



The Amherst Historical Society

Grindstone Newsletter

July/ August 2023

Amherst Historical Society Events

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

50 Years and Forward



When people have a vision and a purpose, wonderful things happen. The Amherst Historical Society grew from a small group of people with a passion for preservation and history. In coordination with Nord Family Foundation, The Sandstone Village became a reality. Buildings important to our history were donated, moved, saved, and rebuilt. Local artifacts that tell the stories of people and place are shared with the community.

Come celebrate our purpose, passion in the Sandstone Village.

Saturday, August 5, 2023 1-4 pm there will be tours, hands-on history, activities and more! Admission is FREE, hope to see you there!

Museum Open for Tours

The Quigley Museum is open Saturdays 11am - 1pm for free tours. Volunteer tour guides share stories about the people of Amherst, their occupations and interests. Built in 1832 by Joseph Quigley, it is one of the earliest examples of hand-hewn sandstone structures in the Amherst area.



Amherst Community Opportunities

AMHERST MANOR PRESENTS
Christmas in July
Touch-A-Truck
The Reindeer Run will kick-off this event
Saturday JULY 22ND
9AM-12PM
Scan QR code to for race
Police Cars | Fire Engines | Lifecare | Construction Vehicles
Food Truck | Vendors
Live Music by Chad Hoffman
Face Painting | Local Business Vendors
Wild Hooves Petting Zoo | & More!
Amherst Manor Retirement Community
175 N Lake St., Amherst, OH 44001



Art Workshop -Watercolor Pencils and More

July 10, 12:30 pm - 2:30pm - Amherst Public Library offers monthly art workshops with artist and instructor Mary Jo Clark. Learn new skills and techniques. No experience necessary! Phone 444-988-4230 to reserve.

LORAIN COMMUNITY MUSIC THEATER PRESENTS
GODSPELL
JULY 27, 28, 29, 2023 @ 7:30 PM
JULY 30, 2023 @ 2:00 PM
LORAIN PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
Lorain High School • 2600 Ashland Ave. • Lorain, OH 44053
WWW.LORAINCOMMUNITYMUSICTHEATER.ORG
TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE
SCAN HERE!
GODSPELL, 2012 Revised Version, is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).

A Letter from the Executive Director...Sandy Kaiser

Dear Members and Friends,

There is some news to share. Deanna Houston has retired and will be moving to South Carolina this summer. We thank her for all her accomplishments to help AHS grow and wish her the best—if you see her ask her about her tiny house in the mountains. Please welcome Dawn Clappas as our new Office Manager, she has volunteered for the past year and we are delighted to welcome her to our team. We also please welcome our newest board member, Rex Engle. Rex joins us with years of hospitality experience managing The Oberlin Inn and The Renaissance Inn in Avon. He will be the chairman of our fundraising efforts. Welcome Rex!!

There is sad news as well, Donna Breckenridge passed away on June 5th. She has been a dedicated volunteer and supporter of AHS for many years. She will be missed by all who were lucky enough to know her.

Please mark your calendars to join us for our 50th Anniversary celebration in The Sandstone Village, Saturday, August 5th from 1pm-4pm. Admission is FREE and we have a lot of fun and entertainment planned for all ages.

Congratulations to our monthly Gift Card Winners!!

July—Douglas Hoven

August—Kathy Vasquez

July Celebration 1876 ... by Martha Pallante

The Amherst Free Press was first issued July 31, 1875 in North Amherst by editor and proprietor F.M. Lewis. The publication contained 4 six-column pages consisting mostly of local interest stories and occasional articles of the early days of the village. It sold for \$1.50 a year to be paid in advance. In November of 1875 Lewis increased the columns to seven while reducing the cost to \$1.25 a year; again, payable in advance.

The article below is taken from the pages of the Amherst Free Press dated July 8, 1876, and details the village of North Amherst and its celebration of the one-hundredth anniversary of the Nation's Independence. Even though it describes a celebration held well over 100 years ago, it reminds us of the similarity in the celebrations of Fourth of July holidays from their day to present; that is, the camaraderie of people gathering in observance of America's birthday.

The Great National Holiday Appropriately Observed at North Amherst July 8, 1876

As arranged, just at midnight of the 3, of July the cannons fired, ushering into existence the one hundredth anniversary of our Nation's Independence. Bells were rung, and cannons and guns fired for an hour almost incessantly and at intervals until sunrise when it renewed at greater energy. The morning dawned with a cloudy sky. Black angry clouds in the west and south and the sultry atmosphere alike betokened a certainty that rain was near at hand. But for all this the preparations were pushed forward when at 9 o'clock all was in readiness. Vast numbers of people were and had been arriving early in the morning and we had proof that immense jollification was expected. But, alas, now the rain descended provokingly early, thus delaying for some time further progress. Finally, at 10:10 a.m. the procession having been formed on Main Street took the line of march as has before been announced, while yet the rain descended quite copiously. As the procession filed along, the large crowds waved hats, fans, handkerchiefs etc. at beholding the brilliant display.

We think we are safe in stating that never before in the history of Amherst has been witnessed such a magnificent display as that of Tuesday last, July 4, 1876. Farmers, mechanics, merchants, workingmen and all lent a helping hand. Political differences were thrown aside and forgotten; nationality and position in life were thought of only as a circumstance, and all shook each other by the hand as brother, and thus the good will was extended. Time would fail us to speak of all the features of the occasion at length, only a hurried review can be made. The Live Oak Fire Company and several orders and benefit societies together with the numerous bands of music led the procession and gave a fine performance. The Fire Company came out in their new suits and looked really elegant. Then came the Triumph Wagon representing the original thirteen states, a young lady for each state with a crown upon which the state she represented and on each side of the wagon as an escort three gentleman on horseback. Following this was the Martha Washington Wagon upon which were the characters of the General and his wife well represented. They were attended by Maids-in-waiting all in costumes of ye olden time—1776. The rear was brought up by the trades of the village and township, all of which showing unmistakably that our townsmen are alive to their interest.

Arriving at the stand the audience listened to the following programme: Music by the band, Invocation by the Rev. O.C. Park. Reading Declaration of Independence by A.A. Crosse, M.D., Oration: by Hon. P.H. Kaiser. In the evening a fine display of fireworks was witnessed by at least 2,500 and the Firemen's Dance at the Henrie House closed the festivities of the day. Much credit is due the several committees, citizens, and especially the prime movers in this centennial 4th. To them belong the laurels of praise for the success of this laudable undertaking.

Amherst Pioneer Joseph Quigley



Ever wonder why we call our museum, The Quigley? Well, it is named after its builder, Joseph Quigley (1777-1872). I recently found an article written about him in the Amherst Free Press dated April 29, 1876. I would like to share it with you to help in passing along more history about the beginnings of our great city.

“The subject of this brief memoir was born in York county Pa., 1777, the second year after the Declaration of our National Independence. In 1811, at the age of 34, he came to Ohio and purchased a tract of land on the Lake shore in the township of Black River, west of the river by the same name. Here he remained eleven years; at the end of which time, he disposed of the farm, and came to Amherst, purchased a farm on the west side of Beaver Creek, about half a mile from what was then known as "The Corners," now the village of North Amherst.

The land purchased by Mr. Quigley was in its primeval state; not a rod of the gigantic forest had been cleared, nor any buildings on it. At first a log house was erected, which stood on the corners, near where a more substantial house of stone was erected a number of years after, now occupied by his son G. W. Quigley. On the west end of this farm, in the Northwest corner, was a quarry of sandstone, now owned by the Amherst Stone Company, and opened about a year after Mr. Quigley's death, which occurred April 30, 1872, at the age of 95.

Notwithstanding the great age attained by both father and mother we find, that out of ten children, five died under fifteen years of age. Mrs. Mary Quigley, the wife of Joseph Quigley, died December 7th, 1860, aged 83. “



Joseph Quigley



Mary Polk-Quigley

A Taste of History Sandstone Village, June 17, 2023

More than 2,500 people attended The Taste of History and more than 120 reenactors came from multiple states for this unique Military Living History Event! Attendees had the opportunity to see impressions of reenactors and civilians from the Revolutionary War to the War on Terror. They could sample authentic food from eight Field Kitchens, including Revolutionary War, Civil War, WWI Homefront, WWII GI, WWII German POW, WWII Homefront, WWII USO, and Vietnam!



Photo: George Siss



Photo: Elizabeth Fought



Photo: Brandi Drexler



Photo: Brandi Drexler



Photo: Brandi Drexler



Photo: Russ Marty

Thank you to the Military History Preservation Group, reenactors, planning committee, volunteers, Amherst Exempted Village School District for providing parking and shuttles, and to the city and community for welcoming the reenactors to our friendly and incredible Amherst.



Photo: Tim Branscum



Photo: Marcia Kubach



Photo: Brandi Drexler

A Taste of History Sandstone Village, June 17, 2023



Photo: Brandi Drexler

The winners of the awards were:
Best Display: Revolutionary War
People's Choice: WWII German POW
Best Taste: Revolutionary War
Best Overall: Revolutionary War



Photo: Russ Marty



Photo: Elizabeth Fought



Photo: Brandi Drexler



Photo: George Siss



Photo: Elizabeth Fought



Cookie McLoda

Photo: Russ Marty



Mayor Mark Costilow, State Representative Joe Miller and reenactors Photo: Brandi Drexler



Maxine Miller, Brenda Neely, Faith Dohanos

Photo: Elizabeth Fought

A special thank you to our sponsors:

Silver Sponsors - \$1000+ Amherst American Legion Post 118, Cookie McLoda, Amherst Eagles #1442, Amherst VFW Post 1662, Elyria AMVETS Post 32, I.B.E.W. Local 129, Auto-Owner Insurance, and Lighthouse Insurance Agency

Bronze Sponsors - \$500 JL Smith – Wealth & Tax Planning, Nordson Corporation Foundation

Homefront Sponsors - \$100 5 Points Tavern, First Federal Savings of Lorain, Fraley and Fox Construction, Thom Hall and Katie Wohlever, Hempel Funeral Home, Ben and Jane Norton, Sandstone Coffee House, Sliman's Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram, and VFW Auxiliary to Amherst Post 1662

Remembering Vivienne Bickley
Reprinted from May 2013
DO YOU REMEMBER?..... The Way We Danced?

Your first dance? All I remember of mine was that I slapped the face of the young man who asked me to dance. Why? My aunt was supposed to “baby sit” me and took me along to a dance. I slapped him because I knew he was just teasing me and really wouldn’t dance with me as I was about 2 1/2 years old. (I wonder what my parents said to my aunt when they found out about my night on the town!)

My actual dancing started when I was about 13. Our Clearview principal, (Mr. Jake Durling of Amherst) acquired a JUKEBOX for our use after lunch and for dances! I quickly became a “Jitterbug” like so many of us in the ‘40’s. Maybe a jukebox in school would keep kids out of trouble today.

We graduated just in time for all our able-bodied boys to be drafted in WW II, so dances dwindled. Churches and lodges still held them, but who wants to dance with another girl? We saw all the movies instead.

When the boys came home after the war, we locals all flocked to Crystal Beach Ballroom on Fridays—stag night and Saturdays—date night to Cedar Point or Crystal Beach. Many couples who met at these dances married in the late ‘40’s and in the ‘50’s. In the ‘50’s, square dancing became very popular. There were five clubs in the Amherst area alone. Where did they all disappear? I know I quit because swinging your partner was a little difficult while pregnant and there was a baby boom then.

Do you remember Harley Kerr’s dancing lessons? You probably joined the Amherst Cotillion when Pat Hubbard and I founded it. With this inexpensive club we would now have room to dance the Tango, Rumba, Cha-cha, and others that Harley had taught us. It was a big success with 65 couples belonging. Then in the late 80’s the Musicians Union raised their dues, thereby increasing the fees charged by combos who played for our Cotillion. When our dues went up, membership went down...the end of Amherst Cotillion.

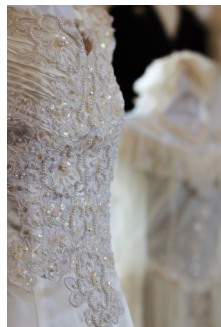
When I recall all the good times the Cotillion provided, I can’t help but wish someone would start another one now. Line Dancing...what a great idea...no need for a partner. If Hubby didn’t like to dance? He could watch or stay home. Our organization sponsored lessons off and on since the mid 90’s. Held at the schoolhouse, only recently were they discontinued. It’s great exercise so as Kay Kyser (1940’s band leader) used to say, “ C’mon,chillun! Le’s dance!”



AHS is forever grateful to Vivieanne for sharing her wit and wisdom with us for so many years, we hope you enjoy revisiting her wonderful remembrances of years gone by.

May 21, 2023—Afternoon Tea with Vintage Bridal Gowns

A sold-out crowd enjoyed a 1940's style wedding reception in the Grange. Food was served including small sandwiches, cake and tea. Wedding gowns from the collection of the historical society were on display. The Amherst Garden Club provided tours of the lovely gardens. Photos: Brandi Drexler



June 4, 2023—Sandstone Village Car Show

More than 220 cars showed their style at this event—double the participants from last year.! Thank you to Performance Pro Sponsors: Nordson Corporation Foundation, and Charles Chapman State Farm Insurance; Traction Action Sponsors: Nick Abraham Buick GMC and Nick Abraham Elyria Ford, The Scott Group, Inc., First Federal Savings of Lorain, Skolnik Retirement Solutions, and Rim Pros LLC. Thanks to Car Coddlers for managing registration and directing parking of historic vehicles. POPS Shaved Ice had delicious chill drinks. Triple S prepared smash sandwiches and fries so delicious they sold out. Pogie and Brian Goodwin served hot dogs and chicken sandwiches. Photos: Brandi Drexler



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

Event Calendar

Saturdays, 10am-2pm

Come visit The Shops at Sandstone Village “Fabulous and Affordable Finds”

Coming soon, our newest vendor “Foresthill Farm Stand” offering a variety of fresh produce and flowers each Saturday during the sales.

Saturdays, 11am-1pm - FREE admission

Open House - Quigley Museum - join us to learn more about Amherst history

Saturday, August 5, - 50th Anniversary Celebration - FREE admission

Join us in The Sandstone Village for fun and festivities

Saturday and Sunday, September 16/17 and 23/24

Murder Mystery Dinner at Sandstone Event Hall - more details to follow

Coming in October

By My Lantern’s Light at Cleveland Avenue Cemetery

Third Grade Schoolhouse Program