



The Amherst Historical Society

Grindstone Newsletter

July - August 2021



Upcoming Events

Village Garage Sales

Saturday 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

July 10

July 24

Aug 21

AHS Tent at 150 Jefferson

Wine and Beer Tasting Fundraiser

Friday July 30 at 6:00 pm

Hearty Appetizers

\$30 per person

Call 440-988-7255 for reservations

Sandstone Hall Events

Christmas in August Sale

Aug 7 from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

Free Community Night Program

The 8 Ohio President's Wives

September 25 at 6:00 pm

Call 988-7255 for reservations

Murder Mystery Dinner Fundraiser

Friday Oct 8 & Saturday Oct 9
at 6:00 pm

AHS Grounds and Hall Rentals

Options available for

Weddings, Parties & Celebrations

Call 440-988-7255

A Letter from the Executive Director ...Sandy Kaiser

Dear Members,

Happy 4th of July. It is so wonderful to actually be able to plan events and gather with family and friends again!

When you review the upcoming events you will notice that we now have a tent available for functions as well as the Sandstone Hall, and Live Oak Pavilion. It's exciting to have three options open for this summer. I have been informed that The Sandstone Village grounds will be available to us later this summer. We are anxious to be able to do tours again. The Quigley will open for Sunday tours from 2 to 4 starting July 11. The July Wine and Beer Tasting will be held in the AHS Tent, weather permitting. In case of bad weather we can move to the Sandstone Hall. The Christmas in August Sale is just that, we will have a large selection of holiday items for sale. The 8 Ohio President's Wives will be a free Community Night Event. Come and hear what it was like to live in the White House back in the day. You may even pick up on some juicy gossip. Our Murder Mystery is in the planning stages, so mark your calendars and we will provide details in our Sept-Oct Grindstone. If you have questions or suggestions don't hesitate to call me at the AHS Office 440-988-7255.

I'm sad to report the passing of Al Doane, an avid historian, long time member and supporter of The Amherst Historical Society. Our sincere condolences to his beloved wife, Bernie, their friends and families.

Stay well and enjoy your summer,
Sandy

Congratulations to our monthly winners!

July- Elaine Breen

Aug- Norm & Shelly Miller

Check this out if you are looking for fun things to do in July

Join Sandstone Summer Theatre of Amherst for an evening in the park with the classic GODSPELL! Performances will be held at:

7:00 pm - on July 9, 10, 16, and 17

2:00 pm- on July 11 and 18

at the Vermilion River Reservation Amphitheater

51211 North Ridge Road Vermilion, OH 44089

Tickets can be purchased at sandstonesummertheatre.com

Please Consider Volunteering

We are in need of Volunteers to work garage sales, pick up/delivery and events. We are also in need of more docents for tours.

If you are willing and able to help us out, please
contact: Deanna Houston @ 440-988-7255 or 440-309-5879



Learn More About Your Board of Directors



John Sekletar is serving his second term on the Board and Cathy is serving her first. John and Cathy have been married for 47 years. They have lived in Amherst for 44 years and are proud parents to 2 sons and 4 intergenic grandchildren. They are active members of St. Joseph Church in Amherst. Cathy has been a floral designer for nearly 50 years, she is now “retired” and working in estate sales. John is a Navy veteran and is retired from the Amherst School System. John is coordinator of Amherst Veterans Day Ceremony and founder of Veterans Mural Wall and Patriots Park Project. Cathy and John are working diligently on the Patriots Park Project, slated for groundbreaking this summer. Their interest in preserving and honoring history make them a perfect fit for the Amherst Historical Society.



Gerard “Jerry” Torma is serving his second term on the Board. Jerry received his Bachelors Degree from the University of Akron in 1974. He immediately joined the Peace Corps and worked in agriculture and rural development in Iran from June 1974 to June 1976. After earning his MBA from Baldwin-Wallace College he joined Nordson Corporation as their Human Resources Manager. Jerry’s career lead him to travel to many countries representing Nordson Corporation. After his retirement in 2018, Jerry continues to work as an independent consultant for Global Business and Cultures Consulting. He and his wife Mary had one child. Today, Jerry loves to babysit his grandchildren and continues to be active in many local organizations.



Gina is serving her first term on the Board. She retired from Amherst Schools where she taught students with severe and special needs, having worked with that population of children since age 11 (they are her heart). She has been married to Keith since 1982 and they have two children, son Kevin is in the Navy and daughter Aly works in HR, is married to Jon, and they have presented she and Keith with two beautiful grandchildren. Gina is an avid gardener with a “thing” for heirloom tomatoes, she is known as the “Ohio Tomato Lady”.



Mitch Witherell is serving his first term on the Board. He and wife, Diane, have been married for 35 years and are parents to 2 daughters Marlo and Kalli. They are a family of medical professionals; Diane, a director at Mercy Allen Hospital, and Kalli are RNs. Marlo is a Nurse Practitioner. They have three grandchildren, Claire, Grace, Mitch, his namesake, the newest addition, plus three step grandchildren, Joe, Emma and McKenna. They are also proud parents to three dogs, Izzie, a King Charles Cavalier Spaniel, who is the face of his company, and two Chihuahuas, Trisket and GiGi plus a Siamese kitty named Mai Ling. Mitch's past experience has been in public service, working with EMS and Fire service and as a State Humane Agent. He was an ASE certified Tech with Milad Chevy Oldsmobile and has been in the garage and trades profession for 34 years. He has owned DiFrancesco Garage Doors for 6 years. They are celebrating 50th years business this year. His experience of a lifetime was to fly with Metro Life Flight twice. He loves his work and being of service to others.

A Bit of History on the \$2.00 Bill

The \$2.00 Bill is Steeped in Tradition

It actually pre-dates the Signing of the Declaration of Independence by nine days. For on June 25, 1776, the Continental Congress authorized the issuance of \$2.00 denominations in “bills of credit for the defense of America”.

During the Civil War, on July 11, 1862, an Act of Congress made the \$2.00 denomination official United States Currency. And, over the years it appeared as over-sized U.S. Notes, Silver Certificates, Treasury Notes and National Currency.

Distinguished Americans, including Alexander Hamilton, James B. McPherson, Winfield S. Hancock, William Windom and George Washington appeared on the face of this currency until 1928. At that time, the more familiar size \$2.00 bill with the portrait of Thomas Jefferson, third President of the United States and author of the Declaration of Independence was issued.

These bills were last printed during May 1965 and officially discontinued on August 10, 1966. Since then, there has been increasing interest in the \$2.00 bill which resulted in a November 3, 1975 Department of Treasury announcement that a new \$2.00 bill would be issued on April 13, 1976, Thomas Jefferson's Birthday.

This first-day-of-issue \$2.00 bill bears an engraving of Thomas Jefferson from a portrait painted by Gilbert Stuart in the early 1800s. The note features a rendition of “The Signing of the Declaration of Independence”, painted by John Trumbull which now hangs in the Trumbull Gallery at Yale University.

Possession of the first-day-of-issue-of U.S. currency is a rare, if not a once-in-a-life-time occurrence. And, it is a reaffirmation of pride in the Declaration of Independence—the touchstone for the definition of America.



THE CURIOUS CURATOR

-Joan Rosenbusch

Since President Biden's American Jobs Infrastructure Plan has been in the news lately it brought to mind President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal Program that was created after the Stock Market Crash; followed by the Great Depression.

There were over 50 programs that became a part of the New Deal... some of them were the WPA (Works Progress Administration), the FDIC (the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation) the SSA (Social Security Act), the ACE (Army Corps of Engineers), FHA (Federal Housing Administration), the PWA (Public Works Administration), and the TVA (Tennessee Valley Authority.)

With help from Russell Marty, I found that Amherst was third in Ohio in number of New Deal projects, only surpassed by Cincinnati and Cleveland. Here are some of them:

BROOKSIDE DRIVE ENTRANCE

The Civil Works Administration (CWA) and Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) “constructed a new entrance to Brookside Drive” in Amherst, Ohio. Completed in 1924

CROWNHILL CEMETERY IMPROVEMENTS

The Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) provided labor to improve Crownhill Cemetery in Amherst, Ohio in 1934.

HOSPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

The Civil Works Administration (CWA) provided labor to undertake numerous municipal improvements in Amherst, Ohio, among which was painting the community’s historic hospital building.

MILAN AVENUE UNDERPASS WIDENING

The Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) furnished labor to widen Milan Avenue “at both sides of the bridge.” Milan Avenue curves around its underpass with a railroad, and the work was necessary to soften the curves and improve safety. The Amherst News-Times reported: “Other corners that were rounded are those in the immediate vicinity of the bridge near the depot. The corners of MILL & TENNEY; MILL & WEST; MILL & SPRING; and WEST & MAPLE were all widened considerably.”

PARK IMPROVEMENTS

The Civil Works Administration (CWA) provided labor to undertake numerous improvements to Grace Sprenger Memorial Park, the park at the spring along Beaver Creek in Amherst, Ohio.

TOWN HALL IMPROVEMENTS

The Civil Works Administration (CWA) provided labor to undertake numerous municipal improvements in Amherst, among which was painting the community’s historic Town Hall.

MURAL - POST OFFICE (former) "NOW MAIN STREET AMHERST"

The historic former post office building in Amherst, Ohio houses an example of New Deal artwork: “Pioneers Crossing the Ohio River,” completed in 1941 by Michael Loew. It was commissioned by the federal Treasury Section of Fine Arts.

CENTRAL SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS (former) "NOW 1907 CENTRAL"

The Civil Works Administration (CWA) provided labor to undertake numerous municipal improvements in Amherst, Ohio, among which was painting the community’s historic school building. CWA workers also repaired desks and bathroom fixtures. The former school building is located at the northwest corner of Franklin Avenue and Church Street and houses "The 1907 At Central School Assisted Living".

POST OFFICE (former) "NOW MAIN STREET AMHERST"

The historic former post office building in Amherst, Ohio was constructed in 1939 with federal Treasury Department funds. The building, now municipally owned, houses an example of New Deal artwork.

SCHOOL ATHLETIC TRACK

The Civil Works Administration (CWA) provided labor to construct a cinder athletic track at Amherst, Ohio's old high school. The track is no longer in existence. The former school building is located at the northwest corner of Franklin Avenue and Church Street.

FOREST STREET PAVING

The Works Progress Administration (WPA) provided labor for the paving of Forest Street in Amherst, Ohio starting in 1937.

NORTH LAKE STREET PAVING

The Works Progress Administration (WPA) provided labor for the paving of North Lake Street in Amherst, Ohio starting in 1935.



POST OFFICE



AMHERST HOSPITAL



POST OFFICE MURAL

HISTORICAL CORNER

By Carol Hiltabidel

Last issues mystery item winner was Lynda Helyes. She identified the large safety pins as those used on laundry bags, kilts, on horse blankets and some were actually used as ID tags on some farm animals, pushed through the ear cartilage. Congratulations Lynda.

I'm switching things up this issue. There is no "mystery" item for you to guess. Instead, I'd like to talk about Antiques and Collectibles. An Antique is usually considered to be an item that is 100+ years old. A Collectible is an item 50 years old or less. So, if you have an item that pre-dates 1921 it is an antique; a collectible would date from 1971 forward. That leaves a span of 50 years between 1921 and 1971 that many also consider antiques. Whatever your interest, antiques or collectibles, the thrill is in the hunt. My husband and I love it all. We have been collecting for about 45 years. Another collector once told me that "once you have more than two of one item, you have a collection"! I think that it true because who can stop at two when it's something you like. Finding an item that is 100 years old is difficult most times. Many things just did not survive the passage of time. When we find old paper, advertising, books, other printed items (classed as Ephemera) or glassware, I get especially excited since what are the odds of their survival over the years? Many items end up in museums, as they should, or are exceptionally expensive to purchase as an individual with limited means. But it can happen.

Together we have accumulated many old books, advertisements, glassware, games and toys, all of which fall into both categories. Hubby likes old pins/pinbacks from organizations, political, advertising, and historical pins. Such is the pin pictured below. This is an antique 1895 Louisville Ky. Badge...29th National ENPT Civil War Veterans of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) pin. It is hard to find and considered rare. The badge was given out to those who were Extraverted, Intuitive, Thinking and Perceiving (ENTP) during Civil War times forward. It is a great addition to anyone who collects Civil War, Freemason, Masonic, or Knights Templars Historical Fraternity memorabilia. We were able to add it to our collection recently.



What do you collect? Drop me an e-mail and tell me what floats your boat to either:
amhersthistory@centurytel.net or mrsch74@hotmail.com.

Do You Remember? . . . By Vivienne Bickley

Do You Remember . . .

Saturday afternoon, July 12, 1992

The last day of our Amherst Jamboree we had our most successful Jamboree thus far. After the big crowd on Saturday night, we always had a light one on Sunday. But this year at the usual closing time the people had all gone home because they heard the news that a tornado was no doubt going to hit Amherst! All of our volunteers had gone home except for June Ewald and myself who were at the Amherst History table on the front lawn of the Town Hall building, where we were still holding the event in those days. Three men volunteers who were stubbornly not leaving were starting to take down the tents. I yelled to them and ran to my car to go home, "A tornado is coming", but they stayed on. I wondered if they were so brave because of the "liquid refreshment" we were selling at the most successful booth of all? I live only a couple of blocks from the Town Hall - - fortunately I got into my car very shortly before the bad weather hit.

My home doesn't have a real underground basement - it's on a hill so we have a walkout door with no steps. The doors have windows in them and like a fool I stood right behind them to look out at the storm. I know you should stay away from glass, but did not think very clearly. My first thought was the money box with the Jamboree proceeds that I had to bring home. I had been worrying about the money being scattered all over the outdoors if we were hit by the storm, so I tucked it under a couch in the rec room with us. My daughter, Jeanine was right there behind me and I bawled her out for being too near the glass, but were both there when the storm hit. I looked out of the window and could see absolutely nothing. Nothing but an opaque white and knew it was the spinning. I remembered from art class that you twirled different colors together you would see white. I couldn't tell how long it lasted, but we didn't see much change at our house after it was over. There was a branch about 4 inches in diameter and 5 foot long, but it had blown over from the allotment across the street and some insulation material from someone's house up there. You see, we are situated at the foot of a wooded hill and above is the allotment.

That evening I had a phone call from Valerie Gerstenberger at her summer home in Linwood Park. She lived behind me on top of the hill and was surprised when I seemed calm about the, tornado until I told her how little we were hurt by it, because someone called her and told her a huge tree of hers was knocked down and the devastation caused in that allotment. Which was the Shupe owned property originally.

The next morning, we were awakened by the roar of chain saws cutting up the fallen trees. We soon walked up Minerva Street to see what happened and were astounded by the damage! What had always been a shady neighborhood, was now brighter because of the trees being gone! Men were still busy with the saws cleaning up the neighborhood. I saw only one house with a huge tree on top of the roof. Luckily, no one was hurt. Ruth Haff, who lost 36 trees on her property and had damage to her home even the interior was not at home during the storm, but on vacation out of state. I heard of one home north of us who had a gas weed eater in their garage which was blown away by the tornado and gasoline was spilled everywhere. This could have been disastrous if any fire got to it!

There is a favorite book of mine and also a movie was made up of it. I read "Gone with the Wind" twice thou it was a long story and saw the movie in the theatre and on TV. Until recently I thought it had a romantic title, but when I now think that parts of our home town were gone with the wind it lost its original meaning. They say lightening never strikes in the same place twice and that's not so. Let's hope tornadoes never do so!!



The Amherst Historical Society

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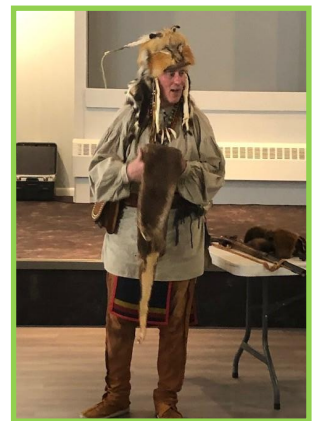
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Wine and Beer Tasting
in Sandstone Hall



New AHS Tent Ready for a Party



Mountain Man Jim Bridger
Presentation



Wedding in Victory Garden



Wedding Reception by Caboose



Party in Live Oak Pavilion