



# *The Amherst Historical Society* *Grindstone Newsletter*

July / August 2022

## AMHERST HISTORICAL SOCIETY COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

### Amherst Historical Society Events

For questions or to make reservations please call the AHS Office 440-988-7255

#### AHS Garage Sale

Every Saturday  
March through October  
9 AM to 2 PM  
Sandstone Village  
Long Barn, Pine Tree and  
Gallery Open



Dine and Dance  
Swing City Big Band  
President Truman  
Sat, September 3  
Amherst Eagles



Details on Page 8

Murder Mystery Dinner  
Saturday October 8 and  
Sunday October 9 at 6:00 PM  
Sandstone Hall  
113 South Lake St.  
“The Death of Dr. Pepper”  
\$35 per person  
\$30 per AHS member  
Reservations required

AHS Christmas in August Sale  
August 13 and 14  
Sandstone Hall  
113 South Lake St.  
10 AM to 2 PM



### Community Activities

Summer Fun for  
all ages



Explorer's Club

July 13 to August 10

Visit participating businesses to  
complete an activity that will  
earn a badge. Come to the AHS  
office Mon/Tues/Thurs/Fri  
between 9am-4pm to complete  
our activity. See more details on  
[mainstreetamherst.org](http://mainstreetamherst.org)

Downtown  
Amherst  
July 13



August 10  
Sept 14  
4 to 7:30 pm

Sprenger Health Care Amherst Manor  
Saturday, July 23, 2022

The Reindeer Run 5K &  
1 mile Little Elf Fun Walk  
(Christmas Attire Encouraged)

For information [https://  
www.hermescleveland.com](https://www.hermescleveland.com)

Touch a Truck Event at Amherst Manor  
Saturday, July 23, 2022  
9 AM to 12 PM

Local vendors, face painting, petting zoo &  
more

## A Letter from the Executive Director. . . .Sandy Kaiser

Dear Members and Friends,

Well, finally it's summer and everyone is busy with all sorts of activities. I want to thank everyone who supported our awesome events: Easter "Egg"stravaganza, Ladies of the 1800s Tea, the Car and Bike show and last but not least our Village Garage Sales. The Sandstone Hall has proven to be a popular choice for all kinds of parties and celebrations. Remember to tell your family and friends that we have a wonderful venue for their next event. We have also been busy giving many tours of the Quigley Museum and the Sandstone Village. Thank you to our volunteers, and docents (tour guides) for giving their valuable time to educate, guide and entertain our visitors.

I'm sad to report that we have lost another friend and volunteer. Paul Hiltabidel passed away on June 13th. Paul had a great sense of humor and was always ready to lend a helping hand. Condolences to his wife Carol and their entire family. He will be missed by all who were lucky enough to know him.

Wishing you a fantastic summer,  
Sandy

Congratulations to our Monthly Prize Winners

July - Tim and Chris McCourt

August - David and Patricia Nutall

## Memorial Day Parade



**Matt Nahorn makes a few adjustments to the float**

**Sue Sauer  
AHS Volunteer  
of the Year and her  
granddaughter  
Hope DeMarco  
Rode on the float**



**John Dietrich's pride and joy—1960 T-Bird**



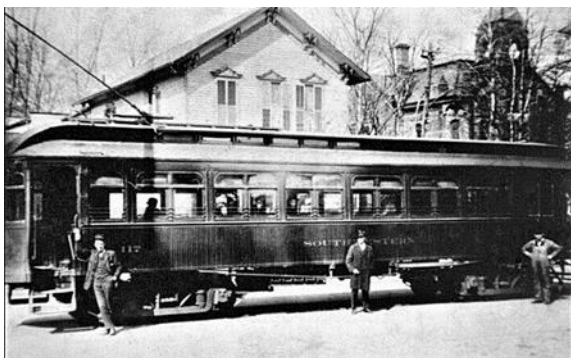
## THE CURIOUS CURATOR ....-Joan Rosenbusch

About nine years ago, a Facebook page was developed with the intention of highlighting much of Amherst's history. It has been interesting when something is posted, and it develops into a conversation with members who can verify stories and add to them.

Thanks to Vermilion Views, a website hosted by Rich Tarant, little vignettes from a century old newspaper are posted. We then elaborate on them with pictures and stories we have gathered at the Amherst Historical Society.

Today we have almost 1,000 members on our Facebook page with the name "Sandstone Center of the World History Researchers". The first administrator was Charlie Marty, followed by Joan Rosenbusch and Matt Nahorn as moderator. This comment that was posted on the page makes us feel we have succeeded in our goal to preserve the history of our beautiful town; *"Thank you to all that have enlightened me with Amherst history that I did not know. I never want to stop learning."*

Here are some interesting pictures that have been posted over the years on our Facebook page.



This interurban electric railway streetcar is parked in front of the house on the corner of South Main Street and Beaver Court. You can also see the Town Hall to the right of the photograph.



Church Street looking south. Notice the railroad overpass in the center back. The building on the far left is the Methodist Church that burned down in 1900. The building across from the church is now Mermaid's Tale. The second building from the right front was Claus Blacksmith Shop where Ziggy's is today.



Central School Gymnasium. Note the Mooseheads on either side of the stage near the balcony. Doctor Erin Herman Standen and his friend Rev. F. E. Eastman harvested the moose in Ontario, Canada where Standen owned a hunting camp. Doc Standen had a special interest in Central School. As a young man he worked for the renowned architect Henry Oswald Wurmser who was responsible for designing Central School. That is probably how the mounts ended up there.

If you are interested in becoming a member you can locate us on Facebook at this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/441854855891806>. You will

be asked to answer 3 simple questions that will help us to know a little about you. 1. What is your connection to Amherst? 2. Have you any historical connection to Amherst? 3. Why do you want to join this group.

## CAR AND BIKE SHOW 2022

The first Amherst Historical Society car and bike show, June 12, was a definite success. More than 120 owners shared their restored vehicles. Photos by Quinn Morgan Photography.



Thanks to our sponsors: Nordson Corporation Foundation, Jenkins & Bevan, Ray Loesser with Edward Jones, First Federal Savings and Loan, The Scott Group, Nick Abraham, State Farm agent Charles Chapman, Argenti Detailing and American Legion Post 118.



Amherst Historical Society appreciates the donation of time and effort by the following to make this event possible: AHS volunteers, Matt Bolek Graphic Arts, Amherst City Schools, Cruisin' Times, Gold Star Awards Elyria, SQ Print Center Lorain, off duty police officers, Visy Pay, Sprenger Health Care, Rose Baker of Keller Williams, LC Community College, Summit Racing, Morain Stone and Tile, WOBL/WDLW Radio.



Special thanks to Pogie's Catering for providing the three custom designed sandstone plaques. These were presented to car owners Don Vincent, Jim Guerin and John Velez.

# Why is the Quigley Museum Important? Why Should You Visit?

Matt Nahorn, a Quigley Museum Docent



Why do we study, preserve, and teach local history? Because it is a foundation to help us understand those who came before us who made Amherst what it is today.

This is the mission of the Amherst Historical Society and its Quigley Museum. Much of our history education in school focuses on national and international history. Often local history is pushed to the side or largely forgotten.

Amherst is extremely lucky to have an entire, early, sandstone house dedicated to preserve, document, and teach local history. The Quigley Museum is the anchor building of the Amherst Historical Society. Several years after the Amherst Historical Society was formed the Nord Family Foundation, in 1988, secured the Quigley House for a museum. Year by year, volunteer by volunteer, and artifact by artifact, the Quigley Museum has grown to represent the broad patterns of our local history.

Joan Rosenbusch, an AHS curator and docent, designed the Museum with themed rooms and associated displays. For example, rooms are dedicated to: Amherst businesses, physicians, quarrying, military, kitchen/home life, and our town's early years.

These themed rooms help guide visitors through Amherst's history and showcase people who made a lasting impact here. Each room features artifacts with a connection to our past. Each item has a unique story to tell. I remember visiting the Quigley Museum in third grade – something that Amherst students are fortunate to continue today. The one-room school program is incredibly important for our young students. It introduces them to local history and connects them with the past.

We are all lifelong students and can learn from the structures and artifacts at the Sandstone Village. Visiting the Quigley Museum early in my life helped grow my interest in local history, which actually began because I grew up and live in the Historic Shupe Homestead.

The Quigley House itself is a unique piece of architectural history. It is one of a few houses in the area constructed entirely of hand-cut sandstone blocks. Capt. Joseph Quigley, who earned that title from his service during the War of 1812, arrived in the Black River area by 1817. By 1822 he had purchased much of Original Lot 4 from Jacob Shupe, Amherst's first settler. About ten years later, Quigley's stone house was built of Amherst sandstone, quarried directly from his property. This building is a perfect example of why Amherst is historically known as The Sandstone Center of the World.

The Amherst Historical Society's Quigley Museum helps us to study, preserve, and teach local history. The building is an artifact that contains many items that help tell the stories of Amherst's past and the people who helped shape Amherst into the city it is today.

Please make time to tour the Quigley Museum. If you wish to schedule a guided or group tour, please call the AHS office. I am confident that if this is your first visit or a repeat visit, you will learn something new about our town and the people who lived here.

## The Amherst Police Department 1830 - 1996 .....by Martha Pallante

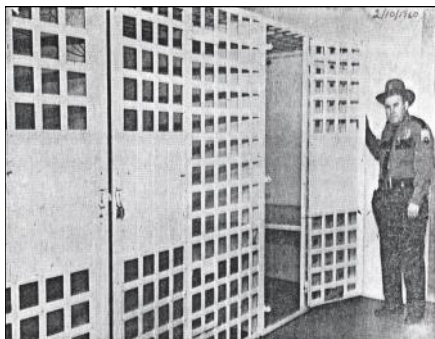
Keeping peace and order in the small township of Amherst began in 1830 when its first election was held. The slate consisted of a clerk, treasurer, three trustees and two newly elected constables who safeguarded the 552 settlers who lived here. The next recorded election was held in 1873. The elected officials were a mayor, clerk, treasurer and a marshal, who would serve as police chief. His first order of business was to deputize one or two constables. The nightshift constable was called a night watchman. In 1928 additional day and night officers were added to the force.

By 1930 Amherst reached a population of 2,800. The police department grew as well. Official records state that they operated out of the Mayor's office or his business office. From 1930 to 1940 that was Mayor E.C. Cooper's Insurance Office at 223 Park Ave. From 1940 to 1944 it was Mayor John Michael's Auto Sales at 249 Park Avenue. In 1939 council approved the purchase of Amherst's first police car. In 1947 it was traded in for a Chevrolet and in 1949 traded for a Ford priced at \$1,551. In November of that year parking meters were installed in the downtown area.

By 1960 there were 6,750 residents in the little town of Amherst. From a settlement to a village and now a town! Though the town grew and the police department increased, space for the department did not. The police chief and marshal continued to work out of the Town Hall and used two jail cells in the basement. At approximately the same time the fire department, which had been in the basement of the Town Hall since 1884, moved into its new Church Street station. Permission was given by council to remodel the basement area into rooms to be used by the police. The chief and the officers did all the remodeling work. Although it was still cramped quarters, it was an improvement. In 1962 the move was completed and three police cruisers and one emergency truck were garaged in a portion of the basement.

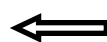


Officer Ed May & Mayor Cooper



Renovated jail cells in basement

The department in 1972 consisted of a chief, 17 officers, five women dispatchers, four cruisers and one motorcycle to serve a population of 14,000. As more officers were added, the basement police station became crowded. It was damp, smelly and infested with spiders and bats. To add to the congestion, records were stacked seven feet high in boxes in the hallways. By 1993 the station had deteriorated to the point that the city council voted to purchase 27 acres of land on North Lake Street to build a larger police station. Construction commenced in 1994 and the new facility was completed in November of 1996.

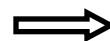


Pictured Left:

The Amherst Police Department  
Basement of Amherst Town Hall

Pictured Right:

The Amherst Police Department



## Do You Remember? Summertime? By Vivienne Bickley

“When the livin’ is easy” goes the old Gershwin song. Tell that to farmers, construction workers or anyone who labors under the hot sun. Even indoor jobs were harder such as in factories, before the days of air-conditioning. Of course, we can’t deny that some work is easier when you don’t have to deal with snow, ice and freezing temperatures.

The easy part of summer is the “play”, especially play in the water. Where did you swim as a kid? Your ancestors may have had “swimming holes” on the farm. My dad talked about the “Quarry Holes in Amherst.” The highest cliff was a challenge he never met, tho some of his pals did dive off it. He told them, “You know my dad...he’d kill me if he found out I had jumped off that cliff.” Dad told me: “I was so glad I had a strict father for an excuse.” We sure were lucky in Lorraine to have Lake Erie so close. Swimming, fishing, boating and later, waterskiing.

I remember the 1930’s bathing suits. Black wool with tank-like tops for both men and women. The mens’ suits usually had extra holes below the arm holes which I was told was to make them cooler. No one lay in the hot sun to get a tan in those days. My explanation is that those black wool suits were too itchy when dry. Also the female idols of the day were pale blondes like Jean Harlow and Carole Lombard.

I recall great wiener roasts at the beach when my parent's friends had kids my age to play with. How we loved to roast our own hot dogs- -burnt black outside and not even warm inside- - -yummy! And those roasted marshmallows, burnt black, too, but not a single gourmet chef’s dessert could rival them in our opinion.

When my family was growing up, we had great family picnics on July 4, in my sister and brother-in-law’s back yard under a huge oak tree. Their buffet tables were mounded with delicious homemade main dishes, fried chicken, ham and homemade pies and cakes. We women toiled over hot stoves the day before and the morning of the Fourth to achieve this treat. Only one sister-in-law never cooked, she just brought the watermelon, much to the other women’s chagrin. Tired of hearing their complaints on the subject, I volunteered to ask her to cook something and she said she would bring stuffed cabbage. This satisfied the women. It was getting late at the picnic, everyone was eating their dessert when they finally rushed in, carrying a big roaster full of stuffed cabbage. They were late, waiting for their food to get done. We all tried to eat a little and found it was inedible (and where was the meat usually in them?) because it was still raw. The next year and for ever more, she brought the watermelon and no one complained. It is only now that I wonder if she planned it that way- -nah, I’m just getting cynical in my old age! Another old, nearly forgotten song about this wonderful season “In the Good Ole Summertime” ends “You will be my Tootsie-Wootsie in the good Ole Summertime.” Perhaps it is best forgotten??

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**The Amherst Historical Society**

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**The Amherst Historical Society**

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a charitable remainder trust by Mr. Evan Nord and administered  
by the Community Foundation of Lorain County.

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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**President's Dinner Honoring Harry S. Truman**



**Saturday, September 3, 2022 5 PM to 9 PM**

**Amherst Eagles 1161 Milan Avenue, Amherst, Ohio 44001**

**Appetizers and Cash Bar 5 PM**

**Truman presentations 5:30 PM, Dinner 6 PM, Swing City Big Band 7 PM**

**\$55/person - \$100/couple**

**\$45/member—\$80/member couple**

**Reservations required by August 22, 2022 at 440-988-7255**

**Basket Raffle and 50/50**

**Period Attire Encouraged**