



T W I N S B U R G HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

Phone: 330-487-5565

Get out your bi-centennial calendar, there are a lot of dates to mark. April may not be the “cruellest month” but it is definitely a busy one for the Historical Society. As you know the trustees and the volunteers have been very busy with a spruce up, fix up initiative. The museum is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9:00 to 12:00 and there are always people there working away.

One of the ways we are planning on financing these projects is our first annual Barn Sale on April 29th. We need you to make this a success. First, please donate your salable items. We are accepting donations on Mondays Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:00 to 12:00, or you may call to make special arrangements. As you spring clean we would be so grateful if you could put aside items for the sale. We cannot accept clothes or shoes, but anything else would be welcome. We are clearing out too so you may find something interesting to buy. Tell your friends too. We will be posting on the Facebook page. Start your tax donations now.

The Annual Meeting will be on Saturday, April 22. This will be our regular pot-luck, so bring a dish to share your own table service. We gather at the First Congregational Church UCC of Twinsburg at 5:00 for food and conversation. After the business meeting Andy Tomko will make a presentation on some of our new technology at the museum. Andy and Jon have been working hard cataloging and digitizing our collection. With the help of other volunteers they have been digging out many hidden treasure making it all more accessible. Come with ideas and questions. Prepare to be amazed at all the work they have done.

We had a good turnout for both of our last programs. There was standing room only for “More Tales from the Hill”. Constance Peek Longmire, led the conversation with Randy Addison, Madelon Curtis, John Curry, Keith Harris, Tania Lardell Johnson using questions from Jalil Bishop. The copies of Carla Carter’s video sold out but we will have more by the Barn sale.

The people who braved the cold were rewarded with a fascinating presentation by Chris Kaska about underwater archeological exploration in the Great Lakes. Chris will be back soon with more adventures to share.

We just keep getting better and better. All of this activity would not be possible without our members, If your membership has lapsed now is the time to renew. Consider a Perpetual Membership. You will never regret it.

April 2017

Mark Your Calendars:

April 22, 5PM, Annual Meeting and Pot Luck, First Congregational Church of Twinsburg

April 29, 9AM-12PM, Barn Sale

April 30, 2-5PM, Open House, Museum and Riley House, VFW Open House 2-5PM

May 13, Garden Club Plant Sale

May 28, 2-5PM, Open House, VFW Open House 2-5PM

June 17, Taste of Twinsburg

June 25, 2-5PM, Open House, VFW Open House 2-5PM

July 22 Founders Day

July 30, 2-5PM. Open House, VFW Open House 2-5PM

August 4, Special Open House for Twins Days

August 5 & 6, Twins Day

August 26 Fund Raiser

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Big things continue to happen at the Museum!

In early March, five adults from the Historical Society and four senior volunteers from Revere High School cleaned out the attic, removing items that had been stored for decades. This was all in preparation for having the old vermiculite and other debris vacuumed from the attic, finally putting an end to what has been sifting through the ceiling cracks for the past three years. The vacuuming will be done on March 24th, and then on March 27th new insulation will be put in. A big expense, but something that needed to be done.

Solon Historical Society

On Tuesday March 21 starting at 7:00 pm We will host Skunk Haven Skunks are unusual, funny, amazing, friendly animals that they have a bad reputation. Join the volunteers from Skunk Haven, for a wonderful presentation to learn about wild and pet skunks. We promise it won't be a "stinker". Live skunks will visit. Please visit www.skunkhaven.net for a list of donations needed to keep this rescue shelter operating. Free and open to the public. Located at the Solon Historical Society 33975 Bainbridge Rd Solon, OH 44139. Call 440-248-3586 with questions.

But back to what was in the attic.....

There were old chairs, boards, shingles, papers, and an occasional treasure, such as the electric sign, pictured below. Signs such as these were popular in dance halls many years ago.....we are wondering where this sign might have been in Twinsburg. We know dances were held at the Grange Hall (now our Museum) in the 1920's. Was the sign there? Does anyone have any other ideas? We would be happy to hear from you!



Using Ancestry in Your Genealogy Research Akron Public Library

Saturday, May 6, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

With almost 9,000 databases and billions of images, Ancestry is the premier online genealogy resource--and it's available to you for free within any ASCPL location. This class will introduce you to the many features of Ancestry Library Edition and show you how to do efficient and effective searches. As we will be using electronic resources, basic computer skills are recommended. This class meets in Computer Lab 2, First Floor, Main Library. Registration required.

These FREE classes require registration. For more information and to register, contact the Special Collections Division, 330.643.9030 or speccollections@akronlibrary.org. Visit our Web site at <http://sc.akronlibrary.org/>

Geauga County Historical Society

The Geauga County Historical Society will host its annual Pancake Breakfasts in March and April 2017. Featuring all-you-can-eat-pancakes served with pure maple syrup produced from the Society's own sugar bush and sugarhouse using traditional collection and production methods. Choose one or more Sundays to visit Century Village Museum in beautiful Burton, Ohio. Pancake Breakfasts on March 5, 12, 19 and 26, and April 2. Serving from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Available before or after Sunday morning worship. Menu includes all-you-can-eat pancakes with the Society's own maple syrup, scrambled eggs, sausage, apple sauce, and a beverage. Cost is \$8 for adults, \$5 for children ages 5 to 12 years old, and free to children 4 and under. Served in the Lennah Bond Activities Center on the grounds of Century Village Museum, southeast corner of Burton Square. GPS, 14653 East Park Street, Burton, Ohio 44021. For more information or group reservations, call 440-834-1492.

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“Union Agricultural Society Fair Grounds”

1859 - Horse sheds were constructed at the Congregational Church.

1860 – Fanny Bissell, wife of Rev. Samuel Bissell dies of pulmonary disease. After the death of his wife Rev. Bissell feels the financial strain of declining attendance and debt and closes the Institute and liquidates all properties to pay off all debts. Between 1828 and 1860 the Twinsburg Institute instructed over 6,000 students, 300 of which were Indians of the Seneca, Ottawa, Pottawatomie and Ojibway tribes. In 1860 at the age of 70 Rev. Bissell starts construction of a two story 33 x 77 stone building for the new “Bissell Institute” (aka Bissell Academy). Rev. Bissell started construction with \$300 from the liquidation of the Twinsburg Institute, a \$1,500 loan, and donations from old students and friends. He completes the building doing much of the labor himself. Some sources claim the final cost was \$8,000. In 1888 a neighbor filed a lawsuit on fear that the massive 2 story stone structure would fall and crush his house. At the age of 91 Rev. Bissell won the suit but thirty years later around 1920 the top 5 courses of stone were removed and the building was converted to a single story.



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STAFF

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