

MUSEUM MUSES

OHIO SCENES AND CITIZENS

W. C. T. U. and Historic Buildings Characterize Hillsboro

By Grace Goulder

What a joy it was to come upon the old Roman classic Courthouse in Hillsboro, seat of Highland County! Swirling around it are the traffic of the Chillicothe-Cincinnati road, Route 50, and the travelers from Columbus to the Ohio River over Route 62. Route 73, leading through Wilmington to Dayton, as well as other state highways, passes by it. But the white building stands as serene as always behind its trees.

Massive pillars lead to a graceful belfry, whose bells, silent now, used to

announce court's opening. The roof sprouts a dozen chimneys, outlets of the fireplaces that once heated each room. Court sits on the second floor under a domed ceiling with a hand-turned archway forming a background for the judge's bench. Spectators occupy ancient pewlike seats. This gem among Ohio public buildings has been much written about, and was recently the subject of a verse by a local poet, Miss Bess Harris of S. High Street.

Highland County folk are conscious of their historic background. You

soon sense this proud concern with the past. Although some of Hillsboro's fine buildings have been sacrificed for chain grocery stores and gasoline stations, the broad sloping streets and rolling countryside have countless houses built long ago by zealous disciples of the classics. The many Virginians among the first settlers had come under the spell of Thomas Jefferson's architectural philosophy, as the houses they left testify.

These houses have story-book histories. Many are lived in today by descendants of their builders, such as what is

probably Hillsboro's most famous house, "Mother Thompson's" on Trimble Street, a delightful yellow brick, low slung colonial, Eliza Jane Thomson, known the world around as founder of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, was the daughter of Ohio's two-time governor, Allen Trimble, whose Virginia father owned much land in today's Highland and Fayette Counties. Mrs. Thompson, mother of eight children, led 70 prominent hoop-skirted Hillsboro women in a "crusade" on Christmas Eve, 1873, before the town's saloons where they prayed and sang hymns, demanding abolition of liquor selling.

It was an amazing thing for these "gently reared ladies" to undertake, but theirs was a religious dedication. So successful were they that Hillsboro saloonkeepers capitulated, and within a month the reform had spread to 25 Ohio towns, putting more than 100 saloons out of business. Now a grandson, George Thompson, and his family live in the house. Their grandchildren, in turn, also have lived there, making six generations of the same family to be housed in it—surely a *(continued on page 2)*

CAN YOU HELP US LOCATE DETWILER ARTWORK?

If you, or someone you know, owns artwork by Emma, Francis, Margaret or Irene Detwiler of Hillsboro, we would be interested in hearing from you! The society is hoping to enlarge and enhance a two week display in honor of these artistic women. The artwork may include watercolors, oils or even works painted on china.

To kick off the Detwiler show, the Esoteric Club, which hosted a Detwiler display in 1955, will be hosting once again. They will offer a wine and cheese "gallery opening" in the meeting room of Highland House on Saturday, June 28th at 7:00 p.m., in celebration of the club's 100th anniversary. The event will be open to the public with donations to Highland County

Historical Society encouraged by club members. The show will remain at Highland House for two weeks, through July 13th, which will allow it to be viewed during the Festival of the Bells. The borrowed artwork will be returned to its owners during the week of July 14th.

We hope to find many members and friends willing to share their pieces to make a grand show! If you are able to assist us by loaning Detwiler created artwork or information on the Detwilers or their work, please contact Avery Applegate at 393-4345 at your earliest convenience.

Thank-you!

Avery Applegate





BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The following are your Board of Trustees:

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Avery Applegate

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Mike McCarty- President
Arlene Huffman-Vice President

DIRECTOR: VICKI KNAUFF



COMING EVENTS

- MAY 15—Board Meeting-7pm
- MAY 17— HIGHLAND HOUSE opens for summer
- JUNE 7—70th Anniversary of D-Day Program at the Vet's Memorial site, court house square.
- JUNE 28 Detwiler Art Show opens (see article on page 1)
- SEPT 25—GHOST WALK—6pm Hillsboro Cemetery. Ghosts: Col. Wm. Collins, Hugh Fullerton, Daniel Scott, A Trimble, Sally McDowell, West Family.
- 4th Qtr: CHRISTMAS HOUSE TOUR

Ohio Scenes and Citizens (continued from page 1)

record for an Ohio house. The furniture consists largely of the identical fine old pieces with which the house first was equipped.

Hillsboro keeps alive the memory of Mother Thompson and her "crusaders." The present head of the local W. C. T. U., Miss Mary Cowman, a sprightly little lady who lives alone on Walnut Street, knew Eliza Jane Thompson and feels she is carrying on her work.

One of these women who sang and prayed "among the lowly" was Mrs. John A. Smith. I called on her granddaughter, Mrs. Dan Morgan, whose large brick house on N. High Street, in hung with family portraits of people who helped make Hillsboro.

Every person I met, every house I saw, it seemed to me, had a story. Miss Violet Morgan, W. Main Street, and no relation to the other Morgans, agrees with me. So much so, in fact, she has written a book about Hillsboro and Highland County. She calls it "Folklore of Highland County." It was published six months ago and already the

first edition is about exhausted. I had heard of Miss Morgan before I came to Hillsboro. I found her at Samantha, a tiny village a few miles to the south, where she is principal of a large old school that seemed that day to be fairly bursting with children of all ages. Though in addition to heading this school she also teaches sixth, seventh and eighth grade. Miss Morgan managed to escape a few minutes from her pupils and we went down into the basement cafeteria for a talk. It would take another book to tell about Miss Morgan, one-time reporter on the Hillsboro News-Herald, whose editor is the distinguished Granville Barrere, also descendant of a "founding family."

All her life Miss Morgan has roamed through Highland County, on foot, on horseback and in a car. The hill country around Fort Hill, 17 miles southeast of Hillsboro, is her special province. In this section that spills over into Pike and Adams County, the Mound Builders lived, and the state now owns 1,000

acres. Around here are the "hill people," described by Miss Morgan as descendants of Indians who had intermarried with white settlers, and in a few instances with Negroes. Stories of these primitive people whom Miss Morgan knows and loves are in her book as are the record of important events and places throughout the county.

For those planning summer tours through Ohio, and from my mail I know there are many, a stop in Hillsboro is a must. I stayed at a most comfortable "travelers' rest," and found good food in several restaurants. Cooks are skilled down here, many of them colored whose antecedents were Virginia slaves. I want to write about some other Hillsboro people and places next time.

This article, called to the Editor's attention by Susie Waggoner, was provided and permission for its reprinting given courtesy of The Plain Dealer of Cleveland, Ohio. It first appeared 25 May 1947. This is the first of three articles. Next quarter: More Highland County Stories.



Your local Kroger store is part of Kroger Community Rewards. What does this mean? The Kroger organization donates to local charities wherever Kroger stores are located. For HCHS to get a share of these "Community Rewards", we must be registered as a qualifying non-profit organization and then HCHS Members who wish to put their support toward HCHS, must link their Kroger Plus Card with Highland County Historical Society. Please note that doing this does not change your Kroger

Rewards points in any way—you still earn and redeem the same points as you always have.

We may be registered by the time you receive this newsletter. You can check our website or call Highland House at any time to ascertain the current status of our registration. If you need help in registering your Plus Card, you can contact Kroger, or leave a message at Highland House and someone will contact you.

A NICKELL'S WORTH

Spring, sweet Spring! May we appreciate every moment!

If a picture speaks a thousand words, then the photographs by John Glaze of our museum and log cabin speak volumes with their beauty and historical perspective. Please enjoy them on Facebook and on our web page. Just looking at them will make you want to be part of the Society's looking back *and* forward and, all the while, making history.

And to be a part? Join us: visit, contact us, add a member (at our very economical rate), volunteer, share ideas. Remember, the Highland County Historical Society is presently *all volunteers*. There is currently no paid staff member. Volunteering is our lifeblood as we have, no doubt, said before. The Board of Trustees is most

definitely a working board as evidenced by all our events and happenings.

I would just like to say that if you haven't been called on, don't wait, step right up and we'll hand you a dust cloth, or a rake, or a sound system/copier/door jamb needing repair. Maybe a wall separating from the floor needs to be looked at? Or perhaps you are a collector and would like to share part of your collection in a temporary exhibit? Hosting on weekend afternoons appeal to you? Sorting and filing? Organizing? Enough word words! Let these pictures speak volumes (apologies that they are not John Glaze quality).

Pamela Nickell

Our Newsletter Schedule

If you would like to contribute an article, family, church or organization story of historical interest to the newsletter readers, here is the newsletter publishing schedule:

MARCH ISSUE (Mar-Apr-May)

Copy deadline: 01 Feb

Mailing target: 15 Feb

JUNE ISSUE (Jun-Jul-Aug)

Copy deadline: 01 May

Mailing target: 15 May

SEPTEMBER ISSUE (Sep-Oct-Nov)

Copy deadline: 01 Aug

Mailing target: 15 Aug

DECEMBER ISSUE (Dec-Jan-Feb)

Copy deadline: 01 Nov

Mailing target: 15 Nov

There is no guarantee that your story or article will be used. Articles must be of general interest and without an "axe" to grind. Photographs can be submitted in any common file format, or on paper to be scanned.

Many wonderful events are being planned for HCHS members. On this page, you can read about our annual St. Patty's Day Brunch—always a great time with wonderful food!

In July, at the Festival of the Bells, there will be a one day special event with artisans and patriotic music.

September 13th we will be having our LOG CAGIN COOKOUT featuring a bean and chili dinner and blue grass music.

Remember that our important Annual Membership Meeting of HCHS will be in October.

November 29th will be our Christmas Open House and Gift Shop Opening.

CHILDREN'S EVENTS

The first part of December we will hold our Children's Tea.

YOUR HELP NEEDED!

Our Children's Committee is involved in helping to promote child education and involvement in the historical society in the hope of building our future.

The Events Committee is involved in planning events to promote the history of Highland County and involvement in the historical society to build awareness and future membership.

Are you interested in either of these committees? Call Shelly Stratton at 937-402-1899 or Lana Daniels at 937-393-6912.

THANK-YOU!

Photos!

(Clockwise from left top)

1. Jean Fawley and Sue Boatman (assisted by Noah Moore) greeting guests
2. Lee Bishop repairing the sound system
3. Margaret VanFrank, David and Lois Williams enjoying St. Patty's Brunch hosted by Lana Daniels
4. Roger Huffman washing windows



ANTIQUES ROADSHOW ANYONE?



Avery and Leigh Keno, appraiser for Antiques Roadshow, working together on the estate of a relative of Avery's cousin Kathy Willman Cline in 2011.

Are you a fan of PBS's Antiques Roadshow? It is so much fun to watch someone who picked up a little side table at a yard sale for \$25 find out that it is worth \$200,00-\$300,00...later to be sold at auction for a whopping \$490,000 (<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/roadshow/>

[archive/199708A13.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/roadshow/archive/199708A13.html)) Oh happy day....if that could only happen to me!

Then again, there are the disappointing times when someone's big bucks treasure is found to be a fake (<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/roadshow/archive/201004T08.html>).

Heaven forbid...I wouldn't want that to be me!

I have managed to make it to six Antiques Roadshow productions so far, and I plan to keep applying for tickets and lugging my precious items all over the country in hopes that one day I will find I do have a treasure! Tickets are applied for through a lottery system on the Antiques Roadshow web site at www.pbs.org around March and April. There is always a listing of upcoming cities for the summer filming. You choose a city, fill out the form, and enter...only one entry per email address with 2 tickets being awarded to the 3000 ticket lottery winners per city. Each attendee may bring 2 items to be appraised. My friends and family are used to having me enter their names. I do the work...and if I get a ticket on their entry, they get to go with me! Fellow teacher and friend, Vicky Beltz and I went to Savannah in 2004 and Memphis in 2005. Long time friend, Bronwyn Jones and I attended the Roadshow in

Louisville in 2007 and Chattanooga in 2009. My friend, Sue Bennett and I went to Washington D.C. in 2011. And my last trip to the Antiques Roadshow was with my former colleague, Betty Dodds...when another friend, Becky Basford, became ill and how to bow out. Unlucky for Becky, but lucky for me since I hadn't won tickets that year!

So, as you can see, I will try and try again to find my moment in the sun....that one special time when the appraiser's eyes light up at the site of my treasure and I am asked to step out of line. Away from the lights, the tables of appraisers, the hustle and bustle, and the many many other hopeful attendees, I would be led to the green room for makeup and to wait...to wait for my time before the camera....all the time wishing...and hoping that my piece is not a fake...that my piece is the real deal...and that my piece is the treasure I had hoped it would be!

BOARD MEMBER LOST—DIRECTOR FOUND!

We have lost a Board Member but have gained (Hooray!) a Director of the Highland House Museum.

The Board of Trustees voted on April 17th to offer the position to Vicki Knauff who subsequently resigned her Board seat and signed the contract as Director. She began work April 28th and immediately rolled up her

sleeves and started work organizing office space and checking out equipment...just the beginning.

The Director serves under the governance of the Highland County Historical Society Board of Trustees and her first and foremost duty is to promote the purpose of the HCHS, as expressed in our by-laws, while she deals with all

the challenges of managing our excellent museum. Our Board is a working board with active committees who will assist and still take the lead on activities and business matters with the involvement of the Director. Her contract stipulates 24 hours per week which she will adjust according to museum and personal (*continued on next page*)



Guest Tea, Art Exhibit Feature Club Meeting

The members of the Esoteric Club entertained with a guest tea and art exhibit Thursday afternoon. Preceding the tea, Mrs. Burton Morris and Mrs. Burch D. Huggins presented an entertaining program in the Memorial Room of the First Presbyterian Church. Mrs. Huggins gave brief sketches of the lives of several prominent Hillsboro artists. Among these were: Mrs. Emma Detwiler, Misses Frances and Irene Detwiler, Mrs. Ann Quinn Ottewill and Mrs. Tony Hynes (Elizabeth Ottewill) of London, England, formerly of Hillsboro. Mrs. Burton C. Morris then gave a very interesting and informative talk on the "History of American Art and Artist." Mrs. Morris, who is the art teacher in the local schools, concluded her talk showing many illustrations of the art work made by the various students in the local schools. She showed illustrations of art work made by students in the first through the sixth grades and the ninth

through the 12th grades. Among these illustrations was a mural made by the first grade students of Mrs. Bernice Robinson at the Washington Building. The mural depicted the children's impression of families going shopping at several of the local Stores on West Main St. Included in the art exhibit were paintings made by several late residents of Hillsboro, including Mrs. Emma Saylor Detwiler, Mrs. Elizabeth Kerns, Mrs. Ann Quinn Ottewill and Mrs. F. A. Johnson Jr. Also included in the exhibits were paintings and drawings made by several of the local residents. Among these were: Mrs. Roger Griffith, Mr. Norman Naylor, Mrs. Lyman Hilliard, Miss Diane Satterfield, Mrs. Emma Louise Mehring, Mrs. Leah Rhude, Miss Mary Jane Rhude, Miss Frances Detwiler, and Mr. Milton Caniff, famous cartoonist of "Terry and the Pirates" and "Steve Canyon." Mr. Caniff is a former resident of Hillsboro. Following

the program, the members went to the home of Mrs. T. E. Evans on North High Street for a delightful tea. They were greeted by the hostesses, Mrs. Evans and Mrs. Walter Hilliard. Dainty tea delicacies were served to 40 guests buffet style from a beautifully appointed table. The table was centered with an artistic arrangement of white chrysanthemums, pink roses, and blue delphinium. Presiding at the tea table were Mrs. Roy S. Rogers, Jr., and Mrs. Donald Scott Durnell. Among the out-of-town guests at the tea were Mrs. Ernest Schumacher of Freehold, N. J., Mrs. Joseph Schumacher of Mariemont, Mrs. E. W. Gableman of Washington, D. C., and Mrs. Douglas Pickens of Highland.

06 Sep 1955
The Press-Gazette

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You may have read elsewhere in the newsletter that HIGHLAND HOUSE will soon be open for the season. With the opening of the museum, we will be opening a RE-IMAGINED version of our MUSEUM GIFT SHOP!

What has changed? Nearly everything! First, a new location! The GIFT SHOP is moving from the Pioneer Kitchen to the south end of the Meeting Room. This allows an expansion of display space which allows us to display more goods. The more goods we sell, the more funds are raised for Highland County Historical Society.

We will be experimenting with making a discount at the MUSEUM GIFT SHOP one of the benefits of membership in the Society. Basic memberships of Single and Family will enjoy a basic level of discount. The higher the level of membership, the more the benefits and the higher the gift shop discount. We also hope that the discount benefit may encourage non-members to become members! When this writer was traveling to Washington DC on at least a yearly basis, he made sure his Smithsonian membership was up-to-date in order to enjoy a discount at all of the Smithsonian Museum Shops.

We will also be experimenting with offering different items, even some antiques (**NOT** from our museum collection, of course!) with new items being introduced frequently. We are also working on a new offering of special museum note cards and greeting cards!

BOARD MEMBER LOST *(continued from page 4)*

needs.

Vicki comes to us very highly qualified for the position. A graduate of Sinking Spring High School, she also has degrees from Columbus Business University, Ohio University, and Xavier University.

She is retired with 32 years teaching experience in history and government including the coordination of the gifted program for Highland County Schools. Vicki has been

named the Ohio Secondary Social Studies Teacher of the Year, received the OCSS Excellence in Teaching Award, named the Armonk Scholar to Germany, Civitas Team to Bosnia-Herzegovina, Freeman Scholar to South Korea and the OSU team to Russia, Latvia, Estonia, Moldavia and Germany. She is a member of the Highland County Women's Hall of Fame. Her many leadership positions include the Great Lakes Re-

gional Social Studies Conference Chair covering 7 states.

We are delighted that Vicki will lead us forward. Her creativity and attention to detail are inspiring, to say the least, and the Highland House will benefit from her personal attention.

Pamela Nickell

EMMA DETWILER

Mrs. Emma Sayler Detwiler was born November 4, 1848 and died October 6, 1933 at her home in Hillsboro. She was the daughter of the oldest member of the famous band of "Crusaders," Mrs. Margaret Sayler, who lived to celebrate her hundredth birthday in 1925 and died at the age of 100, two months, eight days.

Mrs. Detwiler, who was also a crusader, was the wife of Leander Detwiler, who authored the "Ideal Official Board Record", used by the Methodist Episcopal churches throughout the United States.



CENTENARIAN SURVIVOR OF THE FIRST TEMPERANCE CRUSADE AT HILLSBORO. Mrs. Margaret Sayler (wearing a white tie) on October 2 celebrated her one hundredth anniversary at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Emma L. Detwiler, Hillsboro. To be seen in this group with her are other survivors of the crusade. Left to right, they are: seated: Mrs. Kate Doggett, Mrs. Sayler, Mrs. Margaret Stephens and Mrs. Sarah Doggett. Standing: Mrs. Josephine Kibler, Mrs. Lalla Ferris, Mrs. Detwiler, Mrs. Ella Brown

The Detwilers were active in the work of the Church and their home was always a center of Christian culture and influence.

Three daughters blessed the Detwilers: Irene, Frances H. and Margaret.

Of special interest currently to Highland County Historical Society members as well as Esoteric Club Members, is the fact that Mrs. Detwiler was widely known as a portrait painter. She received her formal training at the Cincinnati Art Academy and painted portraits of people in many different states. (*more on page 8*)

DETWILERS IN HILLSBORO CEMETERY

From "FIND-A-GRAVE" website, we learned the following information:

Father: Jacob Steele SAYLER (1823-1916)

Mother: Margaret SAYLER (1825-1925)

Daughter: Emma Sayler DETWILER (1849-1933)

Emma's husband: Leander DETWILER (1841-1931)

Daughter: Irene DETWILER (1872-1962)

Daughter: Margaret Detwiler STAFFORD (1874-1935)

Daughter: Frances H. DETWILER (1878-1959)

Miss Margaret Detwiler, daughter of Emma

MYRTA HATCHER

Recently received from Ms. Roberta Dice of Cameron, Missouri, was a packet of genealogical information, pictures, and newspaper articles about the Hatcher, Hays, Achor and Dice families originating in the Highland and Leesburg areas of Highland County.

Ms. Dice also sent a package including a picture of her Great Aunt Myrta Hatcher, a former teacher in Highland



County, along with an initialed spoon and dresser scarf believed to have been embroidered by Ms. Hatcher.

We will share the genealogical information with the Southern Ohio Genealogical Society of Hillsboro and incorporate the other items into our

displays.

We are very appreciative of Ms. Dice for thinking of her "roots" and for sharing with us. She certainly understands the value of historical information and items as she herself works with the DeKalb County Historical Society Museum & Genealogy Library of Maysville, Missouri.

JACK CHANEY ESTATE

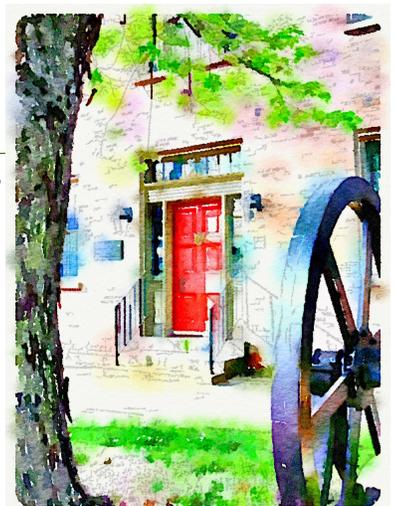
It is with great appreciation and respect that the Highland County Historical Society announces being named in the will of long-time resident and business owner, Jack Chaney. Mr. Chaney, owner of Chaney Insurance (now Gibbs Insurance) and his wife, Martha, were avid travelers and collectors and valued the preservation of Highland County History.

The Chaney's left their papers and the contents of their estate to the Society. A committee named by the Board of Trustees is evaluating the contents and selecting items to be accessioned to the Highland House Museum. Remaining items will be auctioned for the benefit of the Society's preservation efforts. At this time, the auction is expected to be held some time in July.

Please watch for time and date to be announced on our website later this month.



To the right is a sneak preview of the design for a new Note Card which will soon be offered in our Gift Shop.



HIGHLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

151 E Main St
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OPENING DAY

17 MAY

1:00-4:00 pm

*SUPPORT HIGHLAND HOUSE
GIFT SHOP*

JACOB SAYLER

In Elsie Ayres' "Hills of Highland", we read that Jacob Sayler arrived here in 1846, coming from Pickaway County. He was a watchmaker and jeweler. His first location was on West Main St. His next shop was near the Masonic Temple. His business sold and repaired watches as well as selling music boxes, accordions and other musical instruments. In 1891, he bought the stock of goods from Leander Detwiler, the husband of his

daughter, Emma.

Mr. Sayler's next shop was located in the building on the southeast corner in the center of Hillsboro. There is a photograph which shows the huge gold watch which was located outside the business.

Sayler was known as somewhat of a collector of Indian relics, fossils, etc., as he frequently roamed the Fort Hill, Seven Caves and banks of county streams.



(Photo at left)

UNION CHURCH OF CHRIST ORCHESTRA

(left to right): Isabel Donohoo, Murrell McKee, Hazel Ludwick, Mary Frances Winkle, Cedric Surber, Hope Cochran, Edgar Vance, Mary Nave, Ray Roberts

The year is not listed on this photograph.
Photograph from Highland House Library

TEACHERS—1933



Row 1: Paul Upp, Mabel Murphy, Clara Kesler, Adeline Barger, Dorothy Nofsger (sp?), Louise Butler

Row 2: Ruth Adams, Bessie Hamilton, Emma L. Mehring, Blanche Shepherd (?)

Row 3: Mrs. McDermott, Martha Johnson, Mora Mason Wise, Anna Custer (Upp), Nellie Temple\$
(photo courtesy of Sandra Ferrell)