



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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February 2018

Thank You Sponsors!!

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

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Hemlock Landscapes Inc. Thank you for keeping our grass green and weedless all year round!



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Don't Miss this Program!

Friday, March 2, 6:00-8:00 p.m. *Nancy Martt Gallery Opening and Documentary Film: "The Mural" by Brent Simon and Mark Simone.* Come see the film and meet Nancy Martt, one of our talented artists and member of CFHS. Bo Burr Community Room, Chagrin Falls Historical Society, 87 E. Washington Street.

Friday, March 16, 7:30 pm *St. Patrick's Day Celebration* Come listen to, and learn about, Celtic Music as performed by *Butternut Hill*.

Along with this month's newsletter is a listing of upcoming programs. We have some exciting programs coming up—so mark your calendars.

Some of you may have noticed that the barometer that kept track of the progress of our capital campaign is not on the newsletter. With the end of the year, we have closed out our campaign. In the March newsletter, I will have some very good news to share with you!

Welcome to New Members

- Judy Kramer**
- Bill Lineweaver**
- Monette Weiss**
- The Lopez Family**
(Felipe, Jennie & Ella)

Memorial Gifts

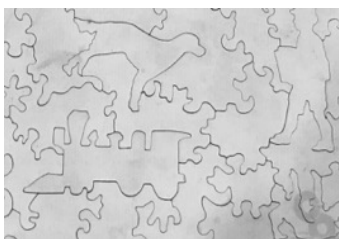
A gift in memory of
Sandy Bartter
was given by
Amy Bartter



John, Sally & Pat working on the puzzle



completed puzzle



You can see the trademark 'girl falling' in the lower right hand corner. The motto for their puzzles was 'Fall for a Puzzle'

Curator's Corner

Falls Puzzles

Did you know that Chagrin Falls was famous for jigsaw puzzles? The John Paul Jones family, who lived at 49 Walnut Street and later on South Main Street, had a home industry of designing, making and selling jig saw puzzles. Mr. Jones, an engineer, had trouble finding work during the depression years of the 1930s. To make ends meet, he began this enterprise. He was not alone in this undertaking as the whole family was involved! In 2001 I made contact with one of the daughters, Mary Lou Jones-Palmer, and asked her to share some of her memories of the times. Following is a shortened version what she told us.

"There were many steps involved in making the puzzles. My father drew small pictures of sports characters, dancers, children, animals (especially dogs), candles, tea parties, a drunk, symmetrical pieces, and almost anything else. He would glue inner tube rubber to plywood. On the plywood side, he would attach his drawings. My mother would cut out these drawings, thus creating the stamps that were used for the shapes of the puzzles. My parents made over 100 stamps and produced over 3000 puzzles .

To make the puzzles, my father bought pictures from a shop that sold calendars and other pictures. His favorites included landscapes, maps, scenic shots, dancers and churches. He would glue the pictures to 3/16 inch plywood. My mother, using red ink, stamped the back of the plywood with the stamps. She would then cut out the stamped figures with a jigsaw.

The Falls Puzzle trademark was a gay nineties girl falling down, which was always placed in the lower right hand corner of each puzzle. My father made all the puzzle boxes. The label on each box included the Falls Puzzle logo, the title of the puzzle, and the number of pieces.

My sister, brother and I were also involved in helping with the puzzle-making with our parents. We had to put all the puzzles together after they had been cut to make sure all the pieces were there. Puzzle making was definitely a family affair and all of us were experts at putting the puzzles together.

The Falls Puzzles were sold for \$0.015 cents per piece (a penny and a half per piece). They were sold to individuals, to a department store called Burdine's in Florida and to a bookstore called Korner and Woods in Cleveland (this store also rented the puzzles) Several puzzles were sold to the King, Queen and Duke of Windsor in England."

The cost of a Falls Puzzle today runs between \$400 and \$3000 depending on the number of pieces and condition. We just received a Falls Puzzle in the mail from Edith Tucker who lives in New Hampshire. It is 90 pieces, in its original box and entitled "The Kitten" We believe the image is "Chessie" a logo of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad during the 1930s. Upon receiving the puzzle, four staffers sat down and put it together. It took us some pondering, but we finished it and all of the pieces are here! We now have 3 Falls Puzzles in our collection.

Happy Valentines Day!

Sally and Pat



Calendar

February

- 1 CFHS Museum Open 2-7 pm
- 2 Intermediate School Students 1-2 pm
- 3 CFHS Museum Open 11-3 pm
- 6 Program Committee
- 7 Jaycees Board
- 8 CFHS Museum Open 2-7
- 9 Intermediate School Students 1-2 pm
- 10 CFHS Museum Open 11-3
- 13 American Legion 7pm Bo Burr Room
- 15 CFHS Museum Open 2-7
- 17 CFHS Museum Open 11-3 pm
- 19 Jaycees Foundation 6:30
- 22 CFHS Museum Open 2-7
- 23 Intermediate School Students 1-2 pm
- 24 CFHS Museum Open 11-3
- 28 Simone Pot Luck Dinner 6-8 pm

March

- 2 Intermediate School Students 1-2 pm
- 2 Opening of Nancy Martt Art Exhibit
Documentary Film 6-8 pm
- 3 Museum Open 11-3 pm
- 7 Jaycees Board 6:30 pm
- 8 Museum Open 2-7 pm

Spring Raffle

Once again we will give you the opportunity to participate in our Spring Raffle. We decided this year to work with a local travel agency—Jenson Travelon to develop our trips. Owner, Shirley Copeland, is a CFHS member. Shirley has been putting together trip options, which I will share with you next month. We anticipate offering 2 or 3 trip options, as well as, a choice to take cash. The trips that we are considering, range between \$7000 and \$8000 dollars.

Tickets will be \$250 and we will sell only 250. So stay tuned!

Thank you Shirley and Jenson Travelon, and thank you to the donor who is supporting the cost of the trips.

Last year, your Historical Society, made \$25,000 on the raffle, most of which was used to pay down the mortgage.

Recently in the news, it has been reported that Joe Saccone and the Hyde Park Group have taken out a lease on the former Gamekeepers Tavern. I thought it would be interesting to reprint an article written by Gini Fast in January of 2004.

Cranes Canary Cottage

Gini Fast

Located on the southwest corner of Orange and West Streets, the Inn of Chagrin Falls and the Gamekeepers Tavern were once a famous restaurant known as Crane’s Canary Cottage. The restaurant was opened by Clarence Arthur Crane, better know as C.A. In the Spring of 1927 Mr. Crane purchased the property which contained two small houses. He removed one house and built an addition to the other. Later he bought a third house (now Gamekeeper’s) and joined them to form the building that exists today. The entire structure was renovated and painted a canary yellow. Crane’s Canary Cottage was officially opened on Labor Day, September 5, 1927.

The restaurant was open from April through November, with no reservations necessary. No liquor was served. Diners drove out from Cleveland, ate lunch, walked around the Village in the afternoon, or played cards in the card room and returned to the Cottage for dinner. Because the building was also planned as a country home for C.A., there were private rooms on the second floor. Employees, too, were housed on the north side of the cottage.

Famous guests at the Cottage included Charles Lindbergh, who attended a reception there in his honor and spent the night; John D. Rockefeller had his own table, as did his sons; and of course C.A.’s son, the poet Hart Crane, who stayed at the Cottage in 1929 and the winter of 1930-31. He also helped out in his father’s candy store in Cleveland—the Crane Chocolate Company.

After Mr. Crane’s death in 1931, his wife Bessie continued to operate the restaurant until the end of the 1942 season. Wartime shortages and rationing caused her to close the restaurant.

A frequent visitor and supporter of Crane’s Canary Cottage was Duncan Hines, who made a name for himself in Chicago as the man to call if you were traveling out of town. Early in 1936 he published his recommendations in a book, ADVENTURES IN GOOD EATING. High on his list, and, of course, first alphabetically, was Crane’s Canary Cottage. Local residents said that it was their favorite. The food served at the Cottage was of the highest quality. The chocolates and cheeses were imported. The chickens and pigs were Ohio grown, as were the tomatoes and fruits. Needless to say, the maple syrup was local.

Everything about Crane’s bespoke quality, from the yellow dotted Swiss curtains and the white table cloths to the high backed chairs and the antique furnishings which were for sale. Adding to the homey atmosphere were wood-burning fireplaces, and a card room where ladies could rent a table for the afternoon. Those who visited the restaurant always remembered the fine food, and spoke of it with a smile.



Two postcards advertising Crane’s Canary Cottage



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www.chagrinhistorical.org

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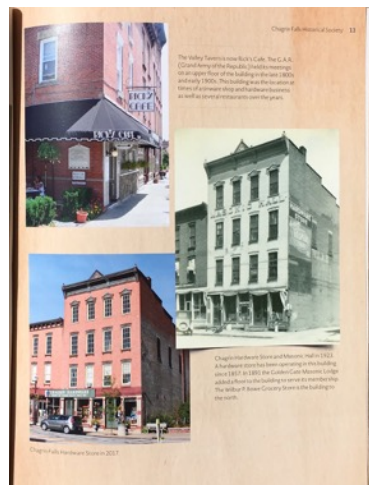
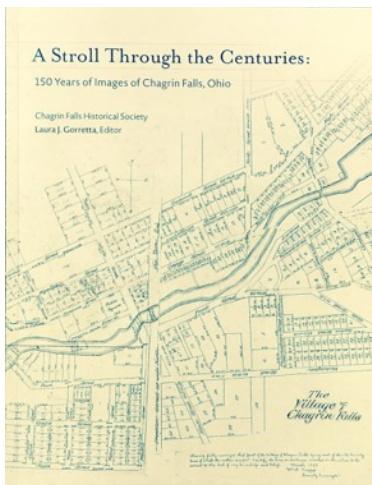
Put Label Here

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.



You can still purchase that special gift for your favorite Chagrin person

We now have sweatshirts, t-shirts and a tote bag silk-screened with the interesting art of Marnie Albers which depicts Chagrin History along with some of its present day attractions

And of course, we have many of our books that tell the history of Chagrin, including the newest addition, *A Stroll Through the Centuries: 150 Years of Images of Chagrin Falls, Ohio*, which is a photographic tour of the Village, then and now. Purchase now at www.chagrinhistorical.org

Social Media

For the past month the various Facebook sites that are attributed to Chagrin Falls have been very active with history related themes. A large part of this has been triggered by the demolition of the 1939 section of the school on Philomethian St. and the demolition of the Adams & Chase Bag site. A lot of emotions and memories were attached to these buildings.

Here at the Historical Society we had a front row seat to the demolition of the school. Left standing were the Gymnasium, Auditorium and the 1914 building. It was fascinating to watch these large machines as they took apart the building piece by piece and then sorted the materials into different piles for concrete, steel & aluminum. We were all amazed at the skill of the operators and their coordinated effort. At times, there were as many as 5 large machines working all at once.



This is a great photo taken by Jeff Holbury Sr. You can clearly see the area that has been removed. Jeff has a company called DroneOhio, and takes many great photos and videos related to Chagrin Falls and other areas. You can access his photos at www.droneohio.com.

If you want to see the plans for the new school on this site you can access them at <http://www.chagrinschools.org/Construction.aspx>

I attended the school from Kindergarten through 8th grade. I was surprised that I didn't react emotionally to the demolition—other than being amazed at the expertise of the machine operators. I am sure it is because, in a way, it is a victory. Four years ago, the plan was to abandon all of these buildings in the Village and build a totally new K-6 building in South Russell. The prospect of not having an elementary school in the Village was devastating to many. There has been a school on the site on Philomethian Street since 1842. Many concerned citizens formed a group they called Win Win. They touted the benefits of a school in the Village, developed a strong following in the community and were able to elect 2 members to the school board. The outcome was a total review of options and a plan that will continue an

elementary school in the Village that children can walk to when construction is completed in 2 years.

The outcome for the Adams-Chase Bag site is not as good. The site was purchased by Spillway LLC, a group with roots in Chagrin, with the intent of salvaging most of the historic structures and creating a mixed use retail site with a restaurant, brewery, office space etc. Unfortunately, they ran headlong into the recession of 2008 and were never able to secure funding. As the years passed, the buildings deteriorated and were becoming a safety hazard. The Village enforced their ordinances and basically said repair-develop the site or demolish. Since the funds were still not available, they had to demolish. It has been sad to see the buildings go. The bag factories were a part of Chagrin history since before the Civil War and lasted until finally closing in 2004.



photo by Eric Malmquist

Thankfully, the last owners had salvaged a lot of historical material from the site which they donated to us, and at the historical society, we have a nice collection of artifacts. Thanks to Mayor, Bill Tomko, and one of the Spillway LLC owners Bob Darden, we were able to obtain the large sign that hung on the boiler building that says "Established 1858". It measures 28 X 48 inches, we think it is made of zinc—and is very heavy. We look forward to developing a display featuring many of the artifacts that we have acquired in the near future.

John Bourisseau



Notes from the Museum Director

2018 will be a busy year for the Chagrin Falls Historical Society. The 2018 Calendar of Events for March through July is included with this newsletter. We have two programs scheduled in March to “kick” off our monthly programs. Our first program is on Friday, March 2nd at 6:00 p.m.: Nancy Martt Gallery Opening and the showing of Brent Simon and Mark Simone’s documentary film *The Mural*. Nancy Martt is loaning the Historical Society several of her paintings, many of them are of Whitesburg. Nancy is donating a beautiful painting of Chase Bag to us and will be speaking about her paintings and some of the history of Whitesburg. We will have prints and puzzles on hand of Nancy’s painting of local barns for you to purchase and Nancy to sign. Please come and meet Nancy Martt, have a glass of wine and take in the beauty of her paintings! We can’t let March go by without a little Irish music, so put our St. Patrick’s Day Celebration with Butternut Hill on your calendars (Friday, March 16th, 7:30 p.m.).

Our Publications Committee and Program Committee are planning on a special Cemetery Tour, complete with some ghosts of Chagrin! The tour will be the last weekend of September. A self-guided Cemetery Tour brochure will also be produced.

Save the Date! Our Fall fund raiser is Saturday, October 27th. The Special Event Committee is already working hard and picked a theme: Haunted History. It will be held again at the Federated Family Life Center and we promise it will be spooktacular!

Thank you for supporting the Chagrin Falls Historical Society by renewing your membership. Our members are important to us, so please give us feedback and suggestions for programs and exhibits that you would like to see in the museum. You can call us at 440.247.4695 or email us at chaghist@gmail.com.

Happy Valentine’s Day!

Jane Babinsky, Museum Director

New School Building Display

The Historical Society has been given the opportunity to develop a display that will be in the new school building. The architects are saving the portion of the building that is the auditorium and providing the Historical Society and the Alumni Association space in the old auditorium lobby to develop displays. Our early thinking is to create a combination of touch screen technology and interactive displays.

To that end, Museum Director Jane Babinsky, Development Committee member Perry Clark and I ventured down to the Cleveland History Center at the Western Reserve Historical Society to meet with Angie Lowry the Center Director. Our purpose was to experience the interactive displays and see how they might fit into what we are conceptualizing. Angie was very helpful and the exhibit is awesome.

If you haven’t seen this new exhibit at the Cleveland History Center, it is well worth the trip to the circle. We are fortunate to have such amazing resources available to us.

Board of Trustee Meeting

On January 10, the new Board of Trustees had their first meeting of the year. The Board meets a minimum of 4 times a year. New members Marnie Albers, Todd Lyle and Ralph Razinger were introduced. Treasurer, Carolyn Sihler reviewed our financial status. This has been a good year financially. Due to Legacy giving, a successful raffle and fundraising, our income exceeded expenses by about 30%. The trustees authorized making an additional \$30,000 payment against the mortgage balance.

One of the goals of our Capital Campaign was to pay off the mortgage. While we are not going to make that goal, we have been able to substantially reduce it by making payments totaling \$180,000 this year. The mortgage will come due in April of 2019. The Trustees decided to revisit the mortgage issue following this year’s raffle to review options going forward. The remaining balance at that time should be between \$100,000 and \$120,000.

Museum Director Jane Babinsky reviewed statistics regarding the museum this year and objectives for the coming year. She informed the board of the necessity to begin the process of obtaining appraisals for our collections for insurance purposes. It was determined to start with the Art collections utilizing funds from the Church Legacy Fund and the General Fund.

The officers for the trustees (Executive Committee) will remain the same. John Bourisseau, President, Bill Hamann, VP, Carolyn Sihler, Treasurer and Jeffrey Polcar, Secretary.

Other Committee Assignments include *Marketing*; Todd Lyle, Ralph Razinger, Ken Kvacek and Michelle McQuade, *Governance*; Marnie Albers and Carolyn Sihler, *Finance*; Carolyn Sihler, Bill Hamann, Jeffrey Polcar and John Bourisseau, *Development*; John Bourisseau. Susan White and Bill Hamann will be Trustee representatives to the *Membership Committee*.

Annual Fund Campaign

Our annual fund campaign this year was our most successful yet! Nearly \$29,000 was given to support your Historical Society. That is almost double what was given last year. As I mentioned in a previous article, our main objective is to pay off the mortgage. We have demonstrated the ability to raise the necessary funds to run the museum. Paying off the mortgage will be a big step towards sustaining the museum into the future. As we have mentioned many times, Legacy giving is important. Once the mortgage is paid off, we will begin to create a capital improvement fund, where we can accumulate money for future upkeep of the museum, updates for technology and other needs.

John Bourisseau

