



MUSEUM MESSAGE

Ohio's Oldest Museum

May 2017

www.FirelandsMuseum.com

Firelands Historical Society Reservations for May 17 Annual Dinner Meeting

The dinner meeting will be held at the St. Alphonsus Catholic Church hall on Settlement Road, a short distance from Route 61 South at 6:30 p.m. The dinner menu is as follows: swiss steak, scalloped potatoes, green beans, tossed salad, rolls, homemade desert, coffee and lemonade. The cost of the dinner is \$15.00 per person.

The program will be presented by board member, Matt Burr. Matt had the honor of being asked to participate in the first White House Ghost Tour last October 28, 2016. A group of historical performers were invited to participate and he was included as Major Archie Butt, who was a Military Aide and Social Director to both Presidents Theodore Roosevelt and William H. Taft. Matt participated in this event with his good friend Gib Young of Huntington, Indiana who is the leading Theodore Roosevelt impersonator in the county. The program will consist of a series of photos that Matt took of other performers, interacting with White House guests and staff, including President Obama and his pet dogs. He will end the program by showing his actual performance when interviewed by ABC News, which lasts about 2 or 3 minutes.



Payment must accompany reservations. Reservations may be made by using the form printed below. Reservations and check are to be sent to the Firelands Historical Society, P.O. Box 572, Norwalk, Ohio 44857. **The reservation deadline is Wednesday, May 10.** If you are unable to come for the dinner, members may come for the annual meeting which includes the election of officers and trustees, followed by the program.

Please make reservations for the Firelands Historical Society dinner on Wednesday, May 17 at 6:30 p.m. Dinner cost – 15.00. Enclosed is a check in the amount of _____

Name: _____

Street: _____ City: _____

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.org.

**2016 TREASURER'S REPORT
FIRELANDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

GENERAL FUND:

JANUARY 1, 2016 BALANCE \$51,485.18

INCOME:**2016 ACTUAL**

Admissions	\$1,291.00
Fundraising-Garden Tour	\$1,370.00
Fundraising-Stewards	\$13,175.00
Gifts Received	\$4,650.36
Gift Shop Sales	\$355.48
Interest Income	\$1,747.00
Library Rent	\$360.00
Meeting Income	\$615.00
Memberships	\$3,300.00
Other Income	\$488.30
Research Fees	\$70.00
Special Projects Income	\$12,669.50

SPECIAL FUNDS:

ACQUISITIONS FUND	\$3,500.00
ENDOWMENT FUND	\$98,575.40
FORD MEMORIAL	\$17,238.53
LIBRARY FUND	\$264.00
LANING-YOUNG BLDG.	\$3,200.00
MAINT/CAPITAL FUND	\$28,264.84
OLD BUILDING SURVEY	\$1,057.00
PUBLICATIONS FUND	\$1,074.76
WINDSOR/ADMIRAL	\$66,083.07
WINDSOR II	\$16,067.34
BLACK ENDOWMENT FOR AMER. INDIAN ARTIFACTS	\$19,249.84

TOTAL 2016 INCOME \$40,091.64

SPECIAL FUNDS TOTAL \$254,574.78
(AS OF 12/31/2016)

EXPENSES:

Advertising	\$1,104.83
Education & Meetings	\$555.00
Equipment	\$554.84
Fundraising Expense	\$215.20
Gift Shop Expense	\$159.00
Information & Technology	\$1,230.01
Insurance	\$2,523.00
Maintenance	\$6,120.10
Midway Bldg. Demolition	\$10,625.00
Newsletter Expense	\$404.75
Occupancy-Museum	\$2,560.89
Occupancy-Midway Bldg.	\$226.80
Occupancy-Research Ctr.	\$2,762.81
Office Expense-Museum	\$721.06
Office Expense-Research	\$941.93
Office Expense-Supplies	\$1,370.14
Programs & Meetings	\$1,036.50
Real Estate Tax (Newton)	\$169.34
Sales Tax	\$27.97
Security & Protection	\$486.00
Special Projects Expenses	\$26,890.05
Workers Compensation	\$234.95
TOTAL 2016 EXPENSES	\$60,920.17
DEC. 31, 2016 BALANCE	\$30,656.65

John Elmlinger, Treasurer
Firelands Historical Society

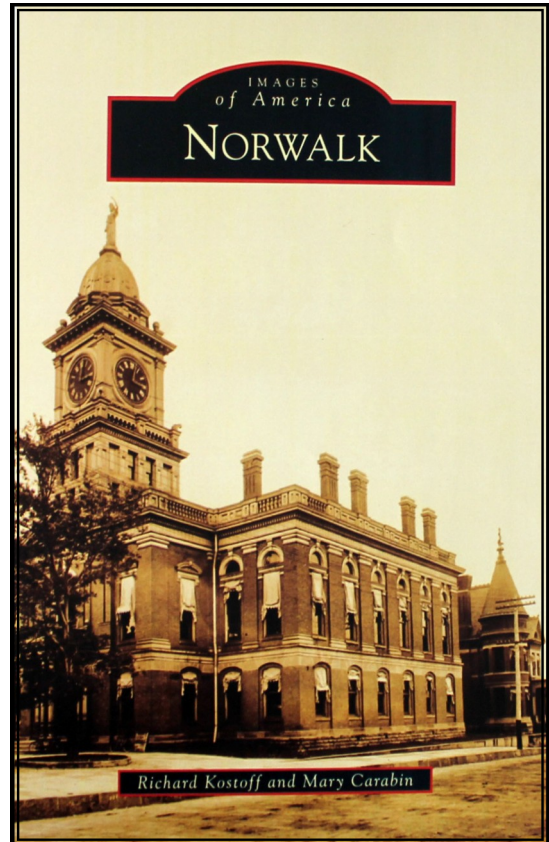
BOOK PRE-ORDER

Just in time for Norwalk's Bicentennial year celebration, the book **"Images of Norwalk"** is being published by Arcadia Publishing Co. The book is authored by Richard Kostoff of Columbus who grew up in Willard, Ohio, in collaboration with Mary Carabin, our Firelands Historical Society curator.

The book features information about the founding of Norwalk and its early founders, with 200 older pictures of Norwalk, mostly from the Firelands Historical Society collection with captions about each picture. This book would make a nice gift as well as a personal keep.

The book is available at the pre-sale order price of \$21.99. At this time, tax for the book is being included in the price. The book is due from the publisher around June 5 and at that time the book price will raise to \$23.50 with tax. If you want your book mailed add \$3.00 for P&H. If you desire to pick your book up at the museum, we will notify you when it is available.

We only have 100 books to sell so get your order in early.



Order Form

I would like to order _____ **"Images of Norwalk"** book.

Enclosed is a check in the amount of _____.

I will pick the book up _____.

I desire the book to be mailed _____.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Mail Checks to:

Firelands, Historical Society, P.O. Box 572, Norwalk, OH 44857

Constitution Change

At the February Board meeting, a proposal was made to change Article IV, Section 2 E of the Firelands Historical Society constitution, concerning the Vice Presidents residence. This change to the Constitution is being made to better serve our membership without restrictions to where a member lives. The constitution change was voted upon by the Firelands Historical Society board members on April 19 and passed unanimously.

Previous Constitution Wording

Vice President of Huron County and Vice President of Erie County
In the absence of the President, the VP of Huron County shall act in his or her place. In the absence of the VP of Huron County, the VP of Erie County shall assume the duties. The Vice Presidents role shall be to seek and encourage new membership, work on special projects and marketing.

New Constitutional Amendment

The proposed Amendment to the Constitution will read: There shall be two Vice-Presidents of the Firelands Historical Society: a First Vice-President and a Second Vice President. In the absence of the President , the First Vice -President shall act in his or her place. In the absence of the President and First Vice-President, the Second Vice-President shall assume the duties. The Vice-Presidents role shall be to seek and encourage new membership and to work on special projects and marketing.

Celebrating Norwalk's 200th Anniversary Norwalk Founders, Platt and Sally Benedict

Platt Benedict was born in Danbury, Connecticut in 1775. He was the sixth generation of Benedict's to have lived in the United States. On November 12, 1795, he married Sarah, daughter of Daniel DeForest of Wilton, Connecticut. She was born August 27, 1777. Her father had been a Revolutionary War soldier. To this union were born five children. Those being: Clarissa who married Hallet Gallup, David Mead who married Mary Booth Starr, Daniel, unmarried, Jonas who married Fanny Buckingham, and Eliza Ann who married William Brewster.

After his marriage, he moved to New Salem, New York where his daughter Clarissa was born. He then moved to Randel's Island in East River, where he engaged in Market Gardening. In a few years, he moved back to Danbury, Connecticut where he was appointed collector for the town in 1812-1813. In September 1815, he first came to Ohio to look up a new home, and in the later part of October, in the company of Elisha Whittlesey, and Maj. Frederick Falley, visited and examined the present site of Norwalk. He then returned to Danbury and acting as an agent negotiated the purchase of about 1,300 acres of land where the oldest

part of Norwalk is now located, on behalf of Elisha and Matthew Whittlesey, E. Moss White and himself. In January 1817, he returned to this area to make improvements and built a log home (the first built by a white man) in the present incorporated limits of Norwalk.

In July, 1817, he left Danbury with his family, for their seven week journey of fatiguing travel and hardship to Ohio, in a covered wagon drawn by one horse. They also brought with them another wagon loaded with household goods, provision, etc., drawn by four oxen, and also one saddle horse. Upon arriving in Norwalk they found that their cabin had burned to the ground (present location of 12 West Main). Staying with friends in Norwalk Township, they soon had a new log home built. In 1819, the log house was replaced by a two-story brick in the same location, which served as the Benedict family home to at least the mid 1870s.

Platt was a true businessman. He served as the first postmaster and Justice of the Peace, Mayor 1835-40-45 and 1856, first President of the Huron County Agricultural Society and President of the Firelands Historical Society from 1857 to the time of his death on 25 October 1866. He was also active in the Episcopal Church and the Masonic Lodge.

Sally, his beloved wife and faithful companion in all of life's hardships, passed away on June 24, 1852 after 56 years of marriage. On June 17, 1857, Platt remarried to Mrs. Lavina Benton of Republic, Ohio who survived him and died on February 9, 1875.

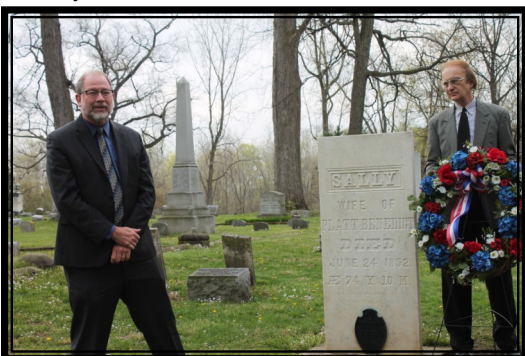
Laying of the Wreath

Woodlawn Cemetery

John Schumm



Mayor Duncan



A Bicentennial Evening



A Bicentennial Evening in honor of Norwalk's Founders Platt and Sally Benedict took place on April 22, 2017 in Norwalk's St. Paul Episcopal Church which was founded by the Benedicts. The historical celebration of Norwalk was the culmination of a dream by FHS trustee, John Schumm who wished to bring life to Norwalk's founders. A committee embracing many local societies was formed to bring this dream to fruition.

A re-enacting program was given by Eric Ebinger (Platt) who wrote the script and Anna Bristol as Sally. They were assisted by Vickie Dauch, as Mrs. Gardiner, Patti DuBois as Mrs. Ball, Kyle von Kamp as the neighbor, Paul, John and Luke Depinet as the children, and Bernie Yoder as the Native American.

Following the presentation, DeEtte Zimmerman, St. Paul Episcopal Music Director played period music pieces on the A.B. Chase grand piano which was made in Norwalk, Ohio. Continuing the program piano pieces were played by John Depinet, followed by two musical pieces composed for the event by a local student, Regan Zieber.

The pieces "The Creation of a Nation and "Our New Home" were played by Chase Castle on the piano, Jake Muratore on the cello, and Emily Barger on the violin.

The evening program concluded with the audience singing the Battle Hymn of the Republic.

A very elaborate catered buffet for the guests



Photos: Norwalk Reflector

Richard Russell



John Schumm and Matt Burr
at the Chamber of Commerce
Home and Business Show.



Monroeville 5th grade class visit.



Jordan Horowitz was the guest speaker for the
March program.

Jordon, a member of the Firelands Research and Recovery Metal Detecting Group, discussed and showed items of interest which were found locally.

BUSINESS NAME

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
Kath Olak, 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.