

Historical Society celebrates 50th year of Highland House Museum

Jean Gall Wallis

This is the 26th article in a series from the Highland County Historical Society featuring members of the Highland County Historical Society Hall of Fame and recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Highland House Museum.

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Jean Gall Wallis

Jean Wallis is one of Highland County's most prolific historians whose articles and other publications have increased knowledge and interest in Highland County history and genealogy. If there is anything you want to know about Highland County history, Jean has the answer.

A 1951 graduate of Sinking Spring High School, Jean's interest in history won her early statewide recognition in high school. Her mother piqued her interest in her family history, and the rest has been, well, history.

In 1963, she married Lester Wallis, and for 37 years she worked for the telephone company.

In the early 1980s, Jean published her weekly column "Highland Guidepost." The articles told stories of Highland County's early settlers. She has also been published in Highland County Magazine, Ohio Southland magazine and Around Ohio magazine.

Jean was an early member of the Highland County Historical Society and served as museum assistant director and as board secretary, vice president and president. She has also been a driving force in the Southern Ohio Genealogical Society for many years.

She is chairman of First Families of Highland County. She is a member of Hillsboro Women's Club. Jean is a past regent of the Waw-wil-a-way chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, is a member of the Highland County Women's Hall of Fame and was Hillsboro Citizen of the Month for September 1996.

During the county bicentennial, she led the publishing of the beautiful "A Pictorial History of Highland County, Ohio."

Jean Wallis is a true champion for the preservation of Highland County history.

