



OHIO'S OLDEST MUSEUM

Ohio's Oldest Museum February 2018
www.firelandsmuseum.com

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE



The Firelands Historical Society was very excited about Light up Norwalk last November. As a special treat, Ditz Designs has decorated the Preston- Wickham House (museum) for the holidays, as a way to wrap up Norwalk's Bicentennial celebration. Dan Rood, First Vice President of the Board of Trustees, collaborated with the Hen House for this one-time occasion. Over 100 visitors toured the museum during Light Up Norwalk. The museum was also open on two consecutive Tuesdays during December.

This gave an extra opportunity for visitors who were not able to attend Light up Norwalk. Around 20 people took advantage of this additional opening. Helping with this event in addition to Dan Rood, were Kathleen Schaffer, Mary Carabin and Chris Harlan.



Mary Stewart

The Firelands Historical Society hosted a birthday gathering for 100-year-old Mary Stewart this past December 11th. Many of the trustees and members of the society as well as many others attending had a chance to sit down and talk with Mary.



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.

Hipp and Merckens Hosts "Evening at the Museum"

The Firelands Historical Society has initiated a program available to local businesses and groups in order to provide a greater awareness of the museum and research center. On December 6th Hipp and Merckens, a Norwalk financial planning firm, sponsored an **"Evening at the Museum"** as a client appreciation event. Approximately 25 of their clients met at the research center for refreshments and hors d'oeuvres and toured the exhib-



its at both the research center and the museum. It was a very nice evening as the museum was decorated for Christmas and the attendees were free to roam throughout the buildings. Many had not been in the museum since grade school and were surprised at the extensive collection of Indian artifacts and

Norwalk memorabilia. It was a very relaxing way to experience history up close.

The Firelands Historical Society can make the museum and research center available for any type of event – whether it is a business function or a social organization. It is a great way to show appreciation for employees or clients, and offers an opportunity for local groups to experience our history in an inviting atmosphere. For more information on holding an event, please call the museum at (419) 668-6038 and talk with Chris Harlan for additional information or email the museum.



Spirits of the Museum

On October 26th, the Firelands Historical Society presented its second annual Halloween event, "Spirits of the Museum". Tours were given every ten minutes to visitors. The guests were treated to different vignettes in the rooms of the museum.



On the first floor, Anna Bristol portrayed Sally DeForest Benedict, wife of Norwalk's founder Platt Benedict, in the parlor. Eric Ebinger presented Charles Wickham, son of the home owner Fred Wickham, in the dining room. DeEtte Zimmerman, dressed as charming witch, guided the guests to the basement, where they encountered Dan Rood, portraying Dr. Gill, who practiced in Norwalk. In the gun room, there

was an encounter with Dr. DeWolf, portrayed by Matt Burr, who told the story of the good doctor's demise at the Little Big Horn. Guests ascended to the second floor of the house, and Sally Jenkins detailed mysteries of objects in the house, including the story of Chief Ogontz. Chris Harlan and Bill Knadler took care of admissions and greeting the guests.

Refreshments were provided by event organizer, Kathleen Schaffer.

There was an excellent turnout and each guest walked away experiencing "mystery in history."

Upcoming Spring Programs

We invite you to come and bring a friend. Non-members are always welcome. All meetings are held in the Society Meeting Room in the Laning-Young Building, 9 Case Street, Norwalk, Ohio at 7 p.m., unless specified otherwise.

February 21, 2018

A video presentation "*The Milan Canal Historical Perspective.*" This video explains and gives information about a very important historical time in our local area history. During its hey day the export of wheat was next to Odessa, Russia.

March 21, 2018

The program will be presented by **Russell Herner** of Bellevue. He will discuss the rich heritage of ice skating including its traditions, which span centuries and the globe. Attendees will also have the opportunity to view selections from his private collection of both antique ice skates, dating back more than 700 years ago and other skating paraphernalia.

April 18, 2018

George DeMuth, a member of the Sandusky Bay Chapter of the Archeological Society of Ohio will present the program. He will discuss the excavation of the Dillon Site which is accessible from Shaw Mill Road, near Milan, Ohio, and how this Proto Historic site relates to the history of our early local area.

Firelands Historical Society Elections

The Nominating Committee of the Firelands Historical Society is accepting applications for positions as officers and trustees of the Society. The following positions are open: President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer as well as three positions as a Trustee of the Firelands Historical Society. Please submit your name and the position that you are seeking in writing and mail it to Matthew Burr, 6656 Young Road, Bellevue, Ohio 44811 or send it online to Matt at burrma@thewavz.com by Friday, April 13, 2018. The members of the Nominating Committee are: Matt Burr, John Schumm, Fred Downey, Anna Bristol and DeEtte Zimmerman. Please feel free to contact any of these members, if you have questions. It is an honor and privilege to serve Ohio's oldest historical society.

2017 Accessions

The following are gifts received during the year 2017.

Ashakih, Judith, Norwalk	Small child's kid gloves
Black, Richard & Marjorie	Collection of Native American Artifacts
Carney, Marianna, Avon	Horsehair carriage blanket with rose design (Wildman family)
Faust, John, NC	7 page letter written by Wm Wickham about his Civil War experiences.
Haley, Sonia, Newark	Ladies and Men's Hats, local store boxes - dating 1960 -1970.
Hall, Tom & Sandy, SC	Wedding gown worn by Lucille Gerber, 1935; Fair Poster; articles found in the walls of the house at 165 West Main.
Hipp, Chris, Norwalk	Norwalk 7UP bottle
Kathleen, Hill, TX	Horace Kellogg, Capt. Co B, 123 rd Ohio Volunteer letters
Lane, Shirley, Norwalk	Jacqueline Kenney style coat with accompanying long gloves – 1960's.
Olak, Kathleen, Norwalk	Painting of Old Linwood Hotel; Trucker Jerseys, wood pieces from Idaho (in memory Ken & Janet) and Perry's Niagara; KYW program wire; Sanborn Map for Norwalk 1931, Conway) Norwalk, Collins, Townsend, small local advertising items, & books.
Rhoad, Betty, Norwalk	Mechanical Cookie Cutter, ladies taffeta jacket, 1950 pointed shoes
Roberts, Julia	Dentist Chair used by Dr. Delmer Stoup, Norwalk & cuspidor stand
Tremble, David	25 th OH Infantry flag (fragment) carried at Gettysburg, owned by Ed Culp with other related information.
Walkenhorst, Walter, PA	Rocking Chair originally owned by Tamar (Ruggles) Wright
Wise, Ron, Norwalk	Hair Clippers, straight razor
Yarber, Wally, Norwalk	Men's leather gloves in original Patrick-Hiss box
Gerken, James	1956 Huron Co. Board of Directors Photo Books
Carabin, Mary, Norwalk	Images of America Series "Norwalk"
Franklin Co. Genealogy Soc.	Family Books by Lealliah Franklin (David Chamberland, Hollis James, Henry Printz, Wm Wetberill
Hackman, Jim, AZ	Adventures of Paul Wilber, brother Josh & Friends
Harburn, Dr. Todd, MI	A Surgeon with Custer at the Little Big Horn
Henry, Jeanette, Milan	Home of the Flowers by Tilmon H. Smith (family history)
Hill, Kathleen, TX	Horace Kellogg, Capt. Co B, 123 rd Ohio Volunteer letters
Huron Co. Genealogy Soc.	2016 Norwalk Reflector Obituaries; Willard Ohio History, 140 years
King, Gil, Norwalk	Fred Beach Diary – 1880's
Kuebeler, Glenn, Huron	History of Castalia, Cold Creek & Blue Hole
Olak, Kathleen Norwalk	Crawford's Campaign against Sandusky, Butterfield;
	Following the Guidon by Elizabeth Custer; Bailey's Northern Ohio Gazette, 1871-72; Farm Journal Directory, 1918-1923.
Purchase & gift	Bicentennial "Celebrating the Journey", Norwalk
Schumm, Stephen, Norwalk	History of 41 st Veteran Vol. Inf. - 1861-1865
Sherril, M. David, NY	American Family History of Julia Hutchinson
Tovar, Carole, WA	Family History of the Brownlee and Smith families

2017 Seward Fund

On behalf of the Firelands Historical Society, I would like to sincerely THANK and recognize the following members who so generously donated a total of \$15,015.00 in 2017 to the fund. Your continued tax deduction contributions to the STEWARDS program allow us to operate our SOCIETY with financial success.

Frederick F. Downey,

Steward Chairman

Battles, Kathryn
 Bersche, Linda and Jim
 Berchmueller, David & Martha
 Bleile, Robin
 Brown, Herbert & Beverly
 Bristol, Anna
 Burr, Matt & Diane
 Caprara, David & Rita
 Carabin, Mary
 Carabin, Tom & Mardelle
 Carney, James
 Colvin, Jeffrey
 Cook, John
 Czerwony, Barbara
 Dickman, Roger
 Doughty, Dennis & Kris
 Doughty, Eugene & Shirley
 Draeger, John & Carol
 Drury, Margaret
 Edwards, Esther
 Elmlinger, John & Donna
 Elmlinger, Marie
 Fegan, Michael & Judith
 Flickinger, John & Laurie
 Garner, Roger & Jane
 Hall, Charles & Sandra
 Harlan, Chris
 Heyman, Curt & Susan
 Hipp, Christopher
 Hipp, Gerald & Patricia
 Hoyt, Lawrence & Dolores
 Ingram, Virginia
 Jergens, Linda Buskin

Kirkpatrick, Harold & Janice
 Knadler, William & Janice
 Knight, Donald & Cloteen
 Lane, Shirley
 Lesch, Allan & Susan
 Merseraue, Joel & Wende
 Mullane, Julia
 Neel, Thomas
 Norwalk Concrete Industries
 Olak, Kathleen
 Oiler, William and Susan
 Overmyer, John & Jacquelin
 Payne, John & Carol
 Price Family Foundation
 Rasmussen, James
 Rau, Alice White
 Reed, Harley and Ruth
 Rood, Dan
 Ruggles, Warren
 Savage, Justin
 Schaefer, Joyce K.
 Schaffer, Kathleen
 Schubert, Tom
 Schumm, John
 Spettel, Maureen
 Stark, James & Reta
 Stewart, Mary
 Truesdell, Katherine
 White, Beverly
 White, Dudley & S. Ronai
 Wickham, David
 Wilde, Theresa
 Zimmerman, DeEtte

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

Firelands Historical Society Officers:

Pat Mak, President
Dan Rood, 1st Vice President
Chris Hipp, 2nd Vice President
Mary Carabin, Secretary
John Elmlinger, 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 Historical Society

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:

The 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

Museum Hours

May, September and October - Saturday 10-3 and Sunday 12-4.

June thru August - Tuesday thru Saturday 10-3 and Sunday 12-4.

Closed on Monday's.

For group tours and other special arrangements call 419-668-6038

or E-mail: curator@firelandsmuseum.com.