



T W I N S B U R G HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 7, Twinsburg, OH 44087-1720

Phone: 330-487-5565

February may be the shortest month but we are hosting two events. Wednesday February 20 at 7:00, Marine Archaeologist Chris Kraska will be presenting a program on his latest underwater endeavors. The highlights will be the recently discovered Lake Erie shipwreck tentatively identified as the "Lake Serpent". Chris is a fascinating speaker and his tales are first hand. The ship left Put In Bay, Ohio in October of 1829 and was never seen again. Kraska will also talk about his involvement in the search for downed WWII B-24 and Halifax bombers off the coast of Italy. He will be joined by Burt K. Williams, a veteran of WWII who flew with the 389th Bomb Group out of the UK from August 1944 through the war's end. This will be an exciting evening as Kraska and Williams tell of their adventures and answer questions. Kraska has been a teacher in the Cleveland School District for nearly 20 years and is currently at Charles W. Eliot. His degrees are in history, education, and archaeology. He is a member of the Explorers Club, the Ohio Archaeological Council, and the Society for Historical Archaeology. He is also a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and served as chairman of the Ohio Maritime Archaeological Survey Team (MAST) from 2012-2018. He continues to look into maritime mysteries in other parts of the world. He and his wife Laurie have a home in Twinsburg and a boat which is currently in Fort Pierce, Florida.

We are celebrating Black History Month at the regular February 24 Open House. Trustee Constance Longmire organized the event with Pastor Dave Zerby from the Congregational Church. The day will begin at 2:00 at the museum. With special exhibits highlighting Black History in Twinsburg. Keith Harris, RBC grad will be the featured speaker at 3:00. Harris is President of both Regal Consulting Group, LLC and FutureGen Comics, LLC. Regal Consulting Group. Both are located in Twinsburg. There will be music and videos and local residence will be on hand to tell stories of growing up on the hill. "Voices from the Hill" Carla Carter Bishop's award winning video will be on view first 50 visitors will receive a Martin Luther King Calendar. The TwinMasks theatre has generously donated their space on the square for additional entertainment following the Open House. There will be an Interfaith Unity Service at the Congregational Church to round out the evening. Come for part or all of the day.

March 2019

Mark Your Calendars:

February 20, 7PM, **Special Program**, Underwater Discoveries and Adventures by Chris Kraska

February 24, 2PM-5PM, Open House

March 6, 7PM, Trustee Meeting

March 31, 2PM-5PM, Open House, Program on Recycling by Ken Riley

April 3, 7PM, Trustee Meeting

April 28, 2PM-5PM, Open House

May 1, 7PM, Trustee Meeting

May 26, 2PM-5PM, Open House

June 5, 7PM, Trustee Meeting

June 30, 2PM-5PM, Open House

July 3, 7PM, Trustee Meeting

July 28, 2PM-5PM, Open House

August 2, Noon, Special Twins Open House at the Museum

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Your trustees have been busy organizing our collaboration with Kent State Stark Campus and the Twinsburg City Schools. We are trying to broaden our reach and involve more young folks in our work. We are also working with the Twinsburg Library digitizing most of our collection and digging for archival treasure to enhance our exhibits.

The papers are signed and that lovely house next to the Congregational Church is now in our care. It was built by Moses Roach one of the first blacksmiths in our town. History tells us the town blacksmith did a lot more than shoe horses. The chamber of Commerce will stay on as our tenant. This project is part of our charge to preserve all that we can. We are excited about the challenge and we will need a lot of help. We are planning a Spaghetti dinner on May 11. That is the day before Mothers Day and the afternoon of the Garden Club Plant Sale. It should be a luscious and lovely way to celebrate mom and support our work on the Roach House.

The work on the Riley House is going forward and we will need help or that too. Keep checking Facebook and the web page. If you have questions the best way to reach us is to email:
president@twinsburghistoricalsociety.org

Trustee of the Month – Roy Meier (Membership)

I was born in New York City & after graduating from East Islip High School I joined the Navy under their then current program called Kiddy Cruise. Which meant that if you join before your 18th. birthday, you get out the day before you turn 21. After two years of intense technical training I was assigned to an Anti-Submarine Squadron based out of Norfolk Virginia where I served on 3 different carriers & was part of the recovery operation for the Mercury 4 Capsule with astronaut Gus Grisson. Due to the then Berlin Crisis, I was extended an extra 6 months & was part of the first US Naval military force to visit Hamburg Germany since WWII. So much for the Kiddy Cruise Program!

After leaving the Navy I attended Night College for 7 years while juggling a career, marriage & raising two terrific kids, Corrine & Roy Jr. I moved to my current adopted city (Twinsburg) in 1980. Over the intervening years I worked for several major companies in the banking, medical device & legal industries. Since living in Twinsburg I have been on three City Commissions: Planning, Comprehensive Plan Review & Charter Review. I also ran unsuccessfully for City Council. (Twinsburg's loss)

I remarried in 1975 & along with my wife Leanne, have lived for the past 38 years right near the center of the "Square". We were blessed with our son, Justin who prefers Seattle to Twinsburg. (Go Figure).

I am an avid bicyclist so if you see a funny yellow 3 wheel Trike with big flags: that is me. Remember to obey Ohio's 3-Foot Law & give me some space.

Now retired since 2007 & after experiencing The Tales Of Locust Grove, I was so taken with what our Historical Society does to promote our city's heritage, I joined & for the past 2+ years have been involved with heading the Membership Committee. During that time just in the past 12 months our membership has grown by 62 members. No kudos to me personally because I have had the help of many dedicated members who value what The Twinsburg Historical Society is all about.

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1955 – The Twinsburg Police Department is formed. Glenn Osborn was the first Police Chief and worked from home with his wife Ruth who was the dispatcher. He was also Twinsburg's first street commissioner. In 1961 the Police Department moved from Chief Osborn's home into the Town Hall.



Chief Osborn left



Chief Osborn front row 3rd. from left

November, Chrysler Corporation announces plans to construct an \$85 million dollar stamping plant in Twinsburg and not Macedonia.

1956 – In January, Chrysler breaks ground on 1.5 million square foot stamping plant. Mrs. Mary Richner and Mrs. Steve Spolarich posted a "Welcome Chrysler Corporation" sign on Roseberry's Department Store on the Square. In January, Ohio Governor Frank Lauschee, Akron Beacon Journal President John S. Knight, local Ohio mayors, Chrysler officials and a 1,000 citizens gathered for the groundbreaking ceremony. A rubber coated stainless steel shovel was used to symbolize linking the stamping plant with rubber in Akron. Twinsburg declared a "Chrysler Day." Townspeople parked Chrysler cars on all four sides of Twinsburg's square. Businesses closed and school was dismissed early.



Construction was delayed several times due to union squabbles. July 1956, Bethlehem and Republic Steel workers strike after 2,000 tons of the needed 26,000 tons of structural steel are erected, causing shortages and delays. August, Pennsylvania Railroad files an injunction to halt eleven hundred workers from the Building Trades Council who walked off the job over construction of the 3 mile railroad spur to the stamping plant. The Building Trade Council believed their members should build the railroad spur and not the Pennsylvania Railroad. In October, the Federal Court orders 275 carpenters to return to work from their two week jurisdictional walkout over structural iron workers installing curb angles. East Ohio Gas installs a gas line to feed Chrysler's operations. It also gives residents natural gas service for the first time.

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