



The Amherst Historical Society

Grindstone Newsletter

May-June 2021



Upcoming Events

Garage Sales

Saturday 8 to 3

May 8

May 22

June 5

June 19

Wednesday 10 to 3

May 12

May 26

June 9

June 23

FREE Community Night "Mountain Man Jim Bridger"

Sandstone Hall

113 South Lake St

May 20 at 6:00pm

Call 988-7255 for reservations

Sandstone Hall Rentals

**The Sandstone Hall is
available to rent for
Weddings, Parties and
Celebrations**

For more information

Call 440-988-7255

A Letter from the Executive Director ...Sandy Kaiser

Dear Members,

Happy Spring!!! This is the time of year we all look forward to: warmer weather, leaves on the trees and birds chirping to make us feel renewed after our long winter. Hopefully, Old Man Covid will be on his way out so we can enjoy getting together with friends and family again.

We have been very successful with our Sandstone Village Garage Sales so far this year. Please keep us in mind as you do your spring cleaning—we always need donations. We can't take large appliances, electronics or clothes. If you have questions please call the AHS Office at 440-988-7255. Our May 1st Wine and Beer Tasting is sold out, we are looking forward to another "fun-tastic" event.

Please check out our upcoming events. You will notice that we are starting our Free Community Night presentations in May with "Mountain Man Jim Bridger". Fur trapper and Indian fighter, Bridger was one of the greatest path finders of the American West. Hear his epic story of the fur trade in the early 1800s.

Help us spread the word - our Sandstone Hall is ready to rent for parties, weddings and other events. We are offering special rates for 2021 bookings paid before May 31st. I'd be happy to go over the details with you, just call me at the AHS Office.

Sadly, I have to report that we lost another volunteer. Ron Sauer, Past President and active member, passed away on February 20th. We extend our condolences to his loving wife, Sue and the rest of their family and friends. He will be greatly missed.

Please continue to stay safe and healthy,
Sandy

Congratulations to our monthly winners!

May- Fred & Lynda Helyes

June- Ethel Muzilla



Please Consider Volunteering

**We are in need of Volunteers to work
garage sales and events. 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



Lori Melendez is in her first year on the Board. She serves on the Fundraising Committee. Lori and her husband, Tony, have made Amherst their home for 27 years raising their 4 children, while also providing child care for several other families. Originally from Lorain, following graduation from Lorain High School in 1977, she became employed by Monet Jewelers as a sales rep for Higbees and May Company department stores. In 1984 she and Tony were married. After their 3rd child was born, the decision was made to leave her full time job and stay home to raise their children, and with a few extra children added to the mix; the fun had just begun. She and her husband, Tony, are owners and operators of Melendez Video Services which has been in business for nearly 20 years. They started off working from their home in 2002 and now have a store front located on Cleveland Ave. in Amherst. Lori enjoys working with her husband in their business, as well as bicycling together across the county, gardening and spending time with their 9 grandchildren.



Tony Melendez is serving his second year on the Board. He was elected Vice President for 2021. Tony and his wife Lori have lived in Amherst for 27 years. He and Lori are parents to four and now grandparents to 9 children. Tony holds a Bachelors Degree Physical Education, Health and Dance from Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania and Master Degree in Secondary Education from Ashland University. Tony taught in the Lorain City School system for 30 years before retiring in 2011. Currently Tony and his wife, Lori, own and operate Melendez Home Video Studio location on Cleveland Ave. in Amherst. Tony enjoys all competitive sports and cycling with his wife Lori and friends, on the bike trails and roads throughout the State of Ohio.



April Sawyer is in her first year on the Board. She was elected Treasurer for 2021. Ryan Sawyer is in his first year on the Board. He is a member of the Building and Grounds Committee.

April and Ryan are Norwalk, Huron County natives. They came to the AHS to purchase a sausage stuffer at one of the Village Garage Sales. Upon their arrival they fell in love with the property, then made it their agenda to get involved. After attending a few more garage sales, they volunteered their services where ever needed. When vacancies occurred on the Board of Directors, they were first in line to offered their assistance.

Ryan and April are business owners in Norwalk Ohio. They fill their days running their business and helping others in need. They share 8 children and have their first Grandbaby on the way in May.

Society To Vote on Old Town Hall Deal

Taken from an Article written by Jason Hawk and published by Amherst News Times
on 3/19/2015

An emergency vote to save the city's first town hall has been called by the Amherst Historical Society board. It will convene, Tuesday March 24 to weigh an offer by RCK Investments, which wants to donate the tiny structure at 278 Church Street rather than have it torn to the ground. The Historical Society would have to foot an estimated \$40,000 or higher bill to have the building moved and reassembled at its Sandstone Village on Milan Avenue, said administrative assistant Donna Rumpler. RCK spokesman Chris Russo said his company aims to turn the property into an outdoor dining area and beer garden attached to a new Brew Kettle next door. He is willing to contribute but not cover it entirely. In a meeting last week, the AHS board formed a committee to explore whether the non-profit historical group could afford to take the building. Members are also working to gauge its somewhat dubious historical significance.

Matt Nahorn, the AHS board member who asked for the committee to be formed, provided the News Times with a brief account of what is known about the building. Downtown founder Josiah Harris owned the structure in its early years before it was moved near the present-day site of city hall on South Lake Street. A harness shop at one time operated from its first floor while the second was used by the town's government. The Congregational Church Society used the building in the 1830s until the First Congregational Church was erected in 1839. Historical F.R. Powers noted the building was used as a school until 1849. That's when a fire razed the top floor. It was repaired a year later, only to be engulfed again in flames. The building was further used as a school until 1856 when the first Central School was built. It continued to function as town hall until the current sandstone building was built in 1884. The Amherst fire department got its start in the building in 1876 and it also hosted Amherst Township meetings. Through the years it also served as a home to the Black River Telephone Company, Trusello Shoe Repair, The Pikey Cab Service, the Amherst News Times, Kolenda Jewelers, and most recently as J. Taylor Salon. An AHS plaque, placed in 1994, marks the building as important to local history, but it does not appear on the National Register of Historic Places or enjoy any legal protection due to its age. "Because of alterations to the building over the years and the fact that it had been moved off its foundation, its overt historical integrity has been challenged" Nahorn wrote. "However, it was decided by the Amherst Historical preservation committee that the structure qualified as an historical landmark. Not only very early decisions for the fledgling village of Amherst came out of the building, but also decisions for the whole township were made here in early years. If the old town hall building were moved, it would be placed at 157 Jefferson Street at the far northwestern side of the historical society's property, Rumpler said.

In the meantime, RCK's plans to rejuvenate the former Church Street Bar and Grill continue to generate excitement, "We're very excited about filling that empty building" said Main Street Director Teresa Gilles, "I think it will be a good addition downtown". She said the creation of more outdoor dining mirrors what has been done at other downtown venues, including Cork's and Stubby's, Quesadillas Mexican Restaurant and Old Towne Pizza House. The new tavern will also serve as an anchor business for the southern end of the historical downtown shopping district, drawing more foot traffic and benefiting other establishments.



The Curious Curator

-Joan Rosenbusch

Sometimes being a curator takes wings and flies you off to different directions... ever mindful of new roads to travel while doing research on one thing and finding something completely different.

It's something like cleaning out the junk drawer where you find a picture that makes you check your photo-albums on the shelf that you notice need dusting so you go for the dust rag in the cleaning closet and find a key that you have no idea its use... so you try every lock in the house and garage and by then it is time to fix supper and nothing really got done.

I began writing this article by searching old newspaper clippings that have been found and saved by myself and two other Amherst historians, Matt Nahorn and Jim Wilhelm. I thought it would be fun to copy some of them. I'm sure you will enjoy them as much as we did.

COUNTY NEWS.

NORTH AMHERST.

May 19, 1879.

THE murder mills of North Amherst are grinding out bodies for the cemetery. One more of their victims last week had the total abstinence pledge administered to him, by a train on the L. S. Railway, while he was crossing the track at the west end of the "dump." The victim's name was Peter Shaumberger.

Daily Chronicle.

Wednesday:—The North Amherst Reporter says that an Elyria photographer refused to take a picture for a newly married couple of North Amherst, because the happy bride persisted in sitting in the groom's lap. The photographer objecting because he thought the position wasn't nice, and that the pair just picked themselves up and returned to North Amherst by the next train, and had the local artist take them with big wads of gum puffing out their cheeks.—A photographer who means business will take a wart on a man's nose as big as a hen egg, and praise the picture for its accuracy. The artist's duty is to take things as he finds them and ask no questions.

BLACKSMITH WHIPS AMHERST MUSICIAN

OLHAM THINKS THIEMAN TRIED
TO FLIRT WITH HIS WIFE
AND LEARNS ERROR.

Amherst, July 14.—Believing that he was trying to flirt with his wife caused Wm. Olham, blacksmith, to trounce Henry Thieman while he was returning from church, Sunday morning.

Thieman was no match for the brawny blacksmith who proceeded to disfigure Thieman's face and mop the earth with him. His new suit was also ruined. Thieman had Olham arrested.

At the trial before Justice Fred Ruth, of South Amherst, yesterday afternoon, Olham was found guilty and fined \$25 and costs and sentenced to ten days in jail.

At the trial Olham could not prove that Thieman was a heart-breaker and the masher of mashers, although it developed that the prominent quarryman and musician is held quite high in esteem by the gentler sex.

Be It Ordained by the Council of the Village of Amherst, State of Ohio:

Sec. 1. It is hereby declared to be the duty of every able-bodied male resident of the Village of Amherst, between the ages of eighteen and fifty-five years, inclusive, to be regularly engaged in some lawful, useful and recognized business, profession, occupation or employment whereby he may produce or earn sufficient to support himself and those legally dependent upon him.

—THE Marshal desires us to state that if HENRY KESSLER, a saloon keeper of Lorain, comes to Amherst again and leaves his horse hitched on the street from noon until eleven o'clock at night, he will be arrested for cruelty to animals. Such brutal treatment is outrageous and inhuman.

Mrs. Adam Franks, about 70 years old, was married on Monday, in Cleveland, to Frank Gates, aged 39. Gates has been a boarder for a couple of years in the Franks home, on the Mrs. Franks farm, near the old Clough quarry. There are several sons of Mrs. Franks, but the only one at home is Edward, who has been doing the work on the farm, and he has been greatly disappointed at the marriage of his mother, in whose name the property is held.

A FAMILY AFFAIR (4/13/1905)

Amherst Ohio, is to have a double wedding, as a result of which the old question, "How old is Ann?" will find a full grown rival.

Marriage licenses were issued Tuesday to William and August Oberg, twin brothers, aged 25, to wed Mrs. Schwellier, a dashing widow of 38, and her charming 18 year old daughter Rosa, respectively.

So soon as the wedding ceremony is performed Mrs. Schwellier, who will become Mrs. William Oberg, will be the sister-in-law of her daughter, Mrs. August Oberg. Mrs. Wm. Oberg also becomes the sister-in-law of her son-in-law, Mr. August Oberg, while William Oberg becomes father-in-law to his own brother and sister-in-law.

Presuming that in the course of time, the two women become mothers what relation will the mother of Mrs. William Oberg be to her grandchild? Will she be the grandmother or the aunt? And will Mrs. August Oberg's child be the half-brother or half-sister to Mrs. William Oberg, or will he be the nephew or niece of the younger woman?

These and a hundred like questions the good people of North Amherst are asking one another. However they do not seem to worry the two couples, who are going ahead with their preparations for the wedding.

Do You Remember? . . . By Vivienne Bickley

Do You Remember The Corner Store?

We didn't have supermarkets in the 30's, but we had one thing us kids just loved - - the corner store. They were all small stores on the corner of the larger streets where neighborhood residents could buy a few items before they shopped at any of the larger stores.

My mother used to give me an empty bottle (any kind) and say, "Buy 5 or 10 cents worth of vinegar". That's all I remember buying from the owner except my favorite item, that made me love the store: Penny Candy. If we were lucky enough to be given a penny, the kids in the neighborhood ran straight to the



corner store for the candy. There were so many choices; root beer barrels, peppermint wheels, raspberry drops and on and on. My favorite, because I got the most for my penny, was a small sheet of paper with drops of colored sugar on it called, "Buttons". Oh yes, there were candy cigarettes! I would sometimes play "smoking", especially when we played dress-up in adults tossed out old dresses and shoes.

People need not have worried about the kids changing to real cigarettes. I, for one, never smoked my whole life after taking one drag and hating it. I thought it would help me lose weight right away, it wasn't worth the awful taste left in my mouth. Lucky for me, I didn't take it up.

Our corner store had other attractions. The owner himself. He was a portly man with a fascinating beard which hung in little locks (curls). He was always nice to us kids and let us spend a lot of time deciding on choices of candy. Although I have always been poor at remembering names, I've never forgotten his. It was Sam Colenontoni, I remembered it by saying, "Sam is calling on Tony". Mr. "C" had another big attraction in his backyard, which we kids could view by standing on the sidewalk on the side of the yard. There's where he tied his goat! There were practically none in our neighborhood. In those days people on farms kept cats for "Mousers" and dogs were kept for the most part only as watch dogs, so a goat was a very popular animal to us kids. The goat was a female the "C's" kept her for milk and she was very productive. Her udders were so big that they dragged on the ground, but Mr. "C" had the answer for that, he tied a snood over them and pulled it up and tied it to her body. A snood, in case you didn't know, was then in the 30's becoming popular with the ladies to wear over a Page boy, bun or other hair-do. It was usually made of yarn crocheted or tied into squares like a large net and tied to the top of the head or underneath hair. How many farm kids get to see a goat in a snood?? If it weren't for the clever Mr. Colenontoni, we would have been deprived of it in our neighborhood! P.S. the snood was green. Just so you get the picture.



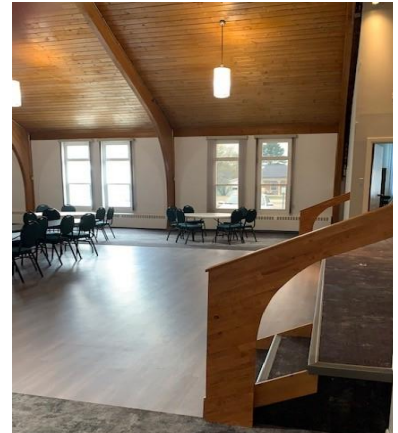
Terry with his hand-designed “Amherst Sandstone Center of the World” plaque

The Many Talents of Terry Traster

Terry has been the full time Construction Supervisor with The Amherst Historical Society since 1999. Prior to that time he was an independent contractor who spent much of his time caring for The Sandstone Village. The plaque above is displayed in our AHS Office Lobby. Terry made it from a sand casting poured with aluminum. There seems to be nothing he can’t fix or construct; he is always busy working on multiple projects. This past fall and winter was spent remodeling The Sandstone Hall resulting in an outstanding addition to our building. His heart is truly dedicated to the preservation and improvement of The Amherst Historical Society and The Sandstone Village. He works closely with the Amherst Boy Scout Troops and oversees their Eagle Scout projects. Take some time to check out some of his projects. We are very fortunate to have him!



Constructing our new AHS sign



Custom handrails for Sandstone Hall



Eagle Scout garden project at AHS



Congratulations to our AHS Volunteer of the Year

Please help us congratulate our Volunteer of the Year, Delores Horvath. She never fails to be there whenever and wherever her help is needed. To mention a few things she accomplished this past year: she painted the new Sandstone Hall kitchen and bar area and worked tirelessly at the Garage Sales. She also used her truck to pick up and deliver items for the Garage Sales. Dee shares her enthusiasm and positive energy with everyone.

Thank you Dee for all you do for The Amherst Historical Society!

The Amherst Historical Society

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The Amherst Historical Society **Board of Directors**

Aaron Baaske - President

Tony Melendez - Vice President

Khristal Kramer-Nutt - Secretary

April Sawyer - Treasurer

Diane Camera Deanna Houston Lori Melendez

Ryan Sawyer John Sekletar Cathy Sekletar

Gerard Torma Gina Welch Mitch Witherell

Executive Director—Sandy Kaiser

The Amherst Historical Society wishes to acknowledge
a charitable remainder trust by Mr. Evan Nord and administered
by the Community Foundation of Lorain County.

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Mystery Item for this Issue

Sarah Stout had the winning guess of last issues mystery item. She correctly identified the pestle, that is used with a mortar. The mortar and pestle is a set of 2 simple tools used since the stone age up to the present day to prepare ingredients or substances by crushing and grinding them into a fine paste or powder in the kitchen, laboratory, and pharmacy.

Congratulations Sarah!

I think this issues item can be agreed upon by all to be large brass safety pins. But, can you tell us how they were used? There were several uses for them, some dating back to the 1930's

Give us your guess and E-mail us at
amhersthistory@century.net or call the
AHS office @ 440-988-7255..

