

HALLMARKS

Newsletter of The Marion County Historical Society

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“Pioneers and Prairies” Exhibit Open

Come to Heritage Hall and browse through the new exhibit on the Native American and pioneer history of the Sandusky Plains. Visitors will learn about the courageous men and women who lived through the uncertainty and rigors of settling in and around the Sandusky Plains. The story of these courageous folk is told through artifacts and excerpts from the 1883 Marion County History.

Kids of all ages will love visiting the replicated log cabin interior located in the interactive *hands-on* area.

“School Days” Program Meeting at Linn School

The bell is ringing at Linn School once again. School will be in session on Sunday August 28 from 3 PM to 4:30 PM for those who wish to attend. Bring your kids, grandkids, spouse or old school chums to the Linn School just north of Marion on Route 4 for a fun and interactive program. We will learn about the history of one-room schools, and do some reading, 'riting and 'rithmetic.

Once known as Marion Township Sub-District #8, the school was built in 1897 of soft clay brick and served students through the eighth grade until 1942. The Linn Schoolhouse now stands on its original site, and in its original condition, through the generosity of Oliver and Merle Hamilton.

For more information on this program call the Marion County Historical Society at (740) 387-4255

Clutter Honored at Ohio Prairie Association Conference

Kensel Clutter was honored with the first *Prairie Achievement Award* ever presented by the Ohio Prairie Association at the 24th annual conference held August 5,6,7 at Ohio State University Marion.

The award was given in recognition of Kensel's dedication in furthering appreciation for the remaining prairies of the Sandusky Plains. For 20 years he has studied the local prairie flora, collected seeds, planted prairies, given programs on Marion County's prairies and created a map of the Sandusky Plains using the original 1819 Surveys and other county records. He has inspired generations of students at OSUM by working with them to sustain the Campus prairie.

When receiving the award, Kensel commented that it didn't seem right to accept an award for doing something he enjoyed so much and that he will keep on protecting, interpreting, and planting prairies just because this is his hobby. He proved this once again on Sunday, August 7 by leading the Claridon Prairie Tour. As he explained the prairie ecosystem and identified plants, eager participants spent three hours soaking up the knowledge that Kensel so willingly shares. Please join us in congratulating Kensel for receiving this well-deserved award!



Kensel Clutter interprets the Claridon prairie during August 7 tour.

***THE SAGA OF THE NAME:
“WHETSTONE” OR “OLENTANGY”?**

Submitted by Willis Thomas

What is the actual name of the river that flows through the east side of Marion County? The placement of road markers on our county highways continues to be questionable in the minds of some people. The state of Ohio, on its maps and bridge markers refers to it as the Olentangy. However, some local Marion Countians have always called it the Whetstone.

Perhaps, “we should base our authority on the Indian name since they were the first in this area to give names to them. Of course many names have probably been used to designate any river, and this study in itself would be fascinating. But the latest Indian name, that given by the Delaware (Lenni Lenape) Indians, here when the white man first came to this area, was ‘Keenhongsheconsepong’. This means literally ‘Sharp more and more tool river’. This agrees with the early white man name of Whetstone. The river is a good source of Olentangy Shale which was used for sharpening of axes, cutlery and other ironware.

“The “Indian name Olentangy” has been referred “to the river known to early pioneers - as the Big Darby.” It has been noted, “The Ohio legislature, in 1833, erroneously named the Whetstone ‘Olentangy’ and moved the name Whetstone to the East Branch of the original Whetstone.” (**Whetstone or Olentangy**, *TimeLine*, Halderman 1969)

Discovered recently in the 1819 survey notes of the First Meridian Survey with in Marion County, a stream was noted the **‘Whetstone, sometimes called Olentangy’**.

The following entry was found in Survey notes made during the mapping of our area:

Township 4 South Range 16 East 1st Meridian. Ohio					
SCOTT	TOWNSHIP		MARION COUNTY		
Direct. Of survey	Section line	Chains	Distance in feet	Object description	Page
	East Boundary				
South	On sixth Mile	19.00	1254	Whetstone Creek 75 lks. Wide	306
	This stream is more generally known by the old Indian name "Olentangy"				
				July 14th, 1819	
			Surveyed in 1819		310
<i>by Alexander Holmes, Deputy Surveyor</i>					

Note: The column: “Distance in feet” has been added to help the reader understand the location of the stream crossing on the section line as referenced. It was ¼ mile north of Linn Hipsher Road on the east township line.

Spend Saturday In the Park

MCHS is coordinating their portion of the *Saturday In The Park* event that runs from 11 AM to 5 PM on Saturday Sept. 3, at Lincoln Park in Marion. Volunteers are needed to staff the “Historic Marion” area. Please contact Nan Weir @ 389-4881 or the MCHS office @ 387-4255 to volunteer. Remember, this is one way you have fun and benefit MCHS at the same time! Call and volunteer today!

There is an earlier reference to the ‘Battle of the Olentangy.’ It is in the notes recorded were an engagement with Colonel William Crawford was made on with drawing his troops from the Sandusky Plains in 1782. The battle is recorded on several maps of the Ohio frontier and written commentaries. ‘Crawford and his men fought off the natives and their British allies at the Battle of the Olentangy on June 6, 1782’. www.ohiohistorycentral.org. This engagement occurred north of Marion County in Crawford County.

Much speculation has been written about which name belongs to the shallow winding stream in eastern Marion County. The water flowing through the shale river knows neither name to be incorrect. Those who wish to know it as the name they grew up with have called the river by that name. There are several old maps with one name and other maps with the other. Changing the name of the river will not affect by what it is known. The out come of the story will remain the same as a small piece of our county history. The name of Whetstone Stone River and the Olentangy River will stand the test of time. One will be as recorded and the other one will be remember as time marches on. There will inevitability be another someday who will question why there are two names to the same river course. Let us accept both names as they have been noted and celebrated our history as a unique one.

Other historical sources: *History of Marion County* (Leggett 1883), *History of Marion and Representative Citizens* (Jacoby 1907) and *An Historical Account of the Expedition against Sandusky under Col. William Crawford in 1782* (C. W. Butterfield 1783).

Recent Acquisitions

Accessioned 5-9-2005 to 5-19-2005

Dorothy Young, White tile with etching of Marion County Bank marked No. 4 in a Historical Series

Eva Pollock, ladies high top shoes, Plastic potato peeler from Guys 'N Dolls, Marion, Ohio, Cream of Tartar can from Henny & Cooper

Jerry & Beatrice Agner, wooden World War II hairpin, Two OPA red point tokens, Drake Tavern paperback songbook

Vaughn Thomas, Marion Centennial Anniversary Coin 1822-1922, Brass Ohio coin, 1906 Marion Ten Piece Orchestra Ticket, 9 tickets to Y.M.C.A. Stars vs. Crescents In Door Base Ball, "snap" cards

Linda Welch, White cotton collar with ruffles and button trim and a large bow in the center front, Elder-Beerman dress box

Robert & Janet Lucas, Collection of 113 marbles, glass and other materials

John D. & Virginia Telfer, Ideal Dairy quart milk bottle

John & Christina Bryans, Wooden toy sail boat with cloth sail, composition and iron toy animals, wood and metal pull horse toy with rider, Skee-zix Doll, silver and mother of pearl baby rattle, blue and white woven baby blanket, pair of black patent slippers with a silver buckle, pair of child's kid leather gloves, miscellaneous children's clothing, composition and kidskin doll circa 1870 with original clothing, Many items once belonging to Isaac Merchant: pair of tan linen pants, Brown Wool skull cap with a dark blue tassel, 46 star U. S. flag, President's Thanks and Certificate of Honorable Service To Private Isaac Merchant 136th Regt. Ohio National Guard Vol. Infantry signed by Abraham Lincoln and Edwin M. Stanton. WWII Army sewing kit contains thread and buttons, several small beaded purses, small leather change purse with leather handle and silver frame and silver clasps, several Haviland China dishes

In Memoriam

Our hearts go out to the families of the following longtime members who have recently passed away.

Betty Bartram (Mrs. John Bartram)
and
Edmund Young

Fair Fundraising a HUGE Success!

The Marion County Historical Society director and Board of Trustees would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all those who participated in making the 2005 "Log Cabin Days" at the Marion County Fair our most successful ever. Whether you contributed food or cash to the "Bake Sale", purchased raffle tickets, volunteered your time to greet visitors, or helped in preparation and clean up, you made it all possible.

Special thanks goes to Bill Bowers who created and donated two stained glass American Flags for the raffle and to Randy Winland who contributed a bank made from a Marion post office box front. Trella Romine and Tri-Rivers Horticulture department contributed to the plant sale. Jan Augenstein and the team she recruited to contact members for the bake sale resulted in excellent participation by the membership.

Others who gave of their time were Bob Lucas and the "Homespun String Band" who entertained on the porch, members of the 121st OVI Civil War Reenactment group, members of the Marion Area Genealogy Society, the Whetstone Woodcarvers, and the quilters group

Our director, Gale Martin-Hansgen was on hand to interpret Native American lore, a pioneer woman's life, a teacher in a log cabin school, and portrayed a woman of the Civil War era.

Winners of the stained glass flags were Norm and Donna Ruth Fogt's daughter, Mrs. V.S. Groenke from La Grange, Texas and Becky Oldham of New Bloomington. Rex Johnson of Marion won the bank.

We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to Helen Kaufman for her dedication in coordinating all of the volunteers, exhibitors and entertainers and making sure the events in and around the cabin flowed smoothly along. Her dedication in preparing for and carrying out the many details of these activities is what made possible this successful week at the Marion County Fair. The fundraising conducted at the fair resulted in over \$2,067.00 generated for MCHS operating budget.

Thanks again to all who participated!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
With
THE MARION COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**Open 1-4 PM Wed-Sun, May-Oct.
Open 1-4 PM Sat-Sun, Nov-Apr.
and group tours by appointment.
To volunteer call 387-4255**

Docents (tour guides) –Able to work at a set time on a regular basis when the museum is open and/or lead group tours of the museum.

Docent/Cashiers Must be willing and able to learn to use a cash register. Duties are to collect admissions and payment for gift shop purchases and fill in as a tour guide when necessary.

Housekeeping - *Light* work dusting, tidying exhibits, cleaning office & public areas

Artifact Care - Computer cataloging of artifacts as well as simple artifact cleaning, numbering, and storage tasks.

Historical Research - Conduct research in response to inquiries about Marion County history. Some computer experience preferred but not required.

Hamilton Brothers Win National Trust Award

Oliver and Merle Hamilton have been selected by the National Trust for Historic Preservation to receive one of the sixteen 2005 National Preservation Honor Awards for the preservation of Linn School. The Hamilton brothers have been invited to accept the award on September 29th at the 2005 National Preservation Conference in Portland, Oregon.

We are so proud of you, Oliver and Merle!!!

HARDING EXHIBIT GETS A NEW LOOK

Stuart Koblenz has been hard at work revamping the Harding Exhibits on the lower level of Heritage Hall. He has made some incredible changes and the exhibit is well on its way to a more bright and attractive look. Be sure to stop in and take a look at the Harding Rooms during your next visit to Heritage Hall. Thanks a bunch Stu!

“BLAST FROM THE PAST” A SUCCESS

Jan Augenstein and Carol Robinson have done it again, with help from Sherry Hall from the Harding Home Museum who did two of the five programs, MCHS volunteers like Ruth Caryer, Betty White, Keith Kohler and Mike Perry along with some very helpful parents such as Alice Johnson. This year Marion area youth ages 8-12 enjoyed a hands-on history education program that had them begging for more. Many parents are now asking for a program for older youth! We will see what next year brings!



Mike Perry shows his collection to Blast participants.

A Word From The Director
I have been here at the Marion County Historical Society for a year now and am pleased to say my first year went very well. I am delighted to be a part of this wonderful organization and expect to be here for many more years. I especially want to thank those members and volunteers who have gone out of their way to meet me and make me feel a part of the Marion County Historical Society Community. God Bless you all!

MCHS Wants You!

Volunteers are needed to lead tours at Heritage Hall museum and to act as parking lot attendants during the *Popcorn Festival* on Sept. 8, 9 and 10. The museum's extended hours will be 12-6 PM.

Donations of soft drinks are also needed for sale during the *Cruise In* and the *Popcorn Festival*.

Please call MCHS at 387-4255 for pick up of donated items or to volunteer your time.



TWO GRANTS AWARDED TO MCHS

On August 24, 2005 the Marion County Historical Society will receive a \$1,300 general operating support grant from the Gannett Foundation. This award is given in order to assist MCHS in maintaining its current level of service to the Marion County area.

The Junior Service Guild has awarded the *Blast From The Past* program \$400 for the 2005-2006 school year to help support their in-school Blast programs.

Cruise On In To The “Cruise-In”

Mark your calendars for Saturday August 27 and cruise on in to a full day of family fun!

Once again, the Central Ohio 4x4 Club is joining forces with the Marion County Historical Society to raise money for the preservation of the Wilhelm/Seiter log cabin located at the Marion County Fairgrounds.

The event is open to the public from 10:00 AM to 5:30 PM with registration for participating vehicles beginning at 9 AM. The day long festivities will include a burn out competition, demo derby at 6:00 PM, model car contest, swap meet, 50/50 drawing, hourly door prizes, a DJ and much, much more. There will be great food, great prizes, and lots of great music!

This year's Cruise-In will also feature a "Tie Dye Your Own T-shirt" area. This activity, sponsored the Marion County Historical Society will allow participants to step back into the 60s, by purchasing a white T-shirt and designing and dyeing it themselves.

For more information or to pre register a car, enter a model car or rent a space for the swap meet call Brent Gross at (740) 389-5002 or MCHS at (740) 3387-4255



Marion County Historical Society
169 East Church Street
Marion, OH 43302

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UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

- August 27, Saturday: *Log Cabin Cruise-In*,
9 AM – 5:30 PM Fairgrounds
- August 28, Sunday: Program meeting 3-4:30 PM
“School’s In Session” at Linn School
- September 3, Saturday: *Saturday in the Park*
Lincoln Park, 11:00-5:00
- September 8, 9,10: *Popcorn Festival*, flea market,
museum open extended hours
- October 1, Saturday: *OctoberFest* from 1-4 PM
Polka music and refreshments
- December 6, Tues.: Potluck dinner 6:00 PM,
Annual Meeting, 7:00 PM Auditorium
- December 3, Saturday: “Collectable Christmas”
Marion Hobby Club exhibit opens,
craft and gift sale in auditorium and
gift shop with special activities in
Heritage Hall

Marion Area Genealogy Society

The Genealogy Society will host Carol Holliger, resident archivist at the Beegle Library of the Ohio United Methodism at Ohio Wesleyan University on November 1, 2005 in the Heritage Hall auditorium. She will be presenting a program on how to use the archives of Ohio Methodism and other resources available to research a family’s genealogy.

For further information, please contact:
Maxine Marshall (740) 382-4179
Or Judith Johnson (614) 433-7516

ON-SITE ATTENDANT NEEDED PART-TIME FOR LINN SCHOOL

Must: Be interested in history &
Have good communication skills
Have good organizational skills
Be outgoing & work well with all ages

If interested send resume to:
Marion County Historical Society
169 East Church Street, Marion Ohio 43302
Or email resume to mchs@historymarion.org