

Lake County History Center News

October—December 2016

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History Begins with You!

A GREAT LAKE COUNTY TRADITION: HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

At the Lake County Historical Society, Home for the Holidays has become a Seasonal Tradition. Voted a History Center most popular event with glorious Christmas trees, lavish Victorian decor, wreaths, ribbons, bows, Father Christmas, and more. This year's event will be December 7, 8, 9, and 10, with Wednesday December 7 as Group Day. *See page 3, or visit our website for full details.*

Christmas wasn't always celebrated as much as it is today. In the early 1800's, most businesses did not consider it a holiday but today we would find that hard to imagine. Many historians attribute the rise in Christmas celebrations to Queen Victoria. Her German-born husband, Prince Albert, brought many of his Christmas traditions with him and it wasn't long before it was in-vogue to decorate with extravagant décor for the holiday season.



Early European settlers brought many traditions to the United States. Here's a quick look at some traditions around the country:

In Hawaii, Christmas starts with the coming of the Christmas Tree Ship, which is a ship bringing a great load of Christmas fare. Under the sunny skies, Santa Claus arrives by boat and Christmas dinner is eaten outdoors.

In Alaska, boys and girls with lanterns on poles carry a large figure of a star from door to door. They sing carols and are invited in for supper.

In Boston, carol singing festivities are famous. The singers are accompanied by hand bells.

In New Orleans, a huge ox is paraded around the streets decorated with holly and with ribbons tied to its horns.

In Arizona they follow the Mexican traditions called Las Posadas. Families play out the parts of Mary and Joseph searching for somewhere to stay. They form a procession and visit their friends' and neighbors' homes where they admire each family's Nativity crib.

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Home for the Holidays (Continued)

In the Mid-Atlantic States, doors are decorated with wreaths and garlands made of real fruit such as apples, pineapples, pomegranates and oranges studded with clove.

In Pennsylvania, the Moravians build a landscape, called a *putz* - under the Christmas tree.

In Colorado, an enormous star is placed on the mountain, it can be seen for many miles around, while in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, a star is lit in early December.

In Philadelphia, a procession called a **nummers parade** runs for a whole day with bands, dancers and people in fancy dress.

In parts of New Mexico, people place lighted candles in paper bags filled with sand on streets and rooftops to light the way for the Christ Child.

In California, Santa Claus sweeps in on a surf board.

What are your Christmas traditions?

**Do you want to contribute to the
Home for the Holidays
Food Emporium?**

Contact  **Bake**

VINCE **Donate**

WILSON **Package**

440-264-3520 **Cashier**

DECEMBER IS FULL OF CELEBRATIONS

Here are just some in date order:

Dec. 6, the feast of St. Nicholas. Some Christians revere the fourth-century bishop of Myra, a Greek province in Asia Minor. His reputation for piety may have inspired the legend of Santa Claus. The tradition of leaving gifts for children on St. Nicholas Day began in the Low Countries and spread to North America with Dutch immigrants.

Dec. 8, Bodhi Day. Buddhists recall that Siddhartha Gautama vowed to sit under a tree in what is now Bodhgaya, India, and not to rise until he was enlightened. The title Buddha means "awakened one."

Dec. 12, the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Observed by Catholics, especially those of Hispanic descent, the story of Guadalupe recounts a 16th-century apparition of Mary to Juan Diego, a poor Indian, on a hillside near what is now Mexico City.

Dec. 20, the Jewish festival of Hanukkah begins at sunset on this date and continues for seven more nights. It is a remembrance of an effort to restore the Temple in Jerusalem after a period of desecration. Faithful Jews found only enough oil to light the temple lamp for one day, but the flame burned for eight.

Dec. 21, Yalda, the Zoroastrian celebration of the winter solstice.

Dec. 22, Yule or winter solstice, the shortest day in the Northern Hemisphere. Juul, a pre-Christian festival observed in Scandinavia, featured fires lit to symbolize the heat, light and life-giving properties of the returning sun. Wiccans and other pagan groups celebrate Yule.

Dec. 26, This is the starting date for Kwanzaa, a weeklong, modern African-American and pan-African celebration of family, community and culture.

Home for the Holidays



Lake County History Center's Christmas Extravaganza

December 7, 8, 9, & 10

Lavish Holiday Decorations—trees, wreaths, ribbons, garlands
and much more, 5000 sq. ft. of holiday decorating ideas

FABULOUS HOME MADE FOOD GIFTS * CRAFTERS * LUNCH

GROUP DAY December 7, 2016, 11:00am to 3:00pm

(Minimum of 8 to 15 guests paid in each group—\$15.00 per person)

Lunch served 11:00, 11:45, 12:30.

Tour, Lunch, Music Box show, Food Emporium, shopping

Reservations & pre-payment required!

GENERAL PUBLIC December 8, 9, and 10th

11:00 am to 4:30 pm

\$3.00 per person at the door

Tour the museum to see the decorations and hear the music boxes

Shop the craft tables



MISTLETOE MARKET IS BACK!

**BARGAIN PRICES ON
GENTLY USED CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS AND GIFT ITEMS**

Lake County History Center, 415 Riverside Drive, Painesville Township, Ohio
440-639-2945 www.Lakehistorycenter.org

Elections, Justice, Taxes and Lake County Pioneers

Many early pioneers in Lake County had fought in the Revolutionary War. They probably valued the hard-won right to vote more than any other American generation that followed. But how do you vote in the wilds of Ohio at the beginning of the 19th century? How do you carry out justice? How do you collect taxes?

The LCHS holds originals or exact copies of tax records, petitions for road improvements or incorporation of municipalities, and council minutes, etc. From these records we can “paint” a picture of who was here, and how due process and elections were carried out in pioneer days.

Early Voting. General Simon Perkins was designated by the Connecticut Land Company, on February 23, 1797, to command a party of men to open an access route for prospective land purchasers and settlers here that would extend from Pennsylvania to Cleveland. It was on this primitive trail, which became known as Girdled Road, that General Perkins constructed his workmen’s camp site or “Perkins Camp.” Later this camp was sold to Richard Gifford.

In October 1802, Gifford’s residence was used to hold the first election of the “northern district of Trumbull County” as Lake and Geauga Counties were part of Trumbull County at the time. Voters from Conneaut, Mesopotamia, Burton, Middlefield, Cleveland and Painesville to elect a delegate for the Territorial Legislature and two delegates to the Constitutional Convention. Samuel Huntington, who later became the third governor of Ohio, was elected to the Constitutional Convention along with David Abbott who was probably the second Willoughby settler. It would be their responsibility to assist in drawing up the Constitution of the State of Ohio.

By the late 1790’s a community had been established at what was known as Marsh Settlement in Mentor Township. These settlers included Charles Parker, Jared Ward and Moses Parks.

They were joined by Ebenezer Merry and Jesse Phelps.

Three commissioners for Trumbull County were to be elected on April 2, 1804 at Marsh Settlement. It is stated on the original poll book that the election was held at the home of Ebenezer Merry. David Abbott, Ebenezer Merry and Anson Session were the Judges for the election and Edward Paine, Jr. and Abram Tappan were the Clerks sworn into office by Justice of the Peace, Jesse Phelps. Thirty-four people are listed as having cast votes at that election.

Another poll book of an election in 1806 at Merry’s indicates they were choosing a Justice of the Peace whose duties in those early days were varied. Judges of the election again included David Abbott, Abraham Skinner and Eli Bond. Samuel Fobes was elected to that office with sixty votes cast.

1806 was the same year that Geauga County was formed which at the time contained what is now Lake County.

Others who settled in Marsh Settlement included Joseph and Benjamin Sawyer, William and Moses Kerr, Warren Corning, Ralph Bacon, Daniel and James Olds, and Benjamin Blish. These names appear on the Hopkins Road petition of Mentor in which a “public road from Ridge Road (now route 20) North past Joseph Sawyers proposed mill site, and to terminate at Marsh Settlement.” January 4, 1815, Joseph Rider, Jonathan Root and Assistant Judge Orris Clapp were the committee which reported a Mentor “highway” would be built.

Elections continued to be held in Ebenezer Merry’s home in Mentor Township until 1810 when Chagrin (now Willoughby) withdrew from the organization of Painesville township by the establishment and organization of Cuyahoga County in March of 1810.



In the election of October 8, 1811, in Painesville Township, a Sheriff, County Commissioners and a Representative to the State Legislature were selected. Samuel Huntington and Peter Hitchcock were opposing each

other for the office of Representative. By this time, Lake County still was part of Geauga County. The voting results for this election were for Representative—Samuel Huntington, 38 votes; Peter Hitchcock, 8 votes. For Sheriff—Elisha Norton, 33 votes, Samuel Hopson, 12 Votes.

Early Justice. The first settlement of the Painesville area was New Market which was located at the junction of what is now Skinner Avenue, and North State Street on the East bank of the Grand River. Revolutionary soldiers, Captain Abraham Skinner and Colonel Eleazer Paine (nephew of General Edward Paine) purchased Tract 4 of Painesville Township and drew up the plan of New Market. In 1806, after the Trumbull County was split and the northern part became Geauga County, the seat of Justice and government for this County was New Market. Court sessions were held in Skinner's barn from March through May of 1806. On occasions, the jury deliberated their cases in the woods.

Later, Skinner built a jail, and court was held in that log structure. Bounties were offered for wolf and panther scalps there, and at least one man was lashed as justifiable punishment for breaking the law. New Market never flourished as a commercial center. Rather "Oak Openings" later Champion, and still later Painesville, was the hub of life in the area. New Market eventually declined.

Early Taxes. Tax records show us who lived here at the time of the taxation. If there is someone listed on the 1803 tax list, but then that person does not appear on the 1804 list, it can be assumed that he either moved, died or otherwise disposed of his taxable properties. If he was not taxed in 1803, but was in 1804, then it can be judged that he just acquired taxable property or that he moved into the Painesville township area. It is interesting to note that names on these early tax lists are families that lived in Mentor, Concord, Kirtland, Willoughby, and Painesville townships.

Taxes were assessed "agreeable to a law of this state passed at Cincinnati in the year 1799 together with subsequent amendments thereto... property of the township of Painesville, subject to be taxed for raising 'County Levies.' " Mills, the only industry in early pioneer days, were taxed forty cents, each head of cattle were taxed twelve and one half cents, and each horse was taxed thirty cents.



Thank you to Jack and Annette Vendi, Chuck and Linda Nagy, Dottie Dunlap, Vince Wilson, Lois Harrington, Marian Redmond, Jeanne Benson, Evelyn Gibbs, Tom Driscoll (not pictured), Bob Lundgren (not pictured), and Jack Gorka (not pictured) for the fabulous job on restoring the LCHS front porch.

Welcome New Members !

Deborah Locke
Phyllis Stewart
Carol Usay
John Cole Family
Steve Kealoker Family

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!

Results of Voting Lake County Ballot

The South Wing of the museum is dedicated to exhibits about elections history from the Lake County level to the federal level. One of the exhibits, "Voting Lake County," features a ballot that can be completed and placed in a ballot box by visitors. How did people from today vote on Issues from the past?

Yes	No	Issue on Ballot
34%	66%	18th Amendment "Prohibition"
96%	4%	19th Amendment "Women's Vote"
0%	100%	1850 Fugitive Slave Act
27%	73%	Defense of Marriage Act 1996
34%	66%	Ohio Definition of Marriage Amd
44%	56%	Ohio Marijuana Legalization
96%	4%	1840 Lake Co. Split from Geauga
80%	20%	Funding for Willoughby Viaduct
96%	4%	Funding for Lake County Home
87%	13%	Incorporation of Wickliffe
42%	58%	Permit for dumpster diving In Eastlake
64%	36%	Ordinance requiring owners Restrain their cats in Wickliffe
56%	44%	Perry Mayor's Court for misdemeanors.

A Tribute to Dave Kranz By Kathie Purmal

A pioneer in the evolution of the Lake County Historical Society, David Kranz, passed away this past August 20. Dave loved history became a member of the Board of Directors in 2005.

The History Center was located at Shadybrook in Kirtland Hills at the time. Although a beautiful site, the museum building had become too small to



hold the society's extensive library and collection. There was also a real concern of inadequate fire protection. The historic Lake County Home came up for sale and while it was discussed, the Board resisted seriously considering the purchase. Dave Kranz and Sean Blake, also on the Board, became the primary and enthusiastic leaders for the purchase. They attended months of meetings with interested parties, and eventually turned the Board to a positive vote and the site was purchased in 2007.

Dave should also be remembered because he didn't stop with the purchase. He led a group of volunteers who worked for months preparing the site for the Society's move. It was heavy and dirty work. Once the Society moved in January of 2008, Dave continued to serve the Society as a volunteer, speaker, Festival coordinator and community cheerleader for local history. It is committed community members like Dave Kranz that has led to the 76 successful years for LCHS.

The Society's condolences go to his wife of 49 years, Geri (Brehm) who also served LCHS as a volunteer and his children David, Marc and Jill.

In Memoriam
Dale W. Craig
By Karen Sawitke

On August 26, 2016, the Lake County History Center lost a friend and former staff member; Dale Craig.

Dale, former Director of the Mentor Public Library, began working with the History Center at Shadybrook in Kirtland Hills as the Library Resource Manager in 2005. Instrumental in creating new policies for the use of the library and its many valuable resources, Dale worked with many volunteers transcribing diaries, cataloging manuscript files, and creating new inventories and organizational policies. Open to new ideas and plans, Dale had an easy way of working with people with his encouragement and kindness.

When the History Center moved to the former Lake County Home, Painesville Township in 2007, the hardest part of his job began; the moving of an entire library and all of the archival materials that the Center maintains for the research of Lake County history.

Dale and his volunteers were busy packing and labeling boxes for a number of weeks and then unpacking and organizing in the new library rooms.

Dale took an active part in the development of the book published by the History Center in 2014, His research provided new insight into the Lake County story.

Throughout his tenure at the History Center, Dale was always available to answer questions, research requests and aid anyone in a better understanding of the history of Lake County. More than a colleague, he was a friend to all with whom he worked.



In the Community..

AND

...at the History Center

October 12, 2016 at 6pm

Get spooked at Rider's Inn in Painesville while you enjoy your dinner. Hear from Cathi Weber, co-author of *Haunted Willoughby*, talk about "Tales from the Eerie Shores," which may include the ghost that lives in Rider's Inn...join us if you dare!

Cost: \$35 members/\$40 non-members

Wine & Canvas

October 20, 2016 at 6:30pm

Join the Lake County History Center and Stella's Arts for our final Wine & Canvas event of the year. Paint a canvas featuring the Grand River and all of the beautiful fall colors that paint Lake County for a few months out of the year. All supplies, including instruction, are included in cost.

Cost: \$40

November 9, 2016 at 6pm

Explore the Wine Cave at Grand River Cellars in Madison while you learn about the history of wineries in Lake County, presented by a wine expert from Grand River Cellars. You can enjoy a wine tasting and a variety of appetizers that pair with each wine you try. Join us for this unique opportunity to go behind the scenes in Ohio's wine country!

Cost: \$35 members/\$40 non-members

November 4, 2016 at 9:00 pm

Para X

Come explore the place from a paranormal investigative perspective and find out for yourself just what might be haunting the former Poor House!

- Doors will open at **8:15pm**. The investigation will begin by 9pm and conclude by 1am.
- Bring a camera, flashlight, and any equipment you may wish to use.
- Tickets to attend this unique event is **\$40** - with all proceeds benefiting the Lake County Historical Society.
- Tickets are limited for this very exclusive event to the first 40 sold.
- Purchase your event ticket online through the Lake County Historical Society - Eventbrite!

To see our full events page and to register online,
visit lakehistory.org



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Save the Date for our Para X November 4th!



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