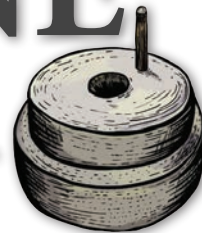


# GRINDSTONE NEWSLETTER

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2024



## SAVE THE DATE TASTE OF HISTORY



JUNE 14-15, 2024

We are planning our second annual Taste of History weekend at the Sandstone Village.

Over 2,500 people attended the first annual The Taste of History weekend, and over 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, as well as sample authentic food from eight Field Kitchens, including: Revolutionary War, Civil War, WWI Homefront, WWII GI, WWII German POW, WWII Homefront and WWII USO Vietnam

## UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE AMHERST COMMUNITY



### "The Dining Room"

by A.R. Gurney at Workshop Players

A comedy of manners, set in a single dining room where 18 scenes from different households overlap and intertwine.

January 25, 26, 27, 28; February 2, 3, 4

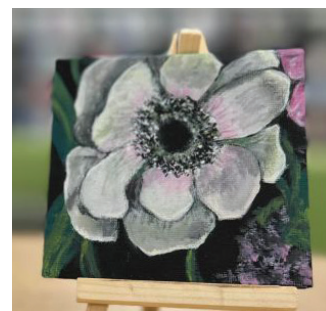
44820 Middle Ridge Rd., Amherst

440-634-0472 • [workshopplayers.org](http://workshopplayers.org)

### Second Annual Tiny Art Show

#### Amherst Public Library

Using a provided kit, artists of all ages are invited to create a tiny work of art that will be displayed in the library! A limited number of kits will be available by registration, which opens at noon **Friday, January 12**. Contact the library for details at 440-988-4230 or [amherstpubliclibrary.org](http://amherstpubliclibrary.org)



alzheimer's  
association

### Alzheimer's Association Support Group

Build a support system with people who understand. Groups are conducted by trained facilitators and a safe place for people living with dementia and their care partners to develop a support system; exchange practical information and challenges and possible solutions; talk through issues and ways of coping; share feelings, needs and concerns; learn about community resources.

**The group meets 6:30-8pm the third Tuesday of each month in the second floor Community Room at the Amherst Public Library.**

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

# A Letter from the Executive Director, Sandy Kaiser

Dear Members and Friends,

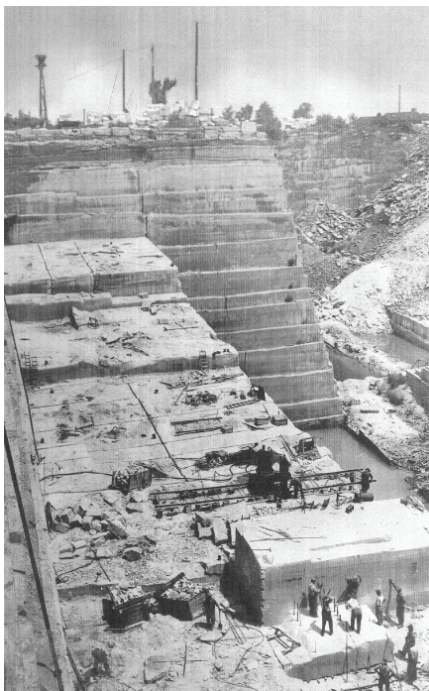
Happy New Year! It's hard to believe last year passed so quickly. Reflecting on 2023, it was a totally amazing year! We added two new events, The Taste of History and Hooverville, rediscovered we owned a WWII German POW Barracks, set up a new sales barn and attracted 6,000 visitors to The Sandstone Village. None of this happens without dedicated volunteers. When we added up the total volunteer hours for the year, we were amazed. More than 200 volunteers donated 20,730 hours! In-kind professional service amounted to 544 volunteer hours. Awesome accomplishment! Thank you for your generosity and dedication to AHS.

Moving forward, we will continue to search for new and creative ways to keep history alive and engage the community in our programs and events. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to keep up to date with the latest news and announcements.

This year, we are excited to get started with all our events and activities. Our plans include completing the Sandstone Military Museum and starting work on our Sandstone Quarry Museum project. Both projects bring new opportunities to learn more about local history. Please share with us any military or quarry stories for our museums as it makes history more engaging when you add your personal experiences.

## Congratulations to our Monthly Gift Card Winners

January - Faith Dohanos February - Beth Prater



## Quarry Tours Starting Soon

John Baldwin, Sr., founder of Baldwin University (now Baldwin-Wallace College), arrived in 1828, purchasing land in Middleburg Township, Cuyahoga County. In 1842, he discovered a promising stone near his home, shaped it into a superior grindstone, and pioneered the production of grindstones made of Berea Grit. Berea Sandstone gained recognition as a standard building material from 1850 to 1870.

Henry Warner opened the Brownhelm quarry in 1847, later purchased by John Worthington, a contractor. After working the quarry for six years, Warner sold it for a substantial profit. In 1868, the first stone sawmill, operated by George E. Hall and Co., was established. R.P. Wilson initiated quarry operations in 1869, leading to the renowned No. 6 (Gray Canyon) Quarry, reputed to be the world's largest sandstone quarry.

In 1871, Jon Worthington & Sons took over George E. Hall's quarry, constructing a railroad track to Vermillion Lake for transportation. Baxter Clough, originally associated with Henry Warner, became a prominent quarry owner with direct lake access. In 1886, the Cleveland Stone Company was incorporated, absorbing quarry land across various locations and becoming the largest sandstone producer globally. In 1903, John R. Walsh entered the sandstone field, organizing the Ohio Quarries Co. The Cleveland Stone Co. and Ohio Quarries Co. dominated sandstone quarrying in Amherst Township from 1903 to 1922, later evolving into Cleveland Quarries Co. in South Amherst in 1929.

For the full  
"Quarry  
Story" use  
your smart  
phone  
camera to  
scan the  
QR Code







by George W. Siss III



If you examine the west wall of the current Five Points Tavern on Park Avenue, you'll notice an iconic advertisement that may date back 132 years. Questions arise: Why was it painted on this building, and when did this happen? What businesses have occupied this space over the years?

In the mid-1870s, real estate developer Mort Seeley owned land between Church Street and Pearl Street, residing on South Main Street. The Panic of 1873 caused financial setbacks, but Seeley retained his property. Between 1890 and 1892, he sold the lot, relocating the building to the rear of Henry Smith's Jewelry Store at 225 South Main Street. The Mail Pouch Tobacco advertisement was likely painted on the north exterior side in 1891, predating the building's move.



After the Great Fire of 1893, Joseph Wesbecker sought the lot where Seeley's building stood. Hearing this, jeweler Henry C. Smith purchased the building and lot. The Mail Pouch Tobacco ad, initiated in Wheeling, West Virginia, in 1891, was painted on the north side of the building Smith owned. While visible before the move, it's now concealed in the limited space between the buildings. The fate of the property between 1895 and 1901 remains uncertain. The Parsons Movie Theater operated from 1901 to 1908, offering silent films for a nickel admission.



Post-theater, the building housed two grocery stores: Fred and Harmon Bessing Groceries (1909-1915) and C.J. Ehrman's Groceries (1917-1920). From 1920 to 1925, Wetzel's Drug Store operated here. The Home Restaurant, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Herman Arndt, occupied the site from 1925 to 1929 until a fire damaged the interior. Rebuilt, Lloyd Webster's Drug Store operated from 1929 to 1937, later moving to the Flat Iron Building.

## The following businesses then occupied this site at 134 Park Avenue:

1938-1939: Western Union

1939-1941: Lloyd Minor's Restaurant & Frosty Bar

1941-1967: Vicki's Restaurant - Vicki & Frank Solack

1967-1977: Vacant

1978-1979: Judy's Restaurant

1979-1981: Park Avenue Restaurant

1981-1993; Rainbow Restaurant - Tibor & Mary Suta

1994-1999: Dad's Rainbow Restaurant - John & Vivian Glorioso

1999-2001: Vacant

2001-2022: The Pour House - George Kolcun

2022: Five Points Tavern - Peggy Sinibaldi





# EXPERIENCE A 1930s “HOOVERVILLE”

## GREAT DEPRESSION LIVING HISTORY



We hosted a 1930s “Hooverville” living history event in Sandstone Village on November 18! Reenactors built a Hobo camp during the event and provided an immersive experience while sharing stories about life during the Great Depression. Because soup kitchens were in many communities during the depression, a Soup Kitchen was recreated in the Grange Hall, where volunteers cooked and served soup to visitors. Bedel & Hibbard, American folk musicians from Cincinnati, played songs from the era, which added a lovely musical background. A 1930 movie projector played a silent movie featuring Shirley Temple.



Thank you to all the attendees and the more than 50 volunteers from the historical society and Amherst Exempted Village School District!

**A special thank you to our two sponsors, for making this event possible:  
Guild Pro and Rose Baker, Real Estate Agent with Keller Williams!**

Photos: Brandi Drexler, Elizabeth Fought and George Siss



**Matthew Rector, David Ward and Kenton Siers**  
Reenactors Hobos



**Katie Wohlever and Ellison Hawley**  
Reenactors



**Brian Goodwin**  
Reenactor



**Norm Miller**  
Reenactor



**Heidi Miller**  
Reenactor & Soap Maker



**Hubbard and Bidel**  
Musicians



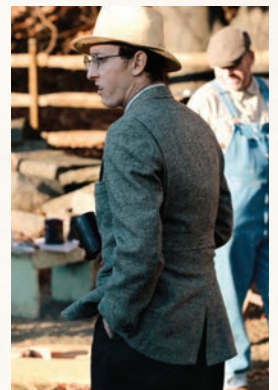
**Joe Fought**  
1930 Movie Projector



**Matthew Rector**  
Reenactors



**Danielle Rothacher**  
Reenactor



**Kenton Siers**  
Hobo Jungle



# German Christmas

## Holiday Celebration at Sandstone Village

We celebrated Amherst's German history and continued our 50th anniversary year with a German Christmas Celebration on December 2nd. Buildings were open for tours with baked goods for sale and children's activities in the Grange. In St. George Chapel, Katie Wohlever played the organ and led the singing of carols in English and German. George Siss shared the history of the Christmas Truce of 1914, as well as German traditions. Santa and Mrs. Claus, along with their elves, greeted the children in the POW barracks. Our blacksmiths were busy blacksmithing and selling items made in the Blacksmith Shop!



Thank you to all who attended, baked for the bake sale, and volunteered at this festive seasonal event! We are thankful to the Greater Lorain Young Marines and Marion L. Steele High school students, who volunteered in many ways! And a special thank you to Amherst Exempted Village School District for providing busing and parking for attendees!



Photos by  
Elizabeth Fought



William Fought  
and Jason Fain



Norm Miller  
and Tim Branscum



Katie Wohlever



Faith Dohanos, Kay  
Clark, Beth Chouinard



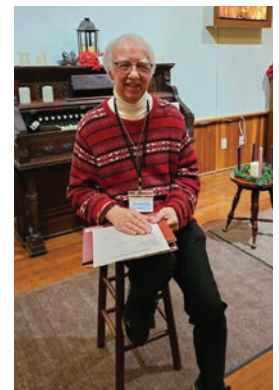
Dee Horvath,  
Sandy Kaiser, and  
Marcia Kubach



Cole, Ellen and  
Macie Hembree



Joe Burns  
and Sam Bonfilgio



George Siss



# SANDSTONE QUARRY TOUR

AHS Board, staff, volunteers and community members recently boarded a trolley for a tour focused on sandstone. Many of the buildings in Sandstone Village are, of course, built from local sandstone. The tour included information about the history of stone quarries in this area, with stops at local locations to see buildings made from this durable material.

As part of the tour, they visited the Birmingham Quarry which is owned and operated by Cleveland Stone Company. The Cleveland Stone Company was founded in 1886 and has operated continuously since. Cut stone is used in new structures and for repairs and renovations to older buildings. The company also has skilled crafts people cutting and hand carving specialty stone.

**Thank you to Zach Carpenter, owner of Cleveland Stone Company, who conducted the tour, and to Gary Gibbs and the Lorain County Visitor's Bureau who provided the trolley. Quarry tours are a planned addition to AHS offerings in 2024.**



Photos by  
Aaron Baaske,  
Tony Melendez, and  
George Siss







# New Year's Eve CELEBRATIONS

by  
Martha  
Pallante

## then and now

You can't say goodbye to 2023 and welcome 2024 without a celebration of sort on the eve of the new year. Many gather with family and friends welcoming the coming year with a toast (or two) of a favorite beverage accompanied by servings of traditional foods while wearing silly hats and singing Auld Lang Syne at the stroke of midnight. Others may just enjoy a quiet evening watching the ball drop at midnight in New York's Time Square. Either way the arrival of the coming new year has existed throughout the years.

In the colonial times the end of the pervious year was celebrated with drinking, socializing with loved ones and the giving and receiving of small gifts. One gift in particular was a fresh orange which was covered with cloves and dusted with cinnamon. Tied with either a festive ribbon or piece of twine, it could then be hung in the home from a bough of holly or pinned to a ladies dress or a man's vest.

At midnight, standing hand in hand in a circle, they sang Auld Lang Syne which loosely translated meant to forget about the past and look forward to the future.

New Year's Eve was also a time when the young ladies in the area gathered together to prepare a large bowl of wassail, a warm, spiced fruited ale, which they then carried from house to house sharing the warm, spiced drink with their friends and neighbors. Meanwhile, the gentlemen in the area carried out their own form of "wassailing" which was quite the opposite of the young ladies. Disguising themselves in hideous costumes, they ventured out going from house to house singing and dancing, but unlike the ladies, their intent was not to give but to receive the customary food and traditional ale.



There was also a custom called "Apple-howling" in which a group of celebrants on New Years Eve would take the wassail bowl and go into any nearby orchard. They would gather around a certain tree and while rapping the tree with sticks, chant the following verses; "Stand fast root, bear well top, pray God send us a good howling crop. Every twig, apples big; every bough, apples enough; hats full, caps full, full quarter sacks full."

Many of the colonists continued the various New Year's Eve customs and traditions of their home-land including several end-of-the year superstitions. Such as; It was considered bad luck for the first visitor of the day to be a woman. Another pertained to the weather. It was believed that if New Year's day opened with red skies, that the following year would

be one with much strife. As well, opening doors and windows at midnight allowed the old year to escape and making noise at mid-night chased away bad spirits.

It seems fitting to use a quote from Benjamin Franklin's Poor Richard's Almanack, December 1755. **"Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every New Year find you a better man."**



**The Amherst Historical Society**  
113 South Lake St., Amherst, OH 44001  
440-988-7255 • office@amhersthistoricalsociety.org  
[www.amhersthistoricalsociety.org](http://www.amhersthistoricalsociety.org)

### Board of Directors

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**Tony Melendez** - Vice President  
**Lori Melendez** - Secretary  
**Brenda Phillips** - Treasurer  
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Grindstone Editor—**Kaeth Shaughnessy**  
Grindstone Graphic Designer - **Tori Fox-Lambert**  
Staff photographer—**Brandi Drexler**

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**  
Grindstone Design donated by **Fox Designs & Creative Services**

## AHS 2024 EVENT CALENDAR

**January 16**

**FREE**

Norm Miller presents  
"George Washington's  
Distinguished Masons  
of the Revolution"  
RSVP to AHS 7:00 pm

**January 27**

**FREE**

**Potluck  
Luncheon**  
RSVP to AHS  
11:30 am – 2:00pm

**February 11**



**Super Bowl  
Fundraiser**  
RSVP to AHS,  
Doors open at:  
5:00 pm

**February 21**

**FREE**

Matt Nahorn presents  
"Amherst's Old Spring  
and Rediscovered  
Braun Brewery"  
RSVP to AHS 7:00 pm

**March 23**

**FREE**

**"Egg"stravaganza**  
Sandstone Hall  
1:00 pm – 4:00pm

**April 13**

**FREE**

**Volunteer  
Appreciation  
Lunch**  
RSVP to AHS  
noon – 2:00pm

**April 20**



**The Shops  
at Sandstone  
Village Open**  
For the Season  
Sat. 10 am – 2 pm

**May 4**



**Kentucky Derby  
Fundraiser**  
RSVP to AHS

**June 2**

**FREE**

**Car & Bike Show**  
Sandstone Village

**June 14-15**

**FREE**

**The Taste of  
Living History**  
Sandstone Village

You can visit us at [amhersthistoricalsociety.org](http://amhersthistoricalsociety.org), Facebook or Instagram