

GRINDSTONE NEWSLETTER



July / August / September 2025

**FREE
TO ATTEND**

EXPERIENCE 1930'S "HOOVERVILLE"



Saturday, Sept. 6, 2025

10:00 am – 5:00 pm

at The Sandstone Village

763 Milan Ave, Amherst, OH

(Free parking at Sandstone Village)

**Games, Music, and Pastimes
of the '30s • Soup Kitchen and
food for donation! • Hobo Jungle
and Culture • Hooverville Camp
• Kids' activities • Blacksmith
Shop & Sandstone Village Shops •
Village Buildings open for tours,
and more!**

For more information, please contact the Amherst Historical Society at
(440) 988-7255 or office@amhersthistoricalsociety.org



Sunday, September 14, 2025

**St. Paul's 150th Anniversary
Celebration Worship Service
& Banquet**

**ST. PAUL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
150TH
ANNIVERSARY**

**St Paul Lutheran Church 150th
Anniversary celebration is
Sunday, September 14, 2025!**

For more information, please contact
them at (440) 988-4157

Thank You For Your Support!

The Amherst Historical Society continues to grow vibrantly. This is possible because of supporters, members, and volunteers who help keep history alive! Thank you to everyone who is part of the Amherst Historical Society - being a member, donating, attending events and programs, and volunteering. In 2024, volunteers generously donated over 34,600 volunteer hours! We have many opportunities to help including office support, adding to our digital archives, assisting at the Sandstone Village Shops, events, and museums. Let us know how you can assist.

**We are grateful to this amazing
community for your generous gifts of
time, talent and resources!!**



MURDER MYSTERY DINNER THEATRE

The Amherst Historical Society presents
The Cat Screamed Murder, a 1930s Murder
Mystery Dinner Theatre by Jack Pachuta,
directed by Valerie Farschman

at Amherst Historical Society Hall
113 South Lake Street, Amherst, OH 44001

Friday, September 12 at 6:00 pm (doors open at 5:30pm)

Saturday, September 13 at 6:00 pm (doors open at 5:30pm)

Sunday, September 14 at 2:00 pm (doors open at 1:30pm)

Tickets are \$35 for members and \$40 for non-members.

Buffet • BYOB • Raffles • Prizes

Seats are limited and will sell out quickly- reserve yours today by
contacting **440-988-7255 or office@amhersthistoricalsociety.org**

A Letter from the Executive Director, Sandy Kaiser

Dear Members, Friends, and Community,

The Amherst Historical Society is committed to preserving and teaching history by bringing it to life through unique and interactive experiences. We are dedicated to preserving and sharing the rich history of Amherst and the surrounding area by making history available to all, through many free events throughout the year. All may tour the Quigley Museum, Harris-Dute House, Sandstone P.O.W. Barracks and Military Museum, and other buildings at no cost. We also offer free historic presentations that are scheduled throughout the year at the Sandstone Village and our AHS Event Hall.

The Past: It was the vision of Walter Nord to support a historical society in Amherst to guide the preservation of Amherst's rich sandstone history. Although a society did not form during Walter's lifetime, his sons Eric and Evan promised they would pursue their father's dream, and in 1973, the Amherst Historical Society was formed. Beginning with the acquisition of the Hickory Tree Grange, the idea grew to create a unique historic district. Through the amazing dedication of volunteers, the Sandstone Village was founded by a true community effort to create a tourist destination. Today, that dream has grown into a vibrant village with museums, historic buildings, and shops.

The Future: Introducing The Jefferson Street Project: "The John Henry Ludwig and Armina Barnhart-Ludwig Gathering Place."

On March 3, 2025, thanks to a generous donation by Don Ludwig and family, renovation of the 150 Jefferson Street house was initiated. The plan is to convert this historic building into a gathering place for meetings, parties, and events. The next phase of this project includes the creation of a Sandstone Legacy Garden in tribute to the sandstone quarry industry and its workers for their remarkable contribution to our community.

To accomplish this project, we are launching a Capital Campaign to raise \$750,000 to expand our ability to promote historical education while showcasing the beauty of the Sandstone Village. This campaign represents more than a physical transformation – it is a lasting commitment to education, community pride, and cultural legacy.

The scope of this project includes these goals:

- Restore and preserve historic buildings
- Upgrade the safety of structures and utilities
- Create a Sandstone Legacy Garden
- Enhance/Landscape our green space
- Build modern restrooms on site

We can accomplish our goal with your continued generosity and dedication to our mission to keep history alive. Your gift to our Capital Campaign is more than a donation – it is an investment in sharing our rich history. Your support helps preserve the stories of our past so future generations can understand, honor, and learn from them. Please contact the AHS office 440-988-7255 for details.

**Together, we keep history alive—one artifact, one story, one moment at a time.
Please join us in being part of the change!**

Thank you for your support!

Sandy

text or call
(440)
308-7088

email
thecmbiez@gmail.com



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If you have an upcoming event
you would like posted in The
Grindstone please reach out to
the Amherst Historical Society
at 440-988-7255 or office@
amhersthistoricalsociety.org



History of Amherst, Ohio

474 CHURCH ST, UNION SCHOOL

CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

by George Siss

During the early to mid-1840s, the village known as Amherstville was organized into a union school district. The first Union School classes were held in a wood frame building, which was the site for the first town hall. In 1849 the school was destroyed by fire. It was repaired and re-opened, but in 1856, another major fire ravaged the building.

Josiah Harris, an early settler, provided the property for Union School, located on Church Street. Between 1856 and 1857 a new Union School was built at 474 Church Street.

Made with clay bricks, the two-story structure was 25' wide x 40' long and built for approximately \$3200. Classes for all grades were held in the building. Between 1872 and 1874, the Union School building doubled in size to house a growing student population.



On July 5, 1893, around 1:00 A.M., the engineer of a train passing by saw flames breaking out from the school. When firefighters arrived at the school, it was completely engulfed. It was later determined that the fire started when a group of students entered the school and set off firecrackers.

In 1895 a new school building was constructed of native Amherst sandstone and was named Central School. It had a gabled roof, a steepled bell tower, and two smokestacks rising from the wings.

Just twelve years later, in 1907, this building was also destroyed by fire. On Sunday, March 3, the fire started because an incinerator roared to life, most likely due to faulty chimney flue. The fire destroyed the interior of the building, leaving a sandstone shell.

In 1908-1909, the new school was built with brick walls erected inside the sandstone frame. The new structure contained thirteen classrooms, a study hall, and a library. During construction, students attended classes at other buildings in town. The graduating class of 1908 was comprised of only nine young women.

In 1909 the rebuilt school opened its doors to students and was christened Amherst Central School. In 1922-1923, an addition included an auditorium/gymnasium ringed by classrooms, an industrial arts shop, a department for home economics, a cafeteria, an art room and music room, and biology and chemistry laboratories. The new addition more than doubled the size of the school. At the time, the gymnasium was the largest in Lorain County.

As student enrollment increased, buildings were added. In 1953 Powers Elementary School opened, and in 1959 Shupe Elementary School was built. A new high school, named after the former Central High School principal Marion L. Steele, was built in 1958. The Church Street structure became Central Junior High. This long-standing structure was eventually vacated by the school system. In the fall of 1983, just before the school closed, the Amherst Historical Society successfully petitioned to have the building placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

In 1984, Central closed, and the building was purchased by Sprenger Health Care. The building, renamed The 1907 at Central School, is now used as an assisted-living facility. Many of the structural details have been incorporated into the new use. Most of the wide hallways remain and the auditorium/gymnasium is used for communal meals and social activities.

Historical pictures are courtesy of the Amherst Historical Society.



THE TASTE OF HISTORY 2025

Thank you to all the reenactors, many of whom travelled a great distance, for volunteering their time to bring history to life! Thank you to all the volunteers for making this event possible! And thank you to the following sponsors for their generosity:



Post 32



Post 1662



The Friendly Post



VFW 7576

Lunch & Dinner served Mon– Sat!

DIVISION SPONSORS:

AMVETS Post 32 (Elyria, OH)
VFW Post 1079 (Elyria, OH)
VFW Post 1662 (Amherst, OH)
VFW Post 7576 (Vermilion, OH)



Post 8



Post 118



Richard & Kathleen Nord



Post 2743

CAMP SPONSORS:

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American Legion Post 118 (Amherst, OH)
Lorain County Veterans Service Commission
Richard & Kathleen Nord
VFW Post 2743, Firelands Veterans for the Preservation of Patriotism (Norwalk, OH)



F.O.E. 1442



Post 6941



District 9

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Thom Hall and Katie Wohlever



www.mhpg.us



www.loraincountyohio.gov



www.amhersthistoricalsociety.org

The Taste of History 2025 is a partnership with the Military History Preservation Group, Amherst Historical Society, and Lorain County Visitors Bureau

Congratulations to the following Field Kitchens and Display winners:



Overall Champion and Best Taste
Revolutionary War, 13th Virginia,
West August Battalion



People's Choice
WWII Field Kitchen, The Tri-State
Living History Association



Best Display and Reenactors' Choice
World War II Okinawa, Midwest Raiders
and 4th Marines & 165 Infantry Regiment,
27th Infantry Division reenactors



Thank you to the over 300 reenactors who traveled from across the United States and Canada to bring history to life!

Photos: Elizabeth Fought, Katherine Fought, and George Siss





**The Amherst Historical Society,
ForestHill Farmstand**

and the

Sandusky Bay Chapter, Archaeological Society of Ohio

present

**The Sandstone Village Fall Festival
Saturday, September 27, 2025 from 10am-4pm**

**FREE to attend and free parking at Sandstone Village,
763 Milan Avenue, Amherst Ohio 44001**

Crafters and Vendors!

Kids' Games and Activities

Pumpkin Patch and Pumpkin Painting

Food Vendors

Historic Buildings and the Blacksmith Shop

Sandstone Village Shops

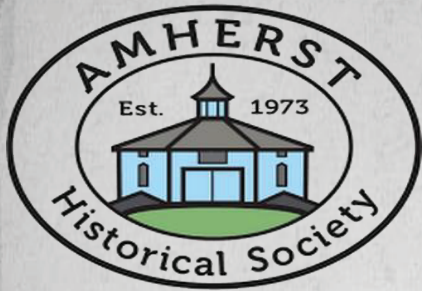
and featuring

**The Sandusky Bay Chapter, Archaeological Society of Ohio
Indian Artifact Display in The Hickory Tree Grange.**

**Projectile points, hafted knives, atlatls and pottery will be on
display, and some items will be available for purchase.**

Native Americans for centuries held fall festivals and trade fairs.

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



SANDSTONE VILLAGE

A Special Wish Car Show

Sponsored by: JDBNOW Amherst

Sunday, August 24, 2025

12pm – 4pm (10am-12pm Registration)

Amherst Historical Society Sandstone Village

763 Milan Avenue, Amherst, OH 44001

440-988-7255 * office@amhersthistoricalsociety.org

Questions: Christine * 440-315-1833 or John * 440-935-1505

Car Show Registrants:

Please enter Sandstone Village through
Jefferson Street to park and register.

FLP Presents for Entertainment
Food Vendors * Village Buildings
and Shops will be open * Photo Area
for Registrants



**Free Parking and Shuttle from 12pm-4pm for Spectators
@ Amherst Junior High School, 548 Milan Ave. Amherst, Oh.**

\$10 Registration Fee

**Dash Plaques to first 150 * 50/50s
Raffles * Door Prizes * Trophies
for Show Winners**



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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 2025 EVENT CALENDAR

April 26 - Nov 1  Sandstone Village Shops Open Saturdays 10:00 am - 2:00 pm	Aug 24  FREE A Special Wish Car Show Sandstone Village 12:00 - 4:00 pm	Sept 6  FREE 1930s Hooverville Sandstone Village 10:00 am - 5:00 pm	Sept 12-14  1930s Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre	Sept 27  FREE Fall Festival Sandstone Village 10:00 am-4:00 pm
Oct 4-5  Cleveland St. Cemetery Walk 3:00 - 5:30 pm	Nov 26 - Jan 6  FREE Christmas Lights at Sandstone Village Sandstone Village	Dec 6  FREE German Christmas Event Sandstone Village 4:00 - 8:00 pm	Jan 31, 2026  FREE Annual Potluck AHS Hall 11:30 am - 2:00 pm	Feb 8, 2026  Super Bowl Fundraiser TBA

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