

MUSEUM MUSES

“WHAT IS IT?” The Trials and Tribulations of Catalogers John Glaze

Cead Mille Failte! Invite your friends to the Brunch!

The process of cataloging 50 years' worth of the HCHS collection continues and not without challenges. I have previously reported on the frustrations of locating back-up information on items, missing or unreadable item numbers, etc. Now it's time to fill you in on some of our successes!

Just as in life when an “Urban Legend” takes over, something that begins as a mistake, whether honest or not, becomes truth and is accepted as such. Our first case for your consideration is the strange tale of the coffee/tea service on a beautiful silver tray which became known and displayed as having belonged to the Charles

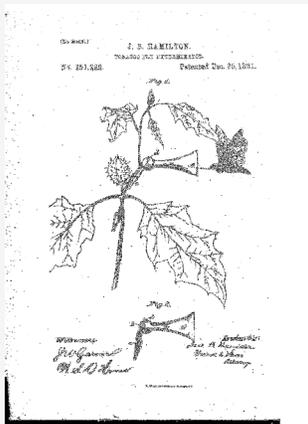
Singleton Bell Family. You have undoubtedly seen it proudly displayed with other C. S. Bell items in Pioneer Hall. When our cataloging finally worked its way to that area and we found identification numbers on the silver, we discovered that, not only did it not have any connection with the Bell Family, it wasn't even the same pattern and didn't even come from the same donor.

Sometimes you can't definitively solve a question. The item in the next column has been living in the Pioneer Hall display case. Hopefully you can see that it is tied onto a stick, which makes it look very much like a pipe. The item has a patent date on the glass of

Dec. 20, 1881. I was able to find a congressional record of patents approved on this date. The only drawing I found



which was similar to our item was the TOBACCO FLY EXTERMINATOR. Are



these two items the same thing? We don't know for certain, however, evidence is mounting.



Next we consider the above item. In reverse we read 014. The accession sheet identified this and two similar items as “punches”. However, a punch is a tool for making holes in materials such as leather or paper. This item would more properly be termed a MARKING DEVICE, used to imprint the numbers onto another material, such as leather or thin metal.

How are some of these differences in terminology discovered? Within the PAST PERFECT system there is a Lexicon which is used to assign categories and sub-categories of classification to each item. This process alone can take a significant amount of time. There are two methods of assigning these categories. The easier of the two is the alphabetical list of common items, were we might find and item such as “plate, butter.” (continued on page 2)

ROONEY TUNES

As you may be aware, Pamela Nickell decided to not serve again on the HCHS Board of Trustees following the 2015 year and the Board at the December meeting elected a “new comer” to the position of chair for 2016.

Pamela has been a driving force behind the Society since the reorganization and has been instrumental in the resurgence in the new look and new energy of the Society. Her fifty weekly articles in the Highland County Press covering different items in the Highland House in 2015 and her continuing articles covering Hall of Fame Members in 2016 constantly present our Society

to the public in a positive light.

Trying to follow Pamela is such a daunting task that I will not begin to try. As I told the Board in December, if I have half the vision, wisdom, patience and tact as Pamela has shown, you can hope for a Board Chair that will assist in moving the Society forward. The reality is that the HCHS continues to be a vibrant and relevant part of our community because of a group of involved and talented volunteers, generous donors and members, a great working Board and Officers and the individual efforts of key folks like Vicki Knauff, John (continued on page 3)

2016 BD of TRUSTEES

Avery Applegate
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 John Kellis
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 Arlene Huffman-Past President
 Secretary: Paulette Donley

DIRECTOR: VICKI KNAUFF
 Newsletter Editor: John Glaze



Mrs. Christmas,
 doing her
 Christmas thing!



WHAT IS IT? (continued from page 1)



The above item looks like a strange upside-down funnel, except there is no hole in the end, but rather a slot on one side with a blade attached. The accession sheet called it a “dowel sharpener”. Nothing in the Lexicon listed anything that seemed even remotely close to a dowel sharpener. Further hunting and “Googling” led to the answer: this is a spoke pointer. It is used when crafting the spindles of a chair, or a banister.

As mentioned already, we depend on Google and especially Google Images to help us. Other sources certainly include Jean Wallis as well as common sense. The late Eric Sloane, the well-known painter and lover of all things used in the early days of the United States, wrote and illustrated books of those tools used in farming. He has come though for us several times!

This item was simply called a hammer used by masons. Further research revealed the proper name of a knapping hammer. It is used to shape stones. Note that there are two heads.



Next we had an items described as being for lifting the plates of a wood cook stove. Here is where the common sense took over. One look at the item led to the belief that the item was not built for the task of lifting the heavy plates (or “burners”) of a wood cook stove. We suspected that it was a can opener and started our research to find corroborating evidence.



Note that the item is only about six inches long and (although not showing in this photo) has a cutout area in the handle making it less robust to be used for heavy

duty work.

What do you think of when you hear the term, “wheelwright”? The dictionary tells us that a wheelwright is a person whose trade is the building and repairing of wheels. Our next item was called a wheelwright. Research revealed



that this tool, a TRAVELER, was used by a wheelwright when building a wheel. This one is made of metal. We also have one made of wood!

The final item I wish to share with you really had us stumped for a while. The accession sheet listed it simply as a dog lying. At first glance I thought perhaps it was a door knocker. There were no holes for screws to be used to install it. I had a feeling it involved cigars and, indeed, a search found a similar item listed as a cigar press. There was only one example however and that left me with an uncomfortable feeling that we were barking up the wrong tree. I happened to stumble on a reference to a cork press and began to travel down that avenue. Not (continued on page 3)

WHAT IS IT? (continued from page 2)

only did I find similar items, I found this exact same item referred to as “The Famous Sleeping Dog Cork Press” for the apothecary. It is not only very heavy for commercial use by the pharmacist, but it’s also interesting!

We have an iron used by Karl Doebele, one-time mayor of Hillsboro as well as owner of a tailor shop behind the court house. Well, to say this is an iron is akin to saying the largest aircraft carrier is a boat. This is a very large item and is heated by charcoal burning inside it. It even has a chimney (see photo on page 5 where story continues) for venting the burning charcoal and also give it oxygen.



ROONEY TUNES (continued from page 1)

Glaze and Arlene Huffman. Besides, Pamela has said she will continue to be involved in the Society and I have her number on speed dial.

As for me, the short story is that I grew up in Hillsboro graduating from HHS and Ohio University and left Highland County for thirty-five years and returned after retirement. I have always had a fascination with history, but what amazed me upon my return to Highland County

was the depth of interest in local history. Outstanding local authors, artists and historians continually preserve the wildly varied elements of Highland County’s history. Our volunteers are seeking to preserve and educate all the residents about the moments of our history.

The Society has very aggressive goals for 2016. Besides the expected: increasing membership, donations and visitors, the Board is seeking

MUSEUM SHOP NEWS

Grand news for the Museum Shop in 2015. Our SQUARE sales system tells us that our best day of the week was Friday. Our best month was November. Our record day was Saturday, November 7 when we took in \$1626.80. Because, for the most part, we sell locally produced crafts and antiques on consignment, and after backing out credit cards used to pay for group tours, capital campaign donations and memberships, our net income for the year was just under \$4000!

We paid out to craftspeople and consigners over \$8000! That is money right to local crafters—friends of yours (or maybe you!) We sold crafts, antiques and books for 54 folks.

Now, how did YOU benefit? You may be amazed to learn that we discounted our merchandise for HCHS Mem-

bers. How much? Over \$691.00!

What is coming in 2016? Changing technology, for one thing. We have received the new credit card chip reader. It just arrived the day I am writing this, so it hasn’t even been hooked up yet. There is a square chip reading device which sits on the counter. Those who have the new credit cards with a chip attached will be able to use the higher security device. Traditional cards, while they are still in use, will be honored as always.

With this new technology will come a couple training sessions for our Shop Workers! Check elsewhere for training dates.

If you are interested in joining our sales staff, please contact the office and volunteer! We will train you!

John Glaze

to broaden the scope of the Society by conducting coordinated activities with other historical societies, educational and community organizations. Including younger members is critical to the future of the Society and a goal we will pursue. The maintenance and renovation of our facilities (including the new “Carriage House”) will be pursued within financial ability.

I am honored to serve as Chairman of Board of Trustees for 2016 and look forward to meeting all the Soci-

ety’s members particularly the ones I have not seen in thirty-five years.

Jim Rooney



List HCHS as your charity of choice!

GENEROUS DONATION RECEIVED

HCHS has received a very generous donation from the RIFE FAMILY and the INGRAM-WHITE CASTLE FOUNDATION. This is a family who saw Highland County Historical Society, liked what they saw and shared generously. THANK YOU to the Ingram-White Castle Foundation and the Rife Family!

YOU HAVE OPTIONS!

With the Past Perfect Software, we can now mark your account so that instead of mailing your newsletter to you, we can email it or we can just send an email that the newsletter is now available for viewing on our website! If you would like to help save some money for HCHS, please let us know if you would like to "take an option!"

ADVERTISERS/SPONSORS SOUGHT

Again, to help save money, we are seeking businesses who might like to sponsor or advertise in the newsletter. Contact Vicki at Highland House at 393-3392 or email hchistoricalsoociety@gmail.com if you would like your business to participate! Thank-you!

Underground Railroad

Highland County, Ohio
presentation and round table discussion

February 16th 7:00pm	55 Main St, Lynchburg
February 25th 7:00pm	Highland House, Hillsboro
February 28th 2:00pm	Konneker Museum 245 South St, Greenfield

Sponsored by
The Greenfield Historical Society
The Lynchburg Historical Society
The Highland County Historical Society

WHAT DID HCHS GET FOR CHRISTMAS? AN INTERN!

Meet MEREDITH KEISTER! She is a senior at Miami University with a major in Theater and a minor in Fashion Studies. Her education is preparing her to design historically and socially accurate costumes, scenery, wigs and makeup for the stage. Combined with her fashion studies minor, she also has education in understanding how art movements and politics in society affects people's lives, specifically their dress.

This past summer Meredith served an internship at Cincinnati History Museum in Union Terminal. There she worked on costume interpretation. Her specific duties ranged from repairing garments used in display to assembling a 1940s wardrobe for actors partaking in Union Terminal's 40s/WW2 weekend.

With a long break between semesters, Meredith was able to volunteer at Highland House, working with our clothing collection to determine styles and dates of usage. You have read how daunting the task of cataloging our "main line" collection has been. Our clothing collection is no different. Meredith patiently works with one piece of clothing at a time, studying it for features such as the presence of a bustle, hem length, general cut of the piece, the list goes on and on.

After graduation, Meredith hopes to further her education in design by pursuing graduate studies at University of Cincinnati. Thanks for your help, Meredith!



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EVERYONE'S IRISH on March 13th

Highland County Historical Society is celebrating the 50th year of Highland House Museum. To kick off the 50th year celebration, we will be holding our first event, the St. Patrick's Day Brunch, on Sunday, March 13. The brunch will start at 11:30am with serving until 1:30pm. The menu consists of potatoes O'Brien, veggie quiche, sausage gravy and biscuits, scrambled eggs, sausage, fruit, pastries and drinks.

Reservations can be made by calling 937-393-3392 by Monday, March 7. Please leave your name, phone number and number of reservations.

An added highlight, at 12 noon, will be the auction of a framed art print by Walt Harris, a northwest native artist. The



print, "Love is Beautiful", is numbered and signed by the artist. Lowell Chaney will serve as our auctioneer. Jean Fawley, museum volunteer coordinator, has donated the print.

Donations will be accepted for the brunch with proceeds to pay utility bills and routine maintenance of Highland

House and Scott House.

The community is invited to support the society while enjoying a delicious brunch and checking out the wonderful Museum Shop!

An Irish Blessing, "May your day be touched by a bit of Irish luck, and warmed by the smiles of people you love. For each petal on the shamrock this brings a wish your way, good health, good luck, and happiness for today and every day."



BARN OF HIGHLAND COUNTY

Highland House Museum is proud to be hosting an art show featuring the "Barns of Highland County" curated by board member Avery Applegate. Our rural farming heritage is something to be honored and preserved. Works of art in a multitude of mediums will be on display throughout the museum depicting specific barns within our county. Mark your calendars for the kickoff on Friday, June 24th from 7:00-9:00 PM. Donations for the museum will be accepted at the door. Light refreshments and a cash bar will be provided. A brochure will be available in order for you to take a self guided driving tour past all the actual barns depicted. The show will be in place from its grand opening throughout the month of July including the museum's extended days during the festival of the bells. Drop by to see these icons of our heritage as depicted through the eyes of area artists.

(Above painting: "Epiphany" by J. E. Smith. From the collection of Avery Applegate)

"WHAT IS IT?" *(continued)*

So, it turns out that this is a Merchant Marine, Box, Chimney Sad Iron with fitted slug and venting valves. It was patented on Sept. 7, 1854 by F. G. Adams. The "sad" in sad iron (or sadiron) is an old word for solid, and suggests something bigger and heavier than a flat iron. The large size and weight (nearly 20 pounds!) allowed the user to handle the thick hemp sails on most sailing vessels of the 1800s era. Of special nautical interest is the fish head shaped chimney.

So, these are just a few of the stories from the CATALOGING CAVES OF HIGHLAND HOUSE. If you would like to help in the cataloging process, there are plenty of jobs to do. Measuring, describing, identifying, researching, inputting—even cleaning the items. Contact Vicki at Highland House to get on the volunteer list! You'll learn a lot about our collection....and have fun!



HCHS rang in the New Year (literally) when Justin Harsha rang the C. S. Bell in front of Highland House.

(from left) Bob Hodson, Bob Nickell, Dorothy Hodson, Pamela Nickell



WHERE IS HISTORY?

Where is history? It can be found in every nook and cranny of our own Highland County Historical Society! There are exhibits and displays that cater to every aspect of history, especially our Highland County roots.

HCHS is a place to take part in this local experience. Come and visit! There are numerous places and projects in which you can volunteer. Do you want a small task or large? If you can spare some free time, we would like you to spend it with us. Volunteering is something that is so rewarding in many ways. The experience of giving to our community is great. Are you new to the area, like to make new friends, be a part of something good?

The best thing about volunteering at HCHS is helping to leave a lasting legacy for this county and surrounding areas. History is in our blood. Let us keep it alive going forward.

Call: Vicki Knauff 393-3392

Or: Jean Fawley 393-3081

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

It's going to be a challenge to top last year's events but we are going to give it a try! Last year was HCHS's 50th Anniversary, a Capital Campaign was launched, the ever-popular St. Patty's Day Brunch, Ghost Walk, and Log Cabin Cookout were held along with outstanding exhibits and presentations, Pamela's articles in the newspaper, the Christmas Shop and last but certainly not least – the construction of the south wall of the Highland House. We were closed from mid-May until mid-September and still had 1948 visitors to the Highland House and events.

Plans are developing for an even more exciting 2016. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the society owning the Highland House. When the wall project was completed, we also gained a beautiful backyard to hold events. Several activities are being planned for the

A CALL FOR ARTISTS!

Highland House Museum will be hosting an art display "Barns of Highland County". The show will be on display from June 24th through the end of July. All mediums of art are welcome. We will be accepting drawings, paintings, photography, woodworking, fabric arts, ceramics, assemblages, etc.. You must be able to give the specific address of the barn(s) you are submitting. All entries must be received by June 6th. They may be sent as digital images or as photos. The show will be put into place the week of June 19th with the opening on Friday, June 24th. Works must be ready to hang or display complete with framing, wires, or what ever device it takes to show your work in its best light. If you are an artist or artisan who has created artwork featuring a particular Highland County barn or barns and would like to submit entries to this juried show, please contact Avery Applegate at 393-4345 for more information and an entry form.

Festival of Bells to take place around the Log Cabin. We're giving special recognition this year to the agriculture community and the importance of farming in Highland County. Farms, farm families and the agriculture industry have made a tremendous contribution to the history of this county and continue to do so. Committees are meeting every week to put the finishing touches on projects and start plans for others.

More than a thousand objects have been cataloged in the Past Perfect software. The process is long and tedious to enter just one item; about 10 steps depending on the documentation of the object. When I think of cataloging 4000 items, the task seems a little overwhelming. If you can help, please call me at 393-3392. You don't have to learn the steps in entering the items in the software to help. There are many tasks which can be performed in preparation for entering into the software.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

A special thank you to the donors who gave these items to the HCHS collection.

Silver punch bowl ladle – Avery Applegate (from Margaret Van Frank sale)

Safe from Gross Feibel – HCHS purchased from Paul Levo Estate sale

Handcuffs used by Walter Reffitt – Sheriff Donnie Barreras

8x10 photo of West Main, Hillsboro – Linda Butler

Color photos of Ohio Bicentennial & McClain H. S. – George Foltz

Hillsboro High School Yearbooks – 1948, 49, 64, 65, 69, 73, 74, 75 – Jane Hill

CD of scrapbook of news articles from 1907-41 – Christopher Duckworth

Cloth doll – Connie Sheeley Cummings

Framed Meyers Hybrid seed corn bag – John Glaze

Family Bible belonging to Harriett Lavina Ayres – Patsy Miller & Sheri Boyd

Newspaper from Casper Collins Commemoration – July 23, 2015 – John & Kay Rittenhouse

Mason jar and photo of Hillsboro Auto Company – Roger Levo

Detwiler painting – Margaret Van Frank

Children's Second Reader – Paul Levo Estate

Set of photos of construction projects at Fort Hill State Park; 2 8x10 photos of Collins family and home; binder of news articles and miscellaneous belonging to Edwin B. Ayres – Jean Wallis

American the Beautiful poster and 1948 Hillsboro High School Yearbook – John and Kathy Levo

Young Ulysses (book), Loss of the Sultana (book), photo album of Highland County (developed by SOGS), framed Knights of Pythias certificate to Charles E. Winkle – Jerry Pruitt estate

Display case – Tim & Deb Koehl

Watch the papers and follow our website to learn about events taking place at the Highland House. There's always something going on at 151 East Main Street – the Highland House!

Vicki Knauff



Get a friend and VOLUNTEER for the same day each month! Go out for lunch, then spend a few hours together at Highland House!



MEET YOUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS!



CAROLYN HASTINGS

Carolyn Hastings is originally from New Haven Indiana and graduated from Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, IN. She and her husband, Don Hastings, a retired vocational agriculture teacher, have lived in or outside of Lynchburg for over 45 years. Carolyn has worked for many years with Southern State's GED program on all campuses except the new one. She enjoys walking, reading, sewing and making cards for members of the military. She is a member of the Lynchburg Historical Society. She and Don have five children and ten grandchildren. She finds living in Highland County has given their family the very strongest roots and inner peace that accompanies life in scenic rural America.

DIANE JOLITZ

Diane Jolitz is a graduate of the University of Cincinnati with a Masters from Xavier University. After teaching Drama, Journalism, English and Creative Writing at the Cincinnati School for Creative and Performing Arts, she instructed teachers at the University of Cincinnati.

After marrying Dr. Brian Jolitz, the couple lived in Chicago for 6 years. While there she taught and worked as his office manager. They moved to Hillsboro in 1986 and raised three children: Brad, a marketing strategist, Whitney, a physician and Ob-Gyn resident, and Brooke, a commercial interior designer. Diane taught gifted students K-12 in Hillsboro City Schools and supervised student teachers at Xavier University until she retired.

Diane is active in her church and is a founding member of ALTRUSA of Highland County, which supports literacy projects in Highland County. They purchased the family farm in 2012 and have been busy renovating and doing yard work. She feels fortunate to be able to live in Hillsboro and is interested in helping with its preservation while supporting its sustained growth.



NANCY WISECUP



Nancy was born and raised in Washington Court House, Ohio. She graduated from Ohio University and moved to Hillsboro to work at the Department of Jobs and Family Services. Later she worked for Southern State Community College. In 1977 she married Byron Wisecup, a lifelong resident of Highland County and retiree after 35 years with the Hillsboro school system. Between them, they have three children, a daughter and two sons, all grown. They have 7 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren, all dispersed throughout the country. Since retirement, Nancy and Byron have enjoyed traveling and spending time with family.

"Since elementary school my passion has been history – U.S. history, ancient history, world history. In college I crammed as many history courses in as possible and, now, I always have one or two books I'm reading on some historical event or person. We never pass up a presidential museum or library when traveling. It has been my pleasure to work and live in Hillsboro."



(left) Retired Teachers decorating

(below) meeting with Susan Banyas



HIGHLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Read about our
**SPRING
OPENING** as well
as other special
events, such as
**THE ST.
PATTY'S DAY
BRUNCH!**



Save the Date!

The Historical Society is sponsoring a Bob Evans Community Fundraiser on Friday, February 26 at 609 Harry Sauner Road in Hillsboro. Bob Evans will donate 15% of sales to the Historical Society when the Historical Society flyer is presented. The restaurant is open from 7:00 A.M. – 9:30 P.M. Carry-out orders also apply.

Take your family and enjoy a fun evening of great food and fellowship while helping the Historical Society. The flyer is included in this newsletter or can be downloaded from our website at www.hchistoricalociety.weebly.com.

Proceeds will be used for programs and events at the Historical Society.

Thank you for your support!



**TRAINING SESSIONS FOR
THE MUSEUM SHOP AT
HIGHLAND HOUSE**

**IF YOU ARE A CURRENT SALES PERSON
FOR THE MUSEUM SHOP, OR YOU**

**ARE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A SALES PERSON, OR WOULD LIKE MORE
INFORMATION BEFORE DECIDING, YOU SHOULD ATTEND ONE OF THESE
TWO TRAINING SESSIONS:**

WED, 27 APR 1800HR (6PM)

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**WE WILL CONCENTRATE ON TRAINING FOR THE NEW VERSION OF
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