAM

2019 Spring Cleaning at the Keeper's House

WHEN: Saturday, May 11
Time: 10:00 a.m.

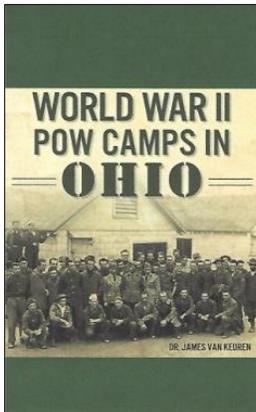
WHERE: Keeper's House,
9999 Bayshore Road, Marblehead



We need help with the annual inside cleaning of the Keeper's House and Annex. Bring light cleaning supplies. We'll be sweeping out the cobwebs inside the Keeper's House and Annex. The Boy Scouts will be there to help get the yard in shape as needed.

We'll start at 10:00 a.m. and pizza will be served at noon. All welcome! Questions call Bill Coder at 419-798-5832. Thanks much!!

OCHS Website:
www.ottawacountyhistory.org



The museum has a limited supply of this book for sale for \$20 (and we can get more if needed).

If people are interested in another book signing, they can call me at 419-732-1039. If there is enough interest, we will hold another signing in the spring or summer.

Peggy Debien, Curator, Ottawa County Museum
126 W. Third St., Port Clinton, Ohio 43452
419-732-1039 (home) 419-732-2237 (museum)

Page&Stage Oral History

The Oral History Committee is currently developing Volume 7 of oral histories. To date, seventeen stories are complete. We would like to have it completed by late spring or early summer.

In the fall, we went through interview tapes that we store at the Ottawa County Museum. While sorting through the tapes we discovered some that had been done by individuals but not as part of our project. One by Betty Neidecker was recorded in 1984! A few others were from around 2001. We have transcribed these stories and they will be included in Volume 7.

We are still looking for interested folks to join our committee as we have lost some of our members. This is a fun project. We meet many great people with amazing stories of their lives. There are so many stories out there still to be discovered. Anyone interested in joining our committee may contact Martha Dykes at 419-732-1843 or martgene@frontier.com. Or show up at our meeting. We meet the second Tuesday of the month at 1 p.m. in the Conference Room at Ida Rupp Public Library.

2019 Membership Renewal

If you have not yet renewed your 2019 membership, please take a moment to complete and return the enclosed membership form. Thank you for your continuing support!



Traditional Irish Music Performances

Tuesday, March 5, 2019
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Thackery Room,
Genoa Branch Library



Wednesday, March 6, 2019
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Elmore Library

Students from Ceoltoiri Nua will serenade us in preparation for St. Patrick's Day. They will also answer questions about Irish music and instruments.

Ceoltoiri Nua is Irish for "New Musician" and is pronounced "Kyeol-tori new." They are a group of Irish traditional musicians from the Bowling Green and Toledo area led by Bowling Green Musician, Mary Dennis



March 20

Jesse John Dempsey

Jesse John Dempsey, born Thaddeus of Warsaw John Sobieski Morgan, and nicknamed "Bic" Morgan, was the son of Elijah Morgan, a commercial hunter and fisherman in the Toledo area, and his wife, Lois R. Birch Morgan. Bic was the youngest of four brothers – Lige Harvey, Birch and Henry- and had a sister, Emma.

His father died at the age of 37. His mother sold their home in Toledo and they moved to a farm near Coldwater, Michigan. Later the house caught fire. The Morgans returned to Toledo and sometime later she and the three eldest boys set up a commercial fishing camp on Sandusky Bay at the mouth of Meadowbrook in Danbury Township. Here she tended house, cooked and generally kept the family together. Bic was too young to go fishing and was placed with a family in Seneca County. Bic was to do the chores in return for his keep, clothing, shoes and being sent to school. But all did not go well. His food was rationed, he was always hungry, and he was given no shoes until after snow had fallen. He ran away to the fishing camp on Meadowbrook to join his mother and brothers.

Bic became part of the fishing enterprise. The fishing procedure was simply that each boy had an trot-line which was baited and left out to fish overnight. The number of hooks on each line was dictated by the boy's age and ability. Each would take his rowboat the next morning and run the line recovering the night's catch, and tossing the fish into a live-car, rebaiting his hooks and set the line to fishing again. The catch was loaded into a single live-car and towed the four miles across Sandusky Bay behind a rowboat to be sold.

On the return trip from Sandusky the boys would sometimes land on Johnson's Island and investigate and explore the still intact the buildings of the Union Prison for the Confederate soldiers captured during the Civil War. They came to know every nook and cranny of the island.

From time to time Bic would set a line off of the northeast corner of Johnson's Island at the edge of the channel. Once as he had begun to run his line he felt an unusually strong tugging and worked his way toward the source, a huge sturgeon, even though sturgeon was considered to be an undesirable trash fish he decided to boat it. At his age, about 11 or perhaps 12, the fish was more than half his size and weight. But never the less his mind was made up. Time and again the sturgeon managed to avoid being hauled into the boat.

The struggle went on for perhaps a half hour or more. Before near exhaustion and almost in tears he was able to get the great fish into the boat. As he did so he heard a round of applause behind it. He turned to see the passengers cheering him from the deck of a ferry boat that had stopped to watch the show. Sturgeon were so ill regarded in those days that they were stacked up on the beach and left to dry and then set afire to dispose of them.

When he was about 15, Bic departed the fishing camp and shortly found himself in New York City. Then at fifteen, he enlisted in the Navy after having fudged his age. He was assigned to a square-rig ship, the *USS Richmond*. After a long journey through the Atlantic and into the Caribbean Sea the *Richmond* finally sailed to Pensacola, Florida. When the ship docked in Pensacola about half of the crew jumped ship including Bic.

Eventually he arrived in DeFuniak Springs in Walton County, Florida ninety miles east of Pensacola. He changed his name to Jack Dempsey, after the boxer, and found employment as a store-keeper in a company store of the local saw mill. Sometime later he attended Florida State Normal College, receiving a teaching certificate. He returned to DeFuntiak Springs where it had been decided that he should open the school.

Sometime in the mid 1890s school teaching lost its glamour.. He gave up school teaching and went to work on the telegraph outfit on the Iron Mountain railroad. At the next town, Texarkansas, Texas, Bic having had his fill of railroading converted his assets into cash, bought a money belt which he strapped around his waist and a compass and set a route overland for Toledo. However, before he left east Texas, in a court of law; he had his name legally changed to Jesse John Dempsey. From Texas he traveled overland on foot and whatever rivers he encountered he swam, and in due course, arrived at his destination.

Jesse John Dempsey lived the rest of his life in Toledo. He and his son, S.B. Dempsey would travel to Meadowbrook in Danbury Township for fishing trips. Later, S.B. would visit Bay Point with his family in the summer. He became friends with Doc Huntington who developed Bay Point. Doc told him about property that was for sale on the peninsula. S.B. purchased it and built a home there. The State of Ohio later bought the property and today it is known as the Dempsey Fishing Access in Danbury Township.

As told by S. B. Dempsey, 1993

MARTHA DYKES

Please mail me the following items.

Item	Description	Price each	Shipping/ Handling each	Tax each	X Quantity	Total
Book	<i>Along the Highways & Waterways of Ottawa County NEW!!</i>	\$20.00	\$4.00	\$1.68		
Book	<i>History of Ottawa County - The First 175 Years</i>	\$49.95	\$5.00	\$3.85		
Book	Volume I: <i>How We Got Here, What We Did</i>	\$15.00	\$4.00	\$1.33		
Book	Volume II: <i>Recollections and Voices</i>	\$15.00	\$4.00	\$1.33		
Book	Volume III: <i>Across the Townships</i>	\$15.00	\$4.00	\$1.33		
Book	Volume IV: <i>Threads and Textures of a Tapestry</i>	\$15.00	\$4.00	\$1.33		
Book	Volume V: <i>Ottawa County Through Their Eyes</i>	\$15.00	\$4.00	\$1.33		
Book	Volume VI: <i>Memories and Adventures</i>	\$15.00	\$4.00	\$1.33		
Book	Complete set of Oral Histories: Volume 1 through VI	\$90.00	\$6.00	\$6.72		
Book	<i>Combined Atlas of Ottawa County - 1874 & 1900 NEW PRICE</i>	\$15.00	\$4.00	\$1.33		
Book	Historic Driving Tour Guide: <i>Historic Railroads of Western Ottawa County</i>	\$4.00	\$2.00	\$0.42		
Book	Historic Driving Tour Guide: <i>Historic Railroads of Eastern Ottawa County</i>	\$4.00	\$2.00	\$0.42		
Book	<i>The Keeper's House - children's coloring/activity book</i>	\$3.00	\$2.00	\$0.35		
Book	History of Ottawa County Historical Society	\$7.00	\$3.00	\$0.70		
Book	<i>Hearth Cookbook</i>	\$5.00	\$3.00	\$0.56		
DVD	Bicentennial War of 1812 Re-enactment: <i>The Skirmish on the Peninsula</i>	\$15.00	\$2.00	\$1.19		
Book	<i>Marblehead Lighthouse on Lake Erie</i> by James Proffitt	\$15.00	\$3.00	\$1.26		
Book	<i>Lights at the Portage</i> by Richard J. Norgard	\$10.00	\$3.00	\$0.91		
Book	<i>Lake Erie's West Sister Island</i> by Martha Dykes	\$10.00	\$3.00	\$0.91		

Note: if books are being picked up do not include shipping/handling charge.

TOTAL

Please, recalculate 7% tax based on the item price only.

PLEASE PRINT

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Please, make your check payable to the Ottawa County Historical Society and mail it to:

Ottawa County Historical Society, P.O. Box 385, Port Clinton, OH 43452

OCHS 2019 Membership

Life Member - Ruth Weisenauer

Patrons (\$100 +)

John Bayliff '18
James Blum '19
Bill & Sharon Coder '19
Mark & Tammy Coppler '18
Peggy Debien '19
Ron & Diane Gerkenmeyer '19
John & Mary Jane Gibson '19
Skip & Ellen Honsperger '19
Richard & Catherine LeSourd '19
Paul & Maria Moon '19
Virginia Prusik '19
Holly Gast & John Starcher '19

Sustaining (\$35)

David & Sue Blankenbeker '19
Bob & Anne Butcher '19
Dr. David & Pat George '19
David Grimm '19
Marlene Gulas '19
Edward Hartung '19
Jim & Joan Herl '19
Joel & Kim Hirt '19
Frank & Elizabeth Maloney '19
Masonry Construction '19
David Moon '19
Janice F. Netcher '19
Robert & Norma Netcher '18
Bill & Jean Nicholson '19
Oak Harbor Public Library '19
Virginia Park '19
Kim Reif '19
Randy & Sarah Riedmaier '19
Jim & Molly Sass '19
Lara Womack &
Richard Williams '19
Sandra Zenser '19

Sponsors (\$50)

Lydia Moon Barnard '19
Lee & Natalie Bredbeck '19
Kathleen Brunt '19
Richard Celek '19
Dale & Gretchen Davis '19
Lloyd & Audrey Dayton '19
Diane DeVries '19
Joanne Fleming '19
Larry Fletcher '19
Doug & Connie Focht '18
Dr. Derrill Hablitzel '19
Dr. Mark & Tina Hablitzel '19
Hartung Title Agency '19
Roger & Barbara Jensen '19
Karl & Carol Kessler '18
James I. Kleinhans '19
Ray & Jeanne Lambert '19
Warren & Kathy Leonard '19
John Millisor '18
Richard & Jeannie Rice '19
Mark & Judy Stahl '19
Robert & Katherine Steinmiller '19
Richard & Susan Taylor '19
Alex & Bonnie Thomas '19
Dennis Warga '19

Members

Joe & Jean Alexander '19
Dick & Jan Batke, '19
Denise Bell '19
Mayor Jacqueline Bird '19
Charles & Arlene Carr '19
Esperanza & Jordan Davenport '19
Jim & Betsy Deer '18
Charles Dibert '18
LaVonne Dodge '18
Richard & Nancy Dunham '19
Martha Dykes '19
Tom & Mary Evans '18
Jennifer Fording '19
Diane Fowler '18
Rod Gale '19
Joseph & June Gall '19
Judge Kathleen Giesler '19
Bob & Cindy Grimm '19
Deb Grissinger '19
Donna Gyde '18
Dr. Michael & Cathy Hablitzel '19
Edna Hansen '19
Eileen Hasselbach '19
David Hirt '19
Sue Homsy '19
Linda & Doug Huber '19
Nancy Ihnat '19
Kyle Johannsen '19
Linda Kay Kresser '19
Carl & Mary Anne Koebel '19
Jill E. Lawrence '18
Donna M. Lueke '19
Ray & Georgette Machar '19
Brennan & Torrie Madison '18
Todd Marsh '19

Richard Martin '19
George McCormick '19
Karin Messner '19
Bill Moon '19
Ralph Moon '19
Carol Morgan '19
Richard Norgard & Suzy
Wettenmyer '18
Patrick & Karen O'Keeffe '19
David O'Neal '19
Kathryn Orta '19
Shelby Peto '19
Margaret Phillips '19
Linda Price '19
Jim & Lisa Recker '19
Mary Ann Robbs '19
Dianne M. Rozak '18
Karen Russo '19
Arline Sabin '19
Donna M. Schell '19
Linda E. Schlievert '19
Carlton & Judy Schwan '19
Rebecca Fritz Shemenski '19
Lucille Smith '18
Susan M. Smith '19
Robert & Patricia Sondergeld '19
Janet Stephenson '19
Robert & Annette Textor '19
Judy Twarek '19
Sally Heximer & Rich Vedell '19
Wayne & Sally Walter '19
Ruth Whipple '18
George & Sherri Wight '18
Tom & Mary Wiseman '19

**Ottawa County
Historical Society Website:
www.ottawacountyhistory.org**

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 Historical Society
P.O. Box 385
Port Clinton, OH 43452



**Non-Profit Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage PAID
Permit No. 121
Port Clinton, OH 43452**

Inside:

Frank Kuron to Speak
Georgette & Ray Machar
Do You Like to Cook?
OCHS Spring Meeting
Storytelling
2019 Spring Cleaning
WWII POW Camps in Ohio
Page&Stage Oral History
Membership Renewal
Traditional Irish Music
Jesse John Dempsey
Book Order Form
2019 Memberhsip

OTTAWA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2019 - ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES - due in January of each year
(If your address label does not say 2019 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 _____

Address/City/State/Zip _____

Phone Number _____

Email _____

Total enclosed _____ Date _____ Check # _____

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

I am interested in volunteering.