



# *The Amherst Historical Society*

## *Grindstone Newsletter*

May/June 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

<u>AHS Garage Sales</u>	<u>Ladies of The 1800s</u>	<u>AHS Volunteer Outing</u>	<u>Sandstone Village</u>
Every Saturday	May 13, 2022	The 1907 at Central School	<u>Car &amp; Bike Show</u>
March through October	3 PM– 5 PM	June 4, 2022	June 12, 2022
9 AM to 2 PM	Afternoon Tea	4 PM to 7 PM	12 Noon to 4 PM
Sandstone Village	AHS Sandstone Hall	Appetizers & Beverages	Registration 10AM-12 PM
Long Barn, Pine Tree &	\$20 per person	Compliments of	Admission by Donation
Gallery Open	\$15 for members	Sprengr Health Care	Village Tours & Garage Sales

#### Village Community Events

##### Amherst Garden Club Plant Sale

May 7, 2022  
9 AM to 12 Noon  
Sandstone Village  
763 Milan Ave.  
Amherst, OH  
For information:  
Call 440-988-7255



##### Pogie's BBQ—Dine to Donate

Proceeds to benefit the  
Amherst Historical Society  
May 27, 2022 5 PM to 7 PM  
Sandstone Hall  
113 South Lake St.  
Amherst, OH  
\$20 per person \$18 for members  
BYOB  
For reservations 440-988-7255

#### Other Amherst Community Events

##### Main Street Amherst Beautification Day

Downtown Amherst Clean-up  
May 14, 2022 9 AM to 12 Noon  
For information:  
Call Main Street at 440-984-6709  
[www.mainstreetamherst.org](http://www.mainstreetamherst.org)

Main Street Amherst  
Walking on Wednesday  
June 8 July 13 Aug 10 & Sept 14  
4PM—7:30PM  
Accepting Vendor Applications  
For more information  
Call Main Street at 440-984-6709  
[www.mainstreetamherst.org](http://www.mainstreetamherst.org)

Sprengr Health Care Presents  
“Rock the Block Party”  
at The 1907 at Central School  
474 Church Street  
Saturday, May 14  
1 PM to 4 PM  
Free and Open to the Public  
Music, Refreshments, Raffles and  
Giveaways

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

Dear Members and Friends,

The Village is awakening as the Amherst Garden Club begins tending the sleeping gardens. A special thank you to all their members who work diligently to make the Village a beautiful destination. We constantly get compliments on the colorful, well-kept gardens. Please remember to shop the Garden Club Flower Sale on May 7th from 9 AM to noon. The Village is now available for our events and we are anxious to get started. Check out the front page to see what we have planned for this Spring.

In May, we are offering the One Room School House program for the children who missed out on the opportunity due to COVID constraints. Everyone is excited to get back into the routine of sharing our history with the community. This is only possible due to our dedicated volunteers who are docents (tour guides). We are holding a docent training on Wednesday, June 29, 10 AM at the Grange/School House. Please call the AHS office 440-988-7255 to learn more about the docent program and the rich history of the Sandstone Village.

Thank you to the Nord Family Foundation for their grant to AHS. This grant provides us with the funds needed to partner with Bonefish Systems in the creation of a new AHS website, to update our office computer systems and provide staff training. The Nord Family Foundation has been a strong partner in allowing us to grow our value to the community. There are many organizations and causes that exist today because of the Nord family. Their forethought and generosity support many local projects.

Hopefully everyone is well and ready to enjoy warmer weather.  
Sandy

### **Congratulations to our monthly winners!**

May - Laura Krebs

June - Mary Jane Myosky

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## **May Day - May 1st**

We often associate May Day with the mayday distress signal; but they have nothing in common, except for sounding alike. We can discover that there are 35 holidays observed on the first day of Spring, i.e. May Day or we can find that its history is rooted in traditions, customs and folklore.

Actually the observation of May Day originated in England in the Middle Ages. Towns and villages celebrated the “return of spring” on the first day of May with springtime festivities. Many of the villages had a maypole where children would dance around holding on to colorful ribbons, while others gathered wildflowers and green branches for the crowning of the village’s May King and Queen. But in the 19th and 20th century, people observed the first of May with entirely different traditions. They might gather flowers and arrange them in pretty paper or in a basket along with gifts and candies and then hang them on the door of friends and neighbors as a way of welcoming spring. Another tradition was a special way a gentleman would let a certain lady know that he cared for her by hanging a basket on the doorknob of her house. Unfortunately this tradition also had its dilemmas. In 1889 an article in the MA Gazette concerned a gentleman who walked a mile and a half to hang his basket on the doorknob of his hopeful sweetheart, only to find that a basket was already there from another man.

Traditions and customs fade, but wouldn't it be special if, on the morning of the first day of May, or even during the rest of the month, you find a bouquet of flowers wrapped in pretty paper, or a basket of small gifts and candies on your doorstep... or you could bring a smile to a special friend or neighbor by placing the same on their doorstep.

## HISTORICAL/COLLECTOR'S CORNER.....by Carol Hiltabidel

We are continuously bombarded with advertising....on the radio, tv, newspapers, billboards, magazines, flyers, and don't forget social media. Some of us even get a leaflet each month that is nothing but local business advertising themselves. Now if you are like me, I rarely pay attention to those ads on radio or tv. Billboards catch my eye, but I am usually whizzing past them before I have had a chance to read them completely. And, the pop-up ads on social media are the biggest annoyance of them all. But printed ads are sometimes works of art and can be highly collectible and, I'm one of those collectors.

Benjamin Franklin is credited with publishing the first advertisement in the first magazine called "The General Magazine" in 1741. From there it was all downhill. In 1869, F. Wayland Ayer using just \$250, founded the N.W. Ayers & Son ad agency. He would buy and sell advertising space in magazines and newspapers. He then branched out to planning, designing and creating copy for advertisers, a formula that is still used today. Helen Lansdown Resor is credited with the first ads using sex appeal to sell a product. Her Woodbury Soap campaign in 1910, "A Skin You Love To Touch" went world-wide and sold 20 times more of the product than previously.

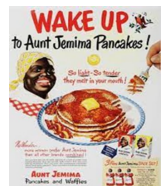


Then there were ads with cute little babies and children hawking products that they shouldn't be associated with.

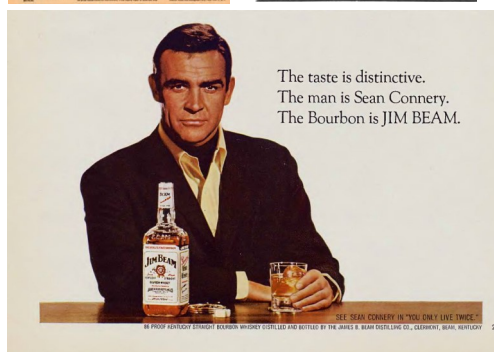
Soon ads for most everything followed in print, on TV, on billboards, even postcards and business cards. Did you know that the first toy advertised on TV was Mr. Potato Head? At first, ads were very gender biased, showing women to be meek, easily controlled and most always doing what the man says.



When people of color were included in ads they were not often shown in the best of light.



There is a lot of nostalgia related to older advertisements, especially when celebrities allowed their image to be used to sell TV's, cigarettes, alcohol, cars and other products. Many products were bought by consumers simply because their favorite movie star endorsed it. I'd like to think we've gotten beyond that. Here are some pics of some of my favorites.



And I don't want to leave our wonderful Amherst community out.! Here are some ads that were for local businesses.



## THE CURIOUS CURATOR.....by Joan Rosenbusch

Years ago, the Quigley Museum had several school related items on display, some dating back to the early 1900s. As curator I realized that there wasn't a lot of room to exhibit all that we had. What a blessing when Russ Marty came up with the idea of creating a school museum to be located at Marion L. Steele High School.

It was a labor of love to work with him transferring one item after another, documenting and discussing each piece. Russ began the arduous work of displaying the artifacts in the room that the school loaned to him. Many volunteer hours were given by Russ and friends to create this gallery.

Objects, such as display cases, frames and shelves, were needed and it was such joy to see people stepping up to help obtain them. The biggest project, by far, was when Russ was able to preserve the gym floor from Powers school before it was torn down. With much help from others, each piece of the floor was moved from the school across the street and placed over the floor in the new museum.

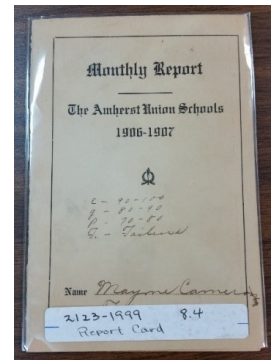
The museum has grown now and is a delight to see. Every year the graduating classes that hold reunions ask to have a tour of the "Amherst Schools Museum" and they always come away in awe. This is a "Must-See" visit for all Amherst citizens and others interested in our schools' history.



The first Yearbook (1913)



Marion L. Steele's briefcase (1909)



Report Card (1906-1907)



Ceramic Shoe w/picture of Amherst School (1893-1907)



Amherst School Museum showing Powers Gym Floor

AHS Volunteer Luncheon  
April 23, 2022



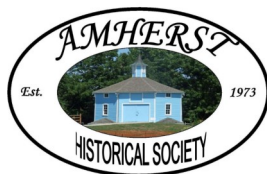
Congratulations to Sue Sauer  
Volunteer of the Year



Alone  
We can do  
So little  
  
Together  
We can do  
So much

Helen Keller

Thank you for  
Donating you  
Time, talent and  
treasure





# Easter “Egg”stravaganza

Easter arrived a week early at the Village. The Easter Bunny visited the Sandstone Hall. A petting zoo and balloon lady came to the Village, and a fishing pond game was offered at the Quigley Museum. With clues in hand, the car rally hunters motored to each trivia spot for their historic related question. Emily Marty completed the rally with all the correct responses. Approximately 250 attended this first ever Amherst Historical Society Easter “Egg”stravaganza!!! Congratulations to Khristal Kramer-Nutt who organized this event.



The Easter Bunny delighted young and old alike. Children, families and groups took advantage of the photo opportunity. It was such a treat for all to share personal time with the Easter Bunny. To be sure, he is planning to “hippity-hop” back for another visit next spring. There were a variety of raffle baskets donated by friends and members of the Amherst Historical Society. A young boy was overheard saying, “Look Mom they even have stuff for us kids.” The “Count the Jelly Beans” table was very popular, as people tried to calculate the jelly bean amount. We can tell you now...a total of 1743 jelly beans were in the jar. Monica Deist came the closest without going over the number of beans in the jar! A variety of Malley’s chocolate bars were available to satisfy that Easter chocolate urge.



In the Village at the Hickory Tree Grange, Imagine That Ballooning was on hand making amazing balloon creations to delight the children. On the Village grounds, Wild Hooves Farm Animal Rescue provided a chance for children to make friends with a variety of animals which they were able to pet, brush and feed. Among the animals were a llama, an alpaca, a donkey, a miniature cow and a goat.

An event of this magnitude could not be carried off without the behind the scene helpers. AHS amazing volunteers included; Khristal Kramer-Nutt, Dan Nutt, Deanna Houston, Tom Jewel, Diane Camera, Bob “Pogie” Pogorelc, John Sekletar, Theresa Myosky, Elaine Breen, Leslie Nicholas, Peggy Patterchak, Faith Dohonas, Ellen Hembree, Val Farshman, Martha Pallante, John Dietrich, Brandi Drexler, Regina Moore, Barbara Gilbert-Whitcomb, Lori and Tony Melendez, Sharon Substanley, Ryan and April Sawyer.

## **A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS FOR THE “EGG”STRAVAGANZA!!**

Blades of Grass, D’Tutanelli’s Pizza, Amherst Animal Hospital, Ryan Homes, Nordson Corporation Foundation, Anthony Mendez Realtor, Amherst Dental Professionals, Lake Erie Crushers, Sandy Kaiser and Paul Biers.

## Revisiting Historical Amherst.....by Martha Pallante

In recent issues of the Grindstone, we recalled the early days of the Amherst Postal Service and how, in 1827, it developed from a small wood frame building to a modern sandstone facility on the corner of Park Avenue and Prospect Street. Interestingly, the similarity existed, as well, with the early Amherst Fire Department.

### The Early Years

From 1876 to 1883 the fire department was housed in two barns: the first was located on the corner of Lewis Street ( Mill Street) and S. Railroad Street (Maple Street). It was owned by George Ashenbach who rented it to the village of North Amherst for the fire department until 1883. When the department moved to the north side of the tracks into a barn owned by the Plato family. The fire department remained there until 1884 when it relocated to the basement of the newly built sandstone Town Hall. As the Department expanded, the need became apparent for a newer and larger fire facility. In October of 1958 construction began for the village's new fire station to be located on Church Street. This was the site of the old George Davis home. With the construction completed in the fall on 1959, the firemen occupied their state-of-the-art station house.

During those early years, the community of North Amherst suffered several setbacks. The source of the trouble was fire. The earliest fire on record occurred July 30, 1883 when the entire business section on the south side of Elyria Street (Park Avenue) from Main Street to Church Street was destroyed. We can find no known cause for the fire in any of the early records. Only that due to the inadequate fire-fighting equipment in the village, it was necessary to call for the aid of the Elyria Fire Department. Five months later, the business section on the north side of Elyria Street (Park Avenue) from Main to Church Street burned. In 1892, the Union School burned. This had been built of brick from clay dug from the site. In rebuilding these destroyed sections of the town, the village fathers decided that future buildings should be erected of sandstone and several more fire cisterns should be dug. According to current Fire Chief, Jim Wilhelm, the village at that time was protected by what was known as the Hydropult Co.. Formed of fire volunteers and a Chief Engineer, the group used a hand pump. This had a suction hose on the up stroke and discharge hose for the down stroke. It was used in horse troughs but apparently was not very effective. They also used bucket brigades.



The pictured wagon, known as the “Live Oak”, was purchased by the newly formed Amherst Fire Department in 1876. It required from 2 to 22 men to make it pump and was entirely handmade. A hand drawn hose cart came with it along with 500 feet of leather riveted hose. It was the first fire fighting equipment in all three communities. Since its retirement in 1907, it has been in most of the Amherst parades, sought after by the Ford Museum, renovated and currently on display at the Live Oak Fire Museum in the Amherst Sandstone Village.



Amherst Fire Department  
1900  
In front of the Town Hall Basement



Amherst Fire Department  
2022  
Church Street Fire Station

**The Amherst Historical Society**

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

Email: [office@amhersthistoricalsociety.org](mailto:office@amhersthistoricalsociety.org)

Website: [www.amhersthistoricalsociety.org](http://www.amhersthistoricalsociety.org)

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**The Amherst Historical Society**

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Khristal Kramer-Nutt - Secretary

April Sawyer - Treasurer

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John Sekletar    Cathy Sekletar

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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**

**Other Items of Interest**

**Amherst Historical Society Docent (Tour Guides) Training - Wednesday, June 29**

Meet in the Grange/School House at 10AM

Choose which buildings you would be interested in becoming a docent:

Quigley Museum, Grange/School House, Harris Dute House,  
or the St. George Chapel

Join us to learn more about the history of The Quigley Museum  
and The Amherst Sandstone Village

For more information please contact the AHS office at 440-988-7255

**March - April Grindstone Crossword Puzzle**

Answers are posted on our website

[amhersthistoricalsociety.org](http://amhersthistoricalsociety.org)