



## MUSEUM MESSAGE

Ohio's Oldest Museum    September 2018  
[www.firelandsmuseum.com](http://www.firelandsmuseum.com)

### BENEDICT PAINTINGS RESTORED

Platt and Sally de Forest Benedict's oil paintings have been restored to the museum's parlor after several months of restoration.

Sally de Forest's namesake DAR chapter raised six thousand dollars, as a Norwalk bicentennial project, to bring the paintings close to their former appearance.



ICA Art Conservation, in Cleveland, undertook the work in January 2017. The paintings were heavily soiled (they are nearly 200 years old) from accumulated heating source pollutants, smoking, fly specks, and general dirt. A light cleanser was applied with cotton swabs. The grime was painstakingly removed from the surfaces, and the magic began to show. Details of their clothing, skin tones, and backgrounds are more evident.

Both paintings had areas of paint missing, which ICA conservators carefully matched and in-painted. There were small tears to be mended, Platt's painting had come loose from its stretcher, and both frames had to be cleaned and stabilized. Insect remains and other debris was found behind the canvases.

Ultra-violet light protection has been added to their surfaces. ICA provided a detailed description of the work performed, the types of chemical used, etc., for the benefit of future conservation work.

Visit the museum for a fresh look at Norwalk's founding couple.

PHOTO: Anna Bristol, DAR and FHS member, describing the restoration process at the May unveiling.

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

### Our Officers and Trustees

There has been a changing of the guard. We wish to thank Pat Mak for her dedicated 10 years as president for guiding us through good and also some difficult times. She will now continue in the position of past president. John Elmlinger has kept the Historical Society in a good financial balance for 35 years and decided it was time to step down as treasurer, passing the torch to Kathleen Schaffer. Mary Carabin, the secretary for the past 18 years, has passed the job on to Chris Harlan. She will remain a member of the board. We wish to welcome Dick Suhr as our newest board member.

Current Officers - Dan Rood, President, Chris Hipp, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, and welcome Diane Meyer as, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Pat Mak, Past President, Chris Harlan, Secretary and Treasurer, Katheen Schaffer.

Current Trustees – Anna Bristol, Fred Downey, John Schumm, Matt Burr, Roger Dickman, DeEtte Zimmerman, Bill Knadler, Dick Suhr, and Mary Carabin.

### Firelands Historical Society Car and Truck Show

**September 23, 2018 11am — 3pm**

**Special Display of Fisher Body, Norwalk Truck Line and WL Mead Vehicles**

**Chinese Auction**

**Ice Cream Social**

**Open to all makes, models and years**

**Fundraiser to Benefit Firelands Historical Society**

### Spirits of the Museum

The Preston-Wickham House (Firelands Museum) will once again be haunted by spirits. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual "Spirits of the Museum" will occur on October 25<sup>th</sup> from 6:30pm to 8:30 pm. Spirits such as Lucy Preston Wickham, who lived in the home with her husband Fredrick Wickham, along with her father, and builder of the home, as well as a newspaper publisher Sam Preston, will also be present. Arron Burr, though not of this area, finally gets to view, once again, the one letter of the seven, that never reached Alexander Hamilton. Colonel James W. Van Dusen will be in the gun room at the museum. A life member of the Firelands Historical Society, Colonel Van Dusen served in the U. S. Army Medical Corps during the Spanish-American War, the Philippine Insurrection, and World War I, eventually becoming assistant to the surgeon general in Washington, D.C. There will be other discussions as well.



Admission is \$5.00 with a new tour beginning roughly every 10 minutes.

## **1st Recipients of “Firelands Pioneer” Award**

This year at our Annual Banquet, we introduced the “Firelands Pioneer” award. This is presented to outstanding members who have dedicated their lives to help preserve and maintain the accuracy of the History of the Firelands. Inductees for this year’s award are Mary Stewart, Henry Timman and John Elmlinger.



## **CURATOR POSITION**

The Firelands Historical Society is beginning the search for a museum curator. After many years of dedicated service, Mary Carabin is retiring from the position in December. The Board of Trustees will be conducting a public search in the coming weeks, but we would welcome recommendations of qualified individuals from our membership. Our preference, naturally, would be someone with a love of history and an understanding of how to secure, preserve and present the historical artifacts we have. In addition, they must have the ability to interact with the public and work with volunteers and board members.

Recommendations of qualified persons can be made to Dan Rood (567) 219-9001, Chris Hipp (419) 663-1530, or any of the board members.

## **Client/Employee Appreciation Night**

This year we are opening the museum for local businesses to host a Client/Employee Appreciation evening. Any local business that would like to entertain their guests at the museum is welcome to pick an evening in November-December. Your business will provide food and refreshments and we will provide tours for your guests in both buildings. This will be a great and unique holiday “thank you” to those who do business with your company.

Please contact us for further detail.

## **Up coming Programs**

September 19— *Bill Knadler* will present Unique and Unusual

A collection of unusual stocks and bonds

October 17— Diane Meyer and Roger Dickman will have a presentation on the History of Monroeville.

November 21— Due to being a day before Thanksgiving we decided not to have a program.



## THANK YOU

### Huron County Master Gardeners

*The beauty and generosity of the Master Gardeners*

**H**ere in Huron County, dozens of Master Gardener Volunteers share their knowledge and expertise with area residents to improve quality of life for all. To continue our efforts of being good horticultural stewards in our community, Master Gardener Volunteers offer a variety of services to Huron County residents.



Services include:

- ◆ Junior Master Gardener Program – for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students
- ◆ General education, community workshops and school programs
- ◆ Nourishing Community Gardens
- ◆ Spring Plant Sale
- ◆ Phenology Garden
- ◆ Huron County Fair Flower Show
- ◆ Backyard gardening and lawn care classes

Let us add the 15<sup>th</sup> annual Norwalk Garden Tour to this impressive list! The Firelands Historical Society receives the proceeds from these popular garden tours. The Huron County Master Gardeners arrange the six gardens to be toured. This is not so simple, there are numerous telephone calls, personal visits to prospective gardens, arranging for at least half of the volunteers who check off tickets at each house and provide a modicum of security, a descriptive newspaper article to tantalize people to attend, and more.

Be certain to thank these women and men who have graciously supported the Firelands Historical Society for fifteen years!

If you are interested in becoming a Huron County Master Gardener, please contact: Huron County Master Gardeners, c/o OSU Extension Office, 180 Milan Ave., Suite #1, Norwalk, OH 44857.

419-668-8219 –or- [huro@cfaes.osu.edu](mailto:huro@cfaes.osu.edu).

*“There is just something magical about getting your hands dirty and improving the world around you.”* -- Master Gardener Volunteer



## Message from the President

**A**s we begin a new era in our society, I would like to thank everyone for their support as we face some new goals.

The board and I have been working together and looking at all options to bring our organization closer with the community. We are coming up with ideas to be more inviting to achieve a larger membership. We are about to start a building fund campaign to expand our campus and just recently talked with Steve Zigo to help us with the design. Also, we are looking at our by-laws and constitution to have a better understanding of our governing body. Currently we have some loose ends that we feel need to be better defined.

Communications between board members will be increased to help keep us all on the same page. The two vice presidents, Diane Meyer and Chris Hipp, will be included on all projects and communications to help them know what is involved as they move up in their positions and become president. This will allow for long-term goals to be achieved in a timely manner.

So, as you can see, we have a lot of work ahead of us and I'm sure that I've forgotten to mention many other goals. We are looking for additional volunteers and potential board members. If you are interested, please contact any of us and we would be more than happy to talk with you. This is your Historical Society and you can help us make it a destination point for Norwalk.

Sincerely

*Dan Rood*

President, Firelands Historical Society

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 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](mailto: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 Mondays.**

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

**or email: [curator@firelandsmuseum.com](mailto:curator@firelandsmuseum.com).**