

# HALLMARKS

Newsletter of *The Marion County Historical Society*

169 East Church Street, Marion OH 43302  
Phone: 740/387-4255 Fax: 740/387-0117

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January – March 2013



## *Historically Speaking*

*By Fred Malone, MCHS Board President*

### **A Death In The Family**

I must tell you that my original column for this months issue of Hallmarks was to focus on the upcoming events at MCHS. I wanted to talk about the new exhibit, and my excitement regarding Marion's' connection to the Civil War. All of this I will do, but in the next issue. My excitement and focus changed on the morning of Wednesday, February 20th. My life, as did all of yours, changed when I received the call that our beloved Trella had passed from this life to the next.

My introduction to Trella came a mere five years ago while I was preparing to participate in my first Night at Heritage Hall. I, of course, had heard and read of this woman through her work in the community and her connection to the Marion County Historical Society. Little did I know that we would form a bond and a friendship that I will cherish for the rest of my life.

I cannot add to the accolades that have been printed or said about Trella over the last several days. There have already been so many people that have done that so well. As I listened to family and friends eulogize her at the funeral service, I thought to myself how lucky I was to have been a small part of her life. When I lost my mother to cancer in July of 2009 I was devastated. Trella stepped in and took the role of surrogate mother, a part she played to so many others as well. This is a woman who touched many lives in her 97 years. Trella will go on touching lives in her writings, her generous donations to community, and to those of us who will continue to " pay it forward " in her name.

Trella was the " heart and soul " of the Marion County Historical Society. She was still attending meetings and functions at MCHS as well as playing an active role in the continuing promotion and development of Heritage Hall, the Linn School, the Prairies, and the Research Center. Trella was a sounding board for Gale and myself. She had an incredible mind and a memory that anyone thirty years her junior would envy. She was always looking ahead, but never forgetting the history of where we had been.

To say that we will miss Trella is certainly an understatement. We will cherish our memories of her forever and celebrate her legacy every day.

Thank you ,Trella, for sharing your life with us.

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**Museum Offices open Monday through Friday 9-4  
Museum Open Sat. –Sun. 1-4 PM in April and Wed –  
Sun, 1:00pm – 4:00pm May - October**

April 09 Tues. 4:00pm Executive Committee Meeting  
Heritage Hall Auditorium

April 16 Tues. 10:00am Marion's History Discussion Group  
TRECA Community Room

April 16 Tues. 7:00pm Board of Directors Meeting  
Heritage Hall Auditorium

April 20 Sat. 1-4 pm Lincoln and Constitution Exhibit  
opening at Heritage Hall

April 20 Sat. 2-3 pm Special program on Lincoln  
Heritage Hall Auditorium

April 20 Sat. 5:30- 9pm A Rebellion to Remember; Heroes,  
Spies and Copperheads, Panel discussion, dinner/  
winetasting at Palace May Pavilion

May 09 Thurs. 9:00am Set-up for Rummage Sale Heritage  
Hall Auditorium

May 10 Friday 4:00pm Rummage Sale (MCHS Members  
Only) Heritage Hall Auditorium

May 11 Sat. 9:00am Rummage Sale Heritage Hall  
Auditorium

May 14 Tues. 4:00pm Executive Committee Meeting  
Heritage Hall Auditorium

May 19 Sun. TBA Waldo Memorial Day Parade  
Meet @ old BP in Waldo

May 21 Tues. 10:00am Marion's History Discussion Group  
TRECA Community Room

May 21 Tues. 7:00pm Board of Directors Meeting  
Heritage Hall Auditorium

May 23 Thurs. 7:00pm Civil War Music with Steve Ball  
Heritage Hall Auditorium

June 11 Tues. 4:00pm Executive Committee Meeting  
Heritage Hall Auditorium

June 18 Tues. 10:00am Marion's History Discussion  
Group TRECA Community Room

June 18 Tues. 7:00pm Board of Directors Meeting  
Heritage Hall Auditorium

July 1 Mon. Fair Bake Sale Marion Co. Fair Grounds

July 09 Tues. 4:00pm Executive Committee Meeting  
Heritage Hall Auditorium

July 11 Thurs. 9:30am Blast From the Past TBA

July 16 Tues. 10:00am Marion's History Discussion Group  
TRECA Community Room

July 16 Tues. 7:00pm Board of Directors Meeting  
Heritage Hall Auditorium

July 18 Thurs. 9:30am Blast From the Past TBA

July 25 Thurs. 9:30am Blast From the Past TBA

Aug. 01 Thurs. 9:30am Blast From the Past TBA

Aug. 13 Tues. 4:00pm Executive Committee Meeting  
Heritage Hall Auditorium

## SAVE THESE DATES! WHAT'S

Aug. 11 Sunday 1:00pm Claridon Prairie Tour  
Intersection of SR 98 & SR 309

Aug. 18 Sunday 1:00pm Trella Romine Prairie Preserve  
Tour Intersection of SR 203 & SR 739

Aug. 20 Tues. 10:00am Marion's History Discussion  
Group TRECA Community Room

Aug. 20 Tues. 7:00pm Board of Directors Meeting  
Heritage Hall Auditorium

Sept. 05 Thurs. 12– 6pm Popcorn Festival – Museum Open  
Extended Hours - Volunteers Needed!

Sept. 06 Friday 12– 6pm Popcorn Festival – Museum Open  
Extended Hours - Volunteers Needed!

Sept. 07 Sat. 12– 6pm Popcorn Festival – Museum Open  
Extended Hours - Volunteers Needed!

Sept. 10 Tues. 4:00pm Executive Committee Meeting  
Heritage Hall Auditorium

Sept. 17 Tues. 10:00am Marion's History Discussion  
Group TRECA Community Room

Sept. 17 Tues. 7:00pm Board of Directors Meeting  
Heritage Hall Auditorium

Sept. 19 Thurs. Program Meeting topic undetermined

Sept. 21 & 22 Sat. & Sun. 10-5 & 11-4 Travel Through  
Time: Civil War Reenactment Sawyer Ludwig Park

Oct. 08 Tues. 4:00pm Executive Committee Meeting  
Heritage Hall Auditorium

Oct. 12 Sat. 1-5pm Behind Closed Doors Locations to  
be announced

Oct. 15 Tues. 10:00am Marion's History  
Discussion Group TRECA Community Room

Oct. 15 Tues. 7:00pm Board of Directors Meeting  
Heritage Hall Auditorium

Oct. 19 Sat. 4:30pm Ham & Bean Dinner  
Kingston of Marion

Nov. 02 Sat. 5:30pm Dinner with the Presidents  
TRECA 5:30-8:30

Nov. 12 Tues. 4:00pm Executive Committee Meeting  
Heritage Hall Auditorium

Nov. 19 Tues. 10:00am Marion's History Discussion  
Group TRECA Community Room

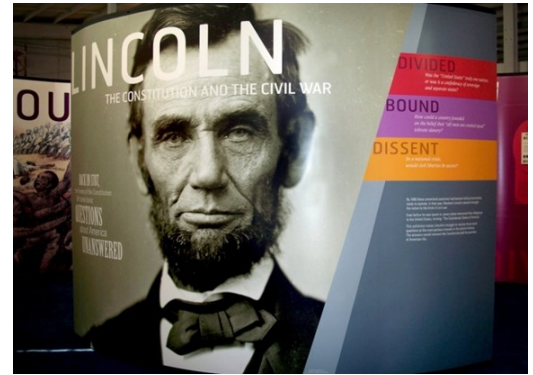
Nov. 19 Tues. 7:00pm Board of Directors Meeting  
Heritage Hall Auditorium

Dec. 07 Sat. 1- 4pm Holiday at Heritage Hall – Book  
Signings w/ Local Authors; 20% Discount on Gift  
Shop Items for MCHS Members Heritage Hall

Dec. 10 Tues. 6:00pm Potluck Dinner w/ Annual Meeting  
to Follow (No December Board Meeting) Heritage  
Hall Auditorium

## Of Special Interest:

**The Marion County Historical Society is proud to announce that they will be hosting, “Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War”** a traveling exhibition developed by the American Library Association (ALA) Public Programs Office and the National Constitution Center (NCC) from April 20 through May 26, 2013. Museum admission is free from 1-4 pm on April 20, 21, 27 and 28. Admission to the museum will continue to be free Wednesday through Sunday May 1- 26. *The exhibit’s visit will officially open on April 20th at 1 pm with historian Robert Brugler presenting as Abraham Lincoln in the museum auditorium at 2 pm.*



Using the Constitution as the cohesive thread, “Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War” offers a fresh and innovative perspective on Lincoln focusing on his struggle to meet the political and constitutional challenges of the Civil War. The exhibition explores how Lincoln used the Constitution to confront three intertwined crises of the war—the secession of Southern states, slavery, and wartime civil liberties. Visitors will leave the exhibition with a more complete understanding of Abraham Lincoln as president and the Civil War as the nation’s gravest constitutional crisis.

The traveling exhibition and tour are funded by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to the National Constitution Center. Call 740-387-4255 for more info.

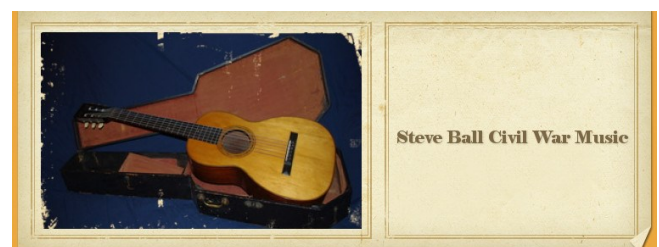
**Encourage your friends to explore the Civil War with the Marion County Historical Society on April 20th!** Event includes period food, winetasting, silent auction and a panel discussion among President

Abraham Lincoln, Clement Vallandigham, General Joseph Johnston, General U. S. Grant, Belle Boyd and Mother Bickerdyke!

Tickets are priced very economically at Individual \$20, Couple \$35. They are all good for open seating, there will be no reserved seats except for the re-enactors. All guest seating is first come, first serve. Event takes place from 5:30 – 9:00 P.M at Palace Theater, May Pavilion, Marion, Ohio. Tickets are advance order only with ticket sales ending April 17th. Event benefits the Marion County Historical Society, 169 East Church Street, Marion Ohio 43302. Call 740-387-4255 for more info or go to [www.marionhistory.com](http://www.marionhistory.com).



**Our May 23 program meeting at 7pm in the Heritage Hall auditorium will be on Civil War Music with the program provided by Steve Ball,** a musician and historian from Columbus, Ohio. Steve started both playing the guitar and studying the American Civil War at the age of twelve. His interest in Civil War music was generated by tunes he learned while in a western trio. Eventually he built a repertoire of songs from the 19th century, both before and during the Civil War period of 1861 to 1865. His interest in the history of the war led to learning about the composers, and the events that led to many of the songs of the period being written. The songs are presented in a somewhat chronological order. Steve tells the story of each song and keeps listeners informed of the progress of the war at the same time. Steve will have CD's available at the event for anyone who may be interested. This will be the third program related to the Civil War for this year’s events. It is made possible by funding through the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Constitution Center, and the American Library Association.



## MCHS Wish List

A dressmaker's dummy is needed for use in archives.

MCHS is looking for the proper furnishings to accurately portray our 1851 log house as a home for educational purposes. We need the following: dishes, eating and cooking utensils for the period.

We can always use copy paper, 65lb white cardstock, foam board for displays, plain white envelopes, 6x9 inch heavy duty brown envelopes, post-it notes, and scrapbooking (archival, acid free) tape.

Docents, tour guides and gift shop volunteers are always needed. We also need help with special projects and events.

Volunteers are needed to assist in maintenance at the Claridon Prairie and Trella Romine Preserves this spring and summer.

Kensel Clutter and Harry Dowler are working on a project to record and preserve the history of aviation and aviators from Marion County. If you have something to add to this collection, such as information, pictures, newspaper clippings, or other items, please consider helping out with the project.

For more info on any of these needs call the MCHS office at 740-387-4255 or email Jerri the MCHS Administrative Assistant at [jhupp@marionhistory.com](mailto:jhupp@marionhistory.com)



OUR CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF  
RECENTLY DECEASED MEMBERS

DOROTHY YOUNG  
HELEN KAUFMAN  
TRELLA ROMINE

## What's new in the MCHS collections?

*Accessioned between 3/13/2012—5/15/2012*

Rebecca Oldham: Scan of photograph of Central House Hotel in Green Camp c. 1890

Randy & Sandy Winland: Cast iron meat grinder; wool card; 1883 Marion County History (reprint)

Jack & Glada Bull: 1903 program from the Grand Athletic & Gymnastics Carnival; 20" cast aluminum "Key to the City of Marion"

Stuart Koblentz: Group photo of Brush Ridge elementary school students

David C. Mitchell: "Eisenhower style" military uniform; army short coat; Chronology of the Blizzard of 1978; Tickets to a Military Ball and to a Get Acquainted Party

Steve Jenkins: Blue ribbon and newspaper article about a 1961 Grand Champion Steer

Mary E. Gross: Floor length prairie dress for use in reenactments

John & Virginia Murphy: "Betty" lamp with hook

Mike Perry: Poster of assorted WWI photographs

Mary E. Gross: Newspaper article on "50 Years in Orbit"

Francis Hoover: Assorted photographs including some from WWII

Chris Northrup: Photo of Therwyn & Verne Northrup

Francis C. Hoover: Clippings, letters, invoices, order forms and envelopes

Sharon Huffman: 1985 Radio Shack bag phone

Fred Malone: Leather gloves; vinyl gloves

Lew Lause: Photograph of Marta Jane Sweney Peacock; photo of George Busby family descendants

Joy Beckel: Marion Power Shovel ashtray, badge, pen; Osgood badge; photo of former post office (now Heritage Hall)

Ellen Messenger: scans of Marion street scenes, buildings and assorted residents

Betty J. Vance: Items from Marion County Bank including brass car bank, plastic deposit bag & plastic folder

Marion Masonic Temple: Butter knife made for Masonic Temple c. 1910 by M. Nelson & Sons of Marion, Ohio

Ruth Goedicke: Harding H.S. Quiver yearbooks, 1921-23, 1941; Harding H.S. My Diary Yearbook, 1935

John Bartram: Large collection of Marion newspapers including assorted Marion Democratic Mirrors from 1850-1860; assorted Marion Independents from 1850-1860 era; assorted Marion Stars from 1880-1910 era; Misc. other newspapers from 1890-1900 era; Four Marion County ballots

Randy & Sandy Winland: Assorted kitchen items including hamburger press, Easter Egg colors, & cooking spice containers; Wilkie & McNary political ribbon & pin; Houghton Sulky Co. wrench; 1956 advertising postcard with 45 rpm record in the card; Marion Glass Mfg. Company book; Reproductions of several Civil War era historical documents; 15 drawer blueprint cabinet; Miniature child's Bible; Miniature Little Webster dictionary; Autograph album 1886-1904

Harry L. Dowler Jr.: Madison Avenue, Ohio book about Howard Swink Advertising Company of Marion; Through the Heart of Ohio: The Columbus, Delaware and Marion Electric Company book; Article about the CD&M

Ed Schweinfurth: Handmade 14" x 14" model of Fort Morrow; Conestoga wagon grease bucket

Kenneth E. Narance :- Instrument Flight -Part Two- Radio Navigation Radio Navigation for Pilots book

Trella Romine: Assorted clothing items including jackets, skirts, dresses, bath robe; My Not So Ordinary Life book – Autobiography of Trella Romine

Marilyn Stepro: Huber Company advertising pin & 1910 "24th Annual Outing to Cedar Point" badge; Marion Power Shovel Co. 100th. Anniversary pin; Marion County Sesq. items; President Harding pin; c. 1901 Marion County Turnpike Bonds & Certificate of Indebtedness; 1972 Map of Marion roads, streets & subdivisions; Clippings & copies of newspaper articles relating to Marion history; children's book; Northwest Ordinance commemorative items; First Presbyterian Church of LaRue Dedication Service, 1898; Booklet about "Marion's New Hotel!"; 1917 hunting license; "Bell and the Bank" booklets; 1947 Marion County road map and photos of Lady Justice being replaced on top of the courthouse.

Stuart J. Koblentz: Model of Harding Hotel made of popsicle sticks by man in prison; Two cabinet cards; 1860's Stereoview card of Saint Paul's Episcopal Church; Two postcards with B&W photographs of the Myers family; Photo of Purol Oil Station on N. State St; Four 8" X 10" B&W photos of the Harding Memorial; Two B&W photos of students on the steps of Kirkpatrick School; B&W photo of last passenger train leaving Marion; Sketch by Babetta Dusang-Jones, 1977

Douglas E. Ebert: Legal docket items; Certificate given to C. W. Fisher, Major in 54th Regiment O.V.I.

Phyllis Hendrix: Osgood Company paperweight; Brownie camera

David C. Mitchell: Harding H.S. Quiver yearbook - 1969; Nixon political song performed at 1968 GOP whistle stop in Marion

Jack Bull: Six ball caps with advertising from various Marion companies and organizations

Ruth Lutz: Newspaper article about Morrow County women who remembers President Harding

Jean Dreyer: "Kline's Quizzer" booklet

Jon D. Eager: Copy of 1882 patent for improvement on a drag saw; Newlife 1982 picture of Class of 1943 50th. Reunion with list of people; Four pay stubs from the Marion Steam Shovel Company c. 1940

Matt Pollack: Booklet on the Marion Commandery No. 36 Knights Templar; Booklet on Marion Chapter No. 62 of the Royal Arch Masons of Marion

David Mauk: Book on the Presidency of Warren G. Harding; Book The Unabridged Mark Twain

Please Note: Some of the recent accessions may have been in storage before being added to our collections. While we do our best to be prompt, our volunteer archival staff often work on other projects as well. If you have recently donated an item and do NOT see it on this list, the item has not yet been accessioned.

If you would like to volunteer to help in Archives, call 740-387-4255.

## MARION'S MUSIC

By Randy Winland

Many towns have been popularized in song titles over the years. Examples such as “Chattanooga Choo Choo,” “New York New York,” and “I Left My Heart in San Francisco” come quickly to mind. The same holds true for people’s names such as “Elvira,” “Sweet Caroline,” and “Hey Jude” just to name a few. But how many people realize that Marion, and her most famous native son, have also been the subjects of numerous songs?

A search through the archives at Heritage Hall turned up more than 35 songs featuring Marion or Warren Harding. While none of them probably made the Billboard Top 40, they are an important part of our history and deserve to be remembered.

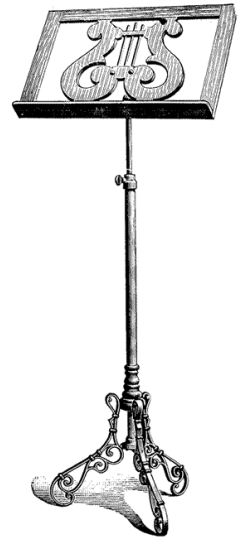
Early in the twentieth century many local communities had active groups of citizens leading the charge to outlaw the “devil’s milk”. They were eventually successful when in 1919 the Eighteenth Amendment established the prohibition of the manufacture, sale or transportation of alcoholic beverages. Marion appears to have been an active participant in the effort as at least four songs were written in an attempt to convince voters to approve prohibition: “No More Saloons in Marion County” (to the tune of “Marching Thru’ Georgia”), “Marion Must Go Free” (to the tune of “America”), “Vote for Local Option” (to the tune of “Tramp, Tramp, Tramp”) and “Battle Hymn of County Option” (to the “Battle Hymn of the Republic”). No record was found of songs that took the stance of keeping alcohol legal, but it is a fair bet that some, while perhaps not published, were belted out in the local taverns.

In 1922, “Marion, My Marion” was written by Isabelle Virginia Freeland in honor of the centennial celebration of Marion’s founding. It was sung to the tune of “Maryland, My Maryland”. Dick B. Brun composed “Good Old Marion Town” for the same occasion.

While the city of Marion did have its musical notoriety, it did not hold a candle to the number of songs written about her favorite son, Warren G. Harding. Over 28 different songs were put forth as part of the Harding campaign efforts. Perhaps the most well-known was “Harding – You’re the Man for Us” written by none other than Al Jolson. Jolson, who was known at the time as the world’s greatest entertainer, actually visited Marion to help in Harding’s Front Porch Campaign. Other Harding songs included “Mr. Harding, We Will Vote for You”, “President Harding March”, “H-A-R-D-I-N-G – The Man for Us”, and “Rah! Rah! Rah! for Warren G. Harding”.

The Republican Party published “America First – Republican Campaign Song Book” featuring 21 different songs designed to help their candidate secure the highest office in the land. Among them were “Harding Marches On” (to the tune of “When Johnnie Comes Marching Home”), “Warren I’ve Been Thinking” (to the tune of “Reuben, Reuben, I’ve Been Thinking”), “The Two Guardsmen” (to the tune of “Dixie”), and “Coxy Doodle” (to the tune of “Yankee Doodle”). Apparently they were of assistance as Harding won the election in a landslide victory over his opponent, Ohio Governor James M. Cox. Harding earned over 60% of the popular vote, the largest margin of victory in the modern era.

Whether used to celebrate an occasion, champion a cause, or even just for enjoyment, music is part of our lives, and also part of our history.



## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK: by Gale E. Martin, Executive Director

As I worked on this issue of Hallmarks, I contemplated the recent loss of several long-time MCHS members and volunteers. We first lost Dorothy Young with whom I had just visited a few weeks prior. Dorothy made the best puppy chow and trail mix and had volunteered as a part-time secretary for me when I first came to Heritage Hall. Not long after we lost Dorothy, we lost her sister, Helen Kaufman. Helen was also a very active volunteer and an important part of our events. Helen was instrumental for many years in managing the bake sale and activities at the Log House during the Marion County Fair. Then, there was the loss of my dear friend Trella Romine. She spent many hours explaining Marion history, was my confidant, and my mentor as I struggled to learn what it took to act as the director of the Marion County Historical Society. In her honor, I am submitting this article she sent me last January for inclusion in Hallmarks.

### BUST OF WARREN G. HARDING

By Trella Romine

Visitors walking along the hall in the lower level of Heritage Hall will see a white plaster bust of Warren G. Harding. Few would know how it came to be there but I found the explanation in the book "Lest We Forget—Vignettes of Morrow County, Ohio by Charles and Delpha Mosher. The quote below is found on page 99.

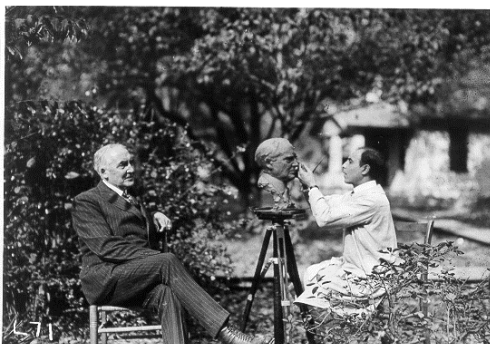
"My wife, D. Ruth Mosher, served as the catalyst in locating and returning a bust made of Warren Gamaliel Harding. About 1990 Ruth was caring for Marion Meister, daughter of a country doctor and mother of Paul Meister of Marion. One day the subject of President Harding came up, and Marion mentioned that an artist named Sue Watson Marshall had sculpted a bust of Harding. She also recalled that during Senator Warren G. Harding's presidential campaign in 1920 the bust had been part of a display in the show window at the Kleinmaier Men's Clothing store located at the southeast corner of Center and Prospect Streets in Marion in the Busby building. The profile was silhouetted on a sheet producing a dramatic effect that many thought was the candidate himself.

Ruth suggested to Marion Meister that the bust would be an interesting addition to the growing collection of Harding memorabilia soon to be housed in the former Marion post office located on the southeast corner of Church and State Streets. The Society had recently acquired it and renamed it "Heritage Hall."

With Paul Meister's assistance, contact was made with Charles Kleinmaier, then in his 90's, and it was learned that he was willing to donate the bust which had been stored in the attic of his New Jersey home for many years.

At that time Jack Telfer, as director of the new Marion County Historical Society, -was overseeing the transformation of the former Marion Post Office building into a museum an headquarters for the Society. Three rooms had been reserved as "Harding Rooms." When Ruth told him of the bust, and its availability, he contacted the son of Charles Kleinmaier and through him secured the bust for the Society.

Just after the bust arrived at Heritage Hall Ruth and I stood with Dr. Telfer and Dick West (a trustee of the Society) examining it. Since it was made of plaster of Paris, and was very fragile, it had been damaged in shipment. However, Dr. Telfer was able to have it restored. A pedestal and glass showcase was obtained to display this welcome addition to the Harding Collections at Heritage Hall. Mr. Kleinmaier's contribution is commemorated on a bronze plate."



**HALLMARKS**

Marion County Historical Society  
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Marion, Ohio 43302

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**This year the Marion County Historical Society will be participating in a program entitled, Blue Star Museums. Blue Star Museums is a partnership among the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense, and more than 1,800 museums in all 50 states that offer free admission to active military personnel and their families from Memorial Day through Labor Day. We look forward to a wonderful summer of Blue Star Museums!**