



The Amherst Historical Society

Grindstone Newsletter

Jan-Feb 2022

Happy
New
Year

The Amherst Historical Society
Board of Directors and Staff
Wish One and All
Happiness, Joy and Blessings
for the New Year.

Upcoming Events

Follow up on Facebook
and amhersthistoricalsociety.org
For updates

President Harry S. Truman Dinner
February 19, 2022
Amherst Eagles
Call 440-988-7255 for information
and to make your reservations

Car Show
June 19, 2022
Sandstone Village

Wishing you
12 months of success
52 weeks of laughter
365 days of fun
8,760 hours of joy
525,600 minutes of good luck
31,536,000 seconds of happiness
Happy New Year!

Reflections on 2021

Thank you to all our members, donors,
volunteers and community supporters
We are successful only because of your generous support!

Community Out Reach Activities

ACES
Area Historical Society Tours
Amherst Garden Club
Amherst Jolly Seniors Meeting Place
Amherst Main Street
BNI Meeting Place
Eight Ohio President's Wives Program
Community Calendar Program
Cub/Boy Scouts Meeting Place
Friends of the Library Meeting Place
MLS Theatre Productions
Mountain Man Jim Bridger Program
Natural Stone Institute Tour
North Ohio Youth Orchestra
Sewing with Friends Meeting Place
Sprenger Health Care Senior Dance
Veteran's Memorial Association
Right Track Nutrition Classes

AHS Fundraisers

25 AHS Garage Sale Events
CFLC Connect To Cause Program
Cleveland Avenue Cemetery Walk
Pogie's Clubhouse Dine To Donate
Pogie's CH Drive-Thru Fundraiser
Sandstone Hall Social Events Rental
Wine Tasting

Grants

Nord Family Foundation
Community Foundation Lorain County
Payroll Protection Plan

Volunteer Recognition

Volunteer Appreciation Lunch
Volunteer Pot Luck Lunch
Participating Volunteers: 125
Total Volunteer Hours: 3,250

Amherst Historical Society Events

Volunteers Appreciation Dinner
Volunteers Potluck Dinner
Area Historical Societies Tour
Enchanted Christmas Village
Hall Kitchen/Bar Addition
Hall Foyer Display Addition
Community Meeting Room Addition
AHS Office Equipment Updated
AHS Building Security System
Sale of AHS Rental Houses
AHS West Side Property Clearing
West Side Property Sandstone Stacked

Corporate and Individual Donations

Nord Family Foundation
Nordson Corporation Foundation
Community Foundation of Lorain County
Scout Troups #427 & #429
ACES
Cookie McLoda
Maxine Miller
Ralph Zilch
Jerry Torma
Bob & Martha Pallante
John Sekletar
Richard Nord
Employee Donations from: Amazon,
Key Bank, Sherman Williams and
Nordson Corporation

Memorial Remembrances

Vivienne Bickley
Ron Sauer
Robert Stilgenbauer
Bernie Wagner-Doane
Shirley Young

A Letter from the Executive Director ...Sandy Kaiser

Dear Friends and Members,

May this issue of the Grindstone find everyone in good health and ready for a brand new year.

As you review 2021 on page one of this issue, I think you will be as amazed as I at our accomplishments. Thank you to all our wonderful members and volunteers for an excellent year. Your generosity of time, talent and treasure is most appreciated.

Our first event of 2022 is planned for February 19th as we will honor President Harry S. Turman at our annual historical president's dinner. Join us at the Amherst Eagles for an evening of historical celebration, dinner and dancing to the music of the Swing City Big Band. Event cost is \$50 per person or \$90 per couple – reservations are required for this event. As always, please feel free to wear period dress for fun and to help celebrate the occasion. Call our office 440-988-7255 for information and to book your reservation. Please follow us on our website amhersthistoricalsociety.org and Facebook for the latest news on what's happening.

I'm sorry to report that we have lost another member with the passing of Bernie Wagner-Doane. Bernie was an ardent community volunteer whose interests focused on children and families. She was a longtime member of Twigbenders (Child Conservation League), the Amherst Historical Society and served as a host parent to several exchange students through the American Field Service and Youth for Understanding programs. Our heartfelt condolences go out to her family and friends.

Thank you to all who have renewed your membership and a reminder to those who have not yet renewed. We truly value your continued support.

Sandy

Congratulations to our monthly winners!

January - Jami Anderson

February - Richard and Carol Norheim

Happy Retirement Wishes to Terry Traster!

After 23 years of dedication and service as AHS Maintenance Supervisor Terry Traster is retiring in January. His plans include traveling and figuring out how to relax and enjoy life for a change. It's an understatement to say he will be missed, as there are some people you simply cannot replace. The Sandstone Village, Amherst Historical Society and Nord Family Foundation have greatly benefited from his talent, expert guidance and personal care these many years. He has always been dedicated to the Amherst community and a good friend to all who met him.

Terry has requested that we postpone any retirement celebration until COVID settles down. A spring or summer picnic might be just the opportunity to gather to share stories and thank him for his many accomplishments. In the meantime, I'm sure he'd enjoy a conversation or card just to keep in touch with all of his many friends.

THE CURIOUS CURATOR

-Joan Rosenbusch

The Quigley Museum will be closed for the winter, but I look forward to seeing you there next year. The Amherst Historical Society has collected over 4,200 acquisitions through the years and although many of them are spread out over the Sandstone Village buildings and the Historical Society Office, much of them are displayed at the Quigley Museum.

Recently we put a chair on display that was used in the Opera House as far back as 1910. Many plays, graduations and other events occurred there over the years and it still lies quietly upstairs at the Town Hall waiting for a return to better days.

Just the other day I was given two new acquisitions that will be placed in the Museum soon and we are anxious to show them off to all of you.

If you remember Charles Ebbs' Clothing Store (1926-1969) located on Park Avenue where Dr. Stocker's is today, you will enjoy this treasure. Thank you Patty Standen for donating the kewpie-doll mannequin head that used to sit in the Ebbs store showcase.



Also a huge thank you to Marcia Hutton-Dunlap for her donation of the icepick shown below that advertises the old Cold Storage (1915-1954) on Jackson Street. Each side of the icepick denotes #1 Amherst Cold Storage Co. #2 Cold Storage & Ice. #3 For Ice Call Phone 457 and #4 Home Industry.



I hope you remember both of these places but if not, we are here to show you and teach you about them and many other Amherst places of business over the years.

Several folks of Amherst have helped us understand their memories and research over the years of our beautiful town

and its people and

I would like to thank them for their help (Mary Miller, Fay Ott, Jim Wilhelm, Terry Traster, Dale & Judy Rosenkranz, Larry Fuhrman) and many more.

Volunteer Potluck Social Event



On Sunday December 5, 2021 Amherst Historical Society Volunteers gathered together to enjoy a Christmas potluck dinner in our holiday dressed Sandstone Hall. Everyone brought a dish to share setting an assorted banquet table. Seasonal music was played by The North Ohio Youth Orchestra to the enjoyment of all and a special thanks to Jerry Torma for providing the volunteers with gift reminders of the day.



Mary Jane Myosky, Cathy Baaske, Tony & Lori Melendez, Cathy & John Sekletar



Bob & Martha Pallante, Sandy Kaiser, Carol Faragher, Patti & Todd Standan



Elizabeth Fought, Brandy Drexler Brian Goodwin, Joan & Ken Rosenbusch, Zella Williams, Eleanor & Terry Traster



Teresa Myosky, Debi Jefferys, Deb Gelenius



Deanna Houston and Khristal Kramer-Nutt



Jerry Torma & Grandson Andrew



Donna Breckenridge, Carol & Paul Hiltabidel, Ralph Zilch, Sam Bomfiglio



Regina Moore, Inga Kummant, Cookie McLoda, John Dietrich, Dorothy Myosky



Dee Horvath, John Dunn, Blanca & Joe Gonzalez

Christmas Lighting in the Village

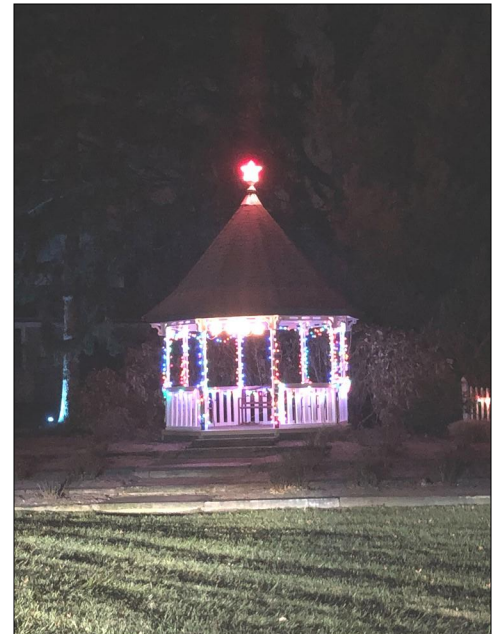
Santa's elves were busy lighting up The Village for the holiday season. First: all those Christmas displays, as well as boxes and boxes of ornaments, some nicely labeled, some not, had to be retrieved from the loft of the Octagonal barn. Then came all those strings of lights that had to be untangled, tested and repaired and finally all those 200 large Christmas balls that had to be secured with wires before being hung on all those tall fir trees. And the outcome of "all those" is a beautifully decorated Christmas wonderland on the village grounds. Special thanks to our Maintenance team of Terry and Brian, plus volunteers Cathy Skeletar, Kay Clark, Lynn Goodwin, Dee Horvath, John Dunn and Bob Pallante for the countless hours amassed in lighting The Village at night.



Vintage Caboose Carrying Santa and his Gifts



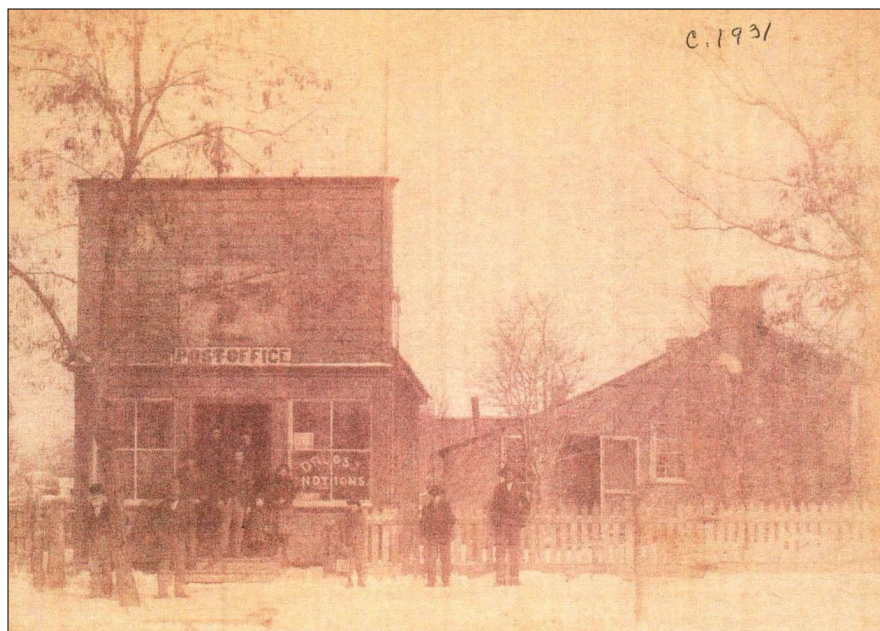
Deer Grazing on the North Grounds



Gazebo at Night

THE EARLY YEARS

Over the years there were a variety of post office buildings in Amherst. The first post office opened on February 28, 1827 on 238 Main Street south with Josiah Harris as postmaster. Pictured below is the post office that served the village from 1914 to 1940 at 238 Church Street before being replaced by the one built in October of 1940 at the corner of Park Avenue and Prospect Street. To the right is a 1937 article pertaining to Amherst's postal history including the construction of the new post office.



Post Office
238 Church Street

CONSTRUCTION EXPECTED TO START SOON

Building Will Replace Present 25-Year Old Office

AMHERST— Another milestone will be reached in the history of the post office in Amherst, when construction is commenced on the new building with letting of the contract expected soon.

Twenty-five years ago the present building which houses the office was built. Prior to that various buildings in the town were used as post offices.

Amherst history tells us that Josiah Harris, the founder of the town, was the first postmaster and held that position for 44 years. Other early postmasters H. J. Terrell, Dr. A.A. Crosse and Alonzo Crocker. The latter conducted the office in his home, now the John Gordon residence on Beaver Ct.

Office Shifted

E.C. Schuler was the postmaster and he established the office in a storeroom of his brick block on Park Avenue opposite the present site. L. Horn succeeded him and he moved the office to his own building across the street. When Jack Riley became postmaster, the office was returned to the Schuler block and remained there during his term and that of E.B. Aldrich.

Adolphos Baker was the first postmaster to have the office in the present building. Others who held the position were A.E. Stiwald,, Mrs. Jenne Coburn, E.E. Foster and the present incumbent, E.C. Stiwald.

During Mrs. Colburn term in office, 1922-1930, the office acquired a second class rating.

July 1, 1916 the first village delivery was instigated with Herman Beesing and Alvin Schnaak, the first postmen. There were only the two routes in the village. Beesing covered the north and west of the town and Schnaak the southern, including Park Ave.



1934 Amherst Post Office Workers
238 Church Street

L-R: _____, _____, Herman Beesing, Walter Krueck, Herman Short, Harold Leimbach, Milton Hutton, Fred Deiner, and Walter Frederick.

Remembering Vivienne Bickley

Republished from Grindstone May-June 2016

DO YOU REMEMBER . . . A farm?

I've often said I wished everyone could have memoirs of a farm in their childhood. This is due to my having been fortunate enough to have visited my grandmothers' farms as a kid.

Grandmother Rick, a widow and my Dad's step-mom, owned the property in Amherst from Rte. 58 to Dewey Road off Park Avenue back to the railroad tracks. A lot of it was wooded and the only house and barn were hers, near Leavitt Road. It was not a very large farm, mostly into wheat but I still recall watching when they thrashed the wheat and blew the hay into the hay loft to later feed to the cows.

I still recall my fear of the creek crossing, which was merely a large slab of sandstone that had sunk on one side. The slant worried me because I feared sliding into the creek, but I never admitted it to anyone. Instead, I took a deep breath and ran over the tilted top - - and made it every time!

The enormous (to me) tree in the front yard had a thick low limb that made it perfect for a pretend horse and the cherry tree was amazing because it produced delicious cherries, but they weren't red! They were yellow with pink or reddish streaks - - Queen Anne's, I learned.

The woods was full of nut trees; some I could reach were the hazel nuts. We used to go as a family to pick them. We also had great times having cook-outs over campfires - not wiener roasts, but bacon roasts with slices of dark rye bread. These were used to catch bacon drippings and you'd have to try it to believe how delicious it was. Of course, there were smoked sausages roasted over the campfire, too. The only tools were sticks from the woods. Not having any frills like paper plates, we just ate with our hands, which always appeals to children.

One thing I disliked about the Rick farm was that a huge mulberry tree grew right outside the kitchen door and the flies loved the mulberries. The screens were not as tight as they are today and there was a constant problem when the berries were ripe to keep the flies out. When I recall, even at home in town how prevalent the flies were in those days, I have to laugh at how upset we get if one fly manages to get into our homes now. We don't rest until that filthy little insect is swatted, believe me! I remember a day when my Dad, coming home from work, asked me what I was doing on the front porch, armed with a fly swatter. I complained to him, "Well I wanted to kill a lot of flies and I knew they'd come to sugar, but I knew Mom would say sugar costs too much for that, so I thought I'd fool the flies and spill out salt instead. You know, Dad, I don't think I can fool them, cause none of them showed up." I never dreamed a fly could be that smart.

Another thing that impressed me was the root cellar. I wondered why the farmhouse had a big area like a box, filled with soil in the basement. Then Dad pulled out a carrot and told me the root vegetables would be edible all winter, stored that way. That memory reminded me that there were no refrigerators or freezers yet and storing food was a real problem.

My other grandmother had a small farm just off Elyria Avenue near Dunton Road in the Lorain outskirts. She, too, was a widow and her farm had shrunk, too. Both ladies had husbands who had worked elsewhere besides the farms so no one can imagine how finances were affected by their deaths. Grandma Churpik managed somehow with her big garden, a cow, chickens and pigs. She loved her animals. Her pig sty was actually wallpapered with flowery wallpaper leftovers. Her chickens were pampered. She heated their food in the winter. I loved when the baby "peeps" hatched because, to keep them warm, she kept them in a big box behind the huge stove in the kitchen. To hear them cheeping when I walked in the house was such a joy. I hated to see them grow from a cute little yellow peep into the adult animal which held no beauty for me. (Of course, grandma's chicken paprikas was what you might call beautiful so there was good in their maturing.)

I have to admit I never became a good farmer. Grandma's beet crop one year was sorely diminished by my efforts at weeding. I did learn to shuck corn for the chickens but it really hurt my tender little fingers, so I wasn't much help.

The cats on the farm were almost ignored because they were so feral. Living in the barns, they did their jobs as "mousers" and took off when they encountered a human. The dog on the Rick farm was strictly a watch dog and we were even afraid to pet it. Dogs and cats sure have improved life styles now, but then, so have we.

However, I certainly am glad I had a glimpse of life on a farm rather envied by uncle for loving on one.

The Amherst Historical Society

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The Amherst Historical Society **Board of Directors**

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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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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

HISTORICAL CORNER

By Carol Hiltabidel

Once again the holiday season has come and gone. I hope all of you had a wonderful time filled with family, friends, fun and of course food! As we start the New Year I wish you all good health and good times!

But, thinking back to Christmas I am reminded of the one gift that I always try to include for each and every loved one on my list. And that would be a book! I won't bore you with how books came into being but the very first individual writing classed as a book was "The Epic of Gilgamesh" written on clay tablets. It was a mythical retelling of an important historical figure. Not necessarily one I would give today!

The first book I ever read was Babar the Elephant. I was 4 and it started me on my journey to read as much as possible as long as I can. From Babar, there were Nancy Drew, the Hardy Boys, Swiss Family Robinson, Little Women, Tom Sawyer, Huckleberry Finn, To Kill a Mockingbird, Heidi, Robinson Crusoe, Great Expectations and other classics, A Tree Grows in Brooklyn, all the Whitman Classics like Rin Tin Tin, the Lone Ranger and Tonto, Gene Autrey and others too numerous to mention.

As an adult I continue to read daily, 2-3 books a week, sometimes more. And naturally, I am also a collector of books, some going back to the civil war others by a favorite writer and yet others that catch my eye (no pun intended) and just make me wonder how they ever got published! A physical book in hand is a comfort, an adventure, a learning tool, a window into the world or a person's psyche. That you can become a character, can laugh, cry or root for a character never gets old to me. And there is always that one book that refuses to let you put it down, that robs you of your sleep, or cleaning the house, or running errands....too many things to list that should get done if it wasn't for that special gift...a book!

Here are a couple of books from my collection that are interesting. They were published in 1935 and 1936 by the Franklin Press and written by author Hugh Morris. They are pretty racy for the time they were published, but informative!



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.