

# 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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## ***GET READY TO GO "BEHIND CLOSED DOORS"!***

Have you ever wondered what lies behind the closed doors of buildings we drive by every day? Sometimes all that is needed to find out is simply to stop and look, but other times the doors may be closed to the general public. On October 12, several buildings will open their doors to visitors as part of the Behind Closed Doors Historical Marion Tour.

Designed as both an opportunity to see some unusual sites as well as a fundraiser for MCHS, the tour will feature five different locations including: the Elks Temple and Grand Opera House (Ohio Theatre), Frank Huber's home, the Receiving Vault in Marion Cemetery where President and Mrs. Harding awaited their final burial, the Owens Opera House and associated buildings, and the Stengel-True Museum.



In addition to seeing what is behind the closed doors, tour participants receive a souvenir booklet filled with information and pictures about the sites. For those who may want even more information, a DVD filled with hundreds of pictures of the various locations will be available for purchase. Many of the pictures on the DVD have not been published before. They include both current and historical views of the different sites including some areas not available to the general public during the tour.

Each of the sites on the tour, which is self-driving to allow participants to travel at their own pace and visit any or all of the sites, will be open from 1-5pm on Saturday, October 12. Driving directions to the various sites are available at Heritage Hall. For those who need assistance, Kingston is allowing us the use of their small shuttle bus. Contact Kaylen Brown 740-387-4255 to see if there is still space available.



Tickets are currently on sale at Heritage Hall as well as on our website at [www.marionhistory.com](http://www.marionhistory.com). Tickets are \$8.00 in advance or \$10.00 the day of the tour. For more information, please contact Heritage Hall at 740-387-4255.

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## SAVE THESE DATES! WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HERITAGE HALL & BEYOND

**Museum Offices open Monday through Friday 9-4**  
**Museum Open 1:00pm – 4:00pm May - October**

- Oct.07 Mon. 2:00pm Executive Committee Meeting  
 Heritage Hall Auditorium
- Oct. 12 Sat. 1-5pm Behind Closed Doors
- 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 at Kingston  
 of Marion
- Nov.02 Sat. 5:30pm Dinner with the Presidents  
 TRECA 5:30-8:30
- Nov. 11 Mon. 2:00pm 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
- Nov. 21 Thurs. 7:00pm Program Meeting at 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 MembersHeritage Hall
- Dec. 10 Tues. 6:00pm Potluck Dinner w/ Annual  
 Meeting to Follow in the Heritage Hall  
 Auditorium

*Annual Book signing is coming up Dec. 7th!*

On Saturday, December 7, from 1:00 to 4:00pm, the Marion County Historical Society will host its Annual Book Signing featuring authors from across Ohio as well as Marion County.

Held at Heritage Hall at 169 E. Church Street in Marion, the event provides an opportunity for visitors to shop for books covering a wide range of topics and, in several cases, to meet the authors and have them sign their books!

Randy Winland will be one of the authors at the event this year and will be signing his new Images of America book on Marion County Postcards.

As an added bonus, admission to Heritage Hall and the Wyandot Popcorn Museum will be free for the event. Visitors can view the current exhibit and enjoy visiting with local authors while shopping for holiday purchases in the Museum Gift Shop.

*We are still looking for local authors who wish to participate in our book signing at Heritage Hall . If you know of an author who might be interested, have them contact Kaylen Brown at [kbrown@marionhistory.com](mailto:kbrown@marionhistory.com) or call 740-387-4255*

### ***Meet Mary Gross, our Senior Archivist!***



I am an avid cat lover. I am interested in all facets of history and science, especially Native American and Civil War history and geology.

I have 2 grown children, Norman Richard Gross and Mary Kathleen Tripp.

I started out volunteering in archives and now, as an employee, I really love what I do. The position in archives gives me the opportunity to really get a good close-up look at Marion County history.

I am a U.S. Air Force veteran having served from 1965 to 1968 in Germany and in Westover Air Force Base in Massachusetts.

## Travel Thru Time September 21-22, 2013

Photos courtesy of William (Pat) Murphy and Dick Schwaderer



Melissa Gee and son, Russell, along with Katherine (Kit) Gilliam portray southerners whom home is being raided for foodstuffs.

The 121st Ohio Volunteer Infantry led groups of foragers through the woods as part of the event. The tour was unique in that the guests on the tour were also the foragers. Everyone had so much fun, we will be repeating this particular tour next year. There will be a few changes, of course!

Many, many thanks to the volunteers who put so much time and planning into this event. This event is really fun with vendors, reenactors, food and more! Be sure to mark your calendar for next year's event which will be September 20 & 21, 2014. For more photos, turn the page>



Mark Revere (above) portrayed the father of the group (above left) who led the foragers through the woods. Quiana Revere along with son, Marquis, and daughter, Amyah portrayed escaped slaves.

Chet and Beth Rowland, along with Rich and Brenda Timmons were southern travelers who were also accosted along the trail. Shown with Union Soldier, Jay Johnston.



(Below) Fred Malone portrays a southern cotton gin owner protesting the raiding and burning of his property. He is guarded by a Union Soldier portrayed by Pete Haudenschild.

(Below) Bill Bradford, John Coats and Kenny Creviston portrayed Confederate Home Guards who skirmished with the Union Soldiers guarding the foragers.



**Travel Thru Time** September 21-22, 2013 continued

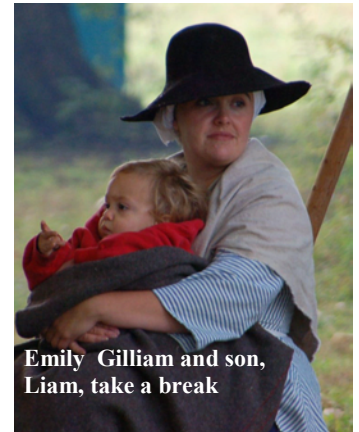
Photos courtesy of William (Pat) Murphy and Dick Schwaderer



(L-R) Jay Johnston, Pete Miller and Mark Melroy, members of the 121st Ohio Volunteer Infantry.

When the society puts on an event such as this, it takes a great many volunteers to make it all come together.

The event was a success because of the many hours spent planning and the hard work of many dedicated volunteers. If you would like to be part of helping with this or one of our other events, contact Gale Martin at 740-387-4255 or e-mail [mchs@marionhistory.com](mailto:mchs@marionhistory.com)



Emily Gilliam and son, Liam, take a break



(Above) Doug Ebert as U.S. Grant and (left) Heather Ebert was coerced into shooting at the Union soldiers with the Confederate Home guard.



(Right) Jon Eager looking quite dangerous as a Confederate home guard.

(Below) Devon Hardwick, Odette Clothier and Doug Ebert signing souvenir discharge certificates for participants.



Native American, RJ Reitmier and two members of the Colonel Crawford Regiment discuss artillery with Jared Haudenschild and Mark Melroy of the 121st OVI.



## What's new in the MCHS collections?

Accessioned between 6/23/12 – 8/21/12

### **The Thaxton & Hiestand Families:**

Vintage clothing including infant dress, girl's sun dress, lawn cap for child, handmade child's cape, cotton and linen aprons, camisoles, white pantaloons, white crocheted collar, floor length nightgown, cotton petticoats, gossamer blouse with lace embellishments, blouse with vertical tucking and lace inserts, cotton petticoat with 17" waist, linen apron, cotton chemise with lace and bib front; Heart-shaped picture frame; *Marion County 1878 Atlas* reprint; *Marion County Historical Trivia* booklet

**Paul Wallace:** Fifteen Diaries of Rodene Baily, 1957-1981; *History of Project Help* by James Wallace, edited by Paul Wallace

**Jay Walker:** Assorted materials from Fairfield Engineering Company including nine scrapbooks with history of company from 1923-1940, collection of brochures, collection of documents and paperwork, newsletters, advertising cards, book of stock certificates, ledger of estimates, Catalog 140 – Coal and Ash Handling Equipment, Brochure for Fairgrow with small packet of recycled humus included, 33 retired stock certificates; Brochures for Clark Metal Products Company

**John W. Walker:** *The Old Songs you Love* songbook compiled especially for Behr Bros. & Company, Manufacturers of Pianos

**Jackie Schwaderer:** *Marion Power Shovel, 1884-1948 100th Anniversary* publication; *Huber 1890-1948* publication

**Steven T. Sloan:** Decoration Day Committee Treasurer's Ledger 1918

**Jill M. Chitwood:** Magazine photo of Little America Landing, Military certificates and items relating to Richard K. Kneisly including certificates for crossing the equator in 1947 and for crossing the Antarctic Circle, newspaper clippings related to the U.S.S. Philippine Sea naval vessel

**Lester E. Yager:** Linn School photo

**Helena Hart:** Gossamer Dress

**Gary & Linda Lovell:** Certificate of appointment of Caleb H. Norris as Judge of the Court of Common Pleas; December 23, 1884 – Signed by Ohio Governor George Hoadly

**Stuart Koblentz:** c. 1913 hand-painted sugar bowl; Pink glass vase made by Marion Glass Company; *Inside Ohio* November, 1953; Marion Harding High School Class Will by Class of 1942; Marion General Hospital brochure; 1905 Christmas card from Kirkpatrick Methodist Sunday School; Program for 1955 Marion Fraternal Order of Police Annual Police Benefit Dance held at Crystal Lake; 1838 Letter sent from LeTimberville to Bucyrus; Advertising booklet for Studebaker Hawks; 1988 Christmas at the Palace program; High School memories book of Stuart Koblentz; Pure Oil Company envelope; 1944 Kirkpatrick High School Commencement program; 1990 Ohio Magazine; Portfolio of Harding Memorial design materials

**Madolyn Strzelecki:** Two glass blocks from Isaly Dairy building on East Center Street

**James L. Ault, Jr.:** Collection of WWI era military items related to John George Oehler: White linen armband, khaki identification card storage pouch, brown leather wallet with strap, military sewing pouch, military issue tourniquet, military issue metal mirror in case, bakelite comb with case, "essentials" pack, religious medal, B&W photograph of Oehler in his WWI uniform; June 5, 1917 certificate of registration for draft, notification of military insurance coverage, National Army identification card, welcome card to the "Khaki Club", YMCA paper for letter writing, military newsletter, Roll of Honor for Company "A" 68<sup>th</sup> Infantry in November of 1918 showing George Oehler as a Private; Five volume set of *Pictorial History of World War II*; Columbus, Ohio *Points of Interest* list

**Nelson Davis II:** Stone railroad marker #308

**Carolyn C. Stafford:** Elaborately carved oak Victorian furniture set including bed

with headboard and footboard, dresser with mirror, wash stand, dining room table set with six leaves and ten matching chairs; Collection of family photographs; Photographs of Stafford family home; Family genealogy for Carolyn Stafford

**Jim Callahan:** Vinyl record of *Roy Orbison's Greatest Hits*; Five 45rpm records; Three CD's by Jim Callahan; Autobiography of Jim Callahan; Two B&W photographs, business card, "history" of country musician Joe Tanner; B&W photograph & promotional photo of the Bluenotes musical group

**Thomas Tear:** Article on return to Marion after 56 years; six color photographs

**John Shumaker:** Color photograph of Central Fire Department building c. 1911

**Anne Huggler by Linda Holt, POA:** Radio speakers; candlestick phone converted to lamp; Cine-Kodak 8mm movie projector; portable movie spotlight; Assorted dolls; Color photograph of Art & Anne Huggler

**Robert Mosley:** Photo scrapbook of Rainbow Division Co. "D" meeting in Washington, D.C. in 1935

**Juanita Callahan:** Two Isaly's Dairy t-shirts; napkin from Hotel Harding c. 1935

**Marion Democratic Organization:** Assorted re-election brochures for Barack Obama; Assorted Democratic political brochures for Marion area candidates

**Roger Roberts:** Marion Baseball Club tax returns and financial materials 1944-50

**Mike Gist:** Dietz "Little Wizard" kerosene lantern

*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.*



OUR CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF  
RECENTLY DECEASED MEMBERS:

RICHARD BROOKS  
MARGUERITE MARTIN  
RALPH LEE  
DOROTHY VONBERGEN  
PAMELA SMITH

## MCHS Wish List

We can always use copy paper, 65lb white or light colored 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 who wish to assist in costumed re-enactments at events throughout the year are encouraged to contact us and talk about any special skills they may have to offer. **Our core group of volunteers is wonderful with new folks coming on board from time to time. If you have been thinking about becoming more active with MCHS, please do so.**

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

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 Gale Martin, the Marion County Historical Society Director, at [mchs@marionhistory.com](mailto:mchs@marionhistory.com)

## Don't forget these two fundraising events also coming up!

### **The Ham & Bean Dinner at Kingston, on October 19, 2013, 4:30 to 7:00 pm.**

Tickets are Advance Sales Only and are available through the Marion County Historical Society at the cost of \$5.00 per dinner. Menu will be ham & beans, coleslaw, cornbread w/ butter, dessert & drink. Carry Out available upon request. Meet interesting people from Marion County's past, enjoy great food, and bid on amazing silent auction items. Come prepared to have fun!

This is the perfect opportunity to have a fun and festive evening out. Please contact the Marion County Historical Society, 169 East Church Street, Marion Ohio 43302, (740) 387-4255 to purchase your advance sales only!



to support MCHS while having an inexpensive evening out. Please contact the Marion County Historical Society, 169 East Church Street, Marion Ohio 43302, (740) 387-4255 to purchase your advance sales only. Remember, tickets are advance sales only!

### **The Marion County Historical Society Presents "Dinner With the Presidents"**

Celebrate American Political History with the Marion County Historical Society and meet former Presidents of the United States!

On November 2 at the TRECA building on Delaware Avenue in Marion, the Marion County Historical Society will present their 4<sup>th</sup> annual "Dinner with the Presidents". Guest will not only enjoy an evening out, they will dine on presidential favorites and have the opportunity to discuss life in the White House with United States Presidents: Abraham Lincoln, Andrew Johnson, U.S. Grant, and James Garfield. As a special bonus, Confederate President Jefferson Davis will also be in attendance.

The presidents will be attended by uniformed guards appropriate to their eras courtesy of the 121st Ohio Volunteer Infantry. The meal, which consists of those President's favorite foods, will be provided by Special Occasions Catering of Upper Sandusky.

Tickets must be purchased by Oct. 28th. Prices \$25 or \$45 per couple general seating or guest may be seated with a president and first lady by purchasing VIP tickets at \$30 or \$55 per couple.

This is the perfect opportunity to support MCHS while having an evening out with that special someone. VIP tickets are limited so don't delay! Tickets may be purchased at Heritage Hall, the headquarters of the Marion County Historical Society located at 169 East Church Street or online at <http://www.marionhistory.com>. For more information call 740-387-4255.



# *Historically Speaking* By Fred Malone, MCHS Board President



## THEN THE RAINS CAME

No, I am not referring to the summer we just experienced; however, the title does fit quite well. I want to talk about an event that has been largely overlooked this year. With all of the publicity of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War that we have been besieged with, March 23rd came and went with a mere mention on the nightly news.

The 100th anniversary of the Great Flood of 1913 occurred on March 23, 2013. An incredible flood of biblical proportions, it was the most widespread flood in American history - more than 700 people died, hundreds of thousands of homes and buildings were destroyed, and millions were left homeless. The destruction extended beyond the Ohio Valley to Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Arkansas, Louisiana, Kentucky, West Virginia, New York, New Jersey and Vermont. Fourteen states in all, along with every major and minor river east of the Mississippi.

It all began on March 23, 1913, with a series of nearly a dozen tornadoes. Bodies fell from the sky, but the real disaster was yet to come. The heavens opened with freezing rains and then the flooding began. Some people died in their attics trying to escape the rising flood waters, only to find themselves trapped. Other people died in the streets and on the roads, swept away by the fast moving currents. All the while, fires raged from broken gas lines, electrical shorts, and overturned kerosene lamps despite the torrent.

My first memory of hearing of the flood came from my grandfather Jesse. I remember it well because I was an 8th grade student taking a class in Ohio History. I had always been interested in the past; but, this class instilled in me a lifelong love of history. The day we studied the Great Flood, I did the math and realized that my grandfather would have been 27 years old when this event occurred. I could barely contain myself the rest of the school day until I could get home and ask Dad if he remembered the event. Of course he did. Our branch of the McKinley family had settled in Scioto County, right along the Scioto River and a mere 10 miles from the great Ohio River in Portsmouth.

As my grandfather began to speak, I could see the moisture swelling in his eyes as he recalled those tragic days in 1913. As a young father of two infant children, he remembered being afraid for his families safety. The family home was on higher ground, but the water was rising so quickly no one knew if they were safe or not. The town of Lucasville had an area of town that was referred to as the " bottoms ", located along the Scioto River. As he spoke, he recalled seeing people, horses, horses with buggies, cows, dogs, cats and houses being swept away by the mighty river.

The town of Portsmouth was very apathetic when it came to devising escape plans for a flood, even though they were adjacent to the mighty Ohio, they had a 62 foot flood wall that would protect the city. Obviously, the city fathers had forgotten that the flood of 1884 had reached a height of 66.3 feet . Still, for those who remembered that flood, that was one for the record books. It seemed inconceivable that any future flood would ever reach that height again.

And while the rest of the state was worried about its bridges, Portsmouth had its brand new \$ 75,000 steel bridge crossing the Scioto River, and they were convinced that it could survive anything mother nature could throw at it. But during the night of March 27, 1913, the Ohio River rose to 67.9 feet. Some people reported seeing a tidal wave, fifteen feet high, going down the Ohio River smashing into the Kentucky Shore. The river soon poured over the flood wall, into downtown Portsmouth, and for anyone thinking of escaping across that steel bridge, no such luck. Perhaps to the concrete industry's collective smug satisfaction, the Scioto River knocked Portsmouth's pride and joy into oblivion.

In the end , no small village or large city was to escape some sort of destruction or loss of life. Dayton alone suffered over 400 deaths, with many of those being children. Estimates for total loss of life run between 700 and 1,000 people, but no one can ever be sure of the exact total. Census taking in the early part of the 20th century was far from accurate. With telephone and telegraph lines down, there was no way to properly warn people in other towns of what was coming. They were on their own.

Today, hardly anyone is alive that lived through the Great Flood of 1913. Our memories are tweaked by stories passed from one generation to the other. It is so very important to talk to those elders around us, to obtain those oral histories from them whenever we can. Seek out those relatives that remember the 1937 Flood, get those stories and pass them on , that 100th anniversary is just around the corner.

## BEHIND CLOSED DOORS - 2013 DRIVING DIRECTIONS

NOTE: The order the sites are shown in this list is one option. You may visit any or all of the sites in any order you wish.

These directions begin at HERITAGE HALL (169 E. Church Street at the junction of E. Church & S. State Streets) in the parking lot to the south of the building on S. State Street (which is a one-way street running to the north)

### STOP ONE – ELKS TEMPLE / GRAND OPERA HOUSE

To begin the tour, exit the parking lot on S. State Street and turn right (north) - Get in the second lane (not the right turn lane) as soon as possible

Continue through the traffic light at the intersection of S. State and E. Church Streets

The Elks Temple is located on the right side at 130 S. State Street – Parking is available on the street or in the lot just before the brick building on the right. Enter at the door on State Street

### STOP TWO – FRANK HUBER HOME

From the Elks Temple – Get in left lane on State Street as soon as possible

Turn left (west) on E. Center Street – Stay in left lane (one-way street)

Turn left (south) on S. Main Street – Stay in left lane (two-way street)

Turn left (east) on E. Church Street – Stay in left lane (one-way street)

Continue approximately 0.4 mile on E. Church Street to the Frank Huber home at 416 E. Church Street –

Turn left (north) on Greenwood Street and then left (west) into the parking lot behind the Huber home

### STOP THREE – HOLDING VAULT

From the Huber home parking lot, turn right (south) on Greenwood Street

At the junction of Greenwood and Mt. Vernon Avenue, turn left (east) on Mt. Vernon Ave.

Continue on Mt. Vernon Avenue (staying in right lane) approximately 0.5 mile to the junction of Vernon Heights Boulevard

Turn right (south) on Vernon Heights Boulevard and follow it approximately 1.0 mile to the south entrance drive of Marion Cemetery (Drive is located just beyond Brightwood Drive on the right side of Vernon Heights Boulevard)

Turn right into Marion Cemetery – Follow the driveway to the second road to the right and turn right –

Continue on to the second driveway to the left which goes directly in front of the Holding Vault – Park on the driveway in front of vault or adjacent driveways

### STOP FOUR – STENGEL-TRUE MUSEUM

From the Holding Vault, continue on the driveway to the west until it dead ends at another driveway parallel to Delaware Avenue

Turn right (north) and follow the driveway to the main cemetery entrance on Delaware Avenue

Exiting at the gates, turn right (north) on Delaware Avenue – Stay in the right lane

At the second traffic light, stay right on S. State Street

The Stengel-True Museum is located just beyond the light on the right side of the street at 504 S. State Street. Parking is available beside and behind the Museum

### STOP FIVE – OWENS OPERA HOUSE

From the Stengel-True Museum, turn right (north) on S. State Street – Get in the far left lane

At the intersection of S. State and Columbia Streets, turn left (west) on Columbia Street

At the intersection of Columbia and S. Prospect Streets, turn left (south) on S. Prospect Street

Continue on S. Prospect Street (which becomes SR 4) approximately 5.0 miles to the intersection of SR 4 and Owens Road

Turn left (east) on Owens Road and continue approximately 0.5 mile to the Owens Opera House which is on the left side of the road immediately before the railroad overpass

IMPORTANT: Parking directions for the Owens Opera House

Parking will be in various areas around and behind the Opera House – Enter the parking area which is located between the Opera House and the railroad overpass – Volunteers will direct you to park

## HALLMARKS

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

Phone: 740-387-4255  
Fax: 740-387-0117

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

I can't believe I have been employed by the Marion County Historical Society for over 9 years now! The time has just flown by!

As I contemplate my experiences since I have been at Heritage Hall, I realize just how much the volunteers, MCHS Board and members have come to mean to me. I came here a stranger to many of you and really feel as if I have found a home with this organization.

Thank you so much for your part in helping us preserve Marion County history for future generations and for making me feel so welcome as a part of the Marion County Historical Society.