# Ottawa County Historical Society

www.ottawacountyhistory.org Third Quarter 2024

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*lisa_hossler43449@yahoo.com*

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***Corresponding Secretary, Oral History Chairman, Newsletter Editor***
*Martha Dykes ~ 419-732-1843*
*martgene80@gmail.com*

## Fall Membership Meeting and CIC Brunch
## November 10th at 11:30 a.m.

To all Members of the Ottawa County Historical Society and Friends.

On Sunday November 10, 2024 beginning at 11:30 AM we will hold our annual membership meeting and brunch, election of officers, plus an exciting speaker, Dr. Brian Alford, Assistant Director of Stone Laboratory on Gibraltar Island, an Ohio State University laboratory.

More information will be forthcoming. See our website: (ottawacountyhistory.org) and Facebook page.
An invitation also will be mailed with a request for an RSVP.

## Thank You Docents and Volunteers!!

This season has been more difficult for you as our environment becomes hotter. Thank you for your dedication to the Ottawa County Historical Society and for keeping the Keeper's House and Annex open for the season this year. The new days of week we are open have seemed to work out well. We have had lots of tours this season in addition to our regular guests. None of this would have been possible without you!!

## OCHS Annual Potluck Picnic

August 21st members & visitors enjoyed our annual potluck picnic.

The weather was perfect, the food was great and was enjoyed by all.

## Change to Membership Renewal Drive

The Society is making a change on when it sends renewal membership notices. Normally a letter is sent November 1 of each year. Beginning in 2025, we will be mailing the notices on January 1 to avoid the holiday season mail rush and to better align with the membership year, January 1 through December 31. Although the change is some months away, we know members may be thinking about renewal, and we wanted to provide this timing change information to you now. Look for your membership renewal the first week of the new year. Thank you for your continuing support!

## Society Embraces 21st Century Technology

In our desire to communicate with the membership more often and in an easier format, the Society will begin using electronic mail to stay in contact with members and others interested in OCHS news. You might already be receiving emails from the *Constant Contact* service. This email service will allow the Society to quickly and easily send communications to people. From newsletters to upcoming events, email communication will get information to you faster and more frequently. If you are a member and we do not have your email address on file, we will be reaching out to ask for your email. Look for email announcements using *Constant Contact* in the coming months.

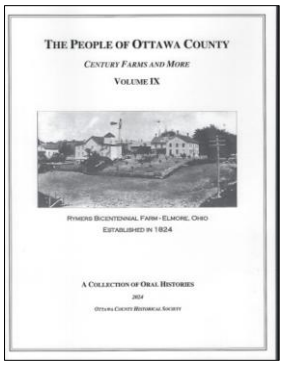
**Change in Newsletter Printing**: Due to increasing printing and postage costs, the Society will no longer be mailing printed copies of the newsletter effective with the first quarter 2025 edition. Instead, an electronic newsletter will be sent by email using *Constant Contact*. If a member wishes to have a printed copy mailed by regular mail, please indicate that preference on the 2025 membership renewal form.

We hope these increased communications and changed formats provide you with more timely information on all the happenings of the Ottawa County Historical Society. Please feel free to share any comments and thoughts on these changes by contacting a Board member. Your continued support is sincerely appreciated.

## New Book Published!

The Page&Stage Oral History Committee added another book to their collection of stories about places and people of Ottawa County.

***The People of Ottawa County* - Volume IX**
***Century Farms and More***
was published in June.




This book contains stories about the Rymers Bicentennial Farm, est. 1824; the Luckey Family Farm, est. 1825; the Stoiber Farm, est. 1825; Rauch-Arnold Farm-1855; Ahrens Farm-1835; Whiteman Farm-1902; the Netcher Farms-1855-1891; the Link Farm-1871; the Taylor Farm-1871; the Sass Farms1858-1903; Alice *Ogden Gyde Recalls Joys, Privations of Early Carroll Township*; Just-a-Mere Farm-1909; the Boyer Farm-1835; the Finke Zilles Farm-1901; *Muskrat Farm Operated by Women*; Camp Perry Prisoners of War Camp; the O'Neal-Davids Farm-1859; photos: Charles William Darr; Rofkar Farm Catawba Island; Middle Bass Vineyards, Ottawa County Bicentennial Barn; Ohio History Connection Oliver Hazard Perry–Schimming Barn; Rymers Cemetery; Threshing at Peter Hess Farm; Cows

The *People of Ottawa County*, Volume X is currently being written and we hoped to publish by November.

MARTHA DYKES, EDITOR

## Ottawa County Museum Hours

The Ottawa County Museum resumed "out of season" hours and is open on Wednesdays from noon to 3 p.m. or by appointment with Peggy Debien, 419-732-1039.

The museum has a new, temporary display showing a Rattlesnake Island stamp collection over the years. The newest First Day issue will be celebrated at the Liberty Aviation Museum with Dave Gill on September 10th at 1 p.m.

## Civil War Encampment

**Saturday, October 12**
**11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

The Wolcott Keeper's House will again hold the annual Civil War Encampment as part of the Marblehead peninsula-wide Lighthouse Festival.

Our annual Civil War Encampment will feature the 14th Ohio Volunteer Infantry. This is our fall festival with historic military displays, and music. Apples, cider, bean soup & cornbread available. Samplings of apple pie at the Hearth Cooking station.

## It will be October sooner than you think!

**Becky and Kathy are looking for volunteers to contribute bean soup and cornbread for the Lighthouse Festival & Civil War Encampment at the Keeper's House on October 12th. We also need volunteers to help serve.**

**Your favorite bean soup recipe will help make our glorious mix of flavors to be served over an open fire to all comers. We will have butter and honey on hand.**

**Call or text Kathy at 419-512-1741 or Becky. at 419-463-0295 It will be a great day of fun and good music. We hope to hear from you!**

## Revolution Five: Ottawa County Veterans in the American Revolution

By Linda K. Huber

**About This Series:** This is a three-part series on the American Revolution and five veterans from that conflict who are buried in Ottawa County: Isaac Ambler, John Clemons Jr., John Green, Israel Harrington, and Benajah Wolcott. "*Part 1: Enough"* briefly covers the major stepping stones to the final break with Britain. *"Part 2: Service"* details the service of the Revolution Five, as is known through published documents. *"Part 3: Home"* concludes with an attempt to understand why each of the veterans relocated to Ottawa County.

*Part I: Enough*

The Pilgrims were a hardy group. Even after most of the original Jamestown settlers died within the first year of settlement, the English Pilgrims from the Netherlands were undeterred. In 1620, they charted a course to what they considered a "new Promised Land", i.e., America. Eventually landing near the tip of Cape Cod, Massachusetts, they established Plymouth Colony. Nearly 150 years later, the descendants of these first immigrants made a momentous decision to chart another new course and severed ties with Britain. Why did they make this exceptional decision? There are several reasons and there are volumes that have been written detailing those reasons. What is interesting to note is the colonists did not break due to any objection to a monarchy. Rather, it was a perceived increasing tyranny that lit the fuse.

The road to independence began in earnest in the 1730s and ended in 1784. Here, in a snapshot, is that $50^{+}$ year journey to freedom.

**1730s**-Beginnings of an ongoing struggle between the English and the French for control of borderland colonial settlements.

**1763**-Colonial discontent with British rule escalates after the defeat of France in the French and Indian War. The British imposed new colonial taxes to compensate for wartime costs and turned control of the colonies western lands over to British officials in Montreal. In response, the colonists convened the Stamp Act Congress to articulate a Declaration of Rights and Grievances arguing that taxation without representation violated their rights as Englishmen.

**1767**-Tensions flared again when Britain passed the Townsend Acts imposing new taxes and regulations on the 13 colonies. With the mounting rebellion, particularly in Massachusetts Bay Colony, British troops were deployed to Boston and as a result of a disturbance, protesters were killed by the troops.

**1772**-Colonies respond with Rhode Islanders destroying the Royal Navy customs schooner, *Gaspee*.

**1773**-A Boston Tea Party dumped chests of tea owned by the British East India Company into the harbor. London responded by closing Boston Harbor and enacting punitive laws effectively ending self-government in Massachusetts.

**1774**-First Continental Congress convened in Philadelphia to coordinate resistance carried out by local militias and to assert rights of self-government and defense. Britain declared Massachusetts in a state of open defiance and rebellion.

**1775**-Second Continental Congress convened in Philadelphia at Independence Hall and authorized formation of the Continental Army with George Washington as commander-in-chief. Actual fighting had begun two months earlier with the battles at Lexington and Concord. The Continental Army expelled the British from Boston.

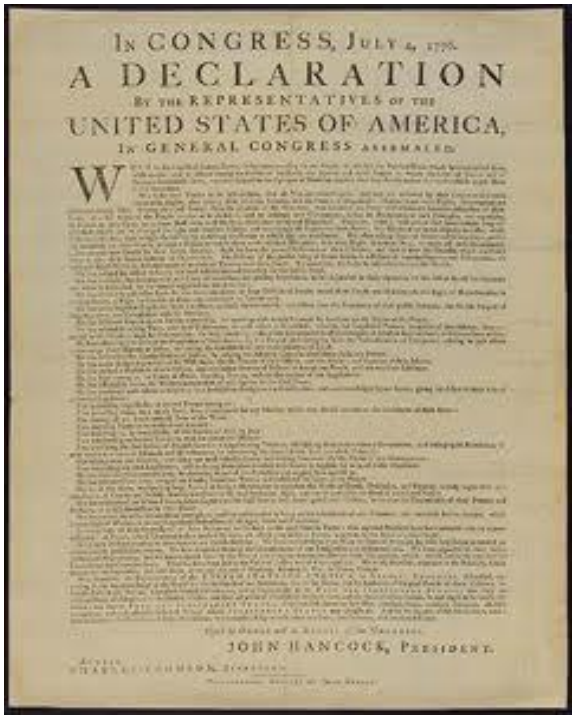
**1776**-Second Continental Congress took control of governing a new nation, passed the Lee Resolution for national independence on July 2, and adopted the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.

**1781**-Combined American and French armies captured the entire British army at Yorktown.

**1784**-Formal end of the Revolutionary War with the Treaty of Paris giving the United States nearly all territory east of the Mississippi River and south of the Great Lakes.

With this victory, American became the first constitutional republic in world history founded on the consent of the governed and the rule of law. This 'first' is America's exceptionalism.

Next in "*Part 2: Service"* the service of the Revolution Five, as is known through published records.


IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

A DECLARATION

BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

IN GENERAL CONGRESS ASSEMBLED.

JOHN HANCOCK, PRESIDENT.

## Mansfield Salvation Army Brings Children to Tour Keeper's House

On July 25th, the Mansfield Salvation Army brought two large busses with 80 children plus staff to visit the Keeper's House. The children were well behaved and asked great questions. We had lots of volunteers there to help that day and feel the tour was a great success.

*Photos by Lisa Hossler*

Shortly after the group left another tour of 20 people arrived for a scheduled tour.

It was a wonderful day to spread our love of history and show off Benajah Wolcott's little stone house.

**President Eisenhower visited the marsh in Carroll Township - 1958.**
**Also in the photo are Virgil Priesman, Don Sinon, and Doris Moninee.**
*Photo courtesy of the Carroll Township Historical Society*

## Ye Olde Hitching Posts

*Definition of hitching post: a fixed and often elaborate standard to which a horse or team can be fastened to prevent straying***.**

**The Hitching Post**

The hitching post probably originated in Europe. There are records as early as 1625 of the English use of the hitching post.

In the days of real horsepower, tying up to an iron ring or a hitching post was standard procedure. In the U.S., the oldest posts were made of stone or wood. In the 1870s and for several decades thereafter, many patents followed in just about every design imaginable. Most posts were made of cast iron and were generally 38 to 40 inches tall, with a ring, slot or hole which bridle reins could be attached to or tied through.

By the Nineteenth Century evolving furnace technology at foundries across the nation allowed for more elaborate productions of an array of cast iron objects that facilitated a modern way of life. They included printing presses, stoves, farming implements, rails, street lamps and, finally, hitching posts. The elementary and utilitarian form ultimately gave way to a folk tradition akin to that of the walking stick: functional, linear and fancifully embellished.

The limits of ornamentation of the manufactured pieces were restricted only by the fancy of the artisan who carved and created the wooden pattern from which the mold was made. Little information survives about the actual production of hitching posts; and, of the surviving examples, only about 15 to 20 percent are marked. Nineteenth Century consumers could select an entire hitching post or just a decorative cap and finial. They bought from the local hardware store or directly from the foundry. Catalogs from the period reveal a startling array of choices, such as the heads of horses, dogs and other animals; elements of nature, particularly the tree trunk, and expressions of patriotism.

During World War II, scrap drives resulted in many hitching posts being broken up with sledge hammers for the war effort, as were metal flower urns and garden ornaments.

**Carriage Step**

**The Carriage Steps**

Hitching posts might be fairly well-known to many people but most probably haven't heard of carriage steps. They were curbside concrete or stone slabs used as a step by those entering and exiting a horse-drawn carriage or buggy. They would have been in use the same time as hitching posts, and would have been located near them. Below a carriage step is located on the right side of the photo and the hitching post (that is no longer there) would have been to the left of the carriage step.

MARTHA DYKES

**This beautiful ornate hitching post is located on E. Second St., Port Clinton as seen in the photo to the right, along with its carriage step.**

**This hitching post is located at 315 Madison St., Port Clinton near Ida Rupp Public Library.**

**This iron hitching rail is on Washington St., Port Clinton by the Gerner Wolf Funeral Home parking lot.**

*Photos by Martha Dykes*

**Please mail me the following items.**

| Item | Description | Price each | Shipping/ Handling each | Tax each | X Quantity | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Book | *Along the Highways & Waterways of Ottawa County* | $20.00 | $4.00 | $1.68 | | |
| Book | *History of Ottawa County - the First 175 Years* | $35.00 | $5.00 | $2.80 | | |
| Book | Volume I: *How We Got Here, What We Did* | $15.00 | $4.00 | $1.33 | | |
| Book | Volume II: *Recollections and Voices* | $15.00 | $4.00 | $1.33 | | |
| Book | Volume III: *Across the Townships* | $15.00 | $4.00 | $1.33 | | |
| Book | Volume IV: *Threads and Textures of a Tapestry* | $15.00 | $4.00 | $1.33 | | |
| Book | Volume V: *Ottawa County Through Their Eyes* | $15.00 | $4.00 | $1.33 | | |
| Book | Volume VI: *Memories and Adventures* | $15.00 | $4.00 | $1.33 | | |
| Book | VolumeVII: *The Stories Continue* | $15.00 | $4.00 | $1.33 | | |
| Book | VolumeVIII: *Milestones and Memories* | $15.00 | $4.00 | $1.33 | | |
| Book | Volume IX: *Century Farms and More* ***NEW!!*** | $15.00 | $4.00 | $1.33 | | |
| Book | Complete set of Oral Histories: Volume I through IX | $135.00 | $10.00 | $10.15 | | |
| Book | Driving Tour Guide: *Historic Railroads of* ***Western*** *Ottawa County* | $4.00 | $2.00 | $0.42 | | |
| Book | Driving Tour Guide: *Historic Railroads of* ***Eastern*** *Ottawa County* | $4.00 | $2.00 | $0.42 | | |
| Book | *The Keeper's House* - coloring/activity book | $3.00 | $2.00 | $0.35 | | |
| Book | *History of Ottawa County Historical Society* | $7.00 | $3.00 | $0.70 | | |
| Book | *Hearth Cookbook* | $5.00 | $3.00 | $0.56 | | |
| Book | *Marblehead Lighthouse on Lake Erie* by James Proffitt | $21.95 | $3.00 | $1.75 | | |
| Book | *Lights at the Portage* by Richard J. Norgard | $10.00 | $3.00 | $0.91 | | |
| Book | *Lake Erie's West Sister Island* by Martha Dykes | $10.00 | $3.00 | $0.91 | | |
| Book | *My Island Home* by Gladys Curd McMeans | $10.00 | $3.00 | $0.91 | | |
| Book | *Johnson's Island: Prison for Confederate Officers* | $18.00 | $3.00 | $1.47 | | |
| Book | *I Fear I Shall Never Leave This Island: Life in a Civil War Prison* ***NEW!*** | $18.00 | $3.00 | $1.47 | | |
| Book | *Round Barns of America* by Robert Kroeger ***NEW!*** | $35.00 | $5.00 | $2.80 | | |
| Book | *Lakeside, Ohio: From Camp Meeting to Chautauqua* | $50.00 | $5.00 | $3.85 | | |
| Book | *Great Black Swamp* by Jim Mollenkopf ***NEW!*** | $12.00 | $3.00 | $1.05 | **Sold Out** | |
| Book | *Great Black Swamp II* by Jim Mollenkopf ***NEW!*** | $13.00 | $3.00 | $1.12 | | |
| Book | *Great Black Swamp III* by Jim Mollenkopf ***NEW!*** | $14.00 | $3.00 | $1.19 | | |
| Calendar | Barns of Ottawa County Calendar ***NEW!*** | $10.00 | $3.00 | $0.91 | | |
| | | | | | **TOTAL** | |

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

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

**PLEASE PRINT** Date _____

Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City/State/Zip _____

**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**

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

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**Port Clinton, OH**
**43452**

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**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**: 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

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES – Membership year January 1 through December 31

**Levels and Dues**: (check one)

____Single ($20) ____Family ($35) ____Sustaining ($50) ____Patron ($100 or more) ___Lifetime ($500)

Name_____

Address_____

Phone Number_____

Email_____

**Additional Donation**: You may also use this form to make a separate donation. You may select from the following funds. Please specify the amount of your additional donation.

____OCHS General _____ Scholarship _____ Wolcott Keeper's House

Total enclosed_____ Date_____ Check #_____

☐ I am interested in volunteering.

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

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