



The Exponent

The Monthly Newsletter of the Chagrin Falls Historical Society

87 East Washington St. 440-247-4695 www.chagrinhistorical.org

John Bourisseau, Editor

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August/September

Thank You Sponsors!!

Below are our sponsors for the 2017

Fall event **1896 and... "It's A HOT TIME IN THE OLD TOWN TONIGHT"**.

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Margi O'Brien '18, Perry Clark '18

1896 and... "It's a Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight"

Saturday, September 16th

6:00-10:00 p.m.

Become a Sponsor—It's
not too late!

Contact Carolyn Sihler
440-4695 or
cjsihler1@gmail.com

You may also sign up,
and by tickets, at our
website

www.chagrinhistorical.org



Memorial Gifts

A Gift in Memory of

**Edmund M. Kagy &
Barbara C. Kagy**

by

Ted & Kathy Kagy

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This month's item is a flax hatchel—successfully identified by **Joyce Gorretta**. This is a primitive tool used to prepare flax plants for spinning into linen thread. This primitive tool may be one of the oldest items in our collection.



This is another item in our collection that is somewhat unusual. **Ken Kvacek** found out what this is—Do You Know? It is made of wood and is about 14 in. long.

Curator's Corner

Farewell to Summer

We hope you are enjoying your summer because Fall is just around the corner. We have been busy here at the museum with various activities and meeting new visitors, along with our old friends. Our current exhibit, Chagrin Falls In The 1890s, is an evolving event. The mannequins will soon be having their Summer finery changed into heavier Winter clothing with beautiful cloaks that have decorative beadwork, lace and feathers. The 1890s in the Village saw very diverse socio-economic groupings. For example, there were the the "Commissioners for the poor" who took care of those who couldn't care for themselves, the mill workers who managed to get by, and the mill owners and business men who were at the upper end of the economic scale.

Our 1890s exhibit features what the more "well to do" would wear. Through the writings and photographs on exhibit you will also see hints of the major events that took place during these years—the smallpox epidemic, The Irving House Hotel fire, electricity came to town, and with it the Interurban Electric Railway, and bicycling was all the rage.

Our exhibits are great background material for our Fall Gala, 1896 and... "It's a Hot Time In The Old Town Tonight," September 16th at the Federated Family Life Center.

So, come for a museum visit. We'd love to see you!

Sally Hawkins & **Pat Zalba**

The Collections Committee Has Accepted The Following Chagrin Falls Related Accessions:

A percussion rifle with walnut stock, inlayed German silver, ramrod, bullet starter, removable sight, set triggers cap and patch. Made by J.B. Reed, gunsmith of Chagrin Falls, circa 1865-1876.

Donor, William Neff

Five glass embossed bottles including "Sloans Liniment" and "Watkins"

Donor, Don Himes

Artwork, watercolor painting of a Chagrin Falls river scene by Chagrin Falls artist George White.

Donor, Gayle White-Bone

(In Memory of George and Marguerite White)

A tin tray depicting Township Hall, two medical books used at Windsor Hospital. One, "The Hydratic Treatment of Typhoid Fever" written by C. Sihler, 1891.

Donor Carolyn Sihler

Two silver-plate trays that had been awarded to Chagrin Valley Woman's Club in 1974 and 1975.

*Donor, Elaine Halliday for CV
Woman's Club*

A Chagrin Falls Autograph Album which had belonged to Bertha Smith, circa 1880-1890s. It is filled with writings and drawings by Village residents of that era.

Donor, Len More

Hope to see you here, soon!

Pat Zalba

Calendar

August

- 16** Know Your Antiques Bo Burr Room 7 pm
- 19** Class of '62 Museum Tour 10 am-12 pm
- 19** CFHS Museum Open 11 am - 3 pm
- 24** CFHS Museum Open 2-7 pm
- 26** CFHS Museum Open 11 am - 3 pm
- 31** CFHS Museum Open 2-7 pm

September

- 2** CFHS Museum Open 11 am -3 pm
- 6** Jaycees Board 6:30 pm
- 6** CFHS Board of Trustees Meeting 7:00 pm
- 8** Fairmount Garden Club Bo Burr Room 11:30-3:30
- 9** CFHS Museum Open 11 am -3 pm
- 10** Civil War Memorial 150th Anniversary
- 12** American Legion 7:00 pm Bo Burr Room
- 14** New Clevelanders walking tour of downtown.
- 16** CFHS Museum Open 11 am - 3 pm
- 16** 1896 and...*It's a Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight!*
- 20** Know Your Antiques Bo Burr Room 7 pm
- 21** CFHS Museum Open 2-7 pm
- 23** CFHS Museum Open 11 am - 3 pm
- 28** CFHS Museum Open 2-7 pm
- 30** CFHS Museum Open 11 am - 3 pm

October

- 4** Jaycees Board, Bo Burr Room 6:30
- 5** CFHS Museum Open 2-7 pm
- 7** CFHS Museum Open 11 am - 3 pm

Welcome to New Members

Meredeth Shelley

John & Joyce Thomas

Jim Shelley

Kathy & Rob Goldman

Parnell Tillotson

Linda Mac & Tom Scherr Jr.,

Laura Helms

Barbara Clark

John & Kim Tressler

Charles McGibony

Meredith Cores

Janice Vitullo

Sonia & Mike Mintun

John H. Corrigan

Upcoming Programs

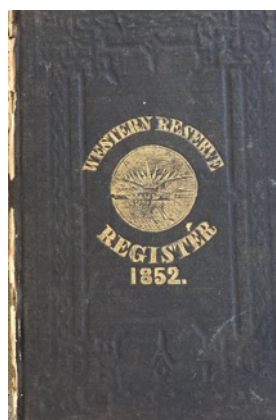
Saturday, September 16, 6:00-10:00 pm 1896 and...*"A Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight"* A Dinner Dance at the Federated Family Life Center – Annual Fundraiser to benefit the Chagrin Falls Historical Society. Tickets: \$125 members, \$150 non-members.

Wednesday, October 18, 6:00 pm *Annual Meeting and Potluck* – Federated Church 76 Bell St. Bring a dish to share. RSVP (440)247-4695. *Members Only*

Tuesday, November 7, 7:30 pm *Please note the date change from the original calendar* *Celebrate Veterans Day with author Mike Johnson. His program will focus on the stories behind the stories – people who helped change the course of wars and world history* – Bo Burr Community Room 87 E. Washington Street.

Saturday, December 9, 2:00 – 4:00 pm *Christmas Open House at the Museum* – Come enjoy Jody Roliff on the Hammered Dulcimer, decorate a gingerbread cookie, sing with the carolers and celebrate an 1890s Christmas! Chagrin Falls Historical Society, 87 E. Washington Street.

FOUND IN THE ARCHIVES



Western Reserve Register 1852. The Register was published in Hudson, Ohio by Sawyer, Ingersoll and Co. to provide needed information by town, such as physicians and surgeons (Chagrin had four) lawyers (only two), Mail routes (mail left Chagrin Falls at 9 am and arrived in Burton at 7 pm every Wednesday, state county and township leaders, and a history of the Western Reserve. This handy volume also contains an almanac and pages on which to keep your cash accounts.

Laura Gorretta

The August Edition of *Canyon Lakes Living* featured Historical Society members Bill and Gretchen Hamann. Bill is presently serving as the Vice President of the Board of Trustees for the Historical Society and Gretchen is the chair of the Education Committee.

The article featured their work with the Historical Society, and in doing so, used photos and talked about activities of our organization.

The editors have been nice enough to include an ad about our upcoming gala in the last few issues.



Bill & Gretchen Hamann at the Historical Society Museum



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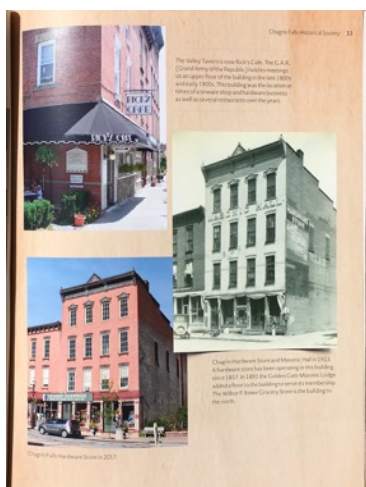
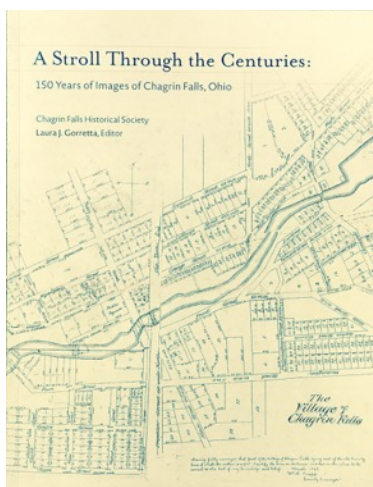
Put Label Here

It's Here!

NEW FROM THE CHAGRIN FALLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESS—Buy at the museum or online at
www.chagrinhistorical.org

Chagrin Falls: A Stroll Through the Centuries \$29.95

Featuring a selection of photos from our extensive photograph collection illustrating how much we have changed—and how much we have stayed the same.



It's Official!!

**Our 4th Annual
Fall Event**

**Saturday September 16,
2017**

Save the Date!



Mrs. Petrie and her son "Bur" in front of their house on Philomethian Street.

Your Carriage Awaits

What do you think of when you ponder the last decade of 19th century life in America? Mark Twain coined the phrase "Gilded Age" for it and the artist Richard V. Cutler's drawings titled the "Gay 90's" depicted it.

For many, the era evokes visions of lovely ladies in flowing dresses carrying parasols strolling about with dapper men in waist coats with pocket watches. However, despite the Panic of 1893 and ladies squeezing tortured ribcages into corsets until breathlessness, hence the 19th century fainting couch, there was still a good time to be had by all.

Those good times were enhanced that decade by inventions like cotton candy, the ice cream scoop, charcoal briquettes and the bottle cap. Then there's Chicago's 1893 World's Fair where the Ferris wheel, zipper, and dishwasher were introduced. Those and other inventions have evolved, but no one has still ever been able to build a better mousetrap since its invention in 1894!

Unfortunately, sometimes tragedy induces progress. In January 1897, a fire in the elegant five story Irving House Hotel in Chagrin Falls caused her demise. Because of it, the first Chagrin Falls Fire Dept. was established that year in November and we are forever grateful today.

Chagrin's chic Irving House Hotel, a the place for the genteel to see and be seen, succumbed because of a faulty chimney. Don't despair. On Sept 16th she will rise again, like a phoenix from the ashes, for us to celebrate in pre-income tax style like her former patrons.

So ladies and gents, come and revel in one of Chagrin's finest turreted ladies donning Gibson Girl and Rockefeller inspired fashion, corsets and sal-volatile being optional. However, if you should decide against 1890s garb, just carry a rabbit foot like the period hit suggests and expect a "Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight"! Definitely a good time will be had by all. ***"Your carriage awaits"***.

Barbara Tonchef

The Doll's Dilemma

Most of our dolls, truth to be told
Are decently, respectably, modestly clothed.
But there are a few, where fate is unkind
And they can be found with a naked behind
Or if they have garments, they really don't suit
Being synthetic, garish or ill fitting to boot.

So we ask for old fabric you're willing to spare
Suitable for ill-dressed dollies to wear.
Antique clothing, still good in most places
Can be recut to bring smiles to their faces.
We need silk and fine fabrics, old lace, ribbon and trim
Without this the chance of display is most slim,

For Jane B. has sent out a decree,

"No naked dolls may our kind public see!"

So with your good help some dolls will go free
In boxes, in storage, they won't have to be.

Marnie Albers

Contact **Marnie Albers** at (440) 247-4695 if you can help.

Website

We have a new look on our website!

Long time friend and website developer Mike Bellah passed away this Spring. Our new website has a totally different look—check it out! www.chagrinhistorical.org

Please be patient with us as we work out the bugs and repopulate the new site with both old and new content. Working on the website besides myself will be volunteers Scott Hageman, Maxine Sykora and Rod Chima



Guest Column

It occurred to me that those of you who have been part of the Chagrin Falls Historical Society for years, those who have dared to dream of 87 East Washington as its new home, who then did the work and raised the funds to make it a reality, those people might not realize how incredible an achievement it is to someone looking at it for the first time.

As a newly recruited outsider, I was stunned. Here was energy, competence, vision, and welcome. As I spent more time as a volunteer, my amazement only deepened.

I can hardly believe:

****that you raised 1.7 million dollars for the renovation of 87 E. Washington St.**

****that most of the work at CFHS is done by volunteers.**

****that you have produced a collection of Chagrin Falls history books that are well written and comprehensive.**

****that week after week volunteers appear to work on the thousand things that need doing.**

****that you have a museum director with early Chagrin Falls roots and professional training who is willing to work virtually full time in a part time position**

****that those on the staff have vast knowledge both of Chagrin Falls and its history but also of the collections and archives of the facility.**

****that there is vibrant outreach in the schools, in programs for the larger community, to interns who work here, and even casual visitors.**

****that you have an ongoing commitment to being a better operation, a more professional one, a more up to date one.**

****that you clearly understand that money needs to be raised and funds gathered from people and institutions, as well as grants written, so that all of this can continue.**

The above list speaks of the qualities of Chagrin Falls that have made it a special community from its beginnings. The people who built Chagrin Falls were civic minded. They wanted schools, and churches, and libraries. As Chagrin Falls grew, people wanted excellent schools, but they also wanted to remain a community that celebrated public holidays and enjoyed life together. Many of our treasured festivities grew out of this determination. This facility and the people who dedicate time and treasure to it, prove that this spirit is alive and well and is being carried forth.

When we are able to pay off the mortgage on the facility, a grand celebration of all of this commitment and dedication is in order. Perhaps, if I am lucky, I will be able to legitimately celebrate with all of you.

Marnie Albers

Notes from the Museum Director

Please join me in welcoming our new **Volunteer Coordinator, Jean Hood!** Jean is in charge of all matters regarding our volunteers, which includes recruiting, training and scheduling. If you have any questions about becoming a volunteer or your schedule as a volunteer, please contact Jean at (440) 570-0657 or email jeanhood1@yahoo.com. The Historical Society is very lucky to have Jean as a staff member, so make sure you introduce yourself to her and give her a warm welcome!

We are gearing up for our September fundraiser; **1896 and..It's A Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight...**, which is Saturday, September 16th. The invitations have been mailed so; if you haven't received one please contact us. You can also go online and purchase tickets. We are in need of a few more bottles of wine for the wine pull and would love to have a few more theme baskets for our Chinese auction at the September event. If you can donate wine or a basket, please call Carolyn or Jane at (440) 247- 4695.

Our current exhibit is *Chagrin Falls:1890s*. The most significant thing that happened in Chagrin Falls during the 1890s were the fires and because of them, the creation of the Fire Department. The most notable fire that was the catalyst was the Irving House fire, January 13, 1897. Come to the museum and step into the 1890s!



Jean Hood with her cousin Duncan Jameson.



Jane Babinsky



Wine Pull

Once again, **Bill Hamann** will coordinate the wine pull at the September 16th Gala. Donations are coming along nicely, with Bill soliciting bottles that exceed \$20. If you would like to donate a bottle call at 543-3161, or email at williamnuttinghamann@gmail.com