

# HISTORICALLY SPEAKING



Spring 2020

The Newsletter of Muskingum County History

## MUSEUMS OF MUSKINGUM COUNTY HISTORY

The Stone Academy Historic Site & Museum  
115 Jefferson Street  
Dr. Increase Mathews House & Gardens  
304 Woodlawn Avenue  
Zanesville, Ohio

Hours: Wednesday-Friday 1:00-4:00

Saturday 10:00-4:00

May through September

Both museums are open to groups at other times by appointment. Call the museum office at the Stone Academy at 740 454-9500 or contact us through our website  
[Muskingumcountyhistory.org](http://Muskingumcountyhistory.org)

**\*Both museums are currently closed due to the COVID-19 Pandemic\***

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

SPRING 2020

Fondly do we hope—fervently do we pray—that this mighty scourge shall speedily pass away. Paraphrasing a line from Abraham Lincoln's second inaugural address as we face a virus that does not discriminate, we at Muskingum County History wish good health for you and your family. Please stay safe and keep your friends and neighbors in your prayers.

We do not know when we will be able to open The Stone Academy and The Increase Mathews House for the season so please go to

our website at [muskingumcountyhistory.org](http://muskingumcountyhistory.org) as well as our Facebook page at Muskingum County History for updates.

We also will update our program schedule for 2020 to reflect changes caused by the virus and our program schedule for 2021 will also be published in the next several months. Again, please visit our website and Facebook page for updates.

Our capital campaign for a new roof and chimneys and a new wall at the Stone Academy is still going on although the virus has stuck our campaign in neutral. Our campaign is for the safety and preservation of perhaps the most historic building in Muskingum County, The Stone Academy.

Muskingum County History has acquired and now owns the house on the corner of Jefferson and Putnam, 462 Putnam Avenue, which will be used to house our archives. It will give us more and needed space for the public to view our archives and to do research.

We wish the best for you.

*Peter N. Cultice*

PRESIDENT MUSKINGUM COUNTY HISTORY



Now, as we are going through some difficult times, we should think back 107 years to the 1913 Flood. We got through that and we will get through COVID-19. Be the tree, not the twisted rail.

## **PURCHASE OF BUILDING ADJACENT TO STONE ACADEMY FINALIZED**

On February 25 Muskingum County History completed the purchase of the house and lot at 462 Putnam Avenue, the SE corner of Putnam and Jefferson Street, immediately adjacent to our parking lot and across the alley from the Stone Academy. The purchase was the culmination of a five-year process as we negotiated with the owner, an out of town branch of a large national bank.

There are several reasons why this property is important to us. By being adjacent to our property on two sides, the fate of this lot affects us. Most people who visit the Stone Academy approach from Putnam Avenue and the house on the corner, along with its yard and plantings, plays an important part in a visitor's first impression of the Academy. If the house is not kept in repair, its condition will reflect poorly on us.

The house will give us room to establish a proper historical archives. The room at the Stone Academy used for our archives had been too small for many years and in 2016 the Zanesville *Times Recorder* donated their archives of books, photographs, negatives, microfilms and clip-

pings. We did not have one room large enough to hold these new items, so they have been placed in rooms at both of our museums where they have been used by museum staff but are not accessible to the public. In May 2019 Ohio University Zanesville informed us that they would be reducing the size of the campus library and offered us the entire contents of their Local Heritage Room. We could not pass up this opportunity so despite our lack of space, we accepted the books, phonograph records, manuscripts and maps. These materials are in storage and are not even accessible to our staff. Along the way we have had to turn down other offers of archival material because we could not properly care for them given our limited space. All these materials are stored safely but they are scattered between five rooms in two museums. The acquisition of 462 Putnam will give us the room we need to house these materials in a way that we can make them accessible to the public.

The house at 462 Putnam was built about 1886, making it younger than the large old houses built by the first settlers of the village of Putnam, still to be found in the neighborhood, but it is a contributing part of the Putnam Historic District. We can now return this building to its former glory so that it can hold its own with the other historic

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As can be seen in this photo, the location of 462 Putnam Ave in relation to the Stone Academy makes its preservation imperative. Having our archives next to our museum will make for efficient use of staff and will allow us to coordinate signage and landscaping. We are fortunate to have been able to purchase the building.



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structures around it. Exterior features include scrollwork trim on porches, a bay window, bargeboard with decorative bracing on the front gable, a wood shingle belt course, and a decorative exterior chimney. The interior has two sets of pocket doors, an American Encaustic Tiling Company hearth and varnished wood trim.

Before the house can be turned into an archives it will need extensive renovation. Major work was done on the structure about 15 years ago, but it has sat empty for several years resulting in some deterioration. We plan to pay for the renovation through a combination of our own funds, grants, and donations from our members. We have applied for several grants, have already received one and are awaiting word on the others. Some of the grants will require a local match and many of you have already responded to our plea for contributions toward that match.

We have planned carefully to make this project come together over a two-year period, but the world is a different place than when we began. The coronavirus pandemic will affect how the government and private foundations prioritize the grants they award. Many businesses are shutting down to help stop the spread of the virus and this will affect work schedules for many months. We are still committed to renovating the house at 462 Putnam Avenue but there is too much uncertainty to establish any timeline. We will keep you informed of new developments but at the present time everyone's primary concern must be the health of our nation. The building is now secured and saved from possible further deterioration and demolition. While it may take longer than planned to establish an archives, the exterior work will be completed so that the building will be a significant part of the Historic District streetscape. As you drive on Putnam Avenue in the coming months watch for the changes that have been made possible by your generous donations.

### **IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP UP TO DATE?**

Have you renewed your membership in Muskingum County History? Most of you have, and we thank you, but a few members have not yet sent in their dues. Why should you renew given that we can't promise that our museums will open for the season in May and we have had to cancel or postpone all programming? Despite



A challenge but also an opportunity.

being closed, our work goes on. You should have just received the most recent issue of *Muskingum Journal*. It was late, as usual, but weren't the articles interesting? We post to our Facebook page almost daily and this gives you an opportunity to comment and ask questions so that we can all learn more about Muskingum County's history. We respond to many inquiries that come to us via snail mail, email and Messenger. We have plans for programs that includes topics such as votes for women, beer, wine and baseball and while we have no idea when we might be able to gather again, we are viewing the programs as postponed, not cancelled.

Your dues are important but that is not the only reason we need members. Private philanthropies and government entities who award grants want to know that the recipients have community support. Your membership demonstrates that support. Show that you support the preservation of our history—our buildings, artifacts and archives—by maintaining membership in Muskingum County History. Dues are \$15 for individuals, \$10 for students and senior citizens and \$30 for families and may be sent to Muskingum County History, 115 Jefferson St., Zanesville OH 43701.



## Museum Operations Currently Suspended

Due to the rapid spread of coronavirus and government recommendations for social distancing, most museums across the United States have closed down temporarily. As a result, organizations like Muskingum County History face new levels of uncertainty and difficulty in navigating these unfamiliar waters. In particular, for visitor-serving organizations, not being able to bring visitors on-site produces a significant challenge: while being physically closed, how do our museums continue to engage their would-be visitors? What steps can we take to captivate, connect, and communicate with remote "visitors" and audiences?

While our museums remain physically closed, we continue to engage audiences, connecting and communicating with visitors and audiences online with our Facebook page and website, [www.facebook.com/MuskingumCountyHistory/](https://www.facebook.com/MuskingumCountyHistory/) and [www.muskingumcountyhistory.org](http://www.muskingumcountyhistory.org). One very recent interaction is notable and worth sharing.

Recently, we received a question on the website from Phil Samuell asking about an old family photo. Mitch Taylor, our curator and Facebook administrator, immediately recognized the locale with a unique view of Roosevelt Jr. High in the background. A Facebook post of the 1930s era photo was viewed by 5445 people in its first 2 days online. This "remote visitor experience" is typical of how MCH connects and communicates using the internet and social media.

On-site operations are on-hold indefinitely. That includes regular museum hours (originally scheduled to begin in May), school tours, programs scheduled at the Stone Academy, and the regular meetings of the Friends of MCH and the Zanesville Civil War Roundtable. The curator and director are working from home with the exception of brief stops at the museums to check the mail and the buildings.

The start of the 2-year Stone Academy Capital Improvement Project will likely be delayed. The status of anticipated grant funding, including the State of Ohio Capital Budget, may not be known until mid-summer at the earliest. Donations from members and donors so far are well short of the \$17,000 goal. Additional grant applications will be completed and submitted. The Capital Improvement Project also includes repairs at the recently acquired abutting property at 462 Putnam Avenue that will function as an annex for the Stone Academy and will house the Society's archives. Additional information about 462 Putnam can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

The situation regarding the virus is rapidly changing, and we all continue to monitor the guidance and recommendations of health and government officials. As soon as things stabilize we will update you about the status of our museums, programs, and activities. In the meantime, follow us on online and use the website to contact us.

## NEW ACCESSION FOR 2019

Each year in our March newsletter we list the accessions from the previous year. This is an opportunity to thank those people who have entrusted us with parts of our history so that they may be appreciated by museum visitors for years to come and it also shows the types of things that we add to our collection. Items offered to MCH are evaluated by the Collections Committee to see if they fit within the parameters of the Collection Policy, which reads in part:

1. Books and other printed material, fine art, folk art, clothing, manufactured goods (both commercially made and home-made), decorative art materials, and tools. All of the items will have a connection to Muskingum County and Southeastern Ohio in that they were used, made or owned by someone from this area or are examples of such items or, in the case of art and books, have Muskingum County or a Muskingum County person as a subject.

2. The Society will also collect written materials such as diaries, journals, letters and business and legal papers which were produced by Muskingum County people or which are illustrative of life in Muskingum County.

4. The items in the collection will generally come from the geographic area of Muskingum County and Southeastern Ohio and will be from the time period of the first settling of the United States up to the present time.

If you have a piece of Muskingum County's history that you think should be in our museum collection please contact us at [director@muskingumcountyhistory.org](mailto:director@muskingumcountyhistory.org) or by calling our office at 740 454-9500. At the present time we cannot accept donations of large items due to space limitations.

The following people donated artifacts which were accepted into the museum collection in 2019:

### Donated by Mary Beth Bohn Koechlin

- Five ledger books related to Conventional Arts Club of Zanesville, 1920s-1940s.
- *Investigating our Heritage*, Bohn family genealogy by Dorothy Aitken Bohn.

- Collection of warranty deeds for properties of F A Bohn
- *An Even Break, Human Rights in the Typical American City*, Second edition

### Donated by Philip Barnett

- Zanesville Greys memorabilia
- Miniature National Road mile markers with logo of 1986 Zane's Trace Commemoration made by Buckeye Stoneware, Zanesville.
- Muskingum County Country Music Hall of Fame newsletters, 2004-2009
- ZTC pin-back badges and participation plaques
- Hand fan from Bob & Dolores Hope Award program, 1982.

### Donated by Mitch and Donna Taylor

- Various pieces of pottery made by LePere Pottery, Burley Clay Products, Nouvelle Pottery, Hartstone Pottery, Peters & Reed Pottery, Beaumont Bros. Pottery, Zane Specialties, Hull Pottery, Alpine Pottery and Buckeye Stoneware.
- Felt Wilson School pennant
- Putnam Underground Railroad Education Center T-shirt
- Tile made by American Encaustic Tiling Co, Zanesville, for 1896 presidential election with portrait of William McKinley



Nouvelle Pottery on left, Zane Specialties on right.

### Donated by Beaumont Library District, Beaumont, California

- Miscellaneous receipts related to guardianship of Elizabeth and Sarah Dilts

### Donated by Ann Burkhart

- Several bottles made from molds made by Zanesville Mould Co.



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**Donated by Tina Penn**

- Pottery watering can in shape of swan made by Nouvelle Pottery, Zanesville.



Nouvelle Pottery swan watering can

**Donated by Janet James**

- Still bank advertising piece in shape of inter-urban car.

**Donated by Stephanie Kline**

- Vase in form of upright cornucopia on rectangular base made by Brush Pottery Company, Roseville and Zanesville.

**Donated by The Dawes Arboretum, Newark**

- Flower frog made by Weller Pottery, Zanesville.

**Donated by Troy Mitchell**

- Photograph of unidentified woman taken by Smith Studios, Zanesville.

**Donated by Linda Hodovan**

- Miscellaneous group of postcards with Muskingum County scenes.

**Donated by Gina McKnight of Monday Creek Publishing**

- Framed and matted original artwork for cover of Dr. Thomas Harvey's historical novel *Seeing the Elephant*.



**An Old Friend in a New Dress.**

1865. **STAR SOAP.** 1885.

This soap had its origin with Schultz & Co., in 1865. It was the first brand made by them upon which they received an extended reputation. It has always been a first-class and high-priced soap, but with changes in the times, improvements in its manufacture, and lower values for materials, STAR SOAP is now offered at prices within the reach of all. By comparison, consumers will find it to be the most desirable soap offered for general family use.

Dealers are authorized to take this Soap back at expense of the makers in case it does not give perfect satisfaction.

—:—  
**PRESENT FOR CONSUMERS.**

Send 25 wrappers, taken from STAR SOAP bought for actual use, and get FREE this beautiful picture, enlarged and improved. This is only an imperfect copy, on a small scale. It will be mounted on cloth, without lettering, size 13x28 inches, metal strips, top and bottom, all ready to hang up. 25 cents in money or stamps will also pay for it. Of course, this is only intended to help advertise the Soap, but without reference to the picture, remember that STAR SOAP is the cheapest article you bring in the house.

**SCHULTZ & CO.,**  
"The" Soap Boilers,  
Zanesville, O.

—:—  
**SCHULTZ'S SOAPS**  
Are the best for Family use. Among their popular brands are IRISH, GOLD, MONDAY, **Water-land**, DISH RAG, NAPKIN and

**S T A R.**

Now that hand washing has been raised to a patriotic act, it is a good time to look at this trade card promoting Schultz & Co's Star Soap.

Star Soap is no longer with us but the need to wash our hands is more important than ever.

Stay safe—wash your hands, keep your distance, stay at home.

## A THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR DONORS

Many many thanks to all of you who have given financially to help the cause of the preservation of our local history. Your donations are always important to us but especially so this year when four events came together.

First, we discovered that major work was needed on the Stone Academy. As one of our docents frequently points out, the Academy was built on spec and put up quickly. After 200 years, some of the cut-corners have become apparent and the roof needs to be repaired.

Second, after many years of effort by our director, we were finally able to purchase the house on the SE corner of Putnam Ave and Jefferson St that abuts our property on two sides. Our archival holdings have increased greatly the past few years and after major renovations, the new building will become our new archives.

Third, we became aware of the possibility of securing government grants, in addition to grants from local philanthropies, to help with the costs of the Stone Academy repairs and the archives renovation. Some of these grants require a local match and your donations have provided that match.

And fourth, the coronavirus hit our shores just as decisions on the awarding of grants were nearing completion throwing a pall of uncertainty over all financial transactions. We have received one grant, but it is impossible to know how a disease that continues to spread will affect the physical and economic health of the nation.

All that we know for certain is that you have been generous with your donations and we will move forward with our projects in an efficient manner doing the most we can with the resources available to us. The following [ROLL OF HONOR](#) lists the names of members who have shown their confidence in the work we are doing by giving funds which will allow us to continue:

Milman & Lynn Linn, Mary Flanagan, June Straker, Larry Skillman, Sandra Turner, Brent Stubbins, Holly Burkholter, J W Straker, Paul Smith, Nancy Hodous, Christina Fulk, Susan Williams, Paul & Andy Hoffman, Nancy Spillman, Susanne Ray, Gary Felumlee, Drew Hansen, Janet James, Mary Ellen Weingartner, Dan Keiffer, Stephanie & Mike Kline, Phyllis Mast, Nancy Ragias, Steve Pletcher, J William Barrett, Dan &

Rebecca Terrible, James McDonald, Bob Jenkins, Marie Bolin, Russ & Linda Smucker, Ruthann Allen, Sandra Miller, Carolyn Spencer, Kay Israel, Charles Strahl, MaryAnn Bucci, Mark & Nancy Mechling, Mitch & Donna Taylor, David Bolling, John Hoyes, Alan King, John & Jan Kelbly, Carole Jordan, JoAnna Shelly, Charles & Charlotte Simpson, John & Pat Mast, Jim Geyer, Stephanie Bridwell, Pam Kirst & Mark Zanghi, Brooke Anderson, Michael Jacolenne, Fannie Brill, Kristen Baughman, Glenna Gladman, the Friends of Muskingum County History, Morten Bach & Korcaighe Hale, David Buxton, Julie Link, Lisa Jenkins, Kelly & Greg Ashby, Renee Linscott, Peter Cultice, Susan Roderick, Kay Israel and Jerrold Schaumleffel.

Please forgive us if we left off any names. Be assured that all donations are appreciated and will be put to good use as we continue to preserve and interpret our history.

### MUSKINGUM COUNTY HISTORY

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If you have questions or suggestions concerning the activities of MCH, please contact any member of the Board of Trustees.