

HISTORICALLY SPEAKING

Spring 2021

The Newsletter of Muskingum County History

MUSEUMS OF MUSKINGUM COUNTY HISTORY

The Stone Academy Historic Site & Museum
115 Jefferson Street
Zanesville, Ohio

Dr. Increase Mathews House Museum
and Gardens
304 Woodlawn Avenue
Zanesville, Ohio

Hours: Wednesday-Friday 1:00-4:00
Saturday 10:00-4:00
June through September

Both museums are open to groups at other times by appointment. Call the museum office at 740 454-9500 or contact us through our website Muskingumcountyhistory.org

The COVID-19 Pandemic might cause alterations in our schedule. Please call ahead to confirm hours.



FROM THE DIRECTOR~~

Hello everyone,

There is so much happening here at Muskingum County History. Most importantly, we plan to open our doors on June 2. It has been a long hard year for many of us and we are so excited to see you, once again, at the museums.

As many of you have likely noticed, the work has begun in earnest at the house located at 462 Putnam. We have removed the dangerously rotten front porch and replaced it with a smaller porch that fits the outline of the original porch from the 1880s. The back porch has been rebuilt to be able to safely serve as a stage for program-

ming later and the original trim has been replicated and is ready to be re-installed. We hope to have the major exterior reconstruction completed soon and begin the work of painting this grand old lady. We are so excited to have finally begun and even more excited to see the finished project. Once the exterior is completed, as funding allows, we will be moving inside to complete our renovations with the installation of new HVAC systems, a new office for the Executive Director and, most importantly, a functional archival space that allows us to access many of our currently inaccessible archives. We can't wait to unpack all those boxes and fill our bookshelves.

We will be continuing the work at the Stone Academy this year as well. We have already completed a restoration of the chimneys and will be completing a rebuild of the dilapidated and crumbling front retaining wall this Spring. The decaying side porch will also receive some overdue attention. The work is never finished.

On a personal note, I wanted to let you all know that we will be interviewing for a new Executive Director this Spring and we will be welcoming my replacement with great enthusiasm. As much as I have enjoyed my time at the museums, I am looking forward to some much-needed rest and a return to a simpler schedule of days spent with my family working on our farm. I plan to continue to hang around the place, helping as a volunteer. Speaking of volunteers, we can always use those helping hands. It takes a village to make this work happen and for those of you who might be interested in volunteering, we welcome you with open arms. Contact us via email at director@muskingumcountyhistory.org or by calling 740-454-9500 to find out how you can volunteer.

With warmest regards,

April

April Lovejoy

MUSEUM DIRECTOR
MUSKINGUM COUNTY HISTORY

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

SPRING 2021

A lot is and has been taking place at the Stone Academy and the recently acquired building at 462 Putnam Avenue even though the Stone Academy and the Increase Mathews House have been closed the past year due to COVID. We have replaced the two chimneys on the Stone Academy and the brick retaining wall along Jefferson Street will soon be replaced with a stone wall. The eaves around the Stone Academy will be repaired or replaced and fresh paint will be applied. This is just some of the work that has been done and is planned to be done.

At 462 Putnam, the old porches are in the process of being replaced. Code violations are being remedied after a decade of being allowed to fester. Fresh paint will also be applied to the building. Again, this is just some of the work being done.

Plans are being made, subject to change, for a block party with live entertainment at the Increase Mathews House on Saturday August 14. More information will be forthcoming.

Our second **Underground Railroad Symposium** is scheduled for October 2 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. The symposium is a celebration of Southern Ohio's active participation in helping courageous Black men, women and children escape from the evils of slavery to find freedom in the North. More details will follow.

On October 16 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm and on October 17 from noon to 4:00 pm, the Stone Academy will host its second **History Meets the Arts**. The public is invited to the Stone Academy to tour the building as well as to peruse and buy the wares the artists will have to sell. More details to follow.

We are planning to host the **Muskingum County Civil War Roundtable** again the fourth Monday of every month, September to May, starting in September 2021. The programs start at 7:00 pm. All are welcome!

Come October, Gary Felumlee will be taking people not too scared to participate on his haunted walking tours of Zanesville and Putnam. For those of you who like ghosts and goblins, don't miss it. More details will be forthcoming.

Also, with the renovation work we are doing we can always use your financial support. We are working with the city of Zanesville and several other institutions to help renovate and to make what we have to offer more accessible.

After all, the Increase Mathews House has been around since 1805, the Stone Academy since 1809, and Muskingum County History since 1890. We hope to be able to give tours starting in June at the Mathews House and Stone Academy. If you can help us financially, please mail your check to Muskingum County History, 115 Jefferson Street, Zanesville, Ohio 43701.

History is always on display at the Stone Academy and the Increase Mathews House. Discover the history of our area!

Peter N. Cultice

PRESIDENT MUSKINGUM COUNTY HISTORY

MUSKINGUM COUNTY HISTORY/ MIKE KLINE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS FOR 2021-2022 ANNOUNCED

MCH has been preserving artifacts and documents that tell the history of Muskingum County since its incorporation as the Pioneer and Historical Society of Muskingum County in 1890. However, while this aspect of our work is important, we also know we must also encourage the academic study of history so that there will be people who can interpret the things in our collection and place them in the proper context and who can find out more details about our past which will help us know where we are now and where we are going in the future. Toward this end, MCH established the Muskingum County History/Mike Kline Scholarship in 2017 with recipients being students at Ohio University Zanesville whose studies are in some way related to history. Initial funding came from MCH and the friends, students and colleagues of Mike Kline, the first full-time professor at OUZ and the teacher and mentor to a generation of students.

The amount of money available to be awarded is based on the three-year average income generated by the principle and this year is the first time that two scholarships have given. We congratulate **Aaron Tonnous**, a sophomore history major, and **Grace Compton**, a junior education major with an emphasis on history. Study hard people, we are counting on you.



UPDATE ON 462 PUTNAM AVENUE

Muskingum County History has needed larger quarters for its archival holdings for some time and the situation became critical with the acquisition of the *Zanesville Times Recorder* archives and the Ohio University Zanesville local heritage collection. Negotiations to purchase the house at 462 Putnam Avenue, adjacent to the Stone Academy and its parking lot, spanned many years but were finally successful at the end of February 2020. Since

that time, we have been working on this building so that it can serve as a new archives of documents related to Muskingum County and Southeastern Ohio and to the broader subjects of the Abolition Movement and the Underground Railroad which are both important parts of our history. In this article we will review the work that has been done at 462 Putnam Avenue.

We purchased a property containing an overgrown yard and a house which had been vacant for over ten years. The house is not distinguished in its present state and is smaller than the grand mansions for which old Putnam was known but that is an advantage. The smaller size makes the house more usable as an archives and less expensive to maintain once rehabilitation work is completed. By moving the MCH offices to our new building we will be able to reduce gas and electric consumption at the Stone Academy during the months when the museums are closed while still doing the administrative work that goes on all year. Frontage on Putnam Avenue next to the entrance to our present parking lot will increase our visibility and make us easier to find.

While the house is not a contributing part

of the Putnam Historic District it is still important to the neighborhood. As we continue to lose buildings in the Historic District, all of the older structures gain more importance. The only noteworthy former resident of 462 Putnam that we know of so far is Edwin Pickens, brother-in-law of Sam Weller and a well-known decorator at the pottery.

After acquiring the building our first in-depth inspection showed us a gas furnace that was completely rusted out, an electric drop that was too close to an upstairs window for modern



New back porch, sturdy enough to serve as a stage. New columns are being hand-turned from full dimension stock. The old entrance to the basement may be seen under the porch.

codes, flea-ridden carpets, the presence of small animals who though never seen, leave their mark, a section of basement that is only accessible via a large horizontal sewer tile and old fire damage in the basement which had been repaired by sistering in new floor joists. Work on the house will be a major project which we want to be done correctly so we hired Lepi Enterprises as our contractor.

We were set to begin structural repairs when the effects of the COVID pandemic really hit home. Building projects everywhere had to be put on hold as the health of the nation became our primary concern. Even though the structural work fizzled before it ever began, volunteers continued to devote their time and energy to the project. MCH trustees and members of Zanesville Kiwanis labored to remove the sod that had covered the brick sidewalks on two sides of the property. Sidwell Materials donated a dumpster that allowed trustees and additional Kiwanis members to remove and dispose of old kitchen appliances, bathroom fixtures, carpet and wallpaper.

When structural work began this year we

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were in for surprises. The roof on the front porch was flat, not sloped, causing rainwater to run through the roof rather than off it. The rain had rotted the roof rafters, which were constructed of 2x4s, not the larger lumber called for by code. The whole porch was deteriorating and had to be removed. Upon removal we could see that the footprint of the porch had changed over the years and that the original porch was likely smaller. Replacing the porch of the same dimensions as the one we removed would have cost upwards of \$30,000 and would not have duplicated the original so we installed a smaller, more functional porch.

The back porch presented a different set of issues. The steps seemed to grow looser with each trip we made up or down them. The floor, a modern replacement, not the original, had sections where it was unsafe to walk. Unlike the front porch, the porch roof was in good condition, so it was raised to allow the porch under it to be removed. Removal exposed the old outside entrance to the basement indicating that the porch footprint was not original to the house. This was confirmed with Sanborn Insurance Company maps showing the old porch coming around to the south side of the house. The porch floor has now been replaced and new columns are being turned which will match the details of the rotted posts which were removed. We plan to use the back porch as a stage for lectures and concerts with the audience seated in the back yard in the shade of the shingle oak tree. Modifications had to be made to both porches so that they will be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The state of the utilities was one of the biggest surprises we encountered. As mentioned earlier, the electric drop was too close to an upstairs window and had to be moved a couple of feet. The gas lines had been removed at some point but have been replaced to the foundation with the gas meter being installed later. The sewer line left the foundation and went... nowhere. A PVC pipe extended a few feet past the foundation but did not connect to a patent sewer although workers could see a collapsed cast iron pipe at a lower elevation. We are working with the city to have a new lateral connected to the house. We do not yet know about the state of the water supply to the building.

The bay on the SW corner of the building is in poor condition but is salvageable. Missing ar-

chitectural elements have been milled and are awaiting installation. When they are in place, the exterior will be painted in colors appropriate to the time of the construction of the house. The old furnace has been removed and will be replaced after supports to shore up the first floor to allow it to carry the added weight of filing cabinets have been installed in the basement. When all of this work is done, the focus will turn to the interior with plaster repair, replacement of current wood veneer floors, new light fixtures and painting. A second furnace will be installed on the second floor, a handicapped accessible restroom will be outfitted and the former kitchen will be converted to a decent gathering and waiting area. Finally, metal filing cabinets will be put in place on the first floor, bookcases will be installed on the second floor, books will be moved from the Mathews House and Stone Academy, and the Director's office will be moved from the Stone Academy.

All of the above should give you an idea why restoration of old homes is so expensive and why it is undertaken by so few people. We could not begin to consider such an extensive project without the support of many volunteers who are providing labor and the financial help we are receiving from our members and friends and various philanthropic trusts established by civic minded residents of Muskingum County. We hope you follow the progress of this project by visiting our Facebook page for updates and by driving by the house to see what changes have taken place. If you would like to help with financial support, all donations are appreciated and may be mailed to Muskingum County History, 115 Jefferson St, Zanesville OH 43701. If you would like more information about providing assistance or if you have questions about the work, please give us a call at 740 454-9500 or contact us at director@muskingumcountyhistory.org.



NEW ACCESSIONS FOR 2020

In the first newsletter of each year we list the new accessions for the previous year. This is a way for us to acknowledge and thank the donors and it shows the type of items that we have in 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 or by calling our office at 740 454-9500.

The following people donated artifacts which were accepted into the museum collection in 2020.

Donated by Janet James

- Imperial Porcelain Corp, Zanesville, Blue Ridge Boys pottery novelty in shape of out-house with grandpa sticking his head out the window, 1946.
- Alpine Pottery, Roseville, mug, 1996

Donated by Muskingum County Chapter Ohio Genealogical Society

- Front page of last issue of *Zanesville Signal*,

November 30, 1959, signed by six members of newspaper staff.

- Minutes book of the Muskingum County Republican Club, 1945-1954.



Imperial Porcelain Corp. on left, Alpine Pottery on right.

Donated by Ann Burkhart

- Zanesville Stoneware Co, two jardinières #0 in aqua.
- Fioriware Pottery mixing bowl.
- Four nesting Robinson Ransbottom jardinières.
- Three McCoy Bamboo pattern flowerpots with attached saucer
- Two McCoy Pottery jardinières.
- Cookson Pottery vase.

Donated by John Schaeffer

- Brush Pottery bowl decorated and signed by Rita McNeil.
- Brush Pottery, small footed bowl with "Clare" written in gold script on side.
- Collection of photos of 1913 Flood

Donated by Floyd Felumlee, jr

- Acrylic clock given by Mutual Federal Savings & Loan to "Citizen of the Month" Glenville Thomas, 1977.
- Several pieces of Roseville Pottery Raymor table ware, wedding present to donor from Roseville designer and chemist George Krause.

Donated by Mitch and Donna Taylor

- Collection of cloth masks related to the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020-21.

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Donated by Bob Sayre

- Zanesville High School *Comus* yearbooks for 1937, 1939, 1940, 1942.

Donated by Mike and Ruth McNeely

- *Good Samaritan School of Nursing Zanesville, Ohio 1905-1975*, hardbound book with history of Good Samaritan School of Nursing.

Donated by Estate of Jim Hooper

- Several books related to history of Muskingum and Perry Counties.

Donated by Faye Sarbaugh

- *Smith's New Arithmetic*, 1845, book had belonged to Alfred Taylor (1833-1901) of Norwich.

Donated by John Mears

- B&W photo of students and teacher at Shuck School, 1912-13 with names on back.

MUSEUMS TO REOPEN

Barring any severe downward trends in the COVID pandemic, the Dr. Increase Mathews House and Gardens and the Stone Academy Historic Site and Museum will reopen on June 2. Hours will be as they have in the past, Wednesday through Friday from 1:00 to 4:00 and Saturdays from 10:00 to 4:00. However, there are two obstacles to a successful museum season.

First is the ongoing pandemic. We have a better understanding of the disease than we did last summer and many people have been vaccinated but the number of cases in Ohio has not gone down as it should and as of this writing, Muskingum County is still at Level 3. Until we are notified otherwise, we will continue to follow the guidelines for museums that were put into effect last year - no more than 10 people will be allowed in the museums at one time, everyone must wear a mask (we will have a supply on hand), we will take the temperature of all visitors, we will record the name and address of all visitors, individuals from different families will not be allowed in the same group which will mean some visitors will have to wait outdoors until the preceding group has finished their tour and there will be a delay between tours as we follow cleaning procedures.

The other obstacle will be the lack of a sufficient number of docents (tour guides). Unlike

the past three normal seasons, we will not have a summer intern to help with tours this year. To keep both museums open we must have volunteer docents assisting with tours. If you have served as a docent before and want to help this year, please contact us. If you have never served as a docent but would like to participate this year, we can train you. No one will be expected to serve by themselves until they feel they are ready and we will not require docents to serve a set number of hours. If you would like to help us keep our museums open this summer, please contact us at 740 454-9500 or email director@muskingumcountyhistory.org.

Because of these uncertainties, please call the office prior to your visit to check on any last-minute changes.



WE CLOSE WITH AN EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE FOR OUR MEMBERS

The closing of our museums last summer due to the pandemic was unfortunate but it was not anyone's fault, still, we felt bad that the members who support our work were not able to visit our museums and that our planned programs had to be cancelled. To somewhat rectify the situation, last December we informed our members that it was not necessary for them to pay dues for 2021 and that memberships would be extended for everyone who had paid dues for 2020. **We have been overwhelmed with the show of support** as many of you sent in dues, often with an added donation, anyway. Even though we were closed, utility bills had to be paid and we are incredibly grateful that you have stuck by us during this difficult time. By working together, we are coming through a period of extreme anxiety and uncertainty that has affected all of us. Though our season will be shortened this year, we will strive to justify the trust that you have placed in us and we look forward to the time when the COVID Pandemic of 2020-2021 will be a part of our history and not current events.