

Lake County History Center News

February 2016—April 2016

Volume 57 Issue 1



History Begins with You!

First Female Mentor Councilwoman President makes HISTORY in 2016

Mentor City Council made history on January 5, 2016 electing Councilwoman **Janet A. Dowling** as president of Mentor City Council. She is the first woman president of City Council in its 53-year history. Dowling brings a lot to her new position as did some of the other Female Firsts of Lake County.

Addie Nye Norton bears the unique distinction of being the first woman in the State of Ohio to be elected to the important office of Probate Judge. In 1920, Judge Clark H. Nye decided to retire from the office he had long filled, and Mrs. Norton became his successor. It may be remembered that in the year of 1920, the elective franchise was given to women, but not until after the party primaries. A Painesville attorney had been nominated on the Republican ticket for Probate Judge. Then, before the November election, the nineteenth amendment became effective.

Long experience and familiarity with the duties of this office (she was the Deputy Clerk for 17 years) and Addie Nye Norton's proven efficiency made her an admirable candidate for the position. By petition she was placed in nomination on an Independent ticket. The candidacy of a woman for office was something unheard of, but so great was the popularity of Mrs. Norton, that when the vote was announced in November, she had carried all but two precincts in the County.

The election attracted attention all over Ohio, for Judge Norton was the first woman to hold this office in the State.

Dr. Amy Kaukonen became the First Woman Mayor in Ohio in 1921. The youngest female graduate of the Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania, Kaukonen was asked to run for mayor by prohibitionists who thought male mayors had failed to clean up Fairport Harbor. Kaukonen waged an honest campaign and won by 75 votes over her adversary William Stange. (Kaukonen 465, Stange 390.)

Heavily publicized by the Painesville Telegraph, stories made much of the prohibition issue, but much more of the woman candidate partially due to the 19th amendment passing in 1919. In Finland, land owning women voted in 1865, and all women voted in 1906. When Kaukonen ran for mayor the population of Fairport was 4211, half Finnish.

Eleanor Garfield, the widow of Rudolph Garfield who was President James A. Garfield's grandson, became Mentor's first woman mayor during the industrial expansion of the county. Lake County was the fastest growing county in Ohio at that time. Garfield had to keep pace with new industrial development, new housing development, the accompanying public utilities demands and safety concerns that came with that development. Garfield said in the Mentor Monitor after she became mayor, "Mentor Village is going through a difficult period in her history. She is changing radically and swiftly from a quiet country village to a fast growing suburban area."

According to a News Herald article entitled "Most Influential: Eleanor B. Garfield remembered as first lady of Mentor," written in 2012, Garfield's most notable achievement was "to successfully lobby then-governor C. William O'Neill to relocate the Lakeland Freeway (Route 2), to make more room for an industrial park planned along Tyler Boulevard between routes 306 and 615."

If you are interested in learning more about the Women of Lake County, make sure to attend our Women's History Luncheon. Many of the women listed above can also be seen in our new "Formations of an Election: Voting Lake County" exhibit at the Center.

CONTACT US

Lake County History Center

415 Riverside Dr.

Painesville Twp, OH 44077

440-639-2945

www.lakehistory.org

Board President: Josh Strickland
Executive Director: Elizabeth Connor
Collections Manager: Lynn Vandevort
Adult Education Director: Madison Carper
Youth Education Director: Tonya Basic
Bookkeeper: Becky Tuma

Annual Meeting

Join us on April 27, 2016 at 6:00pm in Heritage Hall at the History Center as we give you a look ahead towards the remainder of 2016 and our strategic plan through 2020. We will welcome in a special presenter, award our volunteers and board members of the year, and enjoy a dessert buffet. Reservations are requested at 440-639-2945.

Life of a Trapper

February 20th at 1pm at the Lake County History Center

The year was 1920 and a Willoughby man, named Lawrence Orr Linton, ran a trap line from Willoughby to Chardon. His legacy is etched into ancient beech trees, a gravesite and word of mouth stories. During this presentation you will find out the struggles he faced earning a living, and how the Ohio landscape has changed since his time.

The Lake County History Center and Lake Metroparks are happy to present this program to you as part of their ongoing partnership.

Volunteers Needed

The following opportunities are available at the Center for those interested in volunteering. Please contact the museum at 440-639-2945 if you would like to participate!

- Civil War Reenactment event volunteers May 27-29
- “Lake Historical” online researchers and data entry
- Scout Jamboree planning and event volunteers

#SecondSundays at the Center

Join Tonya and the Youth Education Department for a brand new series in 2016! Every second Sunday, come to the Center for a great educational program fit for the whole family.

New Exhibit at the Center

A special thanks to Tom Driscoll for all of his work around the History Center grounds, but we would like to especially thank him for the AMAZING replica of the James A. Garfield National Historic Site front porch that is now on display in our new Voting Lake County Exhibit Wing in the “Vote for James A. Garfield for President” exhibit. The replica porch is the perfect stage to make the point that Garfield’s campaign was known as the “Front Porch Campaign.” Tom also built the replica voting booth on display in the “Voting Lake County” exhibit across the hallway from the Garfield exhibit.

Tom was the Volunteer of the month in December 2015. He has completed a myriad of Buildings and Grounds projects such as demolition of the remnants of the county home kitchen, replacing many of the museum building doors, and the completion of the construction of the Householder’s General Store. Lately, Tom has been seen up in the attic working to prepare the attic’s south wing for collection storage.

Thank you, Tom!





http://vcencyclopedia.vassar.edu/alumni/adella%20prentiss%20hughes.html



Adella Prentiss Hughes:

Visionary and Founder of the Cleveland Orchestra

Adella, a Cleveland native, was passionate about music her whole life. Despite being one of the few women in the music industry during the late 1800s-early 1900s, Adella decided to continue to follow her dreams of becoming a professional musician. She graduated from Vassar in 1890 with a degree in music. From there, she moved back to Cleveland and began to work toward bringing all types of musicians to her hometown. By 1915, she founded the Musical Art Association. That association brought about the beginning of the Cleveland Orchestra in 1918. Today, the Cleveland Orchestra is considered to be part of the "Big Five" Orchestras in the United States.

Name _____ Group Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Number of Tickets ___ @ \$35.00 _____

Payment ___ Check enclosed (Make payable to Lake County Historical Society)

Charge to ___ Visa ___ MasterCard

Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Mail form and payment to: **Lake County Historical Society, 415 Riverside Drive, Painesville, OH 44077**

Reservations must be in by **March 8, 2016** Questions call LCHS **440-639-2945**

Cancellation Policy:
30 days prior: Full Refund
14 days prior: 50% Refund
After March 8th: No Refund

National Women's History Month Luncheon, "Women in Music"

March 22, 2016; Doors open at 10:30 am. Lunch is served at noon, program begins at 1pm.

Celebrate National Women's History Month by attending our luncheon! Annually held at Pine Ridge Country Club in Wickliffe, the luncheon features a delicious meal of Italian wedding soup, chicken Caesar wrap, and ice cream with a Chinese Raffle, 50/50, Trivia, and an afternoon full of music and storytelling. Tickets can be purchased online at www.lakehistory.org, at the History Center, or over the phone at 440-639-2945. Cost: \$35.

COLLECTIONS IS ONLINE!

What Did It Take To Get There?

Beginning in January of 2016, part of the LCHS collections is available online through our website. On the Homepage of our website - www.lakehistory.org - click on "Exhibits", then click on "Online Collections." You will be taken to a link to our collections.

Only Genealogy records, photos, and the Cumings and Downer engineering documents are available online at this time, but we are working hard to bring more to the internet in the next few months. Hopefully, our Library collection and our Newspaper collection along with some of our Archival collection will soon be available. Our Objects collection will remain offline with the exception of items that relate to the Genealogy collection.

What did it take to get our collections online? Firstly and foremost, it took very dedicated volunteers, and not just any volunteers, but those who had very meticulous natures and who understood their long-term work would benefit the History Center and researchers. Secondly, it took a good database software system especially created for use by museums. And finally, it took a good website to hold the online collections.

Vickie Robb, a long-time volunteer in Collections, who



Vickie Robb

is the primary person who does data entry into the computer, entered the data of most of the LCHS Museum Collections, and continues to do so. She learned the software system, and came up to speed in computer image scanning, and computer

data storage in order to fulfill her role. Her background in human resources record keeping gave her the understanding to set up and maintain the hard copy filing system that backs up our computer data. She had the unenviable job of reading the handwriting of all kinds of volunteers who wrote catalog sheets for various collection items, and she caught innumerable mistakes in the complicated identification and cataloging system used.

One of our most popular collections is our Photo collection. The LCHS holds almost 7,000 photograph prints, glass negatives, lantern slides, daguerreotypes, and tin types. It is a wonderful thing to be able to not only see a text record of our photos collection, but

also to see a digital image of each photo with the record. **Janet Kozsey** volunteers in many places, but we are glad she chose to volunteer at the History Center. For about four years, Janet scanned our small format photos and created a database record for each one. She sorted and filed each photo so that each one is easily retrievable from its physical storage location. Many, many people inquire about our Photo collection and ask for copies of those that are of particular interest to them. Our photos can now be viewed in our Online Collections.

Some of our photos were too large for our in-house scanners, but digital photography has advanced to the degree that cameras can be used to create digital images. **Bob Hange**, a retired photographer, has photographed our large format photos so that a digital image could be seen with the text record for each.



Bob Hange

Glass negatives, lantern slides, daguerreotypes, and tin types pose a special problem in creating digital images, but **Rick Gallup**, a photographer and artist who has a gallery in Kirtland, volunteered his time to digitize them. He had to create a special set up of lights, reflective surfaces, and cameras to get the images from the negative or from the silver reflective backgrounds or from the glass slides. These types of negatives or photographs are not made from dots or pixels, so even though they are old, the digital images made from them are amazingly detailed.

Genealogy research is the pastime of many. The LCHS holds over 3,000 files or boxes for various surnames in Lake County. Each folder or box may have contained as little as one newspaper article or as many as thousands of personal letters or documents. In some files



Marianne Wiley and Sue Ferron

and boxes original items needed to be catalogued and recorded along with the surname file and the other contents of the file. **Marianne Wiley and Sue Ferron**, both with a love of genealogy,



began the four year task of recording each surname file, but also cataloguing each original item in the file. So, for example, the surname file “Smith” might have some copies of newspaper articles, obituaries, some

family trees, and note cards, but the file might also have contained a wedding invitation and some mementos from that wedding. These mementos needed to be properly catalogued and their computer record needed to be related to the Smith file. In many cases, a digital image of the item was created, so now it is possible to see a picture of the wedding invitation along with the text record. Some items were too big for a file folder or archival box and they were wrapped and stored separately. For example, scrapbooks or journals or photo albums that related to the “Smith” family had to be noted in the computer record of the surname file so that researchers knew that they existed.

In 1991, the Lake County government donated two large engineering units and all of their contents to the LCHS. They contained the technical drawings and blueprints of the Cumings and Downer Engineering Firm. For almost 100 years the Cumings and Downer Firm served Lake County and many of the cities in the area as well as private citizens. The drawings in the engineering units contained invaluable infrastructure information that could have been lost if the documents were not preserved. There were two problems in preserving the information on the Cumings and Downer documents. The first problem was the size of the documents; most of the drawings were far larger than the scanners at the History Center. The second problem was how to catalog/record the information on the documents. Enter the Lake County Geographical Information Services. Not only did the GIS have large format scanners, but they had **Dave Phares**, a cartographer who could understand the information conveyed on the documents. Using the GIS scanners all 800 plus drawings and blueprints have been scanned and high resolution images are now entered into our database. Each record contains information that makes sense having been interpreted by Dave.

Coming soon to the Online Collections will be our Library collection and our Newspaper collection. Thanks to a grant from the Western Reserve Junior Service League, our library books were salvaged from poor temporary storage in the basement of the History Center.

They have all been cleaned, and they are now being placed on shelves in rooms of the new History Resource Wing on the second floor of the History Center. **Margaret Noga and Sue Doolittle** have painstakingly sorted, properly cataloged, and shelved the books. The last phase of the process is for Vickie Robb to enter the record of each book into our computer system, then we will upload the Library collection to the Online Collections.



Margaret Noga and Sue Doolittle

Ginnie Jeschelnic, a member of the Mentor School Board and a former librarian with the Willoughby Eastlake Libraries, came to the LCHS looking for Mentor schools artifacts. She became intrigued with what the LCHS held and volunteered to catalogue that part of the Archives. Later, Ginnie noticed the Newspaper collection and began sorting and cataloguing it. Soon the Newspaper collection will be completely cataloged and



Ginnie Jeschelnic

Vickie will enter the data. When the Library books are uploaded to the Online Collections, the Newspapers will be as well.

What is this database software that keeps getting mentioned? It is called PastPerfect Museum Software and it was purchased several years ago by the LCHS administration. It is a very extensive program with the capability of being uploaded to the internet. Of course, the information has to be gleaned by the volunteers and entered into the system before that can happen, but now that that massive chore has been done, the next step to going online is easy because of the software.

Finally, the Online Collections needed a website to call home. One of the exceptional accomplishments of this past year at the LCHS (among many) was the construction of a new website at www.lakehistory.org. It is a beautiful thing to behold, and it is being improved and expanded to bring history right into your home or to your smartphone.

Check It Out!

Not Pictured:
Janet Kozsey
Rick Gallup
Dave Phares

The “Darned Quilt” Barn Quilt

Welcome New Members !

Mrs. Elizabeth B. Schick
Ms. Linda Reed
Ms. Clara Nichols
Mr. Harlyn Stoltz
Mr. and Mrs. David Trela
Ms. Frances L. Meinke
Ms. Victoria V. Curtis
Ms. Aurora Martinez
Ms. Christine Tibaldi
Ms. Mary Ellen Abel
Mr. Scott Pirc
Mr. Bob Lundgren
Ms. Patricia Pryatel

A special thank you to all of our members who have renewed their memberships this year. There are too many names to list here, but we hope to see you at our upcoming events. Life & Platinum members are listed on a plaque in the lobby. Please visit soon!

Elevator Installed and Fully Operational

Please join us for the Grand Opening of our Elevator, a behind-the-scenes talk with our new 2016 exhibit, “Formation of an Election: Voting Lake County” and a look at what’s next in Phase II of our capital campaign. The ceremony is being held in Heritage Hall at the History Center on March 4th at 7pm. Reservations are required.

Please call 440-639-2945 to make your reservation today.

Are you Smarter than a 4th Grader?

As you’ve notice in our newsletter this quarter, we’ve been making a lot of improvements to our website. The improvements aren’t only in collections though, we are also adding to Youth Education! Check out our quizzes under “Education—Pre/Post Visit Materials” to test your pioneer and local government knowledge. Have a suggestion for another quiz? Share it with us!

www.lakehistory.org

All across the country there are Barn Quilts, and the LCHS now has their own thanks to the artistic skills of Evelyn Gibbs and Sheila Holzhuter.

Barn Quilts are part of the “American Quilt Trail Movement.” Barn quilts are painted quilt squares—usually fashioned on boards and then mounted on a barn or other building. While cloth quilts are usually made up of a series of squares of the same pattern placed together, a barn quilt is almost always a single square.

In many communities, an organizing group—an arts council, a quilt guild, a 4-H club, or simply a motivated bunch of residents—work together to organize their barn quilts into a trail. Some are guided walks in a downtown area that includes historical buildings. More often, quilt trails take visitors on a drive through the countryside where barn quilts are mounted on farm buildings, on homes, along fences, and sometimes on freestanding posts. A quilt trail may include stops at galleries, farm stands, wineries and other points of interest that make the journey a day-long event.

The American Quilt Trail is a collection of all of the hundreds of painted quilts—both those that are part of an organized trail and those that have been painted by individuals to decorate their property. There is no formal registry as such; the number of documented quilts has grown past three thousand.

The LCHS Barn Quilt is based on a “Peony” pattern quilt in the collection that dates to 1830’s to 1840’s. It is known as “That Darned Quilt” because of the intricate quilting and tiny stitches., and it won first prize at the Lake County Fair in 1930. It was made by the ancestors of Bertha Sturges Plummer and donated to the LCHS in 1990 by the National DAR, New CT Chapter.



In the Community...

AND ...at the History Center

We Made History

February 15, 2016 at 5pm

Head out to Yours Truly in Mentor to have “Dinner with the Presidents” with the entire family. President and Mrs. Abraham Lincoln, President and Mrs. James A. Garfield, and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt request the honor of your presence. No reservations necessary.

James A Garfield National Historic Site

Lunch and Lecture Series: Mollie Garfield in the White House— A Women’s History Month Program

Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at 12 pm at Skye Restaurant

In honor of March’s designation as Women’s History Month, learn more about Mollie Garfield, the only surviving daughter of President and Mrs. James A. Garfield. This program will be based in part on the diary 14-year-old Mollie kept during the summer of 1881, the only summer her family lived in the White House. Reservations required; please call Skye at 440-974-3572 to make reservations.

Misfortune on Cleveland’s Millionaires’ Row

March 7, 2016 at 6:30pm

Alan Dutka will talk about his new book, Misfortune on Cleveland’s Millionaires’ Row which covers the unsavory dealings, shameful behaviors, and terrible tragedies hidden behind extreme wealth. This program is free and open to the public at Mentor Public Library in the James R. Garfield Room. Register online or call the library at 440.255.8811, ext. 215 for more information.

Leaders and Legacies of the Civil War

March 9, 2016 at 12pm

In honor of Women’s History Month, this program will focus on Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross; and Dr. Mary E. Walker, the only female recipient of the Medal of Honor. This program is free and open to the public at Mentor Public Library in the James R. Garfield Room. Register online or call the library at 440.255.8811, ext. 215 for more information.

Eliot Ness: The Cleveland Years

March 22, 2016 at 7pm

Internationally recognized expert, Rebecca McFarland will present on the life and times of Eliot Ness. “He gave so much of himself to Cleveland without really asking anything in return,” McFarland says of Ness. To hear many more fascinating details of Ness’ time in Cleveland reserve your space at Eastlake Public Library - Eastlake Meeting Room. 440.942.7880

Life of a Trapper

February 20th at 1pm at the Lake County History Center

The year was 1920 and a Willoughby man, named Lawrence Orr Linton, ran a trap line from Willoughby to Chardon. His legacy is etched into ancient beech trees, a gravesite and word of mouth stories. During this presentation you will find out the struggles he faced earning a living, and how the Ohio landscape has changed since his time.

Women’s History Month Luncheon

March 22, 2016; Doors open at 10:30 am

Celebrate National Women’s History Month by attending our luncheon! Annually held at Pine Ridge Country Club in Wickliffe, the luncheon features a delicious meal of Italian wedding soup, chicken Caesar wrap, and ice cream with a Chinese Raffle, 50/50, Trivia, and an afternoon full of music and storytelling. Tickets can be purchased online, at the History Center, or over the phone. Cost: \$35.

Preserve a Tombstone Workshop

April 2, 2016 at 11am

Learn best practices on how preserve a tombstone. Techniques include shaving cream and a toothbrush! This workshop is held in Heritage Hall at the History Center.

Dine Around Series

April 13, 2016 at 6 pm

Want to learn more about mysteries that took place in Northeast Ohio? Join Jane Turzillo, author of books such as *Murder & Mayhem on Ohio’s Rails*, *Wicked Women of Northeast Ohio*, and *Unsolved Murders & Disappearances in Northeast Ohio*, for a night of interesting stories and conversation at the first Dine Around of the spring. The dinner will be held at Willoughby Brewing Company so attendees can munch on Bavarian pretzel bites, house salad, bruschetta chicken, baked vegetable ziti, roasted garlic mash, and honey braised carrots throughout the night. Cost: \$35 for members, \$40 for non-members.

Ladies Who Lunch

April 20, 2016 at 12 pm

Join Madison Carper at the Lake County History Center to talk about the Women Spies of Ohio. A lunch of grilled chicken strawberry goat cheese salad wraps, spinach mandarin salad, and dessert will be the perfect complement to an afternoon full of stories about brave women spies throughout the history of Ohio.

Visit our full Lake County History Center event calendar and purchase your tickets online at www.lakehistory.org.



415 Riverside Dr.
Painesville Township,
Ohio 44077

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 193
Painesville, OH
44077

Save the Date for Civil War Reenactment Weekend May 27-29th



Julia (Morley) Gillet was said to hide runaway slaves. She lost her son in the Civil War and entertained Frederick Douglas in her home. (LCHS archives)

Published by the Lake County Historical Society with contributions from staff and volunteers.

www.LakeHistory.org

Published through the generosity of

