



## MUSEUM MESSENGER

Ohio's Oldest Museum    September 2019  
[www.firelandsmuseum.com](http://www.firelandsmuseum.com)

### September Program Featuring Eric Ebinger

#### Chasing grandpa: 75 years later



World War II. Normandy. Utah Beach. D-Day. These are all events that many people today know only because of mandatory history courses in school. The reality is that these events are very real to many — those 495,000 World War II veterans (16 million Americans served) still living today and the families of those living as well as of those now gone. Many veterans of World War II as well those who saw action at other times are reluctant to share their memories. Memories can be painful. Veterans may think their service was just something they had to do. Fortunately for us, some did share — in writing if not verbally. Such was the case of Dale Ebinger, who landed on Utah Beach on June 6, 1944. His experiences were and inspiration to his grandson Eric, a lifelong student of history. Thus when Eric and his wife Misty, a social studies teacher, had the opportunity to take a Smithsonian tour to England and France as part of the 75th Anniversary of D-Day, they packed their cameras and made the journey. Where Dale went, they went. Prepare to be impacted when Eric shares his experiences.

Through videos and photos, we will go to Utah Beach and Omaha Beach as well as follow the troops before and after D-Day.

Firelands Historical Society is proud to have Eric Ebinger tell the history of his grandpa at the Laning-Young Research Center on September 18th at 7:00 pm.

*This program is open to the public.*



#### CHANGES COMING TO THE NEWSLETTER

The beginning of this year brought us a substantial increase in the cost of postage. Along with this and the rising cost of material and printing we have decided to distribute the newsletter through email. Instead of receiving a copy through the mail you will now be sent an email with the link to the newsletter and have the option of reading online or download it and print it out on your printer. If you do need to have a copy mailed to you we ask that at the time of membership renewal you need to add an additional \$5.00 to offset our costs. ***Please note that this will go into effect March 2020. You will still receive the newsletter in the mail until then.*** We will be reminding you several times before we change over.

## GETTING TO KNOW YOU



**Anna Bristol** is serving her third term as FHS Trustee. With a lifelong interest in history, membership and involvement the Firelands Historical Society was a natural extension of her interests. Anna asks that members extend themselves by volunteering as museum docents, or at the various programs and special events held throughout the year.

After retiring from the City of Norwalk, **Chris Harlan** became a volunteer for the Firelands Historical Society in 2014 as a docent. Chris was appointed as a trustee in May of 2015. In 2018, he became secretary for the society and Associate Curator for the Preston-Wickham House (museum) with Kathleen Schaffer. He feels the Firelands Historical Society is moving in the right direction with the current officers and trustee's.



**Kathleen Schaffer** became a Trustee in 2017, and was elected to treasurer in May of 2018, succeeding John Elmlinger, who stepped down after thirty-three years in that office. She has been a docent since 2016, and currently is Associate Curator of the Preston -Wickham House with Chris Harlan.

Kathleen also serves as the Huron County Treasurer

## FHS 2nd Annual Car and Truck Show 2019

The August 18<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Car Show started off with rain and after a short sprinkle turned to sun.

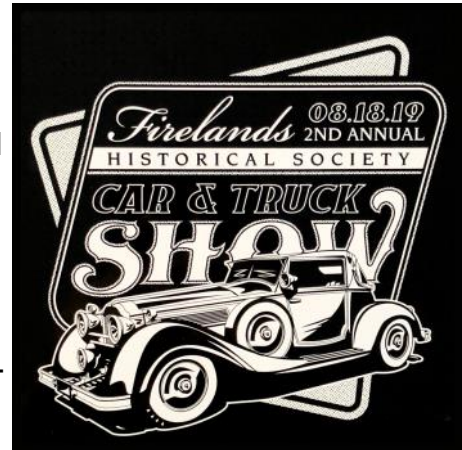
We had in the featured area a McLaren sports car, owned by Joel Hipp; a large antique fire truck, owned by Andy Schlacter; and a 1959 GMC cab over truck, like the type used by Norwalk Truck Lines, owned by Jim Semon, Jr. of Sandusky. Also, a cut-away engine chassis of a 1911 International Auto Wagon was brought by Dick Suhr.

The show field was light with only 32 cars and trucks registered – due to the weather???? There were plenty of spectators on hand, with good food by Ward's Wieners, good music and commentary by Chris Harlan, which made for a good time by all. Ground Control set up a screen printing machine so those present could buy a show shirt made on the spot.

The costume contest had only one participant – Bill Knadler dressed in a pink poodle skirt with combat boots – if you missed this, you missed the highlight of the day!! His

dress made it easy to sell 50/50 tickets!!

There were a lot of door prizes and silent auction items to bid on that were donated by local businesses and FHS members. We deeply appreciate their support to make the show a success.



Please remember to send us your change of mailing address and E-mail. Also, if you would like to have your newsletter sent by E-mail, please let us know. Send information of change to [curator@firelandsmuseum.com](mailto:curator@firelandsmuseum.com).

## WE ARE THE FIRELANDS

A day trip this fall may lead you to visit one of the many museums in the Firelands, right in your own back yard.

Here are just three sites to stir your interest or conjure memories of times gone by. Admission is modest. They operate on a small budget; please show your appreciation for these museums by dropping a couple dollars into their donation jars. We need to keep local history alive for future generations.



Where can you find a man's outer coat made from the hide of his own horse? A basket casket from Sackett's?

The ***New London Area Historical Society*** has them!

You can explore curiosities and historic memorabilia from the greater New London vicinity. Located in a storefront (the former NAPA and previous Burner & Sutherland Hardware), the museum has hosted clubs, groups and organizations since its 1985 inception.

Search their collection of yearbooks for photos of your relatives and friends. An Eagle Scout project by Adam Kitts enabled the museum to display scores of NLHS trophies. Kevin Phillips followed that project with the restoration of an upper floor room.

Location: 13 East Main Street

Directions from Norwalk: About 14 miles. South on Route 250, turning left onto Route 162 East.

Hours: 1-4:00 p.m., Saturdays

Contact: Tom Neel, 419-929-3674



You won't need your old Sears catalog when you visit the ***Fairfield Museum***. But, the familiar sight of a two-seater out-house may recall less-than-fond memories of trips in the dark to use one. Memorabilia from the electric railway, scrapbooks, photo albums and an Edison phonograph will capture your interest.

North Fairfield began as a settlement in the early 1800s, and was a booming metropolis during most of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Now a sleepy little village, the museum--located in the Chapman Home, a charming 1841 house--is a treasure to be explored with post cards and photos augmenting loaned or donated memorabilia.

Location: 7 North Main Street

Directions from Norwalk: About 9 miles. South on Route 250, turning right onto Route 162 West.

Hours: 2-4:00 p.m., Sundays, June through August; always by appointment.

Group tours and personal tours by appointment only.

Contact: Ruth Earl, 419-668-4006, or Nielsen, 419-744-2295, or Lee@neo.rr.com

The ***Willard Historical Museum*** is in need of more space to display their collection. Currently it is in the Depot in the Park, just off Main Street. It was organized to include the history and memorabilia of Willard and the surrounding townships of New Haven, Richmond, Norwich, and Greenfield.

The Depot room contains a great amount of railroad memorabilia. Take a first-hand look inside a red caboose and a box car, located on the grounds.

Location: 561 W. Laurel Street

Directions from Monroeville: About 14 miles. Route 99 South/N. Cornwall Avenue, turn right on Route 103/E. Tiffin Street, at N. Main Street make a right, go two blocks, then left into the park.

Hours: By appointment

Contact: Don Shrader, 419-935-0791

## **Our Gift Shop**

### **Firelands Historical Society**

#### **New Items at Our Gift Shop**

We are now offering Mugs and Coasters in our gift shop. These great gift ideas are decorated with local scenes from our past. Mugs are 11oz ceramic and coaster have a cork non-skid backing, They can be purchased at the museum during regular hours and will be available at the Chamber of Commerce during the holidays. We will be adding more designs soon.

The price for the mugs are \$10 and the coasters are \$3 each.



Firelands Historical Society  
4 Case Ave.  
P.O. Box 572  
Norwalk, OH 44857-0572

Firelands Historical Society Officers:

Dan Rood, President  
Chris Hipp, 1st Vice President  
Diane Meyer, 2nd Vice President  
Chris Harlan, Secretary  
Kathleen Schaffer, Treasurer

The Firelands Historical is proud to be a member  
of these fine organizations:

Firelands Council of Historical Societies  
Huron County Chamber of Commerce  
Lake Erie Firelands Tourist Council  
Norwalk Economic Development Corporation  
Ohio Association of Historical Societies & Museums  
Ohio Genealogical Society  
Ohio History Connection

Annual Membership Dues:

Individual - \$20  
Husband and Wife - \$35  
Business - \$100

Life Membership Dues:

Individual - \$500 (or \$50 annually for 10  
years)  
Business - \$1000 (or \$100 annually for 10  
years)

Send Correspondence to:

Firelands Historical Society  
P.O. Box 572  
Norwalk, OH 44857-0572  
Museum phone: 419.668.6038

Research Center phone: 419.663.0392

E-mail: [curator@firelandsmuseum.com](mailto:curator@firelandsmuseum.com)

Museum Hours

May, September and October - Saturday and Sunday 11-3.  
June thru August - Tuesday thru Saturday 11-3 and Sunday 11-3.  
Closed Mondays.  
For group tours and other special arrangements call 419.668.6038  
or E-mail: [curator@firelandsmuseum.com](mailto:curator@firelandsmuseum.com).