



# *The Amherst Historical Society*

## *Grindstone Newsletter*

**March / April 2023**

**Amherst Historical Society Events**

**For questions or to make reservations please call 440-988-7255**

### **50 Years and Forward**

“If history were taught in the form of stories, it would never be forgotten.” Rudyard Kipling

Since 1973 we have preserved the past through our buildings, collections and stories. One of the compelling stories we tell happens in the one-room schoolhouse. Since 1992, local third grade students have experienced learning as it happened in the 1890's. In The Sandstone Village, you will experience the dynamic energy of blacksmithing and vintage crafting. Take a tour as we share the beauty of cherished furniture and belongings in the historic buildings. Our Quarry history is available through photos, tools, and stories of the dangerous work that contributed to the “Sandstone Capital of the World.” Now it is time to begin our Celebration of our first 50 years. Please follow us on our website, Facebook and Instagram for the most current information and upcoming events.



### **The Shops in Sandstone Village** **“Fabulous and Affordable Finds”**

**Open for the Season every Saturday beginning March 25 from 10:00am to 2:00pm**

Our sales have more options than your average “garage sale” and we have changed the name to reflect that. Donations are welcome through the winter. Please bring only items that are in good to excellent condition. We do not accept any fabric items (clothes, bedding, pillows, stuffed animals) or electronics. Please call us with any questions regarding donations. Are you in need of a winter shopping adventure? Contact us to schedule a personal shopping adventure with a few friends. We are happy to schedule shopping for small groups of four to ten people!

### **Amherst Community Opportunities**

#### **Amherst Historical Society** **Scholarships Available**

**Four to be awarded at \$1,500 each!**

- 2 Trade School/Certification**
- 1 First Year College**
- 1 for Second Year Plus College**

**Applications are available on  
our website or by calling  
440-988-7255**

#### **Workshop Players**

**44820 Middle Ridge Rd**

**Barefoot in the Park  
March 3-5**

**Free to Be . . . You and Me  
April 27- 30  
May 5-7**

**For Ticket Information Call:  
440-634-0472**

#### **Seated Yoga Flow Fridays**

**April 7 through May 12, 1-2pm  
Amherst Public Library  
Suitable for all ages  
and experience levels**



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

Dear Members and Friends,

This issue I thought I'd shorten my letter and add more pictures because the photos tell the story. We have an exciting year planned and the fun is just beginning! We are focusing some upcoming projects on the local history of the quarries. Do you know someone connected to the quarries? Please contact us, as we want to tell their stories. We will work with other area historical societies, to gather and share information.

Our official 50th birthday is April 10, 2023. I hope you will set that date aside as we celebrate the groundbreaking of the Quigley Switch Project. At this location, sandstone was delivered from the Quigley Quarry and loaded onto rail cars for distribution.

Thanks to all of you for your dedication and support,  
Sandy

Congratulations to our Monthly Prize Winners:

March - Jim and Teri Bilancini    April—Cathy Rathwell

### Super Bowl Party

A grand time was had by all!



### AHS Gift Certificates are now available!

They may be used for books, event tickets, sale items or membership. Help celebrate a special event for a friend or family member and support the Amherst Historical Society.

## 2023 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE ✓

We are excited about turning 50 and want to celebrate by offering special benefits to each level of membership. We have added a student membership at \$10 and other contribution levels. Review the enclosed membership insert with unique member benefits and various levels of membership. Your current membership level includes the benefits listed. Consider upgrading your membership to take advantage of new benefits.



## Friends and Food

A potluck gathering was hosted at the Amherst Historical Society on Saturday, January 21. AHS Members, supporters, and community members shared food and conversation.



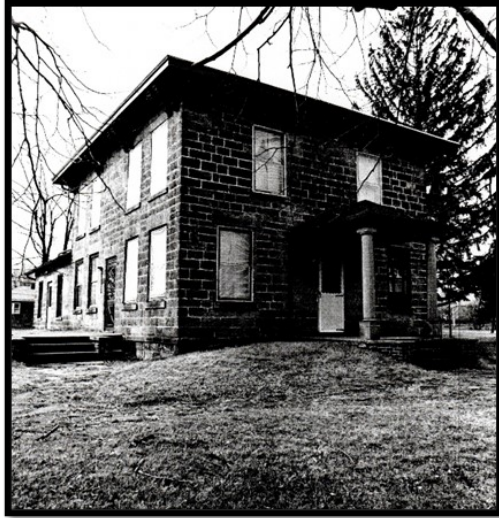
## We Tell Amherst Stories Through Buildings

Most of the structures in the Sandstone Village were carefully moved from other locations to preserve them. This involved very detailed deconstruction details, time, energy, money, and people passionate about Amherst History. Stones for some of the building sat on the property for years until we were ready to reconstruct. As we enter our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary we continue to build on local history. A Quarry Museum is being planned, dedicated to the story of Western Lorain County's famed sandstone quarries. Conceptual planning began recently. If you have Quarry history to share, please contact our office.





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



Over the years there has been some history accumulated regarding the people who have lived in the building we now call the Quigley Museum. Built in 1832, it was owned by the Quigley family for years. This pre-Civil War building was later divided into apartments. Terry Traster, the Amherst Historical Society's maintenance man rebuilt much of the building.

Many people have rented the building and we have limited information in our files. I am compiling a database and welcome the help of anybody who can research or add to the information. The information below may not be accurate. Please let me know if you have contact information or details about these renters.

This is what I have so far:

- 1832** – Joseph and Mary Quigley had the house built from a quarry nearby. Several of his heirs lived there over time.
- 1917** - Hugh Finnegan purchased and lived in this house. His son, Farrell “Jim” owned it after him. In March of 1922 there was a fire in the building and fortunately it was extinguished before much damage was done.
- 1948-1949** - Tom Southam and his parents
- 1950** - Leonard Tettaton purchased in the late 1950s. He was a builder who built homes on Sunrise Drive, South Lake Street and Milan Ave. Leonard rented part of the building to a man by the name of Slack.
- 1961** - Alice & Daryl Schatz
- 1962** – Mrs. Leonard Tettaton
- 1963** - David Tettaton bought the house from his Dad. David lived there with his wife Carol and they turned it into a Tri-Plex apartment. (Including changing the direction of the staircase.) He bought the house for \$15,000 and sold it late in the 1960s for \$30,000.
- 1964** - Clarence Young
- 1968** – Mr. & Mrs. John Goforth
- 1970** - James Jeffrey Pozzone owned the Quigley
- 1972** – Mrs. Bobby Flynn
- 1972 - 1974** Mr. & Mrs. Billy Gayheart
- 1981 - 1982** - Larry Lakner
- 1983** - Doris Breckenridge Lockhart (lived in the front apartment)
- 1988** - Rudy Yuhasz owned the building



We have no dates for the following but these names have shown up as owners or renters: Chris Pressler (Ohio State Highway Patrolman), David & Ruby Casada, Charles & Genola Tettaton Marshall, Hulon Morrow & his sister Beulah, Daryla Jones and Penny Griffith (David and Julie), Toni Elliott and ? Watson.

In 1988 the Nord Family Foundation bought the house from Rudy Yuhasz for over \$90,000 and donated it to the Amherst Historical Society. In 1989 the Quigley Museum was opened.

I was searching for an idea for this issue, when my husband suggested Earth Day, an annual April event. I learned some fascinating facts about the care taken to save our planet. Some of these details are new to me and, hopefully, will be new and enlightening to you, our readers, as well.

### **EARTH DAY . . . by Martha Pallante**

It may be hard to imagine that before 1970 protecting the planet's natural resources was of little interest to the American public. There were few activists devoted to large scale issues such as industrial pollution. It was legal for factories to generate clouds of toxic smoke or dump toxic waste into streams.

Large gas-guzzling cars were considered a sign of prosperity. Few citizens were familiar with – or practicing – recycling.

It was also during this time that huge fish kills were reported on the Great Lakes and the media was expounding that Lake Erie, one of America's largest bodies of fresh water, was in its death throes.

An additional threat occurred when Cleveland's Cuyahoga River, heavily inundated with oil and toxic chemicals, burst into flames by spontaneous combustion. The other Great Lakes were also threatened by pollution from steel plants, oil refineries, paper mills and city sewage plants. For the previous one hundred years the pollutants had tainted the world's largest fresh water system. There were no legal or regulatory mechanisms to protect our environment.



That was soon to be remedied.

On April 22, 1970 United States Senator Gaylord Nelson and a young activist, Denis Hayes, organized a well-planned rally where an estimated 20 million Americans participated to bring the issue into national awareness. This dynamic rally became known as “Earth Day.”

Their efforts led Congress to authorize The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in December, 1970. Congress also passed the National Environmental Education Act, the Occupational Safety and Health Act, and the Clean Air Act. Two years later they passed the Clean Water Act. These laws have protected millions of people from disease and death and protected hundreds of species from extinction.

As 1990 approached, a group of environmental leaders persuaded Denis Hayes to organize another major campaign for the planet. This time, Earth Day went global, with 200 million people in 141 countries coming together. Earth Day 1990 gave a huge boost to recycling efforts worldwide and helped pave the way for the 1992 United Nations Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. It also prompted President Bill Clinton to award Senator Gaylord Nelson the Presidential Medal of freedom—the highest honor given to civilians in the United States—for his role as Earth Day founder.

The Earth Day 2022 theme was to invest in our planet and featured five primary programs: The Great Global Cleanup, Sustainable Fashion, Climate and Environmental Literacy, Canopy Project, Food and Environment, and the Global Earth Challenge. EARTHDAY.ORG announced the continuation of the "Invest in our Planet" theme for 2023 and that more than one billion citizens participated in Earth Day 2022.

References: Earth Day Wikipedia     Earth Day '70: What It Meant by Sen. Gaylord Nelson

EPA The Spirit of the First Earth Day by Jack Lewis

## HIDDEN TREASURES by . . . Carol Hiltabidel

In the last issue of the Grindstone, Martha Pallante related a story of a rare “Cyclopedia” guide to housekeeping and general knowledge that was found in the rafters of a barn and donated to AHS. The book had sections on physiology, medicine, etiquette and many illustrations of the human body along with facts, figures, poetry, mythology, foreign phrases, etiquette and many pages of recipes. It was dated 1881.

Now, I got to wondering how a book like this ended up in the rafters of an old barn and came to the conclusion that due to illustrations of the human body this book possibly became a “Playboy” issue of the Victorian era. I can imagine a young man or woman, curious about the body, took it to the barn, climbed into the hayloft to look it over. Fearing discovery, they hid it in the rafters for future readings. I’d be interested in your thoughts.

Other things have been found in rafters, floors, walls, and chimneys in old homes and buildings. People have discovered murals, wallpaper, letters, newspapers, artwork, tiles, toys, tools, medals, awards, cigarettes and coins or money when they renovate. Barns and outbuildings seem to have been a repository for books, magazines and guns.

During the Civil War, by order of General Sherman’s Special Field Order #120, federal troops were allowed to forage. Southerners, afraid they would lose valued items hid silver in chimneys or hollowed out trees. Jewelry was often sewn onto petticoats or undergarments.



AHS curator Joan Rosenbusch told me that her house is 130 years old and when she and her husband Ken bought it in 1963 they had no safe entry into the attic. Several years later Ken decided to make it easier to gain entrance. They found the original layout and blueprints for Ridge Hill Memorial Park Cemetery which opened in approximately 1929. They returned those documents to the owners of Ridge Hill.

When Ed and Betty Fridenstine bought a house on Beaver Court, they found hand-made shoes that the AHS was able to date to a cobbler who had a business there in 1857. The shoes are now on display in the Quigley Museum.



In 1990, the Bodmann house on Milan Ave caught fire and was a total loss. Mr. Bodmann and his mother escaped relatively unharmed. When fireman went back to tear down the house, coins fell from the ceiling. Most were silver dollars and half dollars that had possibly been hidden during the depression when banks failed and people kept their money at home. The coins were returned to the family.

My mother-in-law, Ruth Hiltabidel, was a gardener. While planting tomatoes she found a 3” plastic German Shepard toy that was my husband’s when he was a toddler. It was about 35 years old when she found it and was in great shape. My husband says he remembers getting it for his 3rd birthday and often played in the garden while his mom worked. It sits on my window sill now.

There are wonderful and interesting stories of things hidden and forgotten. Makes you wonder what’s in your house!





**Remembering Vivienne Bickley**  
**Reprinted from March 2013**  
**DO YOU REMEMBER?..... How We Were Cured?**

When a doctor actually came to your home? You had to have been ill for him to be called because, even tho his fees were low, most parents had a hard time “scraping them up” during the Great Depression.

The one medicine every household depended upon was cheap and effective, but hardly a cure for everything for which it was used. It was Castor Oil. My Dad would buy one orange when he knew I was going to be dosed with it, as a chaser to take the taste away. Therefore, I learned to associate the taste of oranges with Castor Oil and disliked oranges for years!

Schools tried to help with health problems. A lice inspection caused a roommate and me a lot of embarrassment. The nurse held us back for another look at our naturally curly hair—hers very dark and mine very blonde, because she thought nits might be hiding in our curls. We re-entered our classroom full of whispering classmates, addressing everyone: “We have not, we just have curly hair!”

One thing that’s hard for me to believe: they wanted to “skip” me over the second half of grade one, but couldn’t because I was underweight. They did skip me over 2B, because I had put on weight in a hurry. (Story of my life).

A health conscious third grade teacher named our classroom “ the Village of Happyville.” She appointed a mayor, police chief, etc.. I lived on Cheery Lane and my title was Town Nurse. Every morning I had to check to see each student had a clean hanky and ask them if they had brushed their teeth.

A recent Ken Burn’s’ documentary about the dust storms that plagued our plains states in the 30’s showed parents giving children spoonful's of kerosene and turpentine to cure the terrible coughs caused by the dirt they inhaled. Mostly only older children survived this desperate treatment. I’m so glad I lived in Ohio away from most of the dust storms.

One of our cures for flu and colds was eating Vicks VapoRub. I still recall how everything we ate tasted like Vicks after being dosed with it.

There’s one old time treatment I agree with and believe people young and old should follow it today. If you’re sick, go to bed. Rest always helps an illness. Don’t try to be tough and go to work or school, as you’re just spreading the virus or bacteria to others.

Everything in the world of medicine has improved greatly today, but basic rules still apply: Eat healthfully, don’t smoke, exercise and get plenty of rest.

**The Amherst Historical Society**

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**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.

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Our Event Calendar**

**March 11 - Wine and Craft Beer Tasting ESP Brewing Company**

**March 25 - Grand Opening - The Shops in The Village - Fabulous and Affordable Finds**

**March 29 - Norm Miller "My Civil War Ancestors and the Songs They Sang"**

**April 1 - "Egg"stravaganza in Sandstone Hall and The Sandstone Village**

**April 10 - AHS 50th Anniversary - Groundbreaking for the Quigley Switch**

**April 22 - Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon**

**May 6 - Kentucky Derby Event in Sandstone Hall**

**May 21 - Afternoon Tea featuring Vintage Wedding Dresses at the Grange Hall**

**May 26 - AHS Fundraiser, in Sandstone Hall sponsored by Pogie's Clubhouse**

**June 4 - Village Car Show**

**June 10 - Baseball Fundraiser at Crusher's Stadium**

**June 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> - A Taste of History Military Reenactment Event at The Sandstone Village**

Please contact the office or follow us on our website, Facebook and Instagram  
for more information on these events!