



MUSEUM MESSAGE

September 2017

www.FirelandsMuseum.com

This year in the spirit of Norwalk's Bicentennial year the Firelands Historical Society has been involved with several of the planned celebrations. The May newsletter recorded the Bicentennial Evening with Platt and Sally Benedict and commemorative activities which took place at Woodlawn Cemetery. Since then we were actively involved in the 4th July parade and garden tour.

DAR and Firelands Historical Society Create A Parade Float for July 4th!

In a spirit of bicentennial cooperation, the Sally DeForest chapter of the OSDAR invited the Firelands Historical Society to jointly build a float for the Lions Club Fourth of July parade in Norwalk, Ohio. Planning sessions were held and materials were ordered and finally the two groups met at Mak's Art Studio on Milan Ave on July 3rd to assemble the float. Members of all ages from both groups showed up and brought various foods to share after the task was completed. The result was a historic float featuring Norwalk's founders, Platt and Sally DeForest Benedict. A large group of parade participants, representing historic Norwalk personages and revolutionary and military figures marched in the parade. The children passed out American flags along the parade route. The Lions Club awarded the float first place in the historic division, singling out the revolutionary children. A good time was had by one and all!



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.

Upcoming Fall 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.

September 20, 2017

Quest speaker, Randy Koch will discuss his interview with the last surviving World War I Veteran. On September 11, 2008, Mr. Koch had the opportunity to spend an afternoon with Frank Buckles, the last surviving World War I veteran. Although Mr. Buckles passed away several years ago, Randy brings to you that memorable afternoon with the veteran's intriguing life story during which he survived an even more perilous World War II experience.

Also, at this meeting there will be a book sale of a few duplicate publications found in our library collection. If interested, bring a little extra money and enjoy browsing.

October 18, 2017

Dr. Irwin J. Weinfeld, a retired neonatologist who now lives in Huron, will speak about the history of cholera epidemics in Ohio, including local area outbreaks. He will also discuss the causes, symptoms, modern treatment and prevention of the disease.

November 15, 2017

Renee Durkee, and Ohio resident, will discuss her recent book "Rum Run" an action-packed historical novel of love, loyalty and revenge set during Prohibition. Her preface of the book starts with Lake Erie shoreline, Vermilion, Ohio, June 1928. She will also have photographs to view.

Events Still To Come

Look for more details in the newspaper *Uptown Walking Tour*

On September 17 from 1 to 3 p.m. the Firelands Historical Society is planning a Walking Tour of the Norwalk Business District. Guides will discuss the history of the buildings and mention former business that were located in the buildings. Perhaps the tour will bring back special memories for you. The tour is free to the public. Donations are always accepted.

Norwalk Building Scavenger

During the month of October, a Norwalk Building Art Scavenger Hunt is planned. Those participating will be given a list of items to look for on buildings in the uptown section of Norwalk. Winners will receive prizes.

Spirits of the Museum – Re-Visited

The second annual Spirits of the Museum Halloween event will be held on Thursday, October 26. Hours of admission are: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Admission fee is \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for ages 18 and under. Plan to attend, and enjoy some "mystery in history". Refreshments will be served.

Garden Tour

Our annual garden tour took place on July 8, a lovely sunny and moderately warm day. The garden tour is sponsored by the Firelands Historical Society and the Huron County Master Gardeners. The gardens were enjoyed by 201 people, our largest attendance to date. We wish to publicly thank the six families who generously opened their gardens for the public to view, they are: Jim and Char Busek, Scott and Nancy Sisson, Tom and Jackie Dunlap, LaMar and Phyllis Zieber, Shannon and Dave Ditz, and Bill and Judy Rarick. This was one of our money making events for the year.

Jim and Char Busek's home and garden is located on a cul-de-sac street. The beautifully manicured lawn and landscape is very inviting. From the back yard a landscaped hillside extends into a woods where deer can be seen frequently. On the day of the tour, Jim provided a golf cart to drive visitors to his lower area land.

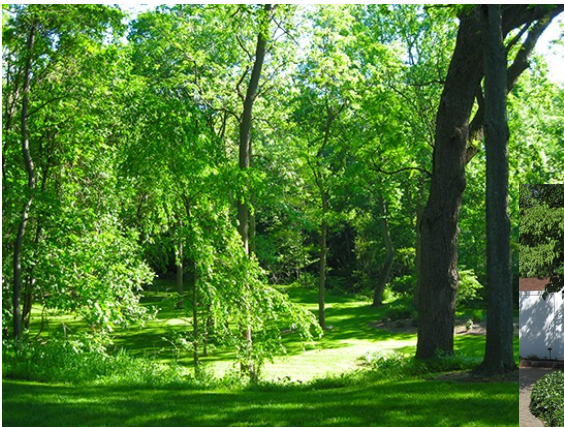
The garden of Scott and Nancy Sisson has are lots of plants and clever touches, a result of 24 years of perfecting by Scott, the designer. A water garden alive with gold fish and surrounded with stone adorns their back yard.

The Tom and Jackie Dunlap's back yard is a garden art showpiece. Jackie loves to go to auctions and garage sales to find unique pieces which are featured on a fence. In another section an old bed spring supports a variety of vines. Dwarf shrubs and roses add color to the landscape.

The garden of Phyllis and LaMar Zieber has been on the garden tour more than once and it still charms and inspires gardeners. A new Korean fir has been added to the front of the house. A beautiful beech tree graces the back yard, and a new water fall and a large perennial garden can be seen along the back fence.

The garden of Shannon and Dave Ditz features veggies and herbs. The Ditz's enjoy eating healthful foods right from their garden and love their edible landscape. Shannon is a Master Gardener and helps train young and inexperienced gardeners about raised bed and square-foot gardening techniques.

The garden of Bill and Judy Rarick features a water garden. They also have a beautiful large spider wart, hostas, astilbes and other interesting plantings to complete their yard.



Firelands Historical Society Board

We wish to thank Kathy Olak for her service as Vice President for Erie County. Her replacement, Chris Hipp, a board member, was voted in as 2nd Vice President.

We wish to welcome Kathleen Schaffer as a new member of our board. Kathleen for a couple of years has been volunteering at our museum as a docent.

Museum Beautified Outside

With money received from two local grants the outside of the museum has seen some very needed changes and improvements. On the north side of the building, the old overgrown shrubbery was all removed and new low and slow growing evergreens included two front bushes were planted by Iris Riley, landscaper. A stone ground cover was then applied around the bushes. The large tree which shaded the house and its stump were removed by Smith Tree Service.



On the south side of the house a new basement steps railing and hand rail were installed by Chris Barman, carpenter. The vinyl rail replaced a rotting wooden rail and now brings the rail up to city code.



Groups Visit the Museum

During their last school weeks in May, 200+ Norwalk City School second graders toured the museum. During their visit the children were shown how some of the old implements worked and in some cases were able to do hands on.

Recently, we welcomed two senior groups to our facilities. They were: 43 Creston Seniors from Wayne County, Ohio and 16 members of the Early Settler's Association of the Western Reserve. Several members of Early Settler group reported that they had family roots in Huron County.

Lion's Club Donation

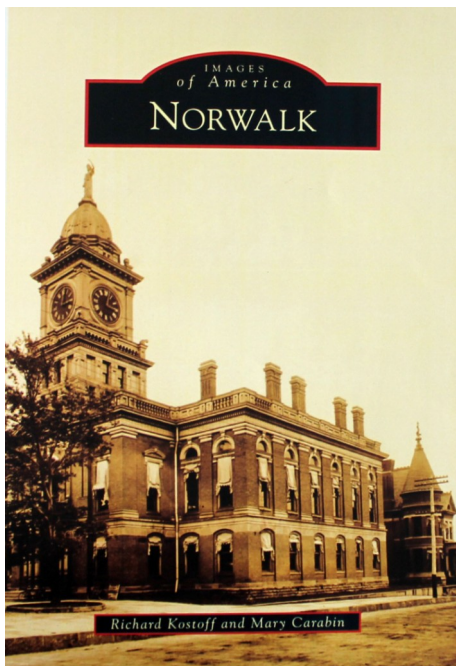
A check for \$2,382 was presented to the Firelands Historical Society from money raised from the Norwalk Lions Club 4th of July parade raffle. Accepting the check is society president Pat Mak from Lions Club member, Shelia Balwin. The money will be used to help pay for a new roof on the Laning-Young Building. Also, pictured, from left, are John Schumm, society trustee, and Lions parade committee members, Jay Ewell, Wayne Babcanec, Linda Bersche, and John Flickinger.



Welcome UNCAS



The Native American life-form was created by LifeFormations Inc. in Bowling Green, Ohio. It represents what an Archaic Period Native American would have looked like, living in the fields and forests of present day Erie and Huron Counties, some 5,000 years ago. The stone spear points and atlatl weight are original pieces from the Society's extensive collection of prehistoric artifacts. The buckskin costuming was hand-made by the artists at LifeFormations. Every effort was made to make this life-form as life-like as possible. It will be a great addition to the Society's Archaeological Research Room, and a wonderful learning tool for our visiting school children. Funding for the life-form was provided by the Black Family Foundation.



Images of Norwalk Book

There are still a few copies of the book "Images of Norwalk" available. The cost is \$23.50 which includes tax for Ohio residents. If you live out of state the book sells for \$21.99. Postage is \$3.00.

The Huron County Chapter of OGS and the Firelands Historical Society are pleased to announce that the new Wi-Fi Internet Network is now installed in the Lanning-Young Research Library. You can connect wirelessly to the Internet by using your laptop computer, any mobile device, or one of our in-house computers.

Information Technologies & Training

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Both organizations would like to thank **Information Technologies & Training** of Norwalk for their excellent service, their knowledge of networks, and for the time they spent helping to get our network set up and running. They were very generous with donating their time to this project to help all of our visitors that come to the research center and museum!

We couldn't have done it without them!

If you have any computer or training needs, please check them out! **www.ittsite.com**

Who Were the Benedict Children?

A Bicentennial Continuation of the Platt and Sally Benedict Family

Clarissa Benedict, the eldest of the five children of Platt and Sally Benedict, was born on September 4, 1796 in North Salem, Westchester County, New York. She was about 21 years of age when she came with her family to Norwalk, Ohio. In 1820, she married Hallet Gallup, a 1812 War Veteran and at the time of their marriage, he was a collector for what was then Huron County and later a farmer. She became the mother of eight children of whom six lived to adulthood. At the time of her death on January 11, 1878 at the age of 81, her obituary states she was the oldest member of the

on June 1 1803. He left home as early as 1825 and soon joined a circus. He traveled with the Doolittle Menagerie, an exhibition of living animals. His job was to care for the mechanical and musical organ for the show. In his letters to his parents he wrote about health problems. He died at the early age of 24 on September 9, 1827 in New Orleans, Louisiana of malaria.

Jonas Boughton Benedict was born on 23 May 1806 in Harlem, New York. He was eleven years of age when he accompanied his parents to Norwalk and attended a very early primitive school. As a young man, his father, Platt, then Norwalk postmaster, put Jonas in charge of the day to day operation of the mail. However, these advantages never bore fruit and he never participated in the political and business life of the village, perhaps due to his desire for alcohol. On October 8, 1829, he married Fanny Buckingham and four children were born to this union. Unfortunately, Fanny, his wife, died in 1840, a year after her last child was born. After Fanny's death he remarried to Caroline Chapman. He died on the 29th of July 1851 and is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery. Jonas and Fanny's children were Platt, David, Mary Starr, and Fanny. Platt died at the age of three of burns. David who was only eight when his mother died attended Kenyon College and Case Medical College, graduating in 1861. David then served in the Civil War as Assistant Surgeon in the 17th Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He was taken prisoner at the battle of Chickamauga and confined to Libby prison. When released from prison, he returned to his regiment and marched with Sherman to the sea. He was promoted to full Surgeon on May 6, 1865 and mustered out on July 21, 1865. Returning to Norwalk he established a pharmacy in the Whittlesey Building (now the Chinese Restaurant, corner of Main and Whittlesey). His home was on Seminary Street in back of the Main Street School. He married Harriott Deaver and they were the parents of three children, Fred who died of pneumonia, Ellen and Susan. Mary Starr Benedict was born in 1836 and was only four when her mother died. She fell as a young child and broke her back causing her to walk bent over, supporting her upper body with her hands on her knees. She died in 1845 at the age of eight. Fanny B. Benedict was born in 1839. Her mother died shortly after her birth. Mary married Louis Severance of Cleveland. They had four children. She died on August 1, 1874, in Cleveland, Ohio.

Eliza Ann Benedict was born August 17, 1812 in Danbury, Connecticut. She married William Brewster on May 1, 1832 in Norwalk. She had two sons and a daughter, all of whom died young. She died on 17 August 1840 in Norwalk at the age of 27 and was buried in St. Paul's Episcopal Church Cemetery. Later her remains were moved to Woodlawn Cemetery.

Firelands Historical Society
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P.O. Box 572
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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.