

# MUSEUM MUSES

*Telling Highland County's story for over 50 years!*

## REFLECTIONS ON MY JOURNEY FROM LINCOLN SCHOOL TO THE OHIO CIVIL RIGHTS HALL OF FAME

As I sat listening to the speakers at the Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame ceremony, I asked myself what had brought us to this day. My mind began to wander to a time of more than 60 years ago when I was a shy six-year-old who often hid behind my mother's skirt. I recalled a morning—a morning that had begun just like every other weekday morning. I woke up, and began to get ready for "school". Only "school" for me was a lot different than that of many other children in Hillsboro.

We met at the home of one of the other mothers, where I saw many of my friends who were in

various grades. Once we had all assembled, we began to walk on our journey to school, accompanied by our mothers. The mothers held our hands and carried signs, many of which had been made by my mother, who had stayed up into the night making them. One thing that I did understand, because my parents always made it clear to me, was that they wanted a good education for us – an education that at that time was being withheld because of the color of our skin.

So, we marched to Webster School where the group waited to talk with the principal. Sometimes our wait was short, sometimes longer, but

eventually he would come out and say the same thing to the mothers: "Nothing has changed". I knew that this pronouncement meant that we would begin our journey back home.

Once we returned home, our real "school" began. Since I was in first grade, my classroom was across the street from my house, at the home of Mrs. Rose Kilgore. While Mrs. Kilgore had no children, she opened her home, where her kitchen became our classroom. My teacher, Mrs. Mary Hackney, was a Quaker lady that had travelled with other teachers from Wilmington. They had dedicated themselves to making sure that our education continued, re-

gardless of whether we were in anyone's classroom. Our homes served as the various grades and our mothers became the teacher's aides.

Finally, one day we marched, and to our surprise we were escorted in. It was a strange new world where we were sometimes met by stares and whispers. Still the pride remained. Our mothers had marched, and prayed, and persevered because they wanted a better future for their children.

My thought was "if only my mother could have seen this day". Then, suddenly I realized that she probably did, and was up there smiling!

*Jeanne Speech Williams*

## LINCOLN SCHOOL MARCHERS INDUCTED INTO THE OHIO CIVIL RIGHTS HALL OF FAME

More than 60 years after a group of Hillsboro African-American mothers and their children changed history, the Lincoln School marchers were recognized for their achievement and were inducted into the Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame. The ceremony was held at the Columbus State House on Oc-

tober 5, 2017 and was attended by a large group of marchers and the families of marchers, many who are now deceased, who fought for integration of Hillsboro Elementary schools in the mid-1950's. The Highland County Historical Society and Society members to participate in the celebra-

tion. The Marchers join other notable inductees such as Jesse Owens and The Freedom Riders.

The ceremony was led by Columbus news anchor Mike Jackson and the keynote speaker was L Brand CEO Les Wexner. Several State politicians also recognized the marchers with Proclamations, including Ohio Senator Bob Peterson

and United States Senator Sherrod Brown. Receiving the honor on behalf of all of the marchers was Joyce Clemons Kittrell. Mrs. Kittrell was the child litigant in the case that began in 1954 and was the first northern challenge to the landmark Brown v. Board of Education, Kansas decision. The group was awarded a glass  
*(continued on page 5)*

## 2017 TRUSTEES

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 Arlene Huffman-Past President  
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DIRECTOR: VICKI KNAUFF  
 Newsletter Editor: John Glaze  
 Historian: Jean Wallis



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## 2017 EVENTS

Nov 24—Black Friday Shopping  
 Dec 23—Museum closes for season  
 Dec 31—New Year's Eve at the Bell

2018 EVENTS will be in next issue!

## DENNY'S BRIEFS—Gifts of the Season



As I write this we are approaching the holiday season. With each holiday comes a theme. Thanksgiving reminds us to be thankful, while Christmas involves giving, and New Year's involves starting over.

The Board of Trustees are especially thankful this year. 2017 has been a very busy year. The traditional events have been held, along with the opening of a brand new and innovative exhibit. The number of visitors to events, especially the opening of the new Lincoln School Exhibit, has been good. The month of June saw way more visitors to the museum than the year prior. The annual Log Cabin Cookout was a success, celebrating the end of summer.

The kick off to the Christmas shop is well underway and a number of great gift items can be found in the Museum Shop. The amount of volunteers, projects, and events all leads to a big "thank you" to everyone who has contributed in any way to making 2017 a great year.

In terms of gifts, this year saw several donations, including to the capital campaign. We were able to pay off the bank loan taken out when the wall project was underway. The State of Ohio

granted us over \$100,000.00 to start several much needed projects at Scott House. These financial gifts, along with the gifts of time and talent, have led to a successful year for the Society. As you are considering gifts this year, why not gift a membership to someone. Our members are our lifeline and backbone. Without members we cease to be anything. By gifting someone a membership we can continue to grow and develop.

As we ring in 2018, let us set our sights on beginning anew with more exhibits, events, increasing our membership, and pushing forward with our mission to preserve history and provide education. Take a moment to re-

flect on what you can do to help make 2018 even better than 2017. The new exhibit in particular has raised the bar very high, but with the number of talented members we have, we can continue to be creative.

Thank you to each member for any contribution of time, money, or talent, however big or small in 2017, and we look forward to a great 2018.

*"What lies behind you  
 and what lies in front of  
 you, pales in comparison  
 to what lies inside  
 of you."*

Ralph Waldo Emerson

*Denny Kirk*

## YOUTH NEWS

Good News! HCHS is working to form a youth group. We have a retired Park Ranger who is interested in working with children to make the history of Highland County come alive. There are three goals:

- ◆ Have fun,
- ◆ Learn Highland County History and
- ◆ Pay back with meaningful projects.

Anyone interested in being part of this group can leave their phone number at the Highland House and we will get in touch. We will be hosting a family day at the Highland House on November 18<sup>th</sup> from 1-4.

The activities of this group will be based on the interests of the young people involved.

**COURTESY OF  
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## Complete Fenton Bell Collection being raffled as fundraiser at Society

The Historical Society is grateful for those who have made donations to the capital campaign that was undertaken for building improvements, the creation of an endowment fund, and the development of an emergency maintenance fund at the Society. While we did not meet the entire goal of the campaign, the difference that was made with the donations are extremely significant. One donation that was made toward the campaign was a numbered set of Festival of the Bells' Fenton bells. The donation was made by Librarian Judy Lindley. As the campaign committee determined how to make use of the gift, it was decided to carry out a raffle for the collection. The collection is on display at

the Highland House Museum. Tickets will be sold through the holiday open house through December 23. **Please come in and help us by purchasing a chance to win the 20-bell collection. Tickets are \$5.00 each or Five for \$20.00.**

The raffle winner will be drawn on New Year's Eve when a traditional ringing of the bell in front of the museum takes place at midnight. Kellis said the capital campaign has raised about \$280,000 of its goal of \$350,000. He said that while the society is not actively advertising the campaign now, it is still taking donations and trying to raise money other ways like raffling Lindley's bells.

More than \$100,000 of the campaign funds were used to

replace most of the back wall, and make some other repairs, at the museum. Repairs are being made at the society's Scott House thanks to \$110,000 the society received through Ohio's 2017 Capital Budget Bill.

The Fenton Art Glass bells were sold as festival fundraiser for 21 years. Former Highland County Clerk of Courts Paulette Donley, who was on the festival committee at the time, organized the sales. "Dorothy Hodson was on the committee and we were brainstorming to try to find ways to finance the festival," Donley said. "We said it is a bell festival and we should at least have a annual commemorative bell item to sell for the festival."

They started searching around and found Fenton Art Glass could produce bells. Then it was decided to put an etching of a historical landmark from around the county on the bells. The first etching was of the Highland County Courthouse. There were about 10 other county landmarks, plus several churches, etched on the bells.

Donley said 400 bells were made the first year, about 600 the second year, and 850 was the most ever produced in one year. She said the bells sold out every year.

"All in all it was great fundraiser for the festival, and I think the festival thrived through the sale of the bells, but again the community supported the sales," Donley said. The bells were sold from 1991 to 2011.

Bells were issued from 1991 until 2011. Below is the list of buildings commemorated on each bell. In addition, a bell issued for Lincoln School is included in the raffle.

- 1991**  
Highland County Court House
- 1992**  
Highland House Museum
- 1993**  
Hillsboro High School
- 1994**  
McCoppin's Mill
- 1995**  
Barrett's Mill
- 1996**  
Scott House Mansion
- 1997**  
Lynchburg Covered Bridge
- 1998**  
Bell's Opera House
- 1999**  
Governor Trimble's  
(Mother Thompson) House
- 2000**  
Bell Mansion
- 2001**  
United Methodist Church
- 2002**  
St. Mary Catholic Church
- 2003**  
Presbyterian Church  
(Bi-Centennial)
- 2004**  
Church of Christ
- 2005**  
St. Mary's Episcopal Church
- 2006**  
First Baptist Church
- 2007**  
Highland County Court House  
(Bi-Centennial)
- 2008**  
No Bell Produced
- 2009**  
25# Anniversary C.S. Bell #48
- 2010**  
Civil War Memorial Statue  
on C.H. Lawn
- 2011**  
Hillsboro Bank Building





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*John Kellis*

## THANK YOUs—NEW MEMBERS—RENEWING MEMBERS

Thank you to the volunteers who helped with various functions during the past year, greeted visitors at the door and worked in the shop, served on committees, along with moving furniture, doing yardwork and a multitude of other tasks. YOUR time is very much appreciated!

Larry & Peggy Addington  
 Avery Applegate  
 Anna Auteri  
 Sue Bennett  
 Dr. Phil & Kati Burwinkel  
 Bob Brown  
 Connie Cummings  
 Mary Jo Copeland  
 Pauline Cameron  
 Lana Daniels  
 David Dorton  
 Larry Dukes  
 Steve Faris  
 Jean Fawley  
 Joann Fauber  
 Helen Ford  
 John Glaze  
 Sue Honeycutt  
 Freida Harewood  
 Becky Hastings  
 Don & Carolyn Hastings  
 Roger & Arlene Huffman  
 Justin Harsha  
 Steve Holland  
 Tom & Maggie Horst  
 Diane Jolitz  
 John & Carolyn Kellis  
 Tim & Deb Koehl  
 Denny & Alexis Kirk  
 Devin Knauff  
 John & Shirley King  
 Ann Lerch  
 John and Kathy Levo  
 Marsha Louderback  
 Jean McKenzie  
 Marilyn Mathews  
 Rosalind Newman  
 Bob & Pamela Nickell  
 Galen & Lynn Neal  
 Liz Odland  
 Shawn Priest  
 Jim & Carol Rooney

Caroyl Reid  
 Rosemary Ryan  
 Steve Roush  
 Sandy Shoemaker  
 Jane Stowers  
 Karin Smith  
 Charleen Tarr  
 Brenda Thompson  
 Jean Wallis  
 Nancy Wisecup

A big thanks to these young people who helped in some way – Anne Throckmorton, Madison Knauff, Reed & Jenna Harsha, Ethan & Aidan Kirk, and Noah Moore.

### Welcome New Members!

Anna Auteri & Joe Herrington  
 Linda J. Ballentine  
 Linda Bellamy  
 Sandra Crum  
 Lawrence Curtis  
 Lizabeth Dent  
 Alberta Duncan  
 Waldo & Mary Ann Ferguson  
 Nancy Green  
 Marsha Louderback  
 Myra D. Phillips  
 Ann Randolph  
 Susan Rhoads  
 George & Lana Sakash

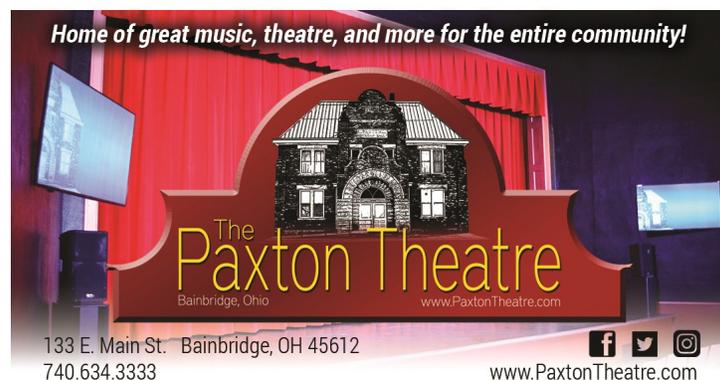
### MEMORIALS

Jean Wallis - In memory of Ronald Swonger  
 Jean Wallis - In memory of Larry Huffman

### Membership Renewals

Nancy Applegate & Jim Palmer  
 Kevin & Paula Barreras  
 Connie Barrett  
 Sue Bennett  
 Helen Caplinger  
 James & Eleanor Cumberland  
 Alberta Duncan  
 Steve Faris  
 Donna Fite  
 Carolyn Goins  
 Rich & Nancy Graves  
 Dr. and Mrs. David Gunderman  
 Christine Hamlin  
 John & Connie Hanna  
 Justin & Alyssa Harsha  
 Virginia & Perry Harewood  
 Dr. Thomas Henry  
 Tom & Maggi Horst  
 Sue Honeycutt  
 Linda Johnson  
 Joyce Kittrell  
 Bernard & Mary Ann Meyers  
 Mike Myers  
 Sue Nave  
 Shawn Priest  
 Caroyl Reid  
 Randy & Debbie Ritz  
 Wendell & Joyce Sparks  
 Jim & Dixie Stiegler  
 Jane Stowers  
 Miriam Strouse  
 Marshall & Brenda Thompson  
 Richard & Rebecca Wagner  
 Gerold & Debra Wilkin

Elissa Zornes



## HALL OF FAME PHOTOS



(left) Les Wexner

(below) Joyce Kittrell with award



Photos courtesy of The Ohio State Patrol



(below) Hillsboro Group



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## Hall of Fame Ceremony (cont. from page 1)

plaque that is displayed at the Highland House Museum as part of the Lincoln School Exhibit. "This is a proud day for the Marchers and for all of Hillsboro to receive such an honor," said Lincoln School Project Director, Kati Burwinkel.

The awarded marchers were: Elsie Steward Young, Zella Cumberland, Imogene Curtis, Sallie Williams, Zora Cumberland, Selicka Dent, Alberta Jewett, Maxine Thomas, Francis Curtis, Joanne Zimmerman, Dellia Cumberland, Glea Clemons, Minnie Speech, Roxie Clemons, Norma Rollins, Alberta Goins, Rosa Kilgore, Gertrude Clemons Hudson, Nellie Zimmerman, Della Blakey, Teresa Williams, Mary Williams Steward, Peggy Williams, William Dent, Lawrence Curtis, Lee Curtis, Joyce Clemons Kittrell, Carolyn Steward Goins, Virginia Steward Harewood, Myra Cumberland Philips, Rev. Michael Hudson, Jeannie Speech Williams, Ralph Steward, Glenna Dent Hennessee, John Curtis, Harold Joe Thomas, Delbert Thomas, John Cumberland, Jr., Doris Cumberland, David Butch Johnson, Marva Curtis Hurston, Rosemary Clemons Cumberland, Lewis Goins, Howard Williams, Brenda Thomas Coleman, Winnie Thomas Cumberland, Debbie Rollins, Charles Johnson, Diane Zimmerman, Sarah Alice Clemons, Glen Dent, Lynn Dent, Evelyn Steward Bostie, Annabell Johnson Smith, Dorothy Clemons Ford, Patricia Goins Williams, and John Curtis.



*Kati Burwinkel*

## TISSOT'S HOME CENTER

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NEW BATHROOM SINK

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS



It started its life as a Kimball Phonograph but now you'll find it in the restroom at Highland House!

When it was suggested that the old cast iron wall sink in the



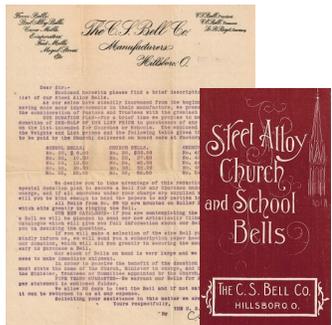
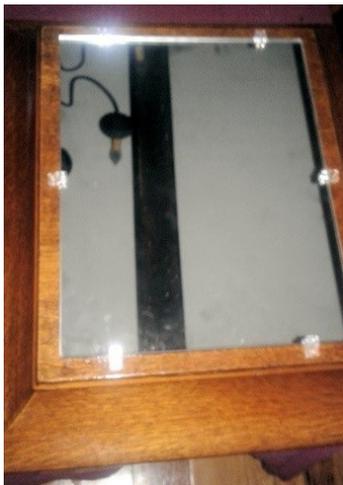
Highland House restroom should be replaced, volunteers Jean Fawley and John King began to search for an "old cabinet" that might be repurposed as a vanity with new sink. It was challenging due to the narrowness of the space for the unit and the difficulty in finding anything suitable. John did see on the internet where a person used an old phonograph cabi-

net for such a purpose. After much searching, Jean found a cabinet in the Cincinnati area. minus the turntable, that might work. Comparing the measurements to the space, it looked workable and Jean purchased the unit for John to begin work.

Procuring an American Standard sink and Kingston Brass fixtures from Lowe's, the finished sink unit is unique and beautiful....most fitting for a restroom in a museum! The black fixtures look antique, especially set against the beautiful white sink.

Please stop in to see your new sink—maybe even wash your hands!

Lower left—the finished sink unit. Below is the mirror created from the lid of the phonograph!



As the chair of the holiday decorating of the Historical Society, I want to say a big thank you to all of the individuals and groups who helped to pull this event together. Arlene Huffman set a high standard to follow. Thanks Arlene, for the words of wisdom and encouragement. Thanks to my husband, John and to Jim Rooney for getting all the holiday decorations down from the attic of the cabin and setting up the trees, to Vicki for patiently answering the wide range of questions I had, to Helen Ford for an outstanding job in assisting me with bows and wreaths and serving as a sounding board. Thanks to Lana Daniels and Justin Harsha for behind the scene help and to the groups who came in and decorated. The Highland House really came alive

with music and conversation as the groups worked on their trees. Rooms were decorated by the SSCC Theatre Company, The Lincoln School Committee and Friends (Eleanor Cumberland, Joyce Kittrell, Myra Phillips, Sylvia Hill, Sue Turner, Joyce Thomas and Marsha Louderback. Thanks to Nancy Wisecup, Vicki Knauff and Kathy Levo. We appreciate the Woman's Club, Esoteric Club, 3 Arts Club, Hillsboro Garden Club, Lynn Neal and Connie Cummings. Big Thanks to Pamela Nickell, Women in Ministry, Page Turners Book Club and Highland County Retired Teachers.

Be sure to stop in and see the beautiful and unique trees on display as well as the equally unique items in the museum gift shop.

*Kathy Levo*

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Recent donation—Advertising letter and product brochure sent to prospective customer in North Carolina. Letter is signed by C. S. Bell. The item was found in an old pie safe and was found when the donors were preparing for an auction.

Donated by Mike and Charlen Hoobler of Hillsboro.

## FROM MY CORNER OF THE COUNTY

Nestled just behind St. Rt. 134 along Turtle Creek lies a little cemetery that is said to have first been used in Lynchburg in 1817. By the time the McBrides' started documenting who lay within each cemetery's boundaries in Highland County, no markers from that time remained. Some think a flooding creek washed away those lying closest to its borders. Others think vandals topped the markers.

Nevertheless the McBrides were able to document markers from 1827-1877. In the minutes of Dodson Township 1880, the cemetery was known as Turtle Creek Cemetery. The McBrides found it to be named Morrow-Bobbit Cemetery after two families that had owned the property at some point.

The most renowned name in today's world resting under the trees in this small cemetery is that of the Peales, Dr. Norman Vincent Peale's ancestors. Dr. Norman Vincent Peale

grew up visiting his grandparents in Lynchburg as a child and other family members as an adult. His father was a Methodist minister. He followed in his father's footsteps and became a minister too. His congregation was in New York City. He is best known for his book "Power of Positive Thinking", a book that was quite controversial in its day and is still carried in bookstores today.

Today the remaining markers are becoming difficult to read. Some of them never included names but consisted of rocks from the creek nearby. Others are on limestone that doesn't handle weather well. However, we have taken the names from the McBrides' book and added them to a plaque placed on a rock just outside the gates so these pioneers' names will not be lost. Dedication of this monument will take place in November.

*Carolyn Hastings*



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## The GREAT Sesqui-Centennial

We should never forget how we celebrated the Sesqui-Centennial in 1957. It was a marvelous time. So much crowded into a week! At right is an item recently discovered and purchased on EBay. It is a "Cosmetic Permit".



So far, the true use of item has not been discovered. Hopefully, one of the readers out there will know for certain. With the Beard Requirement for men (men without a beard would be thrown into the stockade on Court House Square), it is believed that this permit allowed women to wear make-up during the celebration. After all, women who wore make-up in 1807 were either of show business or ladies who were not spoken of in polite company!

to you as a WOODEN NICKEL! Many of these great souvenirs are still to be found in desk drawers and jewelry cases of local folks.



Who can forget the wonderful pageant titled, **THE GOLDEN YEARS** and written by Violet Morgan. It had a cast of over 500 and was presented on four nights at the fairgrounds.



Some of the other items included the official tie worn by many men during the week. All of the best dressed men sported on of these ties!

When you shopped during Sesqui Week, your change, if it included 5 cents, was given

Hillsboro Sesquicentennial, Inc.  
PRESENTS  
**"THE GOLDEN YEARS"**  
By MISS VIOLET MORGAN, Highland County Historian  
Adapted for Pageant by Mrs. Gladys E. Wessels and Mr. Leslie George  
July 17, 18, 19, 20, 1957  
AT HIGHLAND COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

**PAGEANT STAFF**  
MRS. GLADYS E. WESSELS Production Director  
MR. MARK WILLIAMS Casting Director  
MR. FRED BENNETT Sesquicentennial Chairman  
MR. HAROLD POWELL Promotional Director

**NARRATORS**  
Mr. Leslie George, David Brown, David Pence, Joe Rogers

The authentic flats showing the Court House and East Main Street were designed and painted by Mrs. Burton Morris, Mr. Curtis Wilson and Mr. Norman Naylor. Mrs. Morris's art class assisted.

**PAGEANT STAFF**  
Managing Director Mrs. Gladys E. Wessels  
Casting Director Mr. Mark Williams  
Choreographer and Dance Director Mrs. Stuart Kincaid  
Costume Designer and Director Mrs. Homer Pence  
Music Directors and Arrangers Mr. George Miller (Band)  
Miss Mary Muntz (Chorus)  
Production Organizer and Arranger Mr. Walter Shoop  
Music Staff Mrs. Dorothy Notzger  
Miss Barbara Murphy

Set Designers and Directors Mrs. Burton Morris, Mr. Curtis Wilson, Mr. Norman Naylor  
Production Electrician and Special Lighting Effects Mr. Leslie George  
Set Construction Director Mr. William Paul  
Stage Manager Mrs. Robert Van Frank  
Wardrobe Mistress Mrs. Chester Baldwin  
Property Mistress Mrs. Dale Baber  
Makeup Director Mrs. John Pence  
Horses and Wagons Mrs. Gene McCann  
Accompanist for Mrs. Kincaid Miss Beverly Burch  
Accompanist for Miss Muntz Miss Beverly Burch, Miss Beverly Burch, Miss Susan Morris, Miss Joyce Hesse, Mr. Billy Stever, Mrs. Curtis Wilson  
Production Staff Miss Beverly Burch, Miss Diane McBride, Mrs. Leslie George, Mrs. Sara Chapman, Mrs. Mae Wilson, Miss Mary Laggett

## HIGHLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

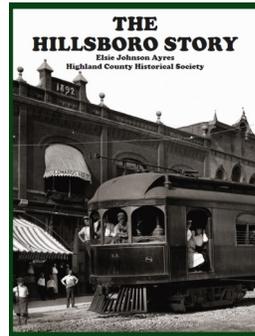
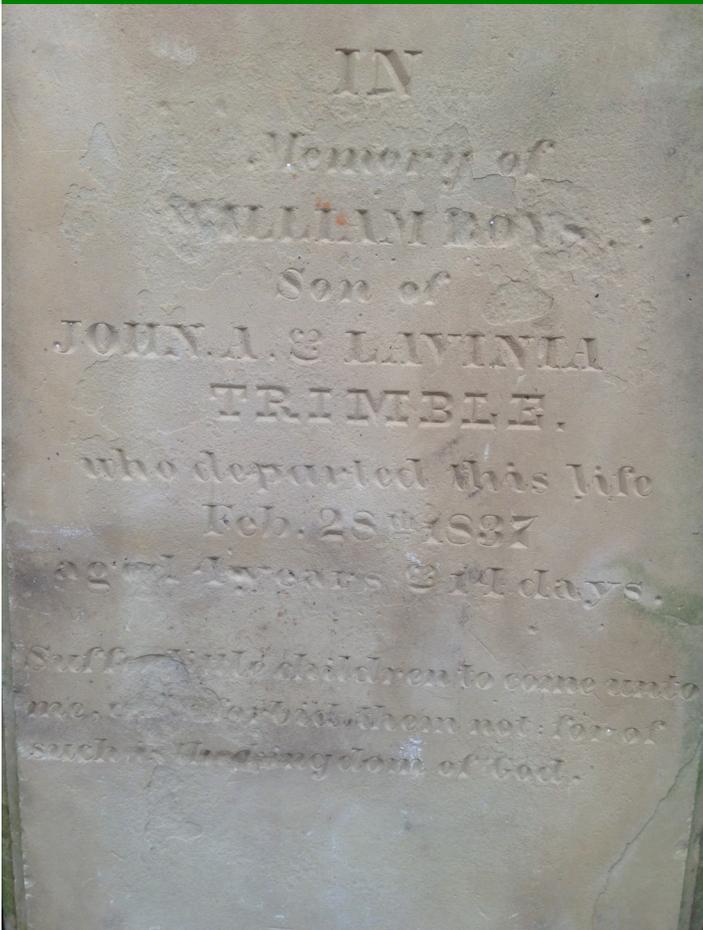
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### MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Check the date found on your mailing label. This is your membership renewal date. If it falls within the period of this newsletter, your renewal statement is enclosed. Please make any corrections or additions on the form and return it with your payment. Please consider increasing your membership to the next level.

### Recent Addition outside



**Great Christmas Gift idea!**

**The Hillsboro Story  
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\$19.50 plus tax  
(members save 10%)**

Justin Harsha recently brought this cemetery marker to Highland House. Little is known about it at this time. It reads, "In Memory of William Boys(?), Son of John A. & Lavinia Trimble, who departed this life Feb. 28, 1837, aged 4 years and 14 days. Suffer little children to come unto me and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God."



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