



# The Exponent

The Monthly Newsletter of the Chagrin Falls Historical Society  
 87 East Washington St. 440-247-4695 [www.chagrinhistorical.org](http://www.chagrinhistorical.org)

John Bourisseau, Editor

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November 2017

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 TIME IN THE OLD TOWN TONIGHT"**.

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**Margi O'Brien '18, Perry Clark '18**

## Upcoming Programs

**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.*

## Turkeys! Turkeys! Turkeys!!

### Limited Time Only

Stop in and see a collection of turkeys on loan from the private collection of Beth Atherton. This display will only be here until Thanksgiving. It is in the long display case in Gallery Three.



## Curator's Corner



**Rod Chima** correctly identified these as **shoe pegs**. Westel Hunt, in an essay that he wrote in 1859 describes what he sees from the bridge above the falls: *Looking to the East we see that the upper part of the town—the paper mill now in the course of construction. Turning your eyes in different directions you behold foundries, machine, cabinet and mechanic shops of various descriptions. Nor is this all, for here is situated one of the great wonders of the age. The shoe peg factory that furnishes shoe pegs to the thousands scattered up and down our land.*

The shoe peg factory was located where Jeckyll's Kitchen is situated today.



View from the bridge looking west circa 1870. The Shoe Peg factory is on the right—Bullard's woodenware factory is on the left—and you can get a glimpse of the Williams Foundry in the distance.

### Thank You Scavenger Hunt Volunteers

The Safe Routes Chagrin Falls activities of October were great fun for the 7th and 8th graders as well as for the adults who were at the historic sites to greet them. **Thank You** John Bourisseau, Gretchen and Bill Hamann, Sally Hawkins, Janice Hill, Jean Hood, Kim and Frank Kanzinger, Mariann and Ken Kvacek, Laurie Loveman, Jo Roeder and Mayor Tomko. (me too) The pot of lovely yellow Chrysanthemums, at our entrance door, was a thank you from the Safe Routes Chagrin group to all of us.

### **A Puzzle for your Christmas List?**

Artist John Corrigan has honored us with a gift of his painting, "Aerial View of Chagrin Falls." It is currently on display in the reception room. It shows great detail and I like to view it in juxtaposition with an earlier painting of Grove Hill by Max Barnard. Anyway, just in time for Christmas, we have made the image into a puzzle for gift giving—or your pleasure. See it in the museum Gift Shop, or purchase online.

### **November Display**

Remember! Come for a visit to see all of the THANKSGIVING TURKEYS in the long display case in Gallery 3



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

Art Work: An Aerial view of Chagrin Falls. Mixed Media, pencil, pen and ink, watercolor on paper. Artist John Corrigan, 2017

*Donor, John Corrigan*

"Special Telephone Directory CF & Churchill 8, June 4, 1950". Black and white photograph of an event in Triangle Park, circa 1900

*Donor, Betty Runge for Flo Olsen*

A 1930s wedding dress worn by Janet Stirtou upon her marriage to Harold A Sutton. Photograph, wedding invitation and reception card included in donation.

*Donor, Suzanne Sutton-Wright  
Janet Sutton-Jakab*

Digital images of the exterior of the Philomethian Street School taken June 2017, interior Oct. 2017 and modular classrooms at middle school parking lot.

*Donor, Terry Blair*

Aerial photograph, in color, "Fall at Chase Bag" circa 1985

*Donor, Mari and Dave Hageman*

**Pat Zalba**



**Calendar**

**November**

- 1 Jaycees Board 6:30 pm
- 2 CFHS Museum Open 2-7 pm
- 3 Chagrin Schools Research group 1-2:15 pm
- 4 CFHS Museum Open 11 - 3 pm
- 7 Program, Author Mike Johnson 7:30 pm Bo Burr Room
- 9 CFHS Museum Open 2-7 pm
- 11 CFHS Museum Open 11 - 3 pm
- 11 American Legion Dinner 6-9:30 pm Bo Burr Room
- 12 Volunteer Recognition 3-5 p.m. Bo Burr Room
- 14 American Legion 7 pm Bo Burr Room
- 15 Know Your Antiques 7 pm Bo Burr Room
- 16 CFHS Museum Open 2-7 pm
- 18 CFHS Museum Open 11 - 3 pm
- 18 Private Party 4-7 pm Bo Burr Room
- 20 Jaycees Foundation 6:30 pm Bo Burr Room
- 23 CFHS Museum Open 2-7 pm
- 25 CFHS Museum Open 11-3 pm
- 30 CFHS Museum Open 2-7 pm

**December**

- 2 CFHS Museum Open 11-3 pm
- 6 Village Employees Christmas Party
- 7 CFHS Museum Open 2-7 pm
- 9 CFHS Christmas Open House
- 12 American Legion 7pm Bo Burr Room
- 14 CFHS Museum Open 2-7 pm



**John Bourisseau** providing a history of schools at the Philomethian St. site during the ground breaking ceremonies Oct. 14th.

**Welcome to New Members**

- Marjorie (Gardner) Barnard**
- Pam Fischley Hermanson**
- Robb & Susan Junker**
- Corinne M. Reid**

The CFHS doll collection is made up largely, perhaps not surprisingly, of dolls. However, we have been fortunate



to be given some lovely doll furniture as well. In 2016 Linda W. Curtis donated, along with a number of antique French and German bisque dolls, some beautiful Victorian pieces. The walnut Victorian doll bed is exceptional and comes complete with appropriate linens. (See photograph). From the French maple doll dressing table to the birdseye maple armoire and night

stand, from the folding golden oak table to the bent wood chairs, these dolls knew how to 'live'. Doll furniture too has it's high-end examples. Come and visit.

I have been remiss in not thanking our members and friends for their donations to the CFHS Doll Collection in 2017. In an effort to expand the collection to include more modern dolls as well as our antique ones, we are most grateful to:

**Nina Reagh** for an early Art Fabric Mills doll and an interesting China head doll,

**Jenny Hogan** for an Alex (Ginny type) doll with extensive wardrobe and a Betsy McCall doll,

**Pat Zalba** for an Anne Shirley composition doll (aka Miss Snooty)

**Carolyn Sihler** for a Madame Alexander ballerina doll, a Cabbage Patch kid, an early Barbie, a Ken, a Crystal Barbie with assorted clothes

**Dot Schwende** for a Saucy Walker type doll, an early teenage composition doll, a nun doll, and a Raggety Ann with baby

**Sally Hawkins** for Miss Revlon with wardrobe, Ginny with wardrobe, Little Miss Revlon with large wardrobe, a Jeff doll, Ginny's Scottie dog, and an Indian doll.

Again, thanks to you all,

**Marnie Albers**, Curator of Dolls

Editor's note—While Marnie has been working to fill in the holes in our doll collection, she has been diligently photographing and cataloging what we have. One of the outcomes will be to identify duplicates, as well as dolls that should be deaccessed. So while we are adding to the collection, we are also weaning out those dolls that we don't need.



Society member Judi Lawrence at Gurney Elementary, sharing some items from our collections with the children. Thank you to Pat Zalba, Sally Hawkins, Jane Babinsky and Judi for participating in this event.



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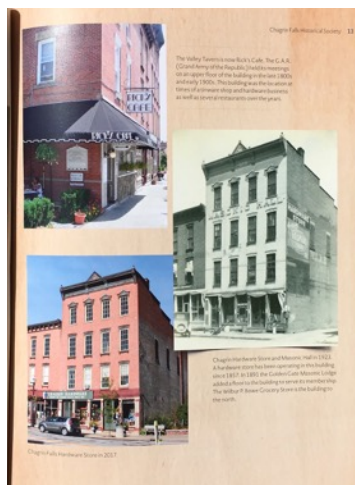
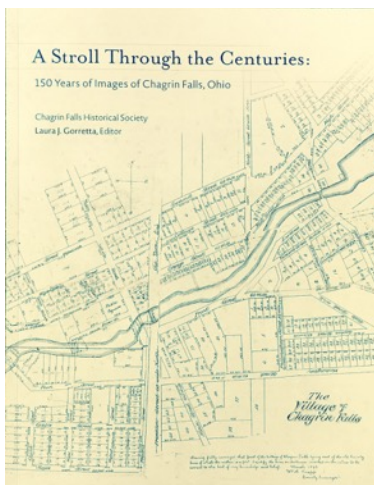
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### It's Here!

NEW FROM THE CHAGRIN FALLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESS—Buy at the museum or online at [www.chagrinhistorical.org](http://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.



New in the **Museum Store** is this interesting puzzle created from the work of **John Corrigan**. It is a view of the Village looking towards Grove Hill. We will be offering a number of new items for your Christmas Shopping this year. Sweatshirts, Tote Bags and Christmas Cards featuring the works of Henry Church Jr.

## Christmas

Christmas is about the birth of Christ but some Christmas traditions, like holly, have deep roots in pagan Europe and are based on various ancient winter solstice revelries, including the date itself. In fact, Christmas was originally so bawdy it was outlawed by the Puritans on both sides of the pond for many years. However, we have the 19<sup>th</sup> century to thank for today's family oriented Christmas. The first to tone down the wild and drunken celebration of Christmas past was Washington Irving's description of the customs, decorations, and foods of a rural Christmas in Yorkshire in a series of accounts that appeared in *The Sketchbook of Geoffrey Crayon*, published in 1820. He tells the story of an upscale feast in an imagined estate named Bracebridge Hall held by a country gentleman by the name of Squire Bracebridge. The squire "prides himself upon keeping up something of old English hospitality," and the Tudor-style festivities he oversees. He spoke of the yule log, Christmas candles and mistletoe. The same book contains his tales of Rip Van Winkle and *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*. This fictitious Christmas celebration by Washington Irving in 1820 impressed the young 8-year-old Charles Dickens. So much so, 20 years later in 1841, he penned a letter to him saying "I wish to travel with you... down to Bracebridge Hall" Thus two years later Dickens published his own version of a proper Christmas with "A Christmas Carol" which brought him everlasting fame inspiring people that Christmas is a time for family and giving instead of greed. Reverend Clement Clark Moore's "A Visit from Saint Nicholas" was anonymously published on December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1823 in the *Troy New York Sentinel*. It later became widely known as "Twas the Night Before Christmas" He claimed he wrote it for his children but given its secular tone he would not admit to authoring the poem until 1837. It

enlightened Victorian parents to not just view their children merely as mini adults to be used as labor but to be enjoyed, especially at Christmas time. It was cartoonist Thomas Nast whose full-page illustration in the 1881 *Harper's Weekly* depiction of the jolly bearded Santa Claus we've come to know and love today. Before Nast, different regions, ethnic groups, and artists in the United States presented Santa Claus in various ways including riding in a sleigh pulled by turkeys! The Christmas card was invented by Sir Henry Cole and his artist friend in 1843. They were tri-fold and sold for a shilling a piece. He was a government worker who helped set-up the post office in the U.K.

I'd be remiss if I didn't remind everyone that Queen Victoria's decorated Christmas tree seen atop a table, courtesy of her German husband's tradition, in an engraving in the December 1860 issue of *Godey's Lady's Book* became all the rage.

Pining for an old-fashioned Victorian Christmas? You won't need a time machine to hear beautiful live Victorian Christmas music played on a hammered dulcimer along with carolers and decorate a gingerbread cookie while drinking refreshments. ***Because it's all happening at the Chagrin Falls Historical Society Christmas Open House on Saturday December 9<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 to kick off the season with an old-fashioned celebration.*** Grab your fur muff and pretend to hitch up your personal sleigh and hear "those sleigh bells jingling, ring-ting-tingling" and come where the halls will be decked and aglow with a Victorian atmosphere fitting for a proper Chagrin Falls Christmas Past.

"A Merry Christmas to us all; God bless us, every one!"

**Barbara Toncheff**

## Educational Outreach

Our Educational program is in full swing with presentations to the 3rd grade classes at Gurney and St. Joan's, as well as, programs at the High School. Here are some pictures.



**Kim Kanzinger**  
with 3rd graders  
at St. Joan's



3rd Grade at  
St. Joan's



**John Bourisseau** and  
**Gretchen Hamann** with  
Brian McKenna's Govt. class  
at the High School



**Gretchen** and  
**Kim** at Gurney

## Legacy Circle

This past year, the Society benefitted from the estates of individuals who felt strongly enough about the mission of the Historical Society that they included us in their estate planning. This is an important part of sustaining the Society into the future. Please consider joining our Legacy Circle. For further information, contact Carolyn Sihler or John Bourisseau at 440-247-4695 or email [cjsihler1@gmail.com](mailto:cjsihler1@gmail.com), or [jbouresseau@gmail.com](mailto:jbouresseau@gmail.com)

## Annual Meeting

We had our annual meeting/potluck dinner October 18th at the Federated Church this year. There were 56 people in attendance. The food and conversation were great and many made positive comments on the venue.

For the meeting portion, I reviewed the six goals that were established in the strategic plan we developed in 2012-2013. They are:

1. The Chagrin Falls Historical Society will secure the physical space, equipment and materials needed to achieve its mission both now and in the future. The Chagrin Falls Historical Society will secure and responsibly manage the funding and resources needed to sustain its mission.
2. The Chagrin Falls Historical Society will expand membership and develop and support its current and next generation of leaders and volunteers.
3. The Chagrin Falls Historical Society will know its audiences, provide appropriate programs for those audiences, and encourage them to participate.
4. The Chagrin Falls Historical Society will continue to develop relationships with other community organizations to achieve the mission and vision of the Society.
5. The Chagrin Falls Historical Society will become an even better steward of the historical collections entrusted to it.

We have come a long way from the point that these goals were established. We have fully accomplished many of them, and are actively working on the others.

The second item on the agenda was the annual report. Carolyn Sihler, Treasurer, presented the annual report and addressed the contents of the document. A copy is included in this newsletter.

Finally, we voted for the new trustees. A motion was made from the floor by Bill Hamann, and seconded by Frank Kanzinger to accept the nominees as presented. The motion carried with one dissent.

## John Bourisseau



John Bourisseau participating in the Groundbreaking activities for the new school to be built at the Philomethian St. site. The new structure will accommodate the 1914 building, auditorium and gymnasium. This was truly a Win-Win for the community.

## Notes from the Museum Director

The turkeys are coming, the turkeys are coming! We have on loan a Turkey Collection, which will be on display the month of November. It will be a fun display that might evoke childhood memories of Thanksgivings past. Make sure you stop in and see it. Anyone who has an interesting collection and would like to loan it for display, please contact us.

Our next program is Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm. Author, Mike Johnson, will be speaking on The stories behind the stories – the people who changed the course of wars and world history. Mike has authored eight books and travelled extensively doing research for his books. Besides an interesting program, we will have pie night for refreshments.

Volunteers please RSVP for the Volunteer Recognition on Sunday, Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>. All volunteers will be recognized and we will announce this year's winner of the Pat Zalba Volunteer of the Year Award. Jekyll's Kitchen will be doing the catering again this year. Remember: without our volunteers the Historical Society would not be able to function!

The **Christmas Open House is on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2:00-4:00 pm.** The museum will not be open at our scheduled time of 11:00-3:00 that Saturday. If anyone could provide refreshments of cookies or finger sandwiches please call our Hospitality Chair, Patti Widmar at 216-409-1455 or email at [pwidmar@roadrunner.com](mailto:pwidmar@roadrunner.com). Don't forget our New Years Eve Party on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 9:00-12:30. Bring a snack to pass and wear a warm coat because we will be walking down to Triangle Park for the Popcorn Ball Drop.

Happy Thanksgiving to all; remember to help neighbors in need!

## Jane Babinsky, Museum Director

