

# HALLMARKS

## Newsletter of The Marion County Historical Society

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## PROGRAM PROMISES “A BLAST FROM THE PAST”

The next MCHS program meeting will provide an opportunity for members and the general public – regardless of age – to become acquainted with “A Blast from the Past,” the Society’s successful hands-on history program for children. Carol Robinson, MCHS President and Education Committee member, and Jane Rupp, MCHS Director, will present “Log Cabin Follies” on Thursday, February 5, at 7:30 PM in the Heritage Hall auditorium.

“Log Cabin Follies” presents ways that pioneers found to entertain themselves at home long before the age of radio, television, and computers. This family-oriented presentation will include all the elements of the summer “Blast” programs, including a learning time, hands-on activities, crafts, and, of course, food!

Members are encouraged to invite their friends and families to take part in the program. As usual, the public is cordially invited.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE

Membership dues for the calendar year 2004 were due on January 1. We thank all of you who have already sent your renewals, but some dues are still outstanding. Please check the “paid through” date shown on the mailing label of this issue of Hallmarks. If you have not already done so, we trust that you will soon mail your dues payment to the MCHS office. Membership levels are as follows:

Pride - \$100.00 per year and up

Sustaining - \$50.00

Family - \$25.00

Individual - \$15.00

## PRIDE MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

The Society thanks the following new and renewing Pride members:

**MAJOR BENEFACTOR:** Merle & Peg Hamilton Charitable Foundation

**BENEFACTOR:** Louis B. & Berniece E. Conkle; Henry A. True Trust

**PATRON:** Donald W. & Deborah Alspach; William & Debbie Bowers; Thomas F. & Susan E. Brown; Stuart P. Browne; The Marion Bank; Scharer Insurance, Inc.

**ADVOCATE:** J. Richard & Janet Bryson; Richard & Betty Carey; Gene & Jan Farison; Paul D. Habluetzel; Virginia Howard; Erma L. Hutchman; Stephen & Mary Ann Jenkins; Kingston Residence of Marion; Lois J. Fisher & Associates; Catherine F. Loudenslager; Josephine Macpherson; Marion Area Health Center; Morral Companies, LLC; Ohioagro, Inc.; Pete Miller, Inc.; Allen L. & Susan F. Potts; SCA North America Packaging Division, Inc.; Sims Bros., Inc.; Smith Clinic; Ken Vincent



## HARDING CENTER BUFFET BENEFITS MCHS

MCHS members and their friends are encouraged to enjoy the Harding Centre’s Sunday buffet during the month of February. For the entire month, the Harding Centre will donate \$1.00 to MCHS for every adult Sunday buffet sold. The enclosed flyer provides additional details.

If you would like to serve as a host or hostess on these Sundays, please contact the MCHS office. This would involve thanking guests for coming, promoting upcoming activities, and distributing MCHS flyers.

## *In Memoriam*

We extend our sympathy to the families and friends of Violet Fraley, Mary Henrietta Jones, and Charles McNeal, who recently passed away.

## LOG CABIN, LINN SCHOOL NEAR COMPLETION

Two major renovation and repair projects – repairs to the Wilhelm/Seiter log cabin and renovation of Linn School – are nearly complete. Planning is underway to establish when and how both structures may be used.

The Wilhelm/Seiter log cabin, located on the Marion County Fairgrounds, has undergone major repairs, including replacement of deteriorated logs and a new floor, chinking, and porch. A ramp for wheel chair access has also been built and a safety rail added to the front porch.

Many have contributed to support this project, including Merle Hamilton, Marion Noon Kiwanis, Walmart Foundation, and Gannett Foundation. In addition, all those who assisted with the Cabin Fever Cruise Ins and the bake sales held during the Steam and Gas Engine Show and Marion County Fair over the years have made significant contributions to the log cabin fund.

Linn School, located about two miles north of Marion on Route 4, has been restored and refurnished to appear much as it did during the first two decades of the twentieth century. This major renovation project included complete exterior and interior restoration, recreation of the bell tower (complete with bell), and construction of “dummy” out-houses behind the building. A parking lot will be built in spring, 2004 to provide easy access to the grounds.

The work was made possible through the generous support of Merle Hamilton and Oliver Hamilton, brothers who attended Linn School.

Quality Masonry Company, Inc., of Marion is the contractor for both projects. We thank them for their dedication to accurate restoration of these structures.

The Society will hold dedication ceremonies at both sites later this year.

## SMOKEHOUSE TO BE REPAIRED

At its January meeting, the MCHS Board of Trustees voted to proceed with repairs to the Coonrad Neidhardt smokehouse, which is adjacent to the Wilhelm/Seiter log cabin at the Marion County Fairgrounds. The contractor, Quality Masonry Company, has scheduled the work to be done this spring.

## KIDS FEST WILL BE FUN FOR ALL

The 2004 edition of Kids Fest will be held Saturday, February 21 from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM at Southland Mall. This family-oriented event includes fun and educational activities for children of all ages and free entertainment. The MCHS Education Committee's booth will feature toys and games from the past. Information about Society activities and membership will be available. Volunteers are needed to staff the booth in 2-3 hour shifts. If you would like to help, contact the MCHS office.



## LOWER LEVEL AIR CONDITIONING

Work has begun on installing air conditioning in the lower level of Heritage Hall. Wenig's Heating and Cooling Systems of Marion began the work last week. When completed, the air conditioning units will provide temperature and humidity control in exhibition, work, and storage areas. Each room's unit will be individually controlled.

This project, which will greatly improve environmental conditions for the thousands of artifacts displayed and stored on the lower level, is funded by a grant from the Warren Brown Foundation.

## Looking Back: Historic Images of Marion County, Ohio

by Trella H. Romine

The *Marion Star* has successfully published another pictorial history of Marion County. Bill Adams of Pediment Publishing Company, along with his wife Ginny, spent three days in Marion in our Resource Center in late August. Bringing their own computers and scanner, they scanned our photos on site so they never left our building, and entered captions and credits.

The 144 page book contains approximately 300 pictures. Of these about 125 came from the archives of The Marion County Historical Society and another 100 came from the collections of our members Randy Winland, Carol Robinson, and Shelby Needham. About 75 photos were contributed by the public. Trella Romine wrote the introductions to the sections and provided additional information for captions. She and Jane Rupp proofread the manuscript twice. Gary Barnhart added additional captions that contributed historical information about many of the pictures.

Ron Frailly, publisher of the *Marion Star*, indicates that 1050 copies were ordered and when the book was released on December 5, 2003 all of these had been sold. Bill Adams provided MCHS with 33 copies and a check for \$375 through the generosity of Pediment Publishing. The *Marion Star* also gave MCHS a check for \$375. The sale of the copies given MCHS generated about \$900 for a total profit of \$1,650.

The *Star* is holding about 100 back orders for *Looking Back*, and requests are still being received for a second printing. We will keep our members posted on developments.

Now available at Heritage Hall  
Limited Edition Print of  
*Recess at Linn School* by Art Beery  
Printed on acid-free paper  
Suitable for framing  
Signed prints: 8" x 10" - \$75; 11" x 14" - \$100  
Unsigned prints: 8" x 10" - \$25; 11" x 14" - \$35  
Proceeds benefit MCHS operations

## NEWS FROM THE BUCKEYE EAGLE

The *Buckeye Eagle* was published in Marion from May, 1844 to July, 1854. In its early years the publisher was T. P. Wallace; its editor was S. A. Griswold. The following was published May 22, 1844:

### Prospectus

For publishing in Marion Ohio, a Weekly Whig Newspaper, to be entitled the  
**Buckeye Eagle.**

The undersigned feels convinced that the establishment of a good Whig paper in the town of Marion, at the present crisis, will contribute materially to the advancement of the Whig cause in that section of the country.

The *Buckeye Eagle* will advocate with an earnest zeal, as in a becoming temper, the true Democratic Whig doctrine. The News of the Day will also receive a due share of attention. Agricultural articles will be introduced from time to time; and a Poetical and Miscellaneous department will usually be kept up, sufficient to afford entertainment for the general reader.

The *Buckeye Eagle* will be furnished to subscribers at Two Dollars per annum. Country Produce, of most kinds, will be received in payment of subscriptions, at the regular market price.

T. P. Wallace, Publisher.

May 14, 1845:

### Blackbirds and Corn.

The farmers tell us that they never knew the blackbirds to be so destructive to the young corn, as they are this season. The corn came up finely – the frost first nipped the blade, and now these black rascals are digging it up by the roots. Many farmers are obliged to re-plant quite extensively, from this cause alone.

A remedy which would be effective in putting a stop to the depredations of this pestilent little thief on our large prairie fields, would be an inestimable public blessing.

October 15, 1845:

### Concert of Mons. and Mad. Canderbeck.

A musical entertainment was given by these distinguished artists at the Court House on Monday evening. A large and highly respectable audience were in attendance and if the rapturous applause which broke out at the close of each piece was any evidence of their gratification, their delight was heartfelt. Mons. Canderbeck is a violinist of deserved celebrity. His lady, as an harpiste, is unequalled by any that we ever heard, and the notes of liquid melody that dropped from her fingers will vibrate upon our senses for many a day.

January 14, 1846:

### Agricultural Exports, Trade, and Statistics of Marion County.

Wheat sold	220,000 bu. [bushels]
Flax seed (and oil)	1,850 bu.
Grass seeds	2,500 bu.
Butter	123,000 lbs.
Wool (from 97,000 sheep) (not all sold)	250,000 lbs.
Pot and pearl ashes, from 29 Asheries	425 tons

### Imports.

Merchandise by 36 merchants and traders	2,300,000 lbs.
N. Y. salt	4500 bbls. [barrels]

Hogs driven out of the county	13,000
Beef cattle	7,000
Horses & Mules, taken eastward	450
Flouring & grist mills	30
Saw mills	47
Carding machines and Mulling mills	22
Oil mills	2



December 3, 1845:

### The Weather. – Winter.

After an Autumn for which we do not believe the very 'oldest inhabitant' of this region can instance a parallel, for its average mildness, dryness, and pleasantness, old Winter is a length upon us, and in the very guise, too, in which we always desire to greet him. On the evening of the 26<sup>th</sup> of November, at the close of a beautiful Indian Summer day, the wind set in from the north, bringing with it a respectable snow storm. The roads in every direction being about as solid as marble and as smooth as a floor, it required but little snow to put them on order for the use of runners, which, early on the following morning, began to be put in requisition.



A day or two afterwards, there was another slight fall of snow; and on Monday morning, we were favored with about two inches more which has made the sleighing really fine, and set everybody agog in earnest for a *ride*. Such a tinkering up of old "jumpers," and such a manufacturing of new – such a searching in unknown places for the long forgotten sleigh-bells – such a demand for crockery crates, dry goods boxes, and every description of horse-flesh, hasn't been known in these diggings since – since *the last snow*, any how.

The boys have addicted themselves to hand-sleds, of which it is not uncommon to see some half dozen attached by means of ropes to the tail of a big wagon or sled loaded with 10½ boys to the square yard making 'a going of it' up or down the street with a prodigious rush!

And then, those glorious moonlight sleigh-rides are coming into vogue among the boys and girls 'of a larger growth' – who speed away to some neighboring village, where with light and merry hearts (and lighter heels perchance) they for a few brief hours innocently chase dull care away.

'Tis a blood-stirring, healthful sport, and we like to see it. We say, then, propel yourselves, lads and lasses, whilst you possess the stimulus of hilarious juvenility, for when you become aged and venerable – you know the rest.



Marion County Courthouse in winter. This building, constructed in 1833, was in place when the *Buckeye Eagle* was published.