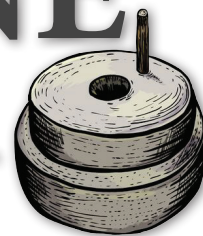




GRINDSTONE NEWSLETTER



AMHERST HISTORICAL SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIPS

The Amherst Historical Society is offering four \$1,500 scholarships for students that help impact the community!

Two \$1,500 scholarships are for trade school, trade programs, or certifications, which includes Public Safety (like EMT, Police, Fire and more!)

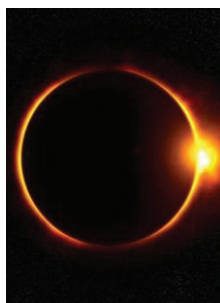
Two \$1,500 scholarships are for college:

- One is for a First Year College Scholarship
- One is for a 2nd Year+ College Scholarship

The deadline for applications for the scholarship is Friday, April 12, 2024, by 4 pm. The scholarship application is available on our website, can be picked up at our office, or emailed to anyone who is interested. Please reach out to us with any questions!

Amherst Historical Society,
113 South Lake Street, Amherst,
Ohio 44001, 440-988-7255, or
office@amhersthistoricalsociety.org

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE AMHERST COMMUNITY



Eclipse April 8

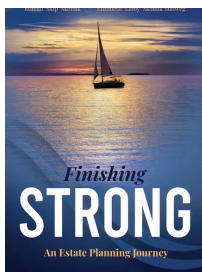
In Carly Simon's song "You're So Vain," he "flew his Lear jet up to Nova Scotia to see the total eclipse of the sun."

Amherst will experience near 100% totality on April 8, and no jets will be required to experience this rare event. AHS office will be closed, and the Sandstone Village property will be secured and not available for parking.

April 8th, 2024 Total Solar Eclipse |
Lorain County, OH (loraincountyohio.gov)

Softball Summer League

Crushers Stadium 2009 Baseball Blvd, Avon. \$550 per team with ten games guaranteed Monday evenings, June 3 to August 19. Co-ed teams age 18+ with at least three women per team. Contact Tanner 440-934-8233 or tcarlson@lakeeriecrushers.com



"Finishing Strong"

Author talk and book signing. Authors Ronald and Elizabeth Skolnik of Skolnik Retirements Solutions will provide information to help with various aspects of estate planning. The event is free at Amherst Public Library 440-988-4230. Registration is suggested.

Thursday, March 24 6:30 pm |
Amherst Public Library



The Shops at Sandstone Village Reopen for the Season

Saturday, April 20, from 10am-2pm, and will be open Saturdays 10:00 am - 2:00 pm until November 2nd!

Donations of small furniture, kitchen items, household goods, lamps, toys, books, and more are gratefully appreciated! (No clothing, shoes, bedding, or other fabric items) Please contact us with any questions.

Thank you for your support!

A Letter from the Executive Director, Sandy Kaiser

Dear Members and Friends,

Amherst Historical Society has a very active event schedule planned for 2024. Please be sure to check our list of upcoming events so you can participate in the fun.

Thank you to all who have donated so generously to our events and projects. We are truly blessed with the best community one could ever imagine!

The Sandstone POW Barracks and Military Museum is nearly completed. Joe Fought and a group of dedicated individuals have transformed the POW Barracks into a true military experience. Thank you to all the families who have donated or loaned family heirlooms in memory of their service men and women. This exciting new museum is scheduled to be dedicated on May 1st. Please check Facebook or call the AHS office for more details on this event.

Plans for the Sandstone Quarry Museum are underway. This year, we will begin to build a sandstone patio behind our 150 Jefferson Street house. In 2025, thanks to a generous donation from Don Ludwig Jr., the house will be remodeled into a gathering retreat dedicated in memory of John Henry Ludwig and Armina Baumhardt-Ludwig.

The Sandstone Quarry Tours are scheduled to begin in June. We will venture by trolley to a working quarry, observe the cutting of the enormous stone, then head to the manufacturing plant to see how the stone is cut, carved, and prepared for purchase. As we leave the Cleveland Stone Company, there is a beautiful gift shop for your shopping pleasure. The tour concludes with lunch and discussion of quarry history. Seating is limited, so be sure to call the AHS office for details and reservations for this unique opportunity.

It's never easy to pass this type of information on, but please keep our members Tim and Pam Branscum in your prayers due to the passing of their son Elijah.

Congratulations to our Monthly Gift Card Winners

March – Zack & Wendy Dolyk April – Marilyn Hubbard

SANDSTONE POW BARRACKS AND MILITARY MUSEUM UPDATE!

We are excited to announce that the back portion of the POW Barracks has been renovated and is ready to showcase military artifacts and history! If you have any military items with a Lorain County connection, we would love to add them to the museum. Items can be given either as a loan or a gift. Please contact us with any questions! **The ribbon cutting will be on May 1st!**

We are grateful to everyone who gives and has given to the Amherst Historical Society throughout the years, with donations of finances, time, and talent! Thank you for your support!



A special thank you to the following organizations for their generous financial donations for the Museum:

- Amherst VFW Post 1662
- Wellington American Legion Spirit of '76 Post 8
- Amherst American Legion Post 118
- Community Foundation of Lorain County
- Avon Lake American Legion Post 211





ANNUAL POTLUCK LUNCHEON

*"Laughter is brightest in the
place where food is good."*

Irish proverb



Our Annual Potluck was a delightful
community event, filled with great food,
laughter, and wonderful people!

Norm Miller Presented the Discussion on January 16, 2024, of

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S DISTINGUISHED MASONS

Thank you for allowing me to share a rare snippet of an Amherst connection brought to light by Masonry. George Washington without a doubt had an unwavering faith in his Masonic Brothers. So much so, he trusted them to help with the fight and creation of a free America. The list is lengthy, as the evening's program pointed out. Nathaniel Greene, The Fighting Quaker, friend of Washington, Masonic Brother and General of the southern campaign, defeated and brought General Cornwallis of the British Command to surrender.

Nathaniel Greene was given his Masonic Jewell by Marquis De Lafayette, and was one of my ancestors. Superintendent of Amherst Schools Fred R. Powers is my beloved grandfather, whose mother was Susan Greene. She was the great, great, great niece of Nathaniel Greene, and was Worthy Matron of Stone City Chapter #325 here in Amherst. Fred Powers, his brother Art Powers, and I were Past Masters of Amherst's Stonington Lodge #503.

Our Amherst Community has benefited from the efforts of Masonic Brothers, such as Fred Powers with his leadership of our school system, Charlie Ebbs with his efforts to acquire funds from Andrew Carnegie for our library, James Nichol for the beginning of our massive sandstone quarries, and the list goes on.

Being able to share a copy of the Masonic Apron, worn by Washington, presented by Marquis De Lafayette and made by Lafayette's wife, was a rare opportunity indeed.

-Norm Miller



Let's Take A Stroll Down Memory Lane of the Amherst Historical Society

Vivienne Bickley was a founding member of AHS.

From 2012-2021 she contributed a popular column "Remember When" to The Grindstone.

A few items from her columns:

Etiquette - Eleanor Roosevelt announced it would be patriotic to ask for your leftovers in a restaurant. Before the war it would be shocking.

What Price Beauty - "You have to suffer to be beautiful." My mom quoted this as she untangled my hair with a WIRE brush - which I believe was meant for currying horses.

Shopping - We dressed up and wore hats and gloves to go shopping in "downtown" Lorain and Elyria.

Sounds of Summer - Boys were playing "Red Rover." Girls playing jacks were drowned out by girls jumping rope.



The first newsletter was published in November 1975.

The first newsletters were typed, copied, and mailed with 15 cents postage.

A Post Office box was secured for \$2.05 per quarter.

It included a list of officers and dues.

Finding names for our children was often a long and thoughtful process. This has also been true for finding logos and titles for our publications. The Town Hall logo was added in 1990 and used through 1993. The January 1990 newsletter reported, "There were 28 entries in our logo contest. The winner was Todd Nossek of Amherst, who is majoring in cartography at Ohio University."

The Quigley House Quest was first published April 1991 to share information about the museum and artifacts. The first issue included appreciation for donated

items, including an original document with signers of the formation of Amherst Township (from Beral Powers), a penny bank from Amherst Park Bank (from Pat Leimbach), and a 1930's movie projector (from Laura and Willard Mengel). This was published through 1998.

March 1999, the newsletter and Quigley Quest were combined and titled The Grindstone. Several mastheads were used until 2008, when we settled on the hand-drawn grindstone as part of the design. That drawing was used until January 2024.

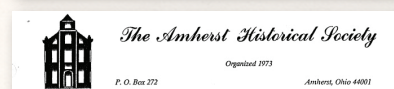
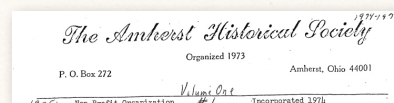
Valerie Jenkins --- President
Elma Wittenbrook --- Vice-Pres.
Ruth Husar --- Secretary
Vivienne Bickley --- Corresponding
Jack White --- Treasurer

DUES ARE DUE

We appreciate your support in the past and hope you will renew your membership at this time for 1975. Dues structure is as follows.

Single Membership: Adult \$2.00
Junior..... 1.00
(under 16)
Family Membership: Husband and
Wife..... \$3.00

Sustaining Membership: Single...\$10.00
Couple...\$15.00
Life Membership: Single...\$50.00
Couple...\$75.00



The Miracle of St. George Chapel

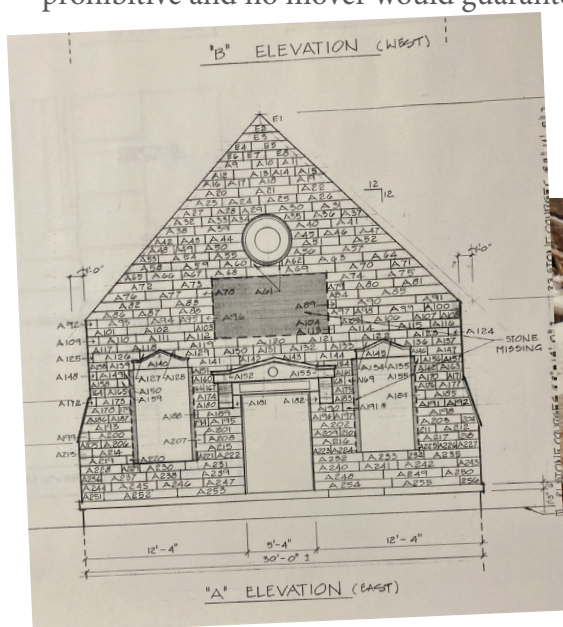


The Amherst Historical Society has come a long way! We began with the passion to research, acquire, and preserve the history of Amherst. The first meeting of Amherst citizens interested in forming the Amherst Historical Society met at the Amherst Public Library on January 28, 1973. Twenty people attended.

In September 1979, AHS encouraged members to write to Citizens Bank to “protest the destruction of the Spring Street School. It is one of two remaining structures in our city of pre-20th century architecture for schools. It is built of sandstone from our quarries, by our people.” The one-room schoolhouse had been built in 1882 and later became St. George Chapel in 1913. The bank agreed to delay destruction until late spring to give the Amherst Historical Society time to work out an alternative plan. In June 1980, the Amherst Historical Society made an offer to Citizens Bank to purchase the building, and the bank did not respond. The bank later sold the property to the Amherst Hospital.

One newspaper wrote: “It narrowly missed the wrecking ball when a neighboring bank tried to tear it down to build a new driveway. Efforts by the Historical Society and the community, with personal appeals to the bank by many in the community, averted its total and complete destruction.”

A January 31, 1980 article from an unspecified newspaper was skeptical about preservation: “In answer to many who have suggested the building be moved piece by piece; a mover from Cleveland said the cost would be prohibitive and no mover would guarantee a successful conclusion to the project.”



However, determination and teamwork prevailed. With a March 1988 deadline, the Amherst Hospital sold the building to the Amherst Historical Society for \$1 with the agreement that the building would be moved to Sandstone Village and rebuilt.



Four years later, the funds had been raised to move the historic building, which was disassembled with each block numbered, and rebuilt in Sandstone Village.

*“If you want to go fast,
go alone. If you want
to go far, go together.”*



AMHERST GARDEN CLUB TURNS

by Ruth Yuhas

90



Ninety years ago, according to the August 9, 1934 edition of the Amherst News Times, the first organizational meeting of the Garden Club was held in the Town Hall that evening, and anyone was invited to attend. The intention was to encourage the planting of gardens throughout the Village of Amherst. They supervised the work of beautifying the Spring Park behind Town Hall and would also plan gardens for other public places in the town. In addition, they would encourage the planting of gardens on residence property and gave assistance if needed.

Within that first year, the club held meetings that included speakers on gardening topics, offered a free course in floriculture for anyone to attend, created a committee for the sharing of plants and bulbs, held a community dinner, and planned for an annual flower show, complete with prizes, at the end of the summer. Everyone was always welcome, and members were reminded of meetings with phone calls.

In the 1930s, during the Great Depression, planting a garden could offer simple, inexpensive enjoyment, and possibly even grow food for the family. Belonging to the group provided interaction with resource people and the opportunity to meet others with common ideas.

Today's Amherst Garden Club official objectives are to stimulate the knowledge of gardening among amateurs; aid in the protection of native trees, plants, and birds; encourage civic planting; and to conserve our natural resources. The general mission is similar to the mission 90 years ago.

Meetings begin in March and run through December. The list of our meetings is at the top of our Facebook page. Meetings are usually the first Thursday of the month, at the Amherst Historical Society Hall, 113 South Lake Street, and include speakers on gardening related topics, field trips, dinners, community service, and garden tours. We communicate via email and texts, and meetings are publicized in newspapers and on Facebook, our page Amherst Ohio Garden Club, as well as the Amherst Public Forum. Membership is \$20 and open to anyone interested in gardening, with most meetings open to the public.



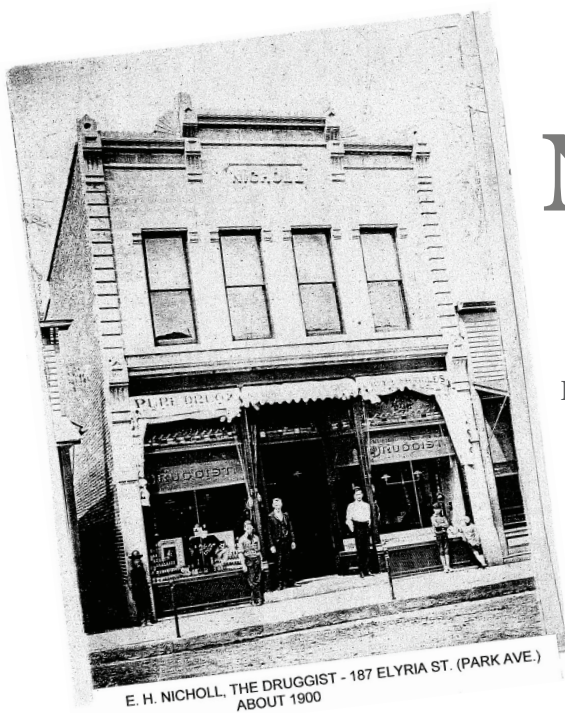
Our annual Plant Sale this year is May 11, 2024, from 9am-12pm, where members donate plants from their personal gardens, and offer assistance to the public for choosing plants. This is our only fundraiser, and we offer a huge variety of minimally priced plants. The sale is always the Saturday before Mother's Day, rain or shine. Look for the yellow signs!

The Amherst Garden Club maintains eight gardens, all the Amherst Historical Society property, as well as the Triangle Island at the corner of Elyria Avenue and South Main Streets. All work (planting, digging, weeding, watering, fertilizing, clean-ups) is done by club members and anyone is welcome to help! Work is a year-round effort, and work days are a great way to get to know others who share the love of working outside while creating something beautiful. We have also publicly recognized the gardens of noteworthy city residents with our Awesome Amherst Garden Award signs in their yards.



Over the past 90 years, most things have stayed the same- the love of gardening, digging in the dirt, helping people succeed, creating and sustaining beauty, and meeting people with shared interests. **Happy Birthday to the Amherst Garden Club!**





The Edward H. Nicholl Building Nicholl's Pharmacy

187 Elyria Street (Park Avenue)

by George Siss

Pharmacies are quite prevalent in our area, and they are easy to locate. However, 150 years ago this was not the case. To be a pharmacist took skill, determination, and dedication; and the hours were long - usually sixteen hours, from 7:00 A.M. to 11:00 P.M.

Between 1873 and 1878, there were only two drug stores here: John F. Uthe and John Hamann. Mr. Uthe's store was on Church Street and Mr. Hamann's was located on the corner of Elyria Street (Park Avenue) and Church Street.

Edward H. Nicholl was born October 10, 1866, in Brownhelm, Ohio. At the age of eighteen, in 1884, he began to study pharmacology under John F. Uthe. Mr. Uthe was born in Germany in 1846 and emigrated to Amherstville where

he established his drug store on Church Street in 1874. He managed the store until 1886 when he gave the business to his young protegee, Edward Nicholl. Uthe died later that year at the age of forty and was buried in the Cleveland Street Cemetery.

Following the premature death of Mr. Uthe, E. H. Nicholl immediately posted a sign above the little wooden store on Church Street that said: "E.H. Nicholl the Druggist."

In 1894, a major fire destroyed several stores located in the business district. Edward Nicholl then built his new store, made from sandstone from Amherst quarries, at 187 Elyria Street. The building towered above the low wood frame shops, with a storefront enhanced by leaded stained-glass panels. At the top of the building are the initials EHN.

In 1910, Mr. Nicholl sold his business and building to Bernhard "Barney" Kuss, who had been employed as a pharmacist at the store. Operating the business as "Kuss' Drugs," he added "a new elegant soda fountain in the store."

Mr. Kuss operated the drug store until 1927 when he died from tuberculosis at the age of 56. His widow, Allie B. Kuss, took over the management of the store and, with the help of her daughters Beral and Ethel, she operated the store for 27 years, until 1954. She then sold the business to Donald Lessiter, who graduated in 1951 from the Ohio Northern University School of Pharmacy in Ada, Ohio.

Donald Lessiter changed the name of the drug store to "Lessiter Pharmacy." In 1959 he made major changes to the structure. The original store front was removed, and the interior completely remodeled. A complete glass front was installed, bordered by a white wrought iron framework and a wood shingle canopy over the entrance.

Unfortunately, Lessiter died January 6, 1968, in Amherst Hospital after becoming ill suddenly while working at his store on New Year's Day. He was only 38. A few months later, in 1968, Ed Higgins bought the business but not the building. Ed had been a pharmacist for Lessiter for nine years. He kept the Lessiter name until he built his new store at 395 Park Avenue in 1973.

After Higgins moved to his new location, the following businesses occupied the site at 187 Park Avenue:

1973-1976: unknown

1976-1977: Four D's Western Wear

1978-1979: Odessey Rec Parlor

1980-1986: Sport Shack Rec Parlor

1989-1996: Alpha Athletic Shop

1996-2000: Corey's Carpet Shop

2001-2006: Dr. Al Pecora - Drugs

2006-2022: Lighthouse Insurance Agency





The Amherst Historical Society
113 South Lake St., Amherst, OH 44001
440-988-7255 • office@amhersthistoricalsociety.org
www.amhersthistoricalsociety.org

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AHS 2024 EVENT CALENDAR

March 23



Easter Spring Fling
AHS
1:00 pm – 4:00pm

April 13



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



Car & Bike Show
Sandstone Village

June 14-15



The Taste of History
Sandstone Village

July 27



Afternoon Tea
RSVP to AHS

September



Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre
To Be Announced

September 28



Fall Festival
Sandstone Village

December 7



German Christmas Celebration
Sandstone Village

You can visit us at amhersthistoricalsociety.org, Facebook or Instagram