

GRINDSTONE NEWSLETTER



January / February / March 2025



FASHION ON THE TITANIC

by Kira Kosatka

**Sunday, April 13
2:00 - 4:00 pm**

What were people wearing in April 1912 on the RMS Titanic?

Learn about Textiles and Fashion History at "Fashion on the Titanic" by Kira Kosatka on Sunday, April 13 from 2:00 - 4:00pm at the Amherst Historical Society Hall! Learn about men and women's fashion from all three classes, in addition to the uniforms that the crew wore. Kira will cover everything from undergarments to accessories!

Please RSVP for this fascinating, free presentation by contacting us at 440-988-7255 or office@amhersthistoricalsociety.org.



SUPER BOWL FUNDRAISER

**SUPERBOWL SUNDAY
FEB. 9, 2025**

DOORS OPEN AT 5PM

**COME WATCH THE GAME ON OUR
10 FOOT SCREEN!**

Please join us at our annual Super Bowl Fundraiser at the Amherst Historical Society at 113 South Lake Street, Amherst, Ohio.

**ADDITIONALLY, SUPER BOWL SQUARES
ARE AVAILABLE FOR \$50 PER SQUARE
(FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE!)
ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES ARE \$10 PER PERSON**

Tailgate food • 50/50 Raffle
Basket Raffles and more!

**BYOB - POP AND WATER
WILL BE AVAILABLE!**

**PLEASE
RSVP
BY FEBRUARY 1ST**

For more information, please contact us at 440-988-7255 or office@amhersthistoricalsociety.org



The Great Train Wreck of 1916

by Tom Jewell

Tuesday, March 18 at 7:00 pm

Please join us for "The Great Train Wreck of 1916" presented by Tom Jewell at the AHS Hall. Tom will share history about this tragic event, which impacted Amherst and beyond- and even has a connection with Mary Pickford, a famous silent movie actress. This presentation is free to attend, with refreshments provided.

Please RSVP by contacting our office at 440-988-7255 or office@amhersthistoricalsociety.org



A Letter from the Executive Director, Sandy Kaiser

Dear Members and Friends,

Happy New Year! We are excited to announce our calendar of events and educational programs for 2025. As always, follow us on Facebook and Instagram or call our office for the most current list of events. Also, it's membership renewal time, we have included a membership form in this issue, or you may renew through our website.

The Sandstone Quarry Tours have proven to be very popular, and we are happy to announce tours dates for 2025! All tours are scheduled for the third Friday of each month from May 16 through October 17. Passengers will board a bus at The Sandstone Village then travel to a working quarry in Florence Township. As you tour the property, you will have the unique experience of looking deep into the working quarry, then tour the plant where the stone is cut for processing. From there, you will board the bus for Vermilion to visit the Cleveland Stone Company and see how sandstone is cut, carved and prepared for sale, ending at their beautiful Shop at Cleveland Stone Co. The final leg of the tour brings you back to The Sandstone Village for lunch. These tours book up fast so make plans to reserve your tour early. The cost per person is \$25 for AHS members and \$30 for the public.

The Amherst Historical Society wishes to thank the Cleveland Stone Company and the Lorain County Visitors Bureau for their efforts to help make this tour possible.

Due to the generosity of Don Ludwig and family, we will move forward with our plans to transform our 150 Jefferson St. property into "The John Henry and Armina Ludwig Gathering Place." With the construction of a new deck, interior remodel, and sandstone patio garden, it is sure to be a popular addition to The Sandstone Village.

May you experience health and happiness in 2025,
Sandy



Ray Stewart, Lead Designer
Landscape Design with Nature in Mind

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UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE AMHERST COMMUNITY



Amherst Office on Aging amherstohio.org/office-on-aging

The Amherst Office on Aging supports and evaluates policies that affect the quality of life of older adults, to help seniors live as independently as possible and enrich their lives to the best of our ability with Home Delivered Meals, Transportation, Information and Referral Services.

Nordson Depot, 671 Franklin Avenue,
Amherst, OH 44001 • (440) 988-2817



Tuck Everlasting February 6-9 & February 14-16, 2025

Adult and Children's tickets available
Based on the best selling book by Natalie Babbitt and adapted for the stage by Claudia Shear and Tim Federle, it also includes a beautifully soaring score.

Appropriate for children 10-100.
Workshoplayers.org



Amherst Public Library Tiny Art Show

The Tiny Art Show is co-sponsored by Studio Q Photography in February! Please register each participant- first come first serve!
Registration Jan 3-Jan 7, 2025

amherstpl.librarycalendar.com/event/tiny-art-show-kit-signup-5394

History of Amherst, Ohio

239 CHURCH STREET

From a U.S. Post Office to Olde Towne Barber Shop

by George Siss

Tucked between Quesadillas Mexican Restaurant and an alley is an obscure historic building that was saved from demolition, one that goes back to at least the mid-1880s.

According to an 1874 Map of North Amherst, the site was a vacant lot next to a bookstore and the U.S. Post Office, both managed by Edward C. Schuler.

In 1885, Schuler built a new post office at 239 Church Street and added his bookstore, calling it the "Central Book Store." This building would serve as the U.S. Post Office until 1904, and Schuler was Postmaster until 1889. Although the U.S. Post Office moved to a bigger location in 1904, the Central Book Store would remain at this location until 1946, managed by several proprietors.

Schuler managed the bookstore until 1912, when he sold the business to Patrick E. McGarvey. Located on the second floor of the building was Harry Williams Photography, who managed his studio here from 1912 to 1915. The photography studio portion was empty from 1915-1925.

In 1925, Charles Good bought the bookstore from Mr. McGarvey, operating it until 1930, when the Great Depression began. In 1930, after five years managing the store, Charles retired and sold the store to Walter Schulz, who operated the bookstore from 1930 to 1938.

In 1938, Mr. Schulz sold the bookstore to Clarence Frederick, who owned the business until November 1942, when he

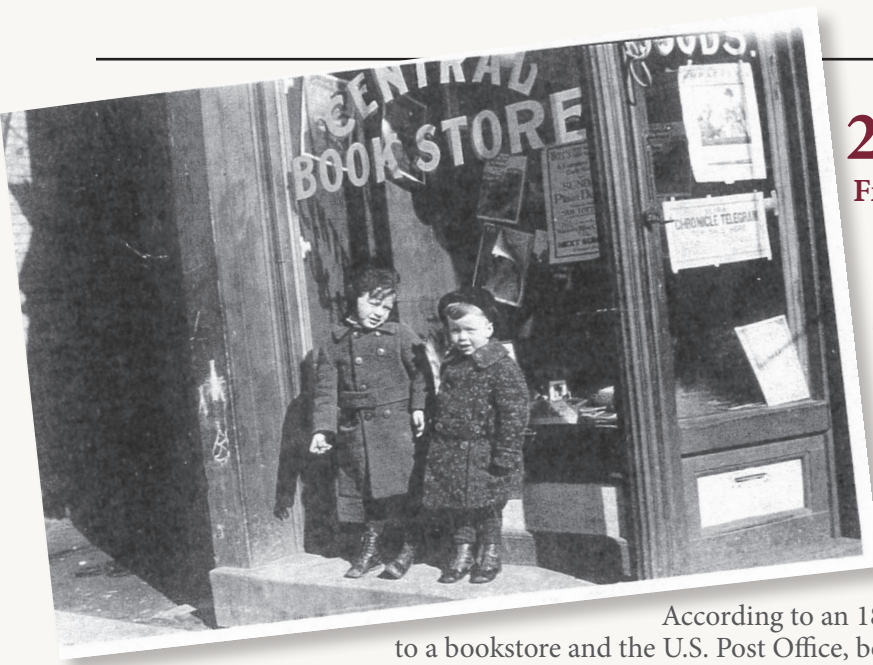
entered military service. His family listed the bookstore for sale in May 1943. In September 1944, Morris & Moebius Insurance took over the building, operating from this site until March 1946, when Walter Moebius moved the agency to Park Avenue.

In 1946, Eva Hord Blackford, established a Ready to Wear Clothing Store here. However, two years later, Eva died during childbirth and her husband, Jack, sold the store.

Since 1949, twelve other businesses were established and located at this site, including the present business, Olde Towne Barber Shop which is owned by Ariel "Audie" Torres. Lorain native, Ariel Torres established the Olde Towne Barber Shop in 2000.

While making Amherst his adopted home, Ariel created a mixture of old and new artifacts in the shop. He has a letter of agreement with the Amherstville Board of Education dated 1856 and signed by Josiah Harris, one of the "founding fathers". Also displayed is an authentic World War II poster from the 1940's. The shop includes Cleveland Indians memorabilia and old license plates from Fred Powers.

(historical pictures are courtesy of the Amherst Historical Society)



CENTRAL BOOK STORE - 239 CHURCH ST. - ON LEFT
E. C. SCHULER REAL ESTATE - 243 CHURCH ST. ON RIGHT -1917





Thank you to everyone who made the Cleveland Avenue By My Lantern's Light Cemetery Walk possible, including the incredible actors, the City of Amherst, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Amherst students, volunteers, attendees, and especially to Martha Pallante for her countless hours researching and organizing this event!



The Best Years of Our Lives took Amherst back to November 1945, thanks to over 80 reenactors who came from as far as California, Washington, and even Canada! Thank you to Nordson Corporation Foundation and Amherst VFW Post 1662 for their generosity, and Amherst Exempted Village School District for their support!



Our German Christmas Holiday Celebration and German Christmas Market was an incredible evening, with German Christmas traditions and history, caroling, Santa and Mrs. Claus, Jason Fain blacksmithing, indoor and outdoor Christmas Markets, all of the Village buildings decorated in and out, the story of the Christmas Truce of 1914, Sandstone Village Shops, and much more! A huge thank you to the volunteers, including many Amherst students, vendors, attendees, and to Nordson Corporation Foundation, Amherst VFW Post 1662, and Amherst Exempted Village School District for making this event possible!



Photos by Elizabeth Fought



DO YOU REMEMBER... THE WAY WE SHOPPED?

By Vivienne Bickley

When the grocer was the owner of his own store and waited on customers from behind the counter?

When his store was simply a huge room surrounded by counters and shelves behind him almost to the ceiling? Some had tall ladders they could wheel to each section that held the merchandise.

When you dressed up and wore a hat and gloves to go shopping in “downtown” Lorain or Elyria? What a difference in a mall shoppers’ appearance now!

Remember the gadget that carried your sales slip and cash in a capsule by vacuum tube to the office upstairs where they returned it with your change? Do you know what the name of this clever system was? Tell me if you do.

Do you recall your first visit to the “supermarket”? Mine was not the thrill I had expected. The Big Bear store in Columbus was converted from a warehouse and was plain, badly lighted and had no interesting displays. The self-service won us over and, of course, the stores improved with competition. The Piggly Wiggly in Alabama was an improvement over Big Bear. But where did they get those names?



The street cars? During the depression, if my mother could scrape up the fare, which I believe was only a dime, we would ride into Lorain downtown on a streetcar which was a trolley car. She really couldn't afford to shop, so we did window shopping. She may have bought a ten-cent item from one of the “Five and Dime” stores, such as bobby or safety pins, cold cream, perfume (it was awful) rouge or bar soap. There was a Woolworth's, Kresge's, and Neisners, which was a “dollar store.”

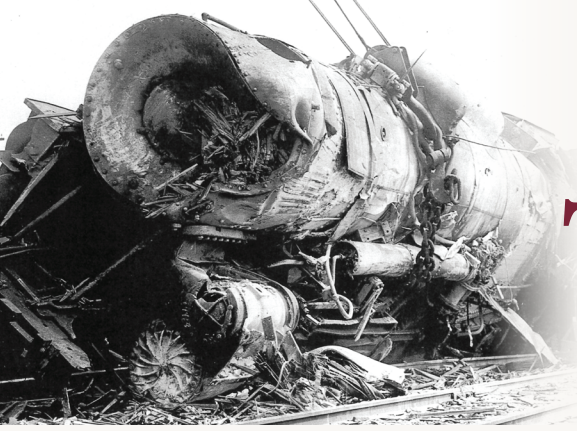
Remember when Sears Roebucks' and Montgomery Ward sent free catalogs to everyone? Mail order shopping was quite popular then in the 30's and 40's. My uncle, only two years older than me, used to call the catalogs our “wishing books”. We played a game, seeing who could be first to slap our hands over an item and say “MINE!”

How was it that he at about eight years and me at six could be happy just pretending ownership of items? Children of the Great Depression were easily made happy and used their imaginations more in self entertainment. I do believe such a childhood without material possessions was good for you.

Later came the malls with the May Co. Mall on Rte. 254 leading the way. We thought it was great until the bigger Midway Mall in Elyria was built. Then on and on came new ones like Great Northern for us to explore.

Many people shop now on the internet from the comfort of their homes, but a person who really loves shopping heads for the malls... how shopping did change!

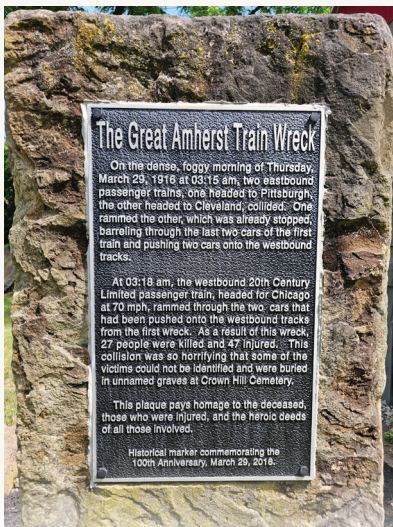




THE GREAT TRAIN WRECK OF 1916

Former Amherst Fire Chief Jim Wilhelm was an avid historian who was passionate about Amherst and the incredible history of our community. The Great Train Wreck of 1916 is part of that history and involved three trains one early foggy morning in March. In advance of the Centennial Commemoration, which was in 2016, Jim spent over a year planning and creating a monument, marking the history of this tragic event.

The marker is installed at Sandstone Village, adjacent to the caboose and in front of the train tracks, and reads:



On the dense, foggy morning of Thursday, March 29, 1916, at 03:15 am, two eastbound passenger trains, one headed to Pittsburgh, the other headed to Cleveland, collided. One rammed the other, which was already stopped, barreling through the last two cars of the first train and pushing two cars onto the westbound tracks.

At 03:18 am, the westbound 20th Century Limited passenger train, headed for Chicago at 70 mph, rammed through the two cars that had been pushed onto the westbound tracks from the first wreck. As a result of this wreck, 27 people were killed and 47 injured. This collision was so horrifying that some of the victims could not be identified and were buried in unnamed graves at Crown Hill Cemetery.

This plaque pays homage to the deceased, those who were injured, and the heroic deeds of all those involved.

Please join us in March to hear Tom Jewell present about “The Great Train Wreck of 1916” on Tuesday, March 18 at the Amherst Historical Society Hall, 113 South Lake Street. Donations are appreciated but not required.





QUARRY TOURS

Our extremely popular Quarry Tours will continue in 2025 from May to October, on the third Friday of each month.

The sandstone quarries built Amherst economically and structurally, and are an important part of our region's history. Each trolley tour begins at the Amherst Historical Society, goes to a working quarry in Florence Township, then to Cleveland Stone Co. in Vermilion and The Shop at Cleveland Stone Co, then back to the Amherst Historical Society. The 2024 tours sold out by word of mouth so don't wait to RSVP! The cost per person is \$25 for AHS members and \$30 for the public. Thank you to Cleveland Stone Co. and the Lorain County Visitors Bureau and making these tours possible!

The Shop at Cleveland Stone Co. is a unique home décor and gift shop that features home accents, furniture, art, seasonal gift items, and much more!

**Open year-round, Monday- Saturday 10am-4pm at
850 West River Road, Vermilion, OH 44089
440-963-4008 • theshopatclevelandstone.com**



PRESERVATION OF TEXTILE HISTORY: An introduction to the new AHS Textile Department

By Mariah Axford

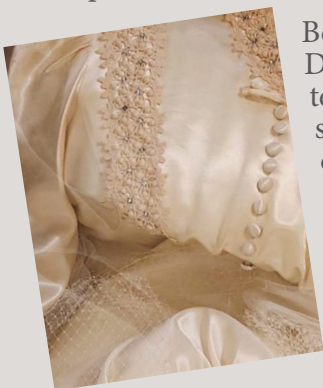
Would your Nana always leave the house impeccably dressed? Perhaps you admired your mother's elegant jewelry box, an endless wardrobe of silver and pearls. Did your Papa have a distinctive hat? You may have felt emotional upon finding your father's military uniform, precisely folded in a chest. Textiles are more than fabric or metals - they embody an essence to a person. They also embody the history of a specific time and place.

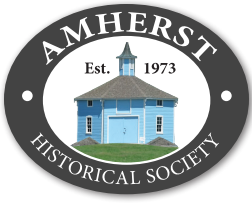
The Amherst Historical Society (AHS) has an impressive collection of textiles and clothing that have been donated since 1973. Each piece tells a unique story, from both a personal and historical fashion perspective.



Because of these important donations, AHS is thrilled to announce our newly formed Textile Department. The Textile Department will preserve and steward the heritage of garments, textiles, and crafting practices of the region. Our purpose is to increase the quality of collection storage and management practices. Our mission is to promote education of textiles and textile crafting through collection showcases, living history events, and public programs. We do this for our community, to tell the stories interwoven into the fabric and stitched into history. Please contact us for more information!

Join us to learn more about Textiles and Fashion History at "Fashion on the Titanic" by Kira Kosatka on April 13th from 2-4pm at the Amherst Historical Society Hall! Please RSVP for this free presentation. Donations are appreciated and will go to the Textile Department.





The Amherst Historical Society
 113 South Lake St., Amherst, OH 44001
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 www.amhersthistoricalsociety.org

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AHS 2025 EVENT CALENDAR

<p>January 11</p>  <p>BRING A DISH TO SHARE!</p> <p>Annual Potluck & Meeting Amherst Historical Society 11:30 am - 2:00 pm</p>	<p>February 9</p>  <p>Super Bowl Fundraiser \$10 a person Doors open at 5pm</p>	<p>February 18</p>  <p>FREE</p> <p>History of the Lorain County Coroner Amherst Historical Society 7:00 pm</p>	<p>March 16</p>  <p>Afternoon Tea with Debra Rose Amherst Historical Society 2:00 - 4:00 pm</p>	<p>March 18</p>  <p>FREE</p> <p>The Great Train Wreck of 1916 Amherst Historical Society 7:00 pm</p>
<p>April 6</p>  <p>Neil Diamond Tribute with Scott Brotherton Amherst Historical Society 2:00 - 4:00 pm</p>	<p>April 12</p>  <p>FREE</p> <p>Easter Spring Fling Amherst Historical Society 2:00 - 4:00 pm</p>	<p>April 13</p>  <p>FREE</p> <p>"Fashion on the Titanic" Amherst Historical Society 2:00 - 4:00 pm</p>	<p>April 26 - Nov 1</p>  <p>Sandstone Village Shops Open Saturdays 10:00 am - 2:00 pm</p>	<p>June 13-14</p>  <p>FREE</p> <p>The Taste of History 2025 Sandstone Village</p>

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