



The Amherst Historical Society

Grindstone Newsletter

May /June 2023

Amherst Historical Society Events

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

50 Years and Forward



Concern for preservation of old Amherst Village Records prompted the formation of the Amherst Historical Society in 1973. The first officers were Robert Lauer, Valerie Jenkins, Elna Wittenbrook and Vivienne Bickley. From that small beginning has grown a dynamic and important resource for Amherst.

Already, 2023 has offered a Holiday Open House at Sandstone Village, Potluck Event, Super Bowl fundraiser, Matt Nahorn presentation about the Shupe property, Craft Beer and Wine tasting, Norm Miller program about his Civil War ancestors, Eggstravaganza and groundbreaking for the Quigley Switch.

Coming Attractions include the Kentucky Derby, Afternoon Tea, Car Show, Crushers Baseball, Taste of History Military Reenactment and Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration in August. Continue to celebrate and learn with us!

Caboose Raffle

Tickets are available to win this framed 10x12 original needlework representing the caboose at Sandstone Village. Tickets are \$2 for one, \$10 for 12 or \$20 for 30. The drawing will be Monday, August 7.



Three-tier dessert stands are needed for the Afternoon Tea on May 21. If you have any that we can borrow, please let us know!



Amherst Community Opportunities

Volunteers Needed

Wellspring Caring is seeking friendly people to provide empathy, companionship to hospice patients and their families. Volunteers may work directly with patients and may also support the community through office work, community outreach, or special events. Support is offered to patients locally in Sprenger senior living communities in Amherst, Avon and Lorain.

Hospice volunteers are essential for care and support. Your time could be spent reading, playing cards or listening to life stories. Training is provided in person or on-line. To learn more about volunteering in this important way, please contact Rebecca at ragnew@wellspringcaring.com 440-731-7387

Photos Then and Now

Comparison photos of Amherst are being posted on Facebook page **Amherst, Ohio Historical Pictures**. Volunteer George Siss is researching our photo collection and created this page. Please add to our history by uploading labeled photos or bring them to the office!

A Letter from the Executive DirectorSandy Kaiser

Dear Members and Friends,

We are rolling into our busy season,. You don't want to miss out on any of our planned activities so be sure to check out the event listings on Facebook, Instagram, our website amhersthistoricalsociety.org or just call the AHS office.

Our weekly sales continue each Saturday in The Sandstone Village from 10a-2p. We have some awesome deals going on so be sure to stop by and check out the new arrivals. The Long Barn is undergoing a transformation back to it's original purpose as a POW barracks. It will become a living history museum set to open this summer. We have purchased a new building to be its replacement for sales.

Office staff update: Deanna Houston will be retiring on June 30th. She has been instrumental in the development of the AHS office. We wish her well on her new adventures. Dawn Clappas will be joining our staff as Office Manager. Please take time to welcome her.

Take time to enjoy life,

Sandy

Congratulations to our monthly winners

May - Kathleen O'Shaughnessy

June - Samantha Cariglio



Sewing with Friends—Join a lively group of people who enjoy sewing with a group. If you quilt, crochet, embroider or enjoy other sewing projects, you are invited to participate each Thursday 9-5 at Amherst Historical Society. There is a weekly fee of \$5. For more details call Terri at 440-506-3101 or Tammy at 440-731-9939.

First Funeral in Amherst ... by Martha Pallante

Taken from the pages of the Amherst Free Press, is an article printed on April 8th of 1876 titled History of Amherst Township. It relates the story of a sad time in the early village and the heartbreaks endured. The Amherst Free Press was a weekly publication from July 31, 1875, to June 27, 1879. Cost: \$ 1.25 per Annum, in advance.

In 1818 Adomiran Webb and his son Reuben came to Amherst. Reuben took up a tract of land at what is now known as Webb's corners. But for the sake of society settled on a piece of land near Jacob Shupe, some four miles from their future home. During their sojourn at this point, one of their children sickened and died. The parents of the child very naturally desired that the body should be deposited on their own ground four miles away through an unbroken wilderness, the intervening road marked only by spotted trees.

Mrs. Webb in her later years related this event to a creditable gentleman who furnished the particulars in this sketch of the early history of Amherst. She said that Mr. Shupe's carpenter made a rude coffin in which the child was laid. There was neither funeral discourse, prayer, nor hymn over the departed little one; but it was arranged that Mr. Shupe should mount his horse and take the coffin on before him and Mr. and Mrs. Webb were to follow him through the woods to the point selected for burial.

Mr. Shupe was particularly fond of music and was a very fair performer on the violin and more than ordinarily good at whistling. Immediately on starting for the grave he commenced whistling Yankee Doodle, keeping it up with vigor until he reached the spot designated for the burial ground. He then assisted in digging the grave. The body was deposited in its little home; earth thrown over it and again mounting their horses, the trio commenced their return in the same order in which they had come out to do their duty. They were no sooner underway than Mr. Shupe again made the woods resound with his Yankee Doodle, which he continued all the way home.

This was the first funeral in Amherst and the beginning of the little cemetery on a gentle slope one mile west of South Amherst village. The parents and others of the family are sleeping beside this little one. The family burial ground is enclosed with a wooden fence and excepted in the deed of the present occupant of the farm.

THE CURIOUS CURATOR.....by Joan Rosenbusch

Oftentimes this curator veers from her duties to investigate other subjects, this one being the buildings on downtown Park Avenue. The architecture of many of these buildings is something to behold but there are little features that have stood for over 100 years that many people aren't aware of, even those who have lived in Amherst all their lives. Below are some pictures of existing finials and sandstone inserts and their addresses which include the businesses that are there today. Enjoy a walk down though town and see how many of them you can find. And always support our Amherst businesses.



182 Park Avenue
Drs. Stocker & Lutz



133 Park Avenue
Fraley and Fox



174—176 Park Avenue
Making Face and Dollhouse Boutique



133 Park Avenue Fraley and Fox



183 Park Avenue Ben Franklin



238 Church Street
Attorneys Ramsey and Anderson



187 Park Avenue Lighthouse Insurance



193 Park Avenue—today and yesterday—Ziggy's

Quigley Switch

On April 10, 2023, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Amherst Historical Society (AHS). A group of Amherst residents were passionate about preserving structures, artifacts and stories important to this community and established AHS in 1973.

At the event Jennifer Wasilk, president of Amherst City Council, delivered a proclamation from Mayor Mark Costilow celebrating “this excellent community dedicated to showing the rich history of the sandstone industry in this area.” Rep. Joe Miller also delivered a commendation to congratulate the Society. Mayor Costilow proclaimed April 10, 2023, Amherst Historical Society Day.

During the celebration Sandy Kaiser, Executive Director, and Aaron Baaske, Board President used a “golden” shovel to break ground for the Quigley Switch. The newest addition to the property is a replica of a train car used to transport sandstone from the South Amherst quarries onto the railroad tracks which carried it to building projects throughout the U.S. Amherst Fire Chief Jim Wilhelm has worked on this dynamic project for years. Many items have been donated for the project and construction will begin soon.



Jennifer Wasilk, Gina Welch, Sandy Kaiser, Aaron Baaske, Jim Wilhelm, Joe Hill



Quigley Switch painting by Brian Goodwin

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner April 22, 2023



Martha and Bob Pallante



Ken and Joan Rosenbusch

We now have 250 active volunteers of all ages. Last year, they generously gave more than 6,500 hours and this year will exceed that! In addition to the volunteers pictured, special honors were given to Donna Breckenridge, Ruth Haff, Dennis and Jeanette Clotz, Dick and Genie Rice. Patty Standen keeps vigilant watch over our property, tends to the goldfish, picks up debris, and carefully puts her talents working in and organizing the Long Barn. Patty is our Volunteer of the Year for 2023!



Patty Standen



Ralph Zilch



Carol Hiltabidel



Barb and John Dietrich



Zelah Williams



The “Egg’stravangza 2023 was a marvelous success!! The windy weather did not deter families eager to enjoy this free community event, with hundreds attending!

The experience included two petting zoos, trivia, egg scavenger hunt, face painting, cookie decorating and, of course, photos with the Easter Bunny, along with a bake sale, vendors, and tours of our historic building.

Thank you to our event sponsors: The Nutt Family, Nordson Corporation Foundation, and Sugar Buzz! Thank you to prize sponsors: Cookie McLoda and Melendez Video Services!

Photo credit: Brandi Drexler



Remembering Vivienne Bickley

Reprinted from March 2015

DO YOU REMEMBER?..... Underwear

It's almost here—Spring, when a young man's thoughts turn to “changing out of his winter underwear.” In the days before central heating everyone wore warm (sometimes even itchy wool) underwear. I remember that as a child all my little girlfriends wore long tan cotton stockings with bulges around the ankles, caused by long winter underwear being tucked into the stockings. My own mother was “modern” and allowed me to wear knee-length underwear so that my stockings bulged higher up, still to be seen below my short dresses!

Do you remember Scarlet O'Hara clutching her bedpost as Mammy, yanking on her corset strings, admonished her to “suck it in, honey, or you'll never get back to you 18inch waistline!” The tight corsets were the cause of women fainting at the slightest provocation, as they couldn't take a deep breath! Corsets were not worn for warmth or cleanliness but a third reason: to change the figure. Variations were worn into the '50's and one company, in the 40's sent their lady salespersons into private homes to measure ladies for tailor made (and secretive) corsets. Playtex came up with a novel idea in the 60's; the Living Girdle. (Wish I could've shot it!) It was all rubber and had many disadvantages, but we tried them out, much to our regret.

Did your mom tell you that you must always wear clean underwear “in case you got into an auto accident?” Surprising to me, I learned more generations than mine were instructed this by mothers. Sanitation was the real reason for underwear being developed. Before there were woven fabrics that could be washed, only skins and furs were available for clothes. At first only the wealthy with servants were able to own under garments that were washable. The ‘unwashed’ people were the reason milady carried a nosegay of fragrant flowers to mask the “fragrance” of the lower classes.

Owning underwear became a prestigious sign and when huge shirts became the fashion in the 1800's, ladies wore up to a dozen petticoats underneath. Hot in summer, no doubt. This is why someone invented the hoop skirt so the lady would need only one or two petticoats. But alas, if she bent over, the hoop rose up in the rear and she showed (oh, my gracious) her ankles and even more! Along came pantaloons to solve this problem. And they added warmth!

Finally, skirts became more sensible and even shorter. World War I caused this in part because many women took jobs and needed more freedom to move. The story of underwear is long, but underwear became shorter and smaller. Do you recall the pink bloomers? Made of rayon or silk instead of the previous white cottons, they had elastic drawn through a casing at the waist. One woman who had a story about the elastic breaking was my own sister-in-law, 12 years my senior. As she stood at the bus stop in Lorain, awaiting her ride home from work, her elastic broke. She looked straight ahead and kicked the bloomers into the gutter, just in time to board the bus! It's probably why all later panties had elastic sewn into the garment.

“Victoria's Secret” is well known to all of us who looked into “her” shop windows. However, many of you may not know the Victorians' secret. They did not wear underpants! The men had extra-long shirt tails tucked in and the women---well, who needs them when wearing all those petticoats? That's one secret you can tell, as the Victorians can no longer care.



Beer and Wine Tasting with Food Pairings

At ESP Brewing Company on March 11th, Larry and Michele Esper curated craft beers from ESP along with wines from local wineries. Brian Goodwin developed and prepared an innovative and delicious menu that included truffle sage mac and cheese with Middlefield white cheddar and chives, and ESP McCrooky's Red Ale braised corned beef with apple ginger glazed cabbage on brioche with mustard rosemary aioli. Gift baskets of wine and desserts were raffled. Photo credit: Brandi Drexler



George Roling and Deanna Houston

Barracks ... to ... Long Barn ... to ... Barracks

We are excited to announce the opening of a new museum in June! The Long Barn was originally a barracks at Camp Perry for German and Italian Prisoners of War during WWII who would have worked in the Quarries and surrounding farms in the area. The front part of the Long Barn building will be restored to a P.O.W. barracks, and the back half will become the Amherst Military Museum to tell the story of those who have served in our community!

Do you have stories or diaries, photos, medals, or other military artifacts of Amherst or Amherst Township residents? Please let us know if you are interested in loaning or donating items that would be relevant for this museum.

Additionally, we have added a 16'x50' building for the Shops at Sandstone Village to replace the Long Barn sales building.



Barracks moved to Sandstone Village in 1992

The Amherst Historical Society

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Email: office@amhersthistoricalsociety.org

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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.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Our Event Calendar

Every Saturday, 10am-2pm: The Shops at Sandstone Village “Fabulous and Affordable Finds”

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 12-4pm at Sandstone Village

June 10 - Baseball Fundraiser at Crusher’s Stadium

June 16 and 17 - A Taste of History Military Living History Event at Sandstone Village

July 21 - Wine Walk at Sandstone Village

August 5 - 50th Anniversary Celebration

September 16/17 and 23/24- Murder Mystery Dinner

Please contact the office or follow us on our website, Facebook and Instagram!