

G.C.H.S.



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Greene County Ohio
Historical Society
74 West Church Street
Xenia OH 45385

Hours: 12 noon to 4 PM
Tuesday-Friday
12 to 3:30 PM Saturday
Closed Sunday & Monday

Contents, July-August 2024

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Current board structure:

Sheryl Baker, President
Sandy Chubner, Vice President
Ann Wolf, Secretary
Ann Halder, Treasurer
Nick Shank, Member-at-large
Andrew Brody, Carol Jenkins,
Jane Langan, Jim Langan,
Cindy Liming, Debbie Swigart,
and Ben Thompson, general
members.

On July 8, 2024, we will hear from Cindy Catanzaro about Sears catalog houses. On August 12, the Fairborn Area Historical Society will present a history of the only town in the US called Fairborn, and how that came about. Meetings start at 7 PM.

Robin Heise of the Greene County Records Center & Archives at June's meeting. Come get involved with the 250th birthday of our United States! 📅



We received a recent donation of cemetery photos and slides taken by the late Mary Lane, esteemed covered bridge researcher, in the 1970s and earlier. Fascinating! Of course I went to see if one stone in particular was still there... and it was! John Goudy died in 1807; Mary took a picture in 1962, and I took one in 2024.

Don't forget - you can donate to GCHS via your Kroger shopper's card. Use code FP 827 when you sign up, or choose Greene County Ohio Historical Society. You do not have to do anything after you sign up at www.kroger.com. It's Easy!

Musings from the Executive Director

Greene County has so much to do and to see. Great Council State Park is now open and doing business in Oldtown. Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers National Monument on US 42 just outside Xenia has reopened after extensive renovation. The National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center in Wilberforce is always announcing gallery shows and programs. This area houses the National Museum of the Air Force, and Huffman Prairie Flying Field. Of course our Historical Society isn't too shabby either: small, but mighty!

Our rummage sale was quite successful back in May; it didn't break the record, but came close. Save up your items for next year, and we will let you know when donations are accepted; please don't bring them now, though!

We are closed on Thursday July 4th; the office will not be open on the 5th either, but we *will* have a booth at Xenia's Red White and Blue Block Party downtown from 12-5 PM, after which is the Kevin Sonnyalb Memorial fireworks show at Shawnee Park. Welcome new members Wesley & Sherry Gassaway, of the John Allen House in Xenia, and Christine Ostlund of Yellow Springs.

Until next time, Catherine Wilson

Great Council State Park hours: Interpretive Center and Gift Shop are open Wednesday 9am to 5pm; Thursday 9am to 8pm, Friday and Saturday 9am to 5pm; Sunday 11am to 5pm. The center and gift shop are closed Monday and Tuesday. Trails and outdoor park grounds are open 6am to 11pm. Website: www.odnr.gov/greatcouncil

Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers National Monument hours: All week 9:30 AM to 4 PM, except major holidays. Website: www.nps.gov/chyo. Temporarily, the park is closed Mondays and Tuesdays.

President's Report

The Great Council State Park reception was wonderful. The project is very well done. I encourage everyone to visit our newest State Park in Oldtown.

The GCHS Rummage sale raised \$1876. Since it was such a success, we have scheduled the next one for 16 and 17 May 2025. We will announce donation collection days in the Spring.

Ghost Walk Tours - We are gearing up for the annual Ghost Walk tour. We would like to offer two different tours this year. Residents on N. Galloway and N. King Streets are encouraged to contact the office with stories they would like to share. How the tours work: GCHS handles all ticket sales. Tours start late September and end around Halloween, the schedule is provided to all tour hosts. You share your story with our guide, Mr. Nick Shank. Tourists are guided down the street and stop at the sidewalk in front of your house and Mr. Shank shares the story. You do not need to be home. Another option is for you to tell your story to the tourists. Some of our Ghost Walk hosts invite the tourists into their home; this is totally optional. Contact the GCHS office, 937-372-4606, if you are interested in sharing your stories.

We are also planning for the Christmas house tours. If you would like to open your home for the tours, or volunteer to assist a host, contact the office at the number above.

Trebein-Flynn House renovations have begun. Painting, window and wall paper repairs are underway. The house is closed for tours during this time; however, you can view the updated curb appeal in progress by our Grounds committee volunteers. We are looking for landscape ideas and additional volunteers for the Grounds committee. Contact Grounds committee Chair, Sandra Chubner, at sjchubner@gmail.com. Carriage house window and door painting will begin in the coming weeks.

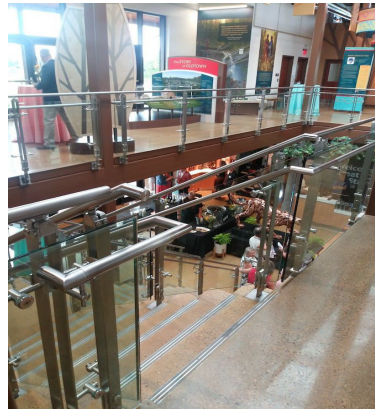
Regards, Sheryl Baker

Upcoming Programs at GCHS from Ben Thompson

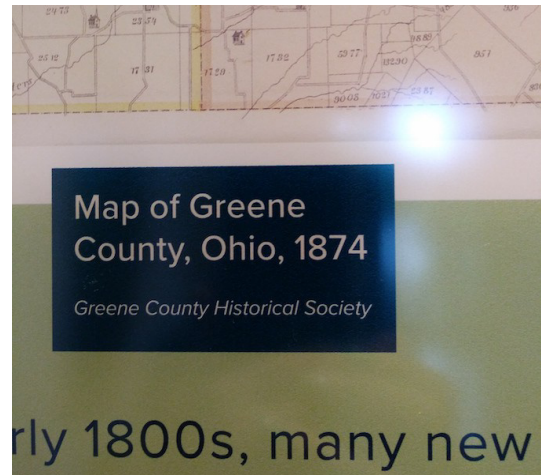
July 8, 2024: Our speaker will be Cindy Catanzaro. Cindy will tell us about Sears Kit Houses. These homes were built between 1908 and 1942. The house was ordered by mail; included with the kit was the lumber to build the house, the wiring, the heating and plumbing necessary to construct the building, and even a blueprint with the lumber numbered. Cindy became interested in this topic in 2006 when she discovered she lived in a Sears house. She also is a volunteer at the Westcott Center for Architecture & Design in Springfield, Ohio.

August 12, 2024: Our program for August is the story of Fairborn. Fairborn came about through the merger of the cities of Fairfield and Osborn, in 1950. Our presenter will be Jason Riffle from the Fairborn Area Historical Society. We welcome a fellow Greene County history buff.

Photos from Great Council State Park



Clockwise from top left:
outdoor sign at US 68;
looking into lobby from
2nd floor; GCHS is
represented on many
panels; Catherine, just
another visitor.



History of the Seneca (Quaker/Friends) Meeting near Jamestown by Debbie Swigart Part I

I grew up on a 72-acre farm one mile east of Jamestown. We attended the Quaker meeting, which is what the Society of Friends call a church. In 1976, in preparation for the U.S. Bicentennial, my dad and I went to Wilmington College and researched our meeting's local history and its beginnings. That's when we found out that we were living on the very land where it all started in the early 1800's.

The founders of our meeting, specifically the Johnsons and the Moormans, can be traced back to Ireland in 1690 and then to Campbell County in Virginia. There they attended the Seneca Preparative Meeting of the South River Monthly Meeting. They came to Ohio in 1807 and to Silvercreek Township (of which Jamestown is the seat) in 1809. They first held meetings for worship in the log cabin home of Thomas C. Moorman, Sr in 1812. They named this preparative meeting after the one they left in Virginia – Seneca.

In 1816, a log structure was built on the farm of Samuel Johnson, about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile southwest of Mr. Moorman's home. It was 20 feet square and was divided by a sliding plank divider to separate the men and women for business meetings. This was lowered during worship, but the men and women remained separate during services. At this time, there were 50 active members. Also, a cemetery was plotted off beside the meeting house. Historians referred to it by several names: Seneca Cemetery, Friends Graveyard and Moorman Graveyard. Also, a school was built on the hill near the meeting house. Zephaniah Leonard was the first teacher and then Thomas P. Moorman took over. The school text included New Testament Bible readings as well as a copy of each of the following: *Webster's Speller*, *The English Reader*, *Pike's Arithmetic* and *Murray's Grammar and Writing*. Class attendance numbered around 35.

In 1836, a frame building, measuring 35 x 45 feet, replaced the log cabin. Then in 1873, another meeting house was built at a new location on the J.C. Johnson farm on the corner of what is now Heifner Road and old U.S. 35 and located next to the Moorman property. The membership now totaled 100. The pastor was M.F. Moorman, who served the meeting until 1866. He was the second son of Charles T. and Matilda Moorman and a grandson to Thomas C. Moorman Sr.

(to be continued next issue)

GCHS Calendar

July-August 2024

Office hours all month: Tuesday-Friday noon to 4 PM; Saturday noon to 3:30 PM

Tuesday, 2 July: Executive committee meeting, 4:30 PM

Thu, 4 Jul: Museum closed

Fri, 5 Jul: Red White & Blue Block Party, 12-5, downtown Xenia; fireworks follow

Monday, 8 Jul: Sears catalog houses, 7 PM

Sunday, 21 Jul: Division 3 NMRA, 1-5 PM

Tuesday, 6 August: Executive committee meeting, 4:30 PM

Monday, 12 Aug: History of Fairborn merger, 7 PM

Sunday, 18 Aug: Division 3 NMRA, 1-5 PM

Railroad Display Committee is currently on hiatus.

Carriage House Quilters meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 6 PM.

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