

HALLMARKS

Newsletter of

The Marion County Historical Society

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HISTORIC HEADWEAR BLOOMS AT HERITAGE HALL

The new "Hats Off To Spring" exhibit opens February 26 from 1-4 PM and will include hats from Marion's historic figures and local hat collections as well as hats from the Marion County Historical Society's archival collection. Come and explore the history of hats with us through visual and hands-on displays.

(continued page 2)

Documenting Marion County's Black History

While the trial of Black Bill Mitchell, an escaped slave, in the Marion Court in 1839 is well documented in Marion County histories, the story of the Hill family who came to Marion in the 1850s lives only in the oral history of our Black Community, and little has been published.

In order to better understand the role of African Americans in local history, the Marion County Historical Society is encouraging *any* person with historical photographs, artifacts, or documents such as old diaries, letters or other written records pertaining to Marion County's Black history to bring their item to Heritage Hall on Saturday, February 26 or Sunday, February 27 from 1 to 4 PM.

Admission to Heritage Hall is free to any person bringing in African-American historic items or documents. Volunteers will be on hand to assist in recording information, copying, scanning and photographing documents and artifacts. Donations to the MCHS archival collections will also be accepted.

Author Stuart Koblenz will be at Heritage Hall on Saturday Feb. 26 and Sunday Feb. 27 from 1:00-4:00 PM to assist in collecting information on Marion County's African American History and will also be available to autograph copies of his recently released new pictorial history of Marion, "Images Of Marion".

For more information on this Marion County Historical Society event call 740-387-4255.

Thank You

TO NEW & RENEWING PRIDE MEMBERS

SPONSOR:

Donald & Deborah Aispach

PATRON:

Pete & Barbara Miller

Peter & Suzanne Schuler

Fred & Betty White

Jeanne A. Cornell

BENEFACTOR:

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Tom & Mary Quilter

Virginia T. Howard

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J. Scott Schertzer

Catherine Loudenslager

Allen L. & Susan F. Potts

Josephine Macpherson

Richard & Wanda Straub

Carol L. Robinson

Joanne & Gene Galloway

Ohigro, Inc.

Kenneth Vincent

Norman & Donna Ruth Fogt

Madge Guthery

Gene Farison

Kenneth & Maureen Cole

Tim & Carol Spare

A Tribute to Gary Barnhart

Gary Barnhart's life touched so many in a multitude of different ways. His death leaves a gap that is impossible to fill. We will all miss his ready smile, his store of Marion lore, his collections of local artifacts and his willingness to share.

It was Gary who saw the need to classify our holdings in 1982 when the Marion County Historical Society was located in the cottage on Main Street. For the first time, donations to the Society could be brought together under one roof and Gary started his "gift list." From that has grown our present Collection Management Policy which governs the thousands of acquisitions now housed in Heritage Hall. Gary was a participant in all phases of this growth.

Gary shared his decorating and design talents by creating exhibits in the museums at Heritage Hall. His last display was helping prepare the exhibit of antique toys in the Atrium and decorating Heritage Hall for Christmas. It was Gary who designed the changing exhibits in the lobby display case. We all looked forward to seeing what he came up with according to the season. There was a wealth of knowledge under that unassuming demeanor.

Gary's presence lingers in every area of Heritage Hall and in our hearts.

Membership Renewal

If you received more than one renewal card asking you to renew your membership in MCHS it was due to the U.S. Postal regulations requiring non-profit organizations to have at least 200 pieces of mail to receive the bulk mail rate.

Since our renewal list had less than what we needed, some of you received duplicates as an effort to reduce costs. This saved MCHS \$25.00. Every little bit counts with a budget as tight as ours!

Thanks for your understanding.

* * * * *

We extend our love and sympathy to the families who have lost the following loved ones. Gary Barnhart, and Dorothy Kile. May you be blessed by their memories.



"Historic Headwear"

(continued from first page)

This event also marks the opening of an interactive hands-on area guaranteed to delight and engage kids from 1-100. Try out a new style or just come in and try your hand at making your own hat. Young and young-at-heart visitors will also have the opportunity to try on hats from different times and places.

What is so interesting about a hat you might ask? Hats can be heirlooms like china and crystal with lots of family history. Hats are a part of almost everyone's life. There are hats for pleasure, hats for work, hats as status symbols and hats as history.

For a limited time visitors to the Marion County Historical Society's museum will be able to enter the mysterious, fashionable and sometimes wacky world of hats when they visit Heritage Hall.

Come on in and join the fun!

* * * * *

"Gathering the Clan"

Members of the Marion County Historical Society presented a program on Native American culture, "Gathering the Clan", to sixty students and teachers at George Washington Elementary School last November.

In January, a second program was presented to sixty-five students and educators at Taft Elementary School. The ninety-minute program kept the students busy as they participated in the same types of activities many Native American boys and girls are involved in today.

A third program took place on February 18 at Pleasant Elementary School. A total of over 120 students and teachers attended.

We would like to extend our thanks to our volunteers who have assisted in presenting these excellent programs

GETTING TO KNOW MARION AND MARION COUNTY INSTALLMENT 2

Area historians often write interesting anecdotes about early settlers in Marion County who came from southern counties, from other states and even from other countries.

The earliest settlers came by oxen and cart. This was the easiest way to penetrate the wilderness frontier before roads were cut through the under growth. The oxen could survive on the wild grasses without additional grain.

Later, settlers came by wagon and on horseback carrying only those articles they considered essential. Usually included were the ax, needed for preparing the logs for a cabin and clearing the fields for crops, and the rifle, which would secure meat by hunting the abundant game.

The prolific wild hay enabled the early settlers to keep cattle through the winter. Corn was the first staple grain for man and beast. As more land was cleared and tilled the wheat acreage increased, but with more grain production, a harvesting problem developed.

Captain George Beckley left records which give Marion Countians a vivid picture of those early days:

'Now the threshing was completed, the wheat with the chaff cleared up, and the floor swept, but no fanning mill, perhaps within twenty miles of us. Here was another dilemma; but the inventive genius of man again came to our aid. With a heavy linen sheet, one man at each side rolls his side in about a quarter yard; now they observe which way the wind blows, take their positions accordingly and commence flapping the winnowing-sheet rapidly, producing a strong current of air near the ground, while the third man with a scoop or some other vessel, scatters the wheat before this winnowing-sheet, blowing the chaff out, and doing it tolerably well, too.'

As time went on, the reaper and the binder were invented in other parts of the country. Marion County contributed its share through the inventive genius of

Edward Huber who invented the revolving hay rake, the revolving steel road scraper, and the steel dump scraper.

The Huber Farm Engine followed these inventions shortly after.

Closely associated with these developments were the hay carriers invented by George W. King who often worked closely with Mr. Huber and Henry Barnhart in enterprises. It was Mr. Barnhart who made revolutionary changes in the early attempts at making steam shovels.

Mr. King called Mr. Huber the 'Father of Marion Industries' and in turn it was Mr. Barnhart and Mr. Huber, who with Mr. King, put the making of steam shovels into operation. With Jacob Keiler, who owned a planing mill, furnishing equipment and otherwise helping with the enterprise, other investors were gradually included forming the Marion Power Shovel Company, later known as the "Power Shovel".

Besides the central business district, there were several trading and business centers in various parts of town, but for the most part, the industrial sections lay along the right-of-way of the four railway lines, the Erie and New York Central on the east and west, and the Pennsylvania and the Chesapeake and Ohio on the north and south.

”, Published by **League of Women Voters of Marion**, September 1953.

EXHIBITS & DISPLAYS

It is the goal of MCHS to have partial exhibit changes about every 3 or 4 months. This goal is met only through the assistance of volunteers.

Creating an exhibit provides the opportunity to show your brilliance at developing unique experiences for visitors at Heritage Hall. You can provide a great service to the Marion County Historical Society by volunteering to help with exhibit changes.

Perhaps you have treasures that you have collected over the years and would like to share. Or, you may have an interest in design, and could assist in setting up displays. There are plenty of resources and materials available in the archives that visitors would love to see, but in order to make that happen we need your help. If participating in exhibit design interests you, please call Heritage Hall at 740-387-4255.

Gospel Hill, Marion, Ohio
December 20, 1935

Dear Friend:

Sixty Years ago I remember:

When Phil Lobricks Eagle Hotel on North Main Street burned and he tried to raise funds for a new hotel which he proposed to name Waldo-Fostoria. When women used false teeth to ornament pie crust and mixed a little cement with flour. When boys straddled barrels and drank sweet cider through straws in the bung hole so often that they became bow-legged. When simple life was to sit in the kitchen and drink a pitcher of hard cider. When women wore cotton gloves and stockings, bolero or knit Afghan jackets. When we played old maid, authors and parcheesie. When soft soap was a household necessity. When every circus had a singing clown and could he sing?

When "chicken" rode horses in street parades. When every time we saw a red haired lady we always looked for a white horse. When we went to the woods for hickory nuts and got poisen ivy. When we ate Sally Ratus biscuits with sorghum molasses and were told that kidney beans were good for kidneys. When the women made their hair into waterfalls and bangs, their spit curls were called beau catchers.

When our favorite piano music was Monastary Bells, Silvery Waves and the Evergreen Waltz. When favorite recitations were "Slide Kelly Slide" and "Casey at the Bat".

Yours truly,

Fred Haberman Sr.

The above is an excerpt from one of many letters written by John Haberman, Sr.. This publication takes no credit for spelling, grammar, or punctuations in the original letter. Watch for more "Remember When", in the next issue.

Do you remember S. Main Street ?



Surveys of Marion County:

The Marion County Historical Society wishes to thank Kensel Clutter for donating his book of copies of the 1819 transcribed survey notes collected while researching the location of the Sandusky Plains. These notes represent a considerable expense in travel time, copying costs and effort in providing these to Heritage Hall. MCHS wishes to express our gratitude for his dedication and attention to detail. This valuable source of information will be housed in the Rinker-Houser Resource Center for the benefit on all.

To understand the importance of these notes one must understand the information represented therein:

Grants of land in some cases were sold or assigned by the government. The government paid registered qualified surveyors for their service for each Township and Section surveyed and staked. This was provided for in the act of 1796. Some contracts were let to Deputy Surveyors at two to three dollars per mile of township and section lines surveyed. A thirty-six mile section would have cost about twenty-eight to forty dollars.

A survey party was made up of at least four people with horses for travel and packhorses or mules to carry tool, provisions, tents, blankets, and all the other personal items for the uncharted territory. The day of survey would take the party through the back area of woods, briers, swamps, prairie and all the other wilderness terrain. Hacking through the under brush was quite a job. A party may cover, if they were lucky, a mile in an hour or two. Camp would be set up each night and taken down each morning in preparation for the day of survey work.

The survey notes on file give each township boundary and interior township section line. Every corner required an identified marker with a stake and two tree references, or a stake set in a constructed mound. Every milepost, halfmile post, and identifiable line item was recorded in the deputy surveyor's field notes. Along with these points was a description of the land, terrain, timbers or other major items found. The field notes would be turned in to the Chief General Survey Office in Columbus and then transcribed for the public records.

Thank you Kensel for providing these documents and for the contributions you have made to understanding the history of this portion of the 1819 Northwest Territory.

New Policy on Admissions

Faced with an increase in operating costs the Board of Trustees have adopted a new admissions policy for individuals visiting the museums at Heritage Hall.

Beginning in January the following fees apply.

All members of MCHS in good standing will be admitted free upon presentation of their membership card and are entitled to a free box of popcorn. This includes regular members, Life members, Honorary Life members and Pride members.

Adults: \$3.00

Seniors over 55: \$2.00

Ages 6 to 12 \$1.00

Bus Tours \$2.00 per person

School Tours \$1 per student of any age

Admission donations help expand our services to Marion County people and the community.

Linn School Suggested Donations are \$1.00 per person of any age.

"Hats Off to Spring" Docent Training

will be held Friday, February 25 from 1-3 PM.

Whether you are already a docent, are interested in becoming one or just want to be more informed on the exciting



things happening at Heritage Hall, this is the perfect opportunity to become involved.

To attend, call 740-387-4255 before February the 25th and let us know you are coming.

Thanks to all who contributed articles to **Hallmarks**. It is your input that helps to make this a better publication.

Recent Acquisitions accessioned since 10/29/04

John & Virginia Telfer:

Two Moore & Ross Marion Ohio bottles, three pairs ladies shoes, leather needle, husking tool, comb, hair clippers, straight razors, two wooden nickels

Eva Pollock:

Green Camp Elevator thermometer, Hotel Taft room key

Helen Kaufman:

Marion Steam Shovel Co. 100th anniversary medal

James and Joanne Traveline:

Claridon Prairie print by Richard Canfield

Kenneth Hecker:

Two wood and metal hand-stamping seals for Marion County D.S.S. OF E.

Hilda Peak:

1812Bible Printed in German

Dick and Elizabeth Slack:

A Century at Central 1851 – 1951, 1933 World's Fair souvenir, The Cauldron 1930, 1931 - Central Junior High Yearbook

Leota Gates:

Hubcap from Mrs. Harding's Locomobile

Marie Burns:

Gold watch chain, pearl cuff links, Brass studs permanent wave rods, World War II Red Cross patches & Red Bars, report cards from Marion High School 1902 – 1905

Gene McMann:

David Whitman Class "A" winner, Soap Box Derby 1956 Sponsor plaque

Donated to Education Collection

John H. Flournoy, Jr.:

Rawlings Football

Linda Williams:

Football, Reproduction clothing: Oorang Indians jerseys, Flapper dresses: Red/silver White/ fringe, girl's apron, 2 blue print dress, Short black cape with pink taffeta lining, white cotton blouse and long black skirt, 1800's boys pants

Keith & Linda Kohler:

Raffia hula skirt, red leather moccasins, foam straw hat, reproduction revolutionary era dress, 3 wigs, red and black taffeta dress, white apron, bonnet and scarf, blue print dress, clown costume with hat

Trella Romine:

Ladies maroon wool suit jacket & seven ladies hats

Madge Guthery Looks over Recent Renovations



Madge Guthery, Jack Telfer and Trella Romine recently visited Heritage Hall to check the progress of exhibit changes being made in the Guthery General Store. The store's dedication will take place on March 6th at 7 PM. Included in the program will also be the dedication of the Auditorium and reminiscing on Marion County's Country Stores.

The Marion County Historical Society is grateful to Madge for this new evidence of her generosity. Madge Guthery has contributed in many ways to the Marion Community through her involvement in WMRN and other activities.

A vintage-style advertisement for Isaly's Sunray Orange Drink. The background is a light yellow. At the top, it says "For COOL Pleasure TRY". "COOL" is in large, bold, black letters. Below that, "Isaly's Sunray Orange Drink" is written in a large, bold, black font. To the right of "Orange Drink" is "FULL QUART". Below the product name, there is a small block of text: "Thirsty? Drink Isaly's Sunday Orange Drink, the only orange that has all the rich, full flavor of ripe oranges. You can enjoy this popular drink without any fuss or bother . . . Isaly's Dairy does the work for you." To the right of this text is "19c" in large, bold, black letters. At the bottom, it says "At Your Isaly's Milkman or Neighborhood Grocery" and "DAIRY SPECIALISTS" in a smaller font. The Isaly's logo is written in a large, cursive, black font at the bottom.

In updating our membership records, mail addressed to the following was returned. If anyone can supply information about these former members of MCHS, please call Heritage Hall, 740-387-4255

- Donald & Harold Britsch, Akron, OH
- William Elliott, Mobile, AL
- Mabel Miller, Hughes Road, Prospect, OH
- Steve & Karen Smith, E. River Rd., Marion, OH

“Found in Collection”

This is an entry on a new accession that we do not like to make. It indicates that someone treasured an artifact or historic papers, and wanted the item preserved in our archives, but when it was given no documentation was made. We would like to acknowledge these acquisitions, but with no accompanying paperwork we can only enter, “Found in Collection.”

When the names Eber Baker and W. G. Harding are on a document “found in collection” our interest is high. Carefully unfolding this paper we found an abstract for Lot 221 in Baker’s First Addition to the village of Marion, this abstract was prepared for W. G. Harding when he purchased a lot on East Center Street for the Harding Publishing Company. How exciting to hold a document tracing the ownership of a piece of property back to the United States of America! This land was first recorded in a patent issued in 1820 to Hezekiah Gorton and signed by President James Monroe. The property ended up as the southwest corner lots sold by Gorton to Eber Baker in 1822. An interesting document, but without “provenance.”

When gifts are given, there are procedures in place, that when followed, keep this from happening. A temporary gift form should be issued in duplicate, one to donor, and one to accompany the gift. When the gift is accessioned using our computer program “Past Perfect” a number is assigned and placed on the gift. A “deed of gift” is printed in duplicate and then signed by the donor.

These records establish ownership. Please be sure to ask for this paperwork when giving to the Marion County Historical Society.

We depend on YOU to help preserve Marion County History for our future generations!

Remember, in order to stay eligible for free admission to all of our sites and to receive Hallmarks you must renew your membership for 2005.

If you are interested in helping just a bit more, contributions to the Heritage Preservation Endowment Fund are always appreciated. The HPEF fund was established in 1982 to support our operations and is an important part of our financial planning.

**To learn more about HPEF:
Request a brochure!**

If you have not renewed please use the handy renewal form below.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Choose Membership Category

- _____ Sustaining \$50
- _____ Family \$25
- _____ Individual \$15
- _____ Student \$ 5

Choose Pride Support Category

- _____ Major Benefactor \$3000 and up
- _____ Benefactor \$1000 - \$2999
- _____ Sponsor \$500 - \$999
- _____ Patron \$250 - \$499
- _____ Advocate \$100 - \$249

Make checks payable to and mail to:
The Marion County Historical Society
169 East Church Street
Marion, OH 43302