

Some Reminiscences of the Hamilton Brothers

In the early 1900s the Hinaman brothers, Leroy, Sam and Paul came to school on snowy mornings on a horse drawn sled. They came early to stoke the fire so the room would be warm when the teacher and students arrived. There was no well at the school so the older boys and girls carried water in buckets from the Charles Linn house across the road.

Teachers were boarded at the Oley Linn and Emanuel Hamilton houses among others. When the government supplied powdered soups for schools, they were prepared on top of the pot-bellied stove—the beginning of “school lunches.”

After the Hamilton's attended school in Marion the interurban line between Marion, and Bucyrus that ran past the Hamilton home provided convenient transportation into town. The roadbed of the CD&M Interurban line can still be traced along SR 4.



Visiting Linn School

The Marion County Historical Society welcomes visitors to the Linn School. During the warm months it is staffed by knowledgeable docents who provide information about the school and help you explore its many facets. If you bring a lunch, there are picnic tables under the trees where you may eat but please hold onto your trash.

Group tours are welcomed and the parking area is large enough for 1 bus at a time.

Open from 1:00 to 4:00 P.M Saturday and Sunday, on the first and third weekends of the month, May through October or by appointment.

“One-Room School” sessions may be scheduled for groups. Visitors are transported back a century during visits that recreate school days of that era. Attention Teachers! Please, contact the Marion County Historical Society at 740-387-4255 concerning financial assistance for school bussing.

Prints of the Art Beery painting of Linn School pictured at left are available at the Heritage Hall Gift Shop.

For more information contact
The Marion County Historical Society
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*The Marion County
Historical Society*

The Linn School



The Linn School, located just north of Marion, Ohio on State Route 4, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places

Tour groups welcome!

Tel: 740-387-4255
Call for more information

The Marion County Historical Society

The Linn School

One room schoolhouses are a part of our history—a part that is rich with memories. These schools offered rural children the opportunity to gain an education that otherwise would not have been afforded them.

The restored Linn School is one of about 130 one-room schoolhouses found in Marion County in the late 1800s. In those days, schools were built about two miles apart so that no student had to walk more than a mile to receive an education.

By the 21st century many of these buildings had been torn down or were marked by a heap of rubble. Some of them were in use as farm equipment and grain storage. Others had been converted to homes or garages.

None of the former one room schools in Marion county were in their original state in 2003 when two former students decided to purchase and restore the 1897 Linn School Marion Township, Sub District #8, which at the time was being used as a corncrib.



But Linn School was not destined for destruction. Instead it was rescued and



restored through the partnership of Merle and Oliver Hamilton. They purchased the dilapidated building and acre of land around it, and donated it to the Marion County Historical Society.

A “Scope of Work” was prepared outlining the need for a complete exterior and interior restoration. The Hamilton’s accepted the “Scope” and the challenge to restore this bit of Marion County history to its 1912 condition. Their goal was to allow others to experience the one-room schoolhouse education as they had when children.

The Quality Masonry Company, Inc. of Marion renovated the building during the summer of 2003 and ended with the setting of desks in October of that year.

Today, the Linn Schoolhouse stands on its original site and is now in its original condition, thanks to the generosity, vision, interest and support of Oliver and Merle Hamilton. Their gift will allow future generations to enjoy the one-room school for many years to come.

The Hamilton Family

Oliver and Alvin Merle Hamilton are the sons of James Mannington and Zymilla Monnett Hamilton and the great-grandsons of James Hamilton who in 1821 acquired the parcel of land to the northwest of what later became the city of Marion. James M. founded the J. M Hamilton & Sons Quarry in 1905 on part of that land, and operated it with his sons until his death, May 19, 1947. Oliver and Merle continued operation of the quarry until their retirement.



Oliver was born on August 25, 1903 and attended the Linn School through grade five. Merle was born on September 29, 1907 and attended Linn School grades 1 through 5. Oliver and Merle both passed away in 2008.

Oliver’s daughter Judith also attended the Linn School for one term in 1942—the year it closed.

Both Oliver and Merle went into Marion and attended the Marion City Schools grades 6 through 12.

The brothers, were always active participants in the Marion Community. Oliver and Merle’s contribution of the restored Linn School to the Marion County Historical Society will be a lasting memorial to their lives in addition to preserving an important part of Marion County history.