



MUSEUM MESSAGE

Ohio's Oldest Museum September 2016
www.firelandsmuseum.com

Fall Program Meeting Schedule

September 21, 2016

A Huron County Free Black Family

The program will be presented by Roland M. Baumann, who was an Archivist and Adjunct Professor of History at the Oberlin College for 22 years. In a vivid biographical treatment of Mary Hester Crabb (Mrs. Elijah Brown, 1924-1903), the daughter of a slave mother, Mariah Crabb, and a free black father, Jacob Crabb, Mr. Baumann will relate her story from unjust obscurity.

October 19, 2016

Unique and Unusual Stock Certificates and Bonds

Bill Knadler one of our Firelands Historical Society Trustees and a former Norwalk fireman will present the program. The presentation will show and discuss a few of his one-of-a-kind items, such as autographed, unique vignettes and others from his collection which have not been shown before. These items are from all over the United States and mostly from the pre-1900 period.

November 16, 2016

President, Rutherford B. Hayes

Author and presidential historian, Eric Ebinger, will present a unique look at the 19th President, Rutherford B. Hayes exclusively for the Firelands Historical Society. Ebinger will cast off the shadows of our Fremont neighbor and outline the accomplishments of his administration in new light. The program will answer the following question: Should Hayes be included in the discussion of "Great Presidents" along with Washington, Lincoln, and both Roosevelts? Ebinger will present both affirmative and negative comparisons, giving the audience a full scope of facts and observations to make their own decision. The program will also briefly present the role the City of Norwalk played in the education of a young Hayes, including ledgers and literature from the Museum's archives relevant to the president.

Ebinger's new book, *100 Days in the Life of Rutherford Hayes*, has sparked new interest in the man most frequently cast aside by historians. Find out why Hayes stock is rising in American History, and current presidential candidates would serve their potential voters well by paying a lot more attention to him.

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.

President's Message

Words cannot express the gratitude owed to our members and volunteers for the outstanding contribution to our society. So many projects inside and out have recently taken place. With the coming of the fall and winter season new ideas are being put into place.

In the July issue of Discover Norwalk a wonderful article was written about our Native American collection. It has prompted new interest from a large number of people not only in viewing but also in the donation of artifacts. We are continuing to work on the displays in that area. Plans are being formulated to revamp our agricultural display room.

When we acquired the Midway property it was our hope to convert the existing building into additional display area and a much larger meeting room. After consulting with several contractors we were told it would be in our best interest to tear down the Midway building and add on to the Laning-Young building. We are going to take this advice and in the very near future demolish the building. Any plans for an addition must be well thought out and researched. Funding will of course be our greatest concern.

In the meantime, our five year plan is being accomplished and we are ahead of schedule. As I said in the beginning it is though the generosity of so many, their time, energy and funding that has helped us realized our achievements. Thank you all so much.

Pat Mak, President

Norwalk's 200th Birthday

During the year of 2017, the Norwalk Bicentennial Committee is working on events to celebrate Norwalk's 200th year.

Bicentennial Calendar

For several months, a number of Firelands Historical Society members have been working on a calendar for the upcoming City of Norwalk Bicentennial in 2017.

The calendar will feature many classic historical pictures which span the eras from 1817 until 2017. It will also contain a brief history of Norwalk and the logo for the celebration.

Trustee John Schumm has spearheaded the work and has been greatly assisted by Anna Bristol, Mary Carabin, Chris Harlan, Chris Hipp, Kevin Hipp, Pat Mak, Dan Rood, Kathleen Schaffer, and DeEtte Zimmerman. The calendar will be printed in Norwalk and will go on sale to the public starting with the Light Up Norwalk Festival in late November. Copies will also be available at the museum.

The Firelands Historical Society is working closely with the Bicentennial Committee on the city celebration by providing information and providing a number of events. Chris Hipp is working on a scavenger hunt and Mary Carabin is coordinating a tour of Norwalk's historic downtown buildings. Many other events will also take place and the Firelands Historical Society hopes to have a float in the Fourth of July parade.

Our Trustees

We wish to thank Carol Kocher and Sue McCreary for their dedicated time on our board and wish them well in any new endeavors.

Mary Louise Stewart



Mary Stewart has decided to resign from the board as an active member. Mary now lives at the Carriage House, which has made it harder for her to attend meetings. Not so fast Mary, the board has now made her a Trustee Emeritus of the Board as her knowledge of the history of Norwalk is invaluable.

Mary (Laning) Stewart who is 98 years old was born in Cleveland, but her family has a long history of early lineage in Huron Co. Mary graduated from Norwalk High School in 1934 and we have a megaphone she used as a cheerleader at that time. Mary then attended Ohio Wesleyan with a major in journalism which has afforded her well throughout her life. After graduation, she moved back to Cleveland. She held several jobs prior to becoming a news writer for the Cleveland News. She met and married her husband, Dr. John Stewart, in 1951 while living in Cleveland.

Her mother, Mildred, was the treasurer of the Firelands Historical Society for many years and helped to keep the society in tact in during hard times. Mildred is one of the ladies for which our Laning-Young Building is named. Her grandfather and then father owned the Law Abstract Publishing Company in Norwalk. After her father became ill and needed help with the printing business, Mary and her husband and family moved to Norwalk. After her father's death, she was manager of the business for 12 years.

Mary has been active in the Firelands Historical Society for many years. She has held many hats throughout those years. From 1970-1980, she wrote articles called "Museum Feedback" for the Norwalk Reflector newspaper which described the history of many of the artifacts that could be found in the Firelands Museum. She was the President of the Firelands Historical Society from 1980 – 1983, and was also the editor of the Third Series of the Firelands Pioneer which was published from 1980 to 2000. Mary also helped with museum displays, especially at Christmas time.

A Summer Project Completed

Museum Painting

The Firelands Historical Society Museum has just recently received a fresh coat of paint which was badly needed and now enhances the beauty of the house. The house siding was scraped intensely as there was a lot of peeling paint, then primed and painted the same color of cream as before by the Jeff Linkenbach Company of Bayview, Ohio. Cost of the project was covered by a grant received earlier in the year.



Welcome To Our New Board Members

Anna Bristol

Born in Norwalk, she spent years residing in various cities surrounding Lake Erie, then returned to her home town in retirement. She and her husband, Del, are parents of two adult children, Del Jr. and Laurie, and they are rightfully proud of their two grandsons, Jake and Ben.

Her personal interest is reading history, science and biographies, with a bit of fiction in the mix. Genealogy has brought her in contact with far-flung cousins. Anna's flower gardening is her relaxation time. In addition, she is a board member of the local Sally DeForest Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Volunteering has been a lifelong pursuit for Anna and includes libraries, wild flower seed recovery, and rehabilitation home. We are especially grateful in the past several years for Anna's help in arranging new case displays in the Firelands Museum.

As a Firelands Historical Society trustee, she looks forward to learning from fellow board members and sharing her past endeavors to guide the society in the next three years.

Kathy Olak

Kathy Olak has been a Life Member of the Firelands Historical Society since the age of 6. The daughter of Jan and Ken Conway, Kathy grew up helping at the museum. She fondly remembers having tea in the afternoon in the dining room with Miss Harriett Laughton. One of her favorite things to do as a youngster was to help clean the toy room during the annual spring cleaning, when she would get to climb behind the cases and clean the toys.

Kathy lives in Milan and will be serving on the board as the Erie County Vice President. She has been an employee of the American Red Cross, Northern Ohio Blood Region for 19 years. Kathy and her late husband, Tom, have twin daughters who are 15.

DeEtte Zimmerman

First of all, it is an honor to finish Mary Stewart's term on the Firelands Historical Society Board. I have always had an interest in preserving history, restoration and education. My husband, a retired Masonry Contractor, who is recognized in our area for restoring and preserving some fine old buildings contributed to my interest in historical architecture.

Except for one year of my life, I have lived in Norwalk. I am retired from Fisher Titus where I worked as an LPTA for 30 yrs. I am currently the Organist and Choir Director at St. Paul Episcopal Church, a position that I have had in area churches for 45 yrs. In Huron County, I serve on the D.D. Board, the Mental Health and Addiction Services Board, and FCFC.

I consider it an opportunity and learning experience to serve on the Firelands Historical Society Board. I truly admire the enthusiasm, knowledge, and energy that the current board members contribute and I hope that I can serve with the same integrity.

Norwalk's Annual Garden Tour



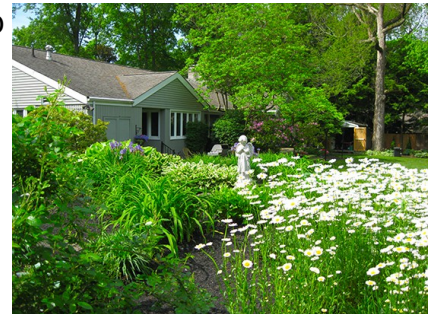
Our annual Norwalk garden tour which is sponsored by the Firelands Historical Society and the Huron County Master Gardeners was held on Saturday, July 9. The weather was great and we had a good attendance of about 135 people touring the gardens. Tickets were \$10 per person. This is one of our money raising events.

We featured six gardens this year. The three in town Norwalk gardens were as follows:

Bill and Sue Oiler's perennial curb garden greeted visitors as they approached their Warren Drive home. A larger garden area featured knock-out roses and other blooming perennials.

Randy and Tonya Sherer's yard on Vandercook featured a decorative side yard wall which added to the appearance of their hostas, vinca and mums. A garden house and various ornamentals add to the yard appearance.

Andy Shannon and his wife, Mara, who live on East Main, use Andy's artistic skills to train Bonsai plants to look aged by shaping driftwood to match the tree size in pots which Andy designs and makes himself. The remainder of his large yard is art-inspired as would be expected of an art teacher.



We then left the city of Norwalk to visit the other three gardens in the Settlement Cove area which is south of Norwalk just off of Route 61, near St. Alphonsus Catholic Church.

Bruce and Lori Czaplicki who live at 1179 Pioneer Path have lived in their home for only six years and already have many rose bushes, succulents, perennials and annuals that add color to the landscape. They also have an attractive newly dug pond.



Jim and Connie Penwell who live at 1170 Prairie Drive have a garden full of architectural plants that make a statement. A lovely designed patio greets the home owner's guests.

A man made creek bubbling over rocks and showcased with many perennials is a feature in the yard of Bill and Deanna Lund at 1199 Prairie Drive. A new addition to their house features an indoor hot tub and a new patio area with a kitchen and seating area.



Adam Poe: Evangelist & Faithful Servant

Melissa A. Stangeland is the author of the book “Adam Poe: Evangelist & Faithful Servant”. Melissa has recently published a biography about the life and ministry of her great-great-great-grandfather, Rev. Adam Poe, who was a Methodist pioneer evangelist and circuit rider in Ohio prior to the Civil War! He was the founder of Ohio Wesleyan University. Adam Poe was born in 1804 in Ohio, one year after Ohio became a state in 1803. He grew up near Massillon, Ohio in a log cabin with 11 siblings. In 1825 he became a circuit rider in which his early travels included the Firelands and other northern Ohio counties such as: Huron, Erie, Sandusky, Seneca, Lorain, Richland, Ashland, Medina, Cuyahoga, Hancock, and many more. The book’s emphasis is on the man and his works against a vivid background of local and national events from the date of his calling in 1823 till his death in 1868.

Melissa’s book has received Honorable Mention in the 2015 Saddlebag Selection Competition from the Historical Society of the United Methodist. The Firelands Historical Society was involved in helping Melissa obtain information about events from the Rev. Sheldon journals. If interested in purchasing a copy of the book, Melissa can be contacted by E-mail: feedbackforadampoe@gmail.com or www.facebook.com/biographyonAdamPoe

“Spirits of the Museum”

Crisp cool evenings and the beautiful colors of fall will soon be upon us, and with that comes thoughts of carved pumpkins, skeletons, ghosts and goblins. That being said, the Firelands Historical Society is pleased to announce a fall event to celebrate the Halloween season!

Join us on Thursday, October 27th for an evening of “Spirits at the Museum.” Beginning at 7:00 p.m., visitors will be welcomed by members of the Historical Society to the Firelands Museum. Guests on a guided tour will visit different rooms, and be told tales of some of the different spirits that may inhabit Ohio’s oldest continuing museum. Cost is \$5.00 per person, and refreshments will be served. Please come and support this special event.



**2015 TREASURER'S REPORT
 FIRELANDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

GENERAL FUND:

JANUARY 1, 2015 BALANCE **\$29,360.97**

INCOME: 2015 ACTUAL

Admissions	\$1,322.00
Fundraising-Garden Tour	\$960.00
Fundraising-Stewards	\$14,345.00
Gifts Received	\$22,469.00
Gift Shop Sales	\$337.25
Interest Income	\$1,963.89
Library Rent	\$360.00
Meeting Income	\$825.00
Memberships	\$3,745.00
Other Income	\$7,624.31
Research Fees	\$95.00

SPECIAL FUNDS:

ACQUISITIONS FUND	\$3,500.00
ENDOWMENT FUND	\$95,937.94
FORD MEMORIAL	\$17,359.87
LIBRARY FUND	\$263.00
LANING-YOUNG BLDG.	\$3,200.00
MAINT/CAPITAL FUND	\$28,264.84
OLD BUILDING SURVEY	\$1,057.00
PUBLICATIONS FUND	\$1,069.23
WINDSOR/ADMIRAL	\$59,910.89
WINDSOR II	\$14,514.14
BLACK ENDOWMENT FOR AMER. INDIAN ARTIFACTS	\$24,885.21

TOTAL INCOME **\$54,046.45**

SPECIAL FUNDS TOTAL **\$249,962.12**
 (AS OF 12/31/2015)

EXPENSES:

Advertising	\$884.10
Education & Meetings	\$335.00
Equipment	\$2,020.00
Fundraising Expense	\$219.76
Gift Shop Expense	\$189.92
Information & Technology	\$2,937.77
Insurance	\$2,434.00
Maintenance	\$4,704.79
Newsletter Expense	\$191.36
Occupancy-Museum	\$2,347.66
Occupancy-Midway Bldg.	\$2,155.30
Occupancy-Research Ctr.	\$2,939.87
Office Expense-Museum	\$785.56
Office Expense-Research	\$1,076.71
Office Expense-Supplies	\$941.11
Programs & Meetings	\$525.72
Postage	\$210.52
Real Estate Tax (Newton)	\$168.00
Security & Protection	\$648.00
Transfer (Meeker Gift)	\$6,042.29
Workers Compensation	\$164.80
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$31,922.24

John Elmlinger, Treasurer
 Firelands Historical Society

DEC. 31, 2015 BALANCE **\$51,485.18**

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, Huron Co. Vice President
Kathy Olak, Erie Co. 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
Ohio Association of Historical Societies & Museums
Ohio Genealogical Society
Ohio Historical Society

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

Annual

**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.**