



The Amherst Historical Society

Grindstone Newsletter

March/April 2022



WINTER INTO SPRING



Easter "EGG"stravaganza

Saturday, April 9, 2022

1pm to 4pm

Trivia and Car Rally
Petting Zoo & Lots of Family Fun!!

See back page for more details

For more information

Follow us on Facebook and

check out our website

amhersthistoricalsociety.org



Volunteer Luncheon

Saturday, April 23, 2022

11am to 2pm

Sandstone Hall
Lunch and Entertainment



Car and Bike Show

Sunday, June 12, 2022

Registration 10am to 12pm

Show 12am to 4pm

Sandstone Village

Village Tours, Garage Sale,
Raffles and Food Vendors



Check Out Some Exciting AHS Events and Activities



Cardio Drumming Class with

Alisha Stewart

Right Track Nutrition

The newest fitness cardio
workout to benefits all ages

Monday 6:30pm

\$5.00 per class

Join us to experience an
energized and fun workout
for more information

Call Alisha Stewart

440-714-2052



Amherst Card Players

Enjoy playing cards?

Come join our group on
Mondays 12 noon to 4pm
Come alone, bring a friend
or fill a table of 4

If interested in cards, fun
and conversation

Contact

Elaine Hall

440-452-8511



Sewing with Friends Quilters

Thursday 9am to 5pm
Available to assist new or
experienced quilters with
projects or questions

For more information

Contact

AHS Office

440-988-7255

Class is currently full

A Letter from the Executive Director . . . Sandy Kaiser

Dear Members and Friends,

Well folks, it's been a long, cold, winter and I'm sure we are all looking forward to spring, since each day we are one day closer to warm weather; I can't wait!!

We have changed our email address to office@amhersthistoricalsociety.org, it's important that you **change to the new AHS email address in your contact list**. Also, check out the changes made to our website amhersthistoricalsociety.org this month. These changes were made for the purpose of easier navigation and to upgrade our marketing image.

Saturday, March 26 will be our first Village Garage Sale of 2022, and we will be open every Saturday from 9am to 2pm through the autumn. We have a lot going on this spring. In addition to our events, The Amherst Garden Club will hold their plant sale on May 7 from 9am-12pm in The Village. This is your opportunity to purchase perennials and other plants shared by local seasoned gardeners. The Amherst Garden Club members tend our beautiful Village gardens, and this is a great chance to support them.

With the warmer weather coming we will be able to start conducting Village tours again. Please consider becoming a docent (tour guide). If interested, contact the AHS office at 440-988-7255 to schedule a training. We are always in need of more volunteers for our other projects as well. Speaking of volunteers, this year we are holding our annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on April 23 in the Sandstone Hall. Invitations are going out next week—please remember to RSVP so we have an accurate count of those attending.

Stay safe and healthy,
Sandy

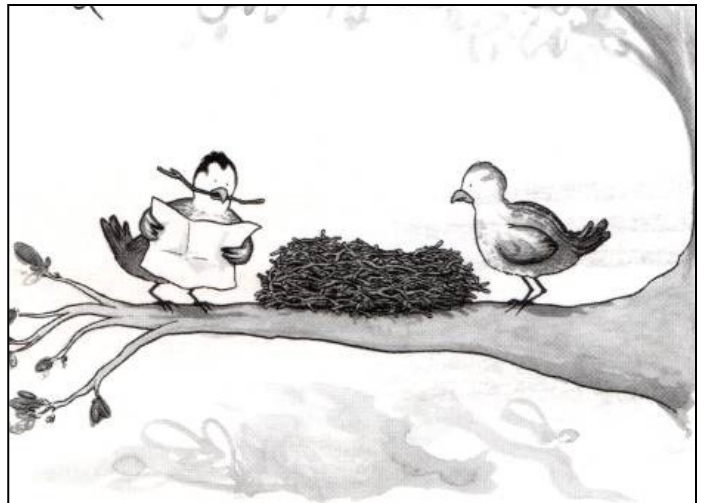
Winter into Spring

Our winter ends with March and with the ending comes Spring. March can either feel wintry or springy with as many blustery windy days as there are mild sunny days. There are no national holidays in March, but there are many superstitions about March. We often hear that “March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb” meaning that the first day of March is often stormy, and the last day is mild and warm. Another saying calls the first three days of March “blind days” because they are “unlucky.” If rain falls on these days, farmers supposedly will have poor harvests.

The bloodstone and aquamarine are the birthstones for March and the violet is the flower for the month.

In April the small animals that hibernate come out of their burrows and birds fly back north. In some parts of the world it's planting time; in other parts it's the harvest season. Professional baseball begins in April, as does spring cleaning indoors and the clearing of winter debris outdoors. A special day celebrated in April begins with the first day of the month called April Fools' Day when children and adults play jokes on one another. It is unclear where the custom began but some historians believe it began in France over a disagreement.

Diamond is the birthstone for April and daisy and sweet pea are the flowers of the month.



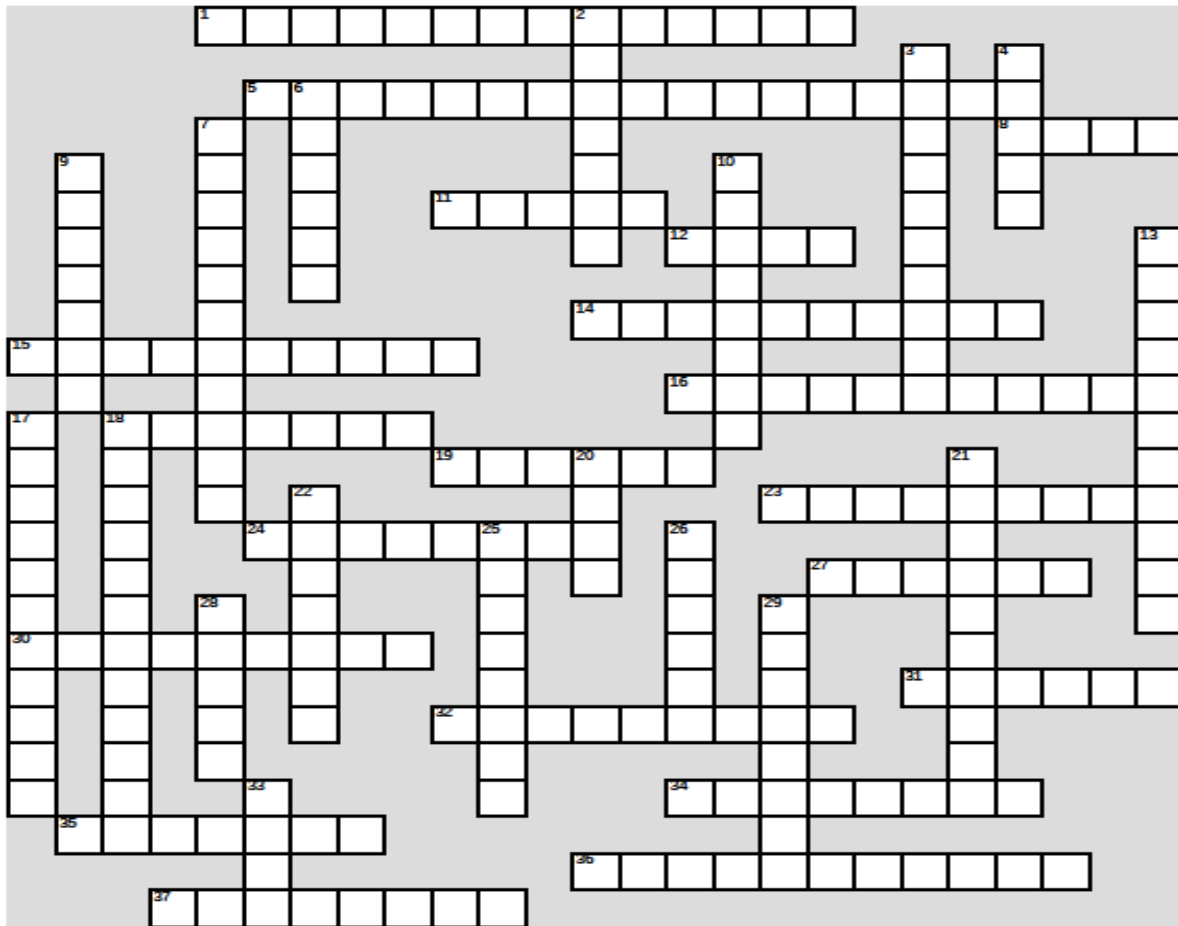
“There's always one annoying piece left over.”

THE CURIOUS CURATOR

-Joan Rosenbusch

This Curator has many stories to tell and I often wonder how many people read or digest the historical information that we exhibit here. Instead of a story in this Grindstone, the crossword puzzle listed below will let us all know what we have learned by reading not only this column but other sources of Amherst history elsewhere. This puzzle is tough but good research should result in most, if not all, the answers. The solution will be printed in the May/June Grindstone. Once you have solved the puzzle print out your answers and send them to us at 113 S. Lake St. or email them to office@amhersthistoricalsociety.org. We will display the names of people submitting correct solutions in the next Grindstone.

AMHERST HISTORY CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Original name of East Quarry
- 5 Equipment used in quarrying
- 8 Buried in Crownhill
- 11 Early Boot & Shoemaker
- 12 Bowling Alley owner
- 14 Terrible event of 1916
- 15 General Store on Park Avenue
- 16 AKA the Carrot Building
- 18 Amherst's name at one time
- 19 School named after beloved citizen
- 23 Amherst's first water source.
- 24 Taxi company in the 1950s
- 27 Early pioneer of Amherst
- 30 Auto garage in the 1920s and 1930s

- 31 Father of the Amherst School System
- 32 This put Amherst on the map
- 34 Deep holes where stone is extracted
- 35 Mayor of Amherst
- 36 Location of Ormsby School
- 37 Yearly Amherst event

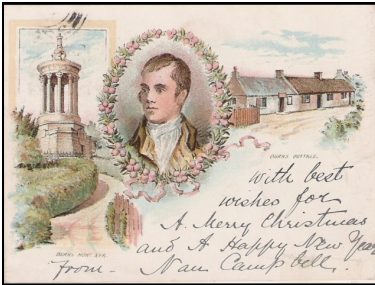
Down

- 2 Historical Museum
- 3 AKA Railroad Street
- 4 Famed local artist
- 6 Early hotel on Main Street
- 7 Lincoln Street's early name
- 9 Local Corporation
- 10 Type of building on corner of Main Street and Park Avenue

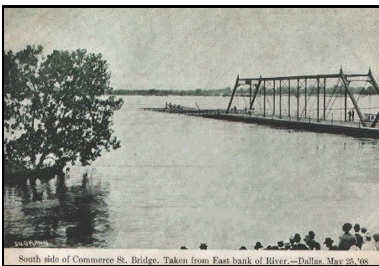
- 13 Senior Citizen Group
- 17 Symbol of our town removed in 2012
- 18 Award given for Volunteer Work
- 20 Clothing Store in mid 1900s
- 21 Graduations were held here
- 22 Street named after Amherst woman
- 25 Cemetery that was moved
- 26 Famed Amherst Historian
- 28 First homestead built in Amherst
- 29 First sandstone building in Amherst
- 33 Fraternal Amherst Society

HISTORICAL/COLLECTOR'S CORNERby Carol Hiltabidel

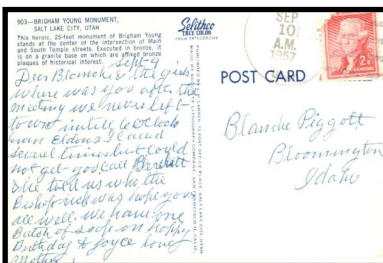
I'd like to talk about Postcards this issue. We've all sent at least one in our lives and have probably received more than one. They have been around since Austria introduced the first one in 1869, Canada in 1871 and the US in 1873.



This one to the left [pic.1] was one of the first made in 3-color called a Heligoland card. Most cards done at that time were historical subjects. As Postcards developed they were mostly pictures of places you were visiting. They often had historic or picturesque scenes from your locale. Some showed the people in the area you were in, others pictured national disasters like floods [pic.2], fires and the aftermath of tornados. In 1873, merchants came to advertise [pic.3] on postcards as a way of getting their product recognition to the general public.



A Postcard collector is called a deltiologist. And collecting postcards is the third most popular hobby after stamps and coins. You may be a collector and not know it if you have a stash of cards somewhere.



When looking to collect cards or checking out those you have laying around, check out its cleanliness. It can be written on but you don't want marks, grease, or surface grime on them. Make sure the edges are even and not bent, especially in the corners and definitely not torn. If you can read the message on the

back it can sometimes add to the historic value of the card or at least give you something to chuckle about. [#4] . The postmark is a big help too. The more legible it is the better. A lot can be learned from its mark. Stamps are usually a good way to date a card too but a new stamp can be put on a really old card and that changes everything!

Here are a few different types of cards that that you can look for when collecting.



This pic of the Lorain Lighthouse is just that....a Photograph or Chrome Postcard. This style began after 1939 and usually had a shiny paper surface.



This pic is also a photograph and like the first one is considered a topographical postcard...showing general views or street scenes. This one is an early shot of Broadway looking north to the B&O dock on the lake.



This is one of my favorite kind of postcard. It is a Linen Card, not actually made of linen, but it does have a high rag content. Notice these types usually have a border around them making them look like a painting. This one is an early shot of sailing on the Lake at the Vermilion Lagoons.



This one is a black and white photo of the boat/bass landing at Grand Lake, Ohio. It's very picturesque and the car on the little islet makes it valuable. It's dated June 1958.



Last, but not least, here is one of Amherst landmarks that I just got from an auction in Alliance, Ohio. Not too old but a nice group of scenes that make Amherst interesting! Credit for these photos are given to Amherst's own Olga Vincek.!!!

Village Sales

The very first sale in the village began as an idea generated from the AHS fundraising committee, then chaired by board member, John Dunn. It was June of 2011 when the committee was pursuing ways to raise funds to be applied toward the upcoming Village Fire Museum and decided a sale of accumulated donated items might be a successful endeavor. As it happened it was more than successful and the following year the committee elected to repeat the sale with the following slogan: "If you haven't cooked with it, worn it, displayed it, used it or read it within the last year...you are more than welcome to donate it".

Since that early date, each year there has been a village sale. In the beginning all the sales were in the Long Barn but in recent years donations became so intensive requiring the use of two additional buildings; the Art Gallery (originally The Jenne Building) and the Pine Tree (originally housing the Archaeological Research).

This year due to the increased community interest, the first sale will be on March 26 from 9 AM to 2 PM and continue each Saturday through the fall. The decision to hold sales each Saturday came about due to some confusion in the past as to the dates and times of each sale and it is hopeful now that a permanent date will alleviate the problem.

As well, if you haven't yet been to one of the sales plan on coming by any Saturday and please feel free to share this page with friends who may not aware of the events.



Pictured Left:
Long Barn South Porch.



Pictured Right:
Long Barn Inside Room



Pictured Left:
Long Barn Back Room



Pictured Right:
Gallery Inside Room



Pictured Left:
Pine Tree Inside Room



Pictured Right:
Pine Tree Back Room

The Amherst Post Office

1940-1991

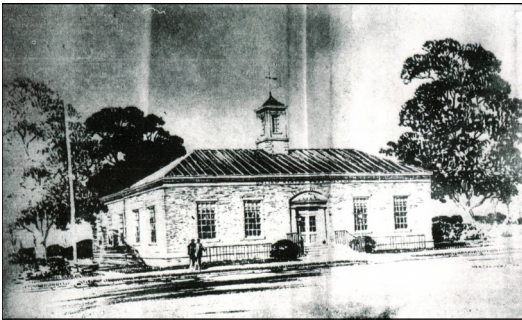
It was June of 1938. The little village of Amherst was growing at a rapid pace hosting a population of 2,844 residents. The surrounding area was filled with the shingles of a new doctor, dentist and an attorney. Farm families and quarry workers filled the majority of the work force but there were, as well, businessmen, auto mechanics, carpenters, railroad workers, meat cutters, and sales women living in the vicinity. Many new businesses were evident in the surrounding neighborhoods between Tenney Ave, Park, Church and Cleveland Ave; among which were a drug store, meat market, dairy, hardware store, shoe repair and several auto garages.

It was during this time that Postmaster E.C. Stiwald gave some thought to a new post office and submitted an application to Congressman, Dow Harper, for an updated postal facility for Amherst, even though he did not think there would be any consideration for Amherst, but figured that it would do no harm in asking. On July 15, approximately one month later, to his surprise, he received approval from Washington to proceed ahead with bids for a new post office.

Meanwhile several petitions were being circulated throughout Amherst. The first requesting that any building erected by the government in Amherst be built of Ohio sandstone. The intent was to strengthen the use of sandstone as the building material even though at that time no particular material was favored by the authorities in Washington. The other petition was of an entirely different nature. It appeared that many in the village were divided by the need for a new post office asking Congressman Dow Harper to use his influence to defeat the project. The petition in circulation read as follows:

“We, the undersigned residents of the village of Amherst, and patrons of the Amherst Post Office, respectfully petition you to do all that you can to defeat the project for the building of a new Post Office Building within the Village of Amherst, Lorain County, Ohio, for reasons that the business of the Post Office here does not warrant the expenditure of \$50,000.00 of public money. The present Post Office is adequate to take care of the needs for many years to come. The rent paid therefore by the Government is less than the upkeep and maintenance of the proposed Post Office and to us it seems an unnecessary expenditure of money that could be used to better advantage in some other place not as fortunately situated as we are.”

Apparently the submitted petitions had little effect since four applications for bids were applied for in August of the year. Three of the bids did not meet the requirements of the Government: The Eagle Property at the corner of Church and Tenney, the Amherst Hotel on South Main Street and the Plato Estate Property on Church St. The accepted bid at \$6,000 was awarded to Conrad Zilch for his property at the corner of Prospect Street and Park Avenue, but it wasn't until October that the property transaction was official with no time frame of when the Government would want to take possession of the property.



This architect's drawing of the new post office appeared in the Friday March 1, 1940 edition of the Amherst News Times. At this time construction of the new facility was underway, but not without its difficulties. Weather was the initial factor, but later work was suspended after workmen digging along the west side of the property discovered quicksand. Tests taken to determine the extent of the quicksand showed the need to sink the foundation deeper. By the fall of 1940 the post office was completed.

Dedication was October 30, 1940.

The following is an excerpt from the November 1, 1940 News Times written by Mrs. F.R. Powers:

Our beautiful new post office stands as a tribute to the memory of those who during the years past have administered the services of their government to their communities so loyal and well. Whether the mail they handled was addressed to Plato, Amherstville, North Amherst or Amherst is of little consequence. That their work was faithfully done is all that matters now. A gift of the magnitude of our new post office can be a challenge to the future, too. A challenge we shall meet gloriously, if, we as a community continue to forge ahead thru the loyalty and public spiritedness of our men and women.

The Amherst Historical Society

113 South Lake St.
Amherst, OH 44001
Phone: 440-988-7255

Email: office@amhersthistoricalsociety.org

Website: www.amhersthistoricalsociety.org

The Amherst Historical Society

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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.

Grindstone Printed by SQP Print Center

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Saturday, April 9, 2022 from 1pm to 4pm

Easter "Egg"stravaganza

1st Annual



Scavenger Hunt & Trivia Rally

NON-MEMBERS
\$50 per car
MEMBERS
\$40 per car



FAMILY FUN PRIZE PACKS!

Top Prize: 7-Day Vacation Getaway!

Your choice of select timeshare destinations!

Call to reserve your spot today! **440-988-7255**

- Petting Zoo
- Pony Rides
- Mini Games
- Easter Bunny Photo Op
- Chocolate Sale
- Basket Raffle