

# HALLMARKS

## Newsletter of The Marion County Historical Society

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### “Collectable Christmas” Exhibit Opened Dec. 3

What do Hot Wheels, Dolls and Cookie Cutters have in common? They are all collectable! For a limited time, Heritage Hall is delighted to have an absolutely fantastic display of locally owned collectibles. Come on in and check them out!

While you are here, browse the museum shop for those one-of-a-kind gift ideas (we have a great new selection of items) or a book to read on Marion history.



Our newest book, *Images of America, Marion* by Stuart Koblentz is available and makes a great Christmas gift!

Winter hours of Sat.-Sun. 1-4 PM have begun and will last through the end of April.

### The first annual MCHS Winter Volunteer Workshop will be held on Friday, Jan. 6, 2006 from 1-3 PM.

If you are looking for a way to become more involved with MCHS but don't know how to go about it then this workshop is for you! Learn about the exciting changes taking place here at the museum and enjoy the fellowship of other history supporters!

Whether you are already a volunteer, are interested in becoming one or just want to be more informed, be sure to take advantage of this opportunity.

One of the goals of this workshop is to make volunteers more aware of the RSVP program that can reimburse some of the expense involved in volunteering. Participants will also become more familiar with the MCHS collections and will learn proper emergency procedures.

To attend, call 740-387-4255 and let us know you are coming.

# Thank You

To our new and renewing Pride members

#### *BENEFACTOR:*

LOUIS & BERNIECE E. CONKLE  
BILL & DEBBIE BOWERS

#### *SPONSOR:*

MARY HECKER

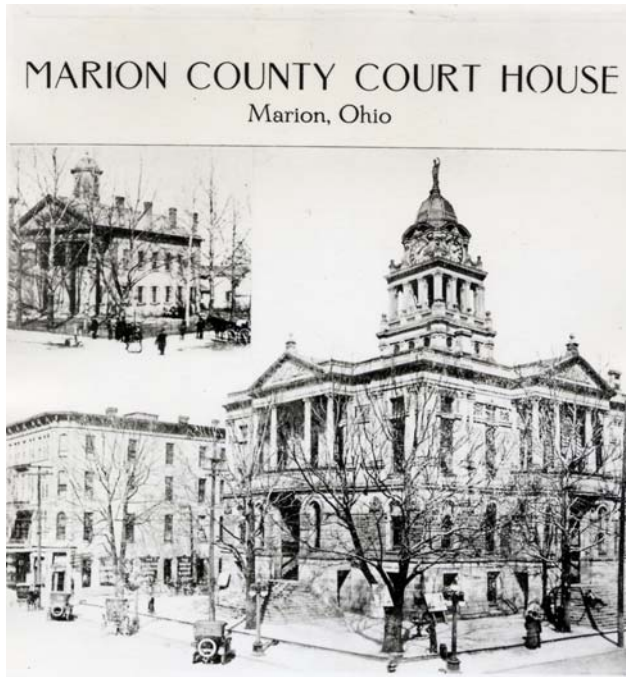
#### *ADVOCATE:*

MICHAEL & SUSAN BROWN  
LOWELL AND JUDY MUNN  
JOSEPHINE MACPHERSON  
J. RICHARD & JANET BRYSON

TRELLA ROMINE  
PATRON:  
SCHARER INSURANCE

### Seeking Paperweights

Mrs. George Harruff is seeking paperweights that were created for the 1883-1984 Centennial of the Marion County Courthouse. They have a photo of the courthouse in the dome of the paperweight. To contact Mrs. Harruff, call: 419-874-7511, or write: 2660 Eckel Road, Perrysburg, OH 43551



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

**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:  
Call 740-387-4255 and request a brochure!**

.....  
**In Memoriam**

**We extend our love and sympathy to the families and friends of the following deceased members:**

**Al Tozer  
Barbara Midlam  
Sandra Kellogg**  
.....

STEPHEN & MARY ANN JENKINS  
NORM & DONNA RUTH FOGT  
JEANNE CORNELL



### Recent Acquisitions

**Accessioned May 19 - Aug. 8, 2005**

**Barbara Ritzmann,**  
silver tea set & Walter Kilbury's 1914 high school diploma

**Tricia Smith**  
lace trimmed black dress & children's clothes

**Lynda Williams**  
reproduction clothing for history trunks;  
white cotton child's "pair" of underwear, child's "prairie" dress, boys red flannel underwear

**Dorothy Young**  
misc. Marion advertising items, string holder & photo of Schrock school

**Robert Cole**  
autograph donkey in khaki cotton

**Merle Hamilton**  
large stoneware jug

**Betty Hart**  
Oborn hay carrier, 6 Omar pie pans, Oborn family ice skates, 1933 World Fair items, Isaly Dairy mechanical pencil & cottage cheese recipe book

**Nina Nelson**  
1853 Marion County jacquard bedspread

**Woodrow Sprigs**  
photos of W. O. Spriggs & narrative of his life

**Rick Stose**  
maps & memorabilia of Marion County, 48 star flag, Anthony Laundry bag & calendar, 1926 Bradley's Drugstore Almanac, "Son of Tarzan" sheet music from Orpheum Theatre, Marion

**Stuart Koblenz**  
black and white photographs & copies of *The Children's Newspaper*

**Marguerite Fogle**  
Photo album (from her niece, Mabel Oswald Strawser, Ludwig, TX  
Sewing basket, Stereoscope viewer and cards, Victorian clothing

**Maxine Marshall**  
1946 wedding gown, hats & deeds

## Who Was George H. Busby?

With the dedication of the Busby Park and the mural on the wall enclosing it, some are wondering “Why Busby Park.” Some questioned whether George H. Busby was a worthy citizen who deserved the remembrance.

The simple answer is that the “Busby Building” at the southeast corner of Center and Prospect Streets, was razed and this left another vacant area in downtown Marion. When it was decided to develop it for a park it seemed only right to name it for the building it replaced. This substantial structure was built in the late 1890s by Captain Jacob F. Apt, a master builder. Since George Busby had died in 1869, nearly 30 years earlier, who named the building “Busby Block?” I don’t have the answer for this—yet! But we do find some answers about the man, Major George Busby, in the Marion County histories and city directories, and from some descendants still living..

Born in 1794, Major Busby served in the War of 1812, He was one of Marion’s earliest settlers, coming here even before it was platted, and lived here until his death in 1869. He held many public offices. There are 25 references to him in the 1883 Marion County History, and 18 in the 1907 (Jacoby) History of Marion County detailing his service to Marion County, He, and his wife Eliza, were parents of six girls (two died in childhood), so the surname “Busby” has been lost.

Clarinda married Dr. I. S. Sweeney, and named their son Busby Sweeney. This kept the name alive, and added to its fame for his participation in the founding and growth of the Marion Steam Shovel Company. Pauline married Dr. John M. Christian, Evaline A. married Eugene J. Fairfield, Jane married T. P. Wallace—all important personages in late 19<sup>th</sup> century Marion. On page 218 of the 1907 *History of Marion County* there is this reference to George H. Busby: “Perhaps no citizen of the county has left so large and numerous a body of descendants who are still influential in this community.”

For the history of the building, the Marion City Directories are a good source. It is first listed in 1892 Wiggins City & County directory. In 1903

the newly organized Frank’s Department store was located at this location, and Kleinmaier Brothers Clothing Store had moved from North Main Street and was located on the **southwest** corner. If the directories are correct, they later they switched sites, and we do know that by 1909 Kleinmaier’s occupied the lower floor of the Busby Block and were there until 1929 when W. T. Grant Department Store moved there. At that time Dr. Robert Ramroth and architect J. L. Ellis had offices above. In the 1940s I remember visiting Dr. V. C. Kissell’s office for dental work and gazing out the front second story window at Kresge’s across the Street, and at Uhler and Phillips Department Store in the Huber Building.

By 1960 the building at 149 West Center Street is listed “no return” and the listing disappears from later editions. Dr. Kissell was the last occupant of the building and “vacant” appears more often in the listings all along West Center Street.

After 40 years of abandonment, the decision to raze the Busby building was made when Lois Fischer, local developer, purchased it. Her plans to revitalize downtown Marion also include the renovation of the S. S. Kresge building next door. The decision to give the name of the razed building to the park on the site is a fitting tribute to George Busby and to Marion history.

*submitted by Trella H. Romine*



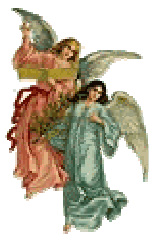
Demolition of the Busby building

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

*Non-Profit*  
U.S. Postage  
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Marion, Ohio  
Permit # 23

Dated Material

**NEXT YEARS EVENTS WILL  
BE ANNOUNCED IN THE  
FIRST NEWSLETTER OF  
2006**



**Heritage Hall will be  
closed December 24 and  
25, and on December 31  
and Jan.1, 2006.**

**Have a Safe and Happy  
Holiday Season!**



**WATCH FOR THESE  
EXCITING EXHIBITS IN 2006**

DEC. 3-JAN. 29

*COLLECTABLE CHRISTMAS*

FEB. 17- MAY 1

*MARION'S BLACK HERITAGE*

MAY 26-OCT. 1

*Serving Our Country  
Marionites in the Military*

Nov. 17-Feb.4, 2007

*Winter Wonderland  
A celebration of Winter*

