

HISTORICALLY SPEAKING

June 2016

The Newsletter of Muskingum County History

MUSEUMS OF MUSKINGUM COUNTY HISTORY

The Stone Academy Historic Site & Museum
115 Jefferson Street
Zanesville, Ohio
Hours: Wednesday-Saturday 1:00-4:00
May through September

Dr. Increase Mathews House Museum
304 Woodlawn Avenue
Zanesville, Ohio
Hours: Sunday 1:00-4:00 May-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

Like us on Facebook



one-time fee of just \$25. The Family Pass is valid from June 1st until the end of the season, which varies from museum to museum. Tickets may be purchased at any of the participating museums with each museum receiving 100% of the proceeds from the passes it sells.

Hours for our museums are given to the left. Hours for other museum will vary, call ahead for information.

Other participating museums include:

JOHNSON-HUMRICKHOUSE in Roscoe Village

THE CASTLE in Marietta

HISTORIC NOBLE COUNTY JAIL MUSEUM in Caldwell

THE BALL-CALDWELL HOMESTEAD in Caldwell

CAMBRIDGE GLASS MUSEUM in Cambridge

GUERNSEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM in Cambridge

JOHN & ANNIE GLENN HOME in New Concord

NATIONAL ROAD & ZANE GREY MUSEUM in Norwich

Southeastern Ohio Museum Family Pass

Bryan Blau, Ohio History Service Corps/
AmeriCorps

The 2016 Southeastern Ohio **Museum Family Pass** is now available at the **Stone Academy** Historic Site and Museum and the **Dr. Increase Mathews House** Museum and Gardens. A family of four can visit these and eight other great museums in Southeastern Ohio for a



Ball-Caldwell Homestead

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

JUNE 2016

RIP Pioneer & Historical Society

WELCOME Muskingum County History

The Pioneer and Historical Society of Muskingum County is no more. Before you panic, let me assure you that the organization that has preserved Muskingum County history for 126 years still exists but going forward we will be known as **Muskingum County History**. Allow me to explain the reasons for this change.

The renaming of older organizations is common today. The Ohio Historical Society (first organized as the Ohio State Archeological and Historical Society) spent two years and many dollars before deciding to become the Ohio History Connection. Their research showed that their old name contained two objectionable words which we will discuss shortly.

What we have known as the Pioneer and Historical Society had its roots in the Muskingum County Pioneer Association (also referred to in county histories as the Old Settlers Association), an organization formed in 1866 which limited its membership to the early settlers of Muskingum County or those born in the county prior to 1825. Sometime prior to 1886 The Pioneer Society of Muskingum County was formed with its membership made up of "the descendants of the first settlers in the state of Ohio." The interest was clearly in "the noble men and women" who laid "the foundation of a civil and religious government in the Ohio Valleys." In 1890 the Pioneer and Historical Society of Muskingum County was incorporated with membership open to anyone who paid the annual dues of fifty cents.

The full name of our organization has suffered as a result of truncation by computer systems and by too many and too ambiguous words. The name is frequently shortened to Pioneer Historical Society which implies that we are only interested in the history of pioneers. With both of our museums in the Putnam Historic District we have been referred to as the Putnam Historical Society. This was a real problem when the short-lived Putnam Historic Association was

in existence with misdirected mail a weekly occurrence. That group was a neighborhood improvement organization rather than a local historical society but confusion was common with some confusion remaining to this day.

Two words in our former name were special problems. *Pioneer* can refer to any person who is new to an area. "Urban pioneers" is a name given to people, usually young professionals, who move into decaying neighborhoods of cities and revitalize older districts by restoring homes and supporting new retail shops. Black people brought in from the south to work in Zanesville's brick yards, farmers who left the farm to work in factories, eastern European immigrants who came to work in the mines and potteries of Southeastern Ohio and Middle-Eastern immigrants who opened small groceries and confectioneries could all be considered pioneers but in the popular culture *pioneer* brings up images of a buckskin-clad white man shooting Indians with a long rifle.

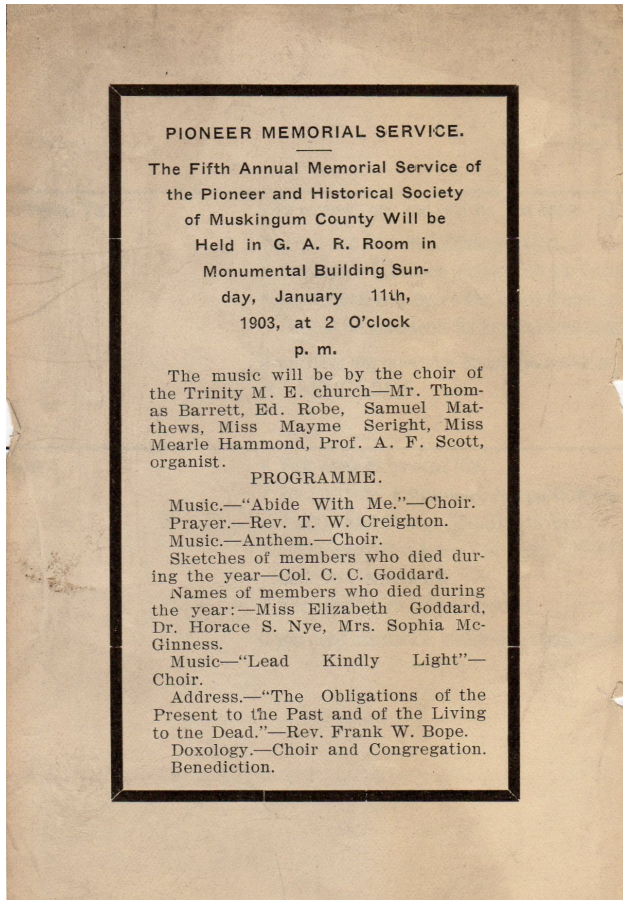


Part of cover of program for picnic of the Pioneer Association, a predecessor of the Pioneer and Historical Society.

Society is another problem word. In the context of Pioneer & Historical Society it simply means organization or association but it has come to be associated with SOCIETY, the wealthy movers and shakers of a community. For a time in the early to mid-twentieth century this was a fairly accurate description of our organization but we are now more egalitarian and welcome everyone who is interested in our community's

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name isn't perfect and it won't please everyone but it should be easier for people outside our community to find us in the phone book or on the internet, it slips off the tongue easier than our old seven word name and it avoids words that have become a distraction and send wrong messages. For legal purposes the name of our organization



An important activity during the early days of the Pioneer and Historical Society was the annual memorial service to remember those pioneers who had passed away during the previous year.

will remain Pioneer and Historical Society of Muskingum County but we will present ourselves to the public as Muskingum County History and that name will appear on our letterhead, on our publications and on program materials.

As part of our process of rebranding we have also set up a new website at Muskingumcountyhistory.org. The new website will be easier for us to update and it will be more compatible with mobile devices than our old site was but please be patient with as we learn how to work with a new system. Our new email address is info@muskingumcountyhistory.org or you may

send emails directly to Museum Director Jim Geyer at director@muskingumcountyhistory.org.

Lynne Sturtevant, our consultant in the re-branding process, suggested that we redesign this newsletter to more fully take advantage of the benefits of our new emailing capabilities. This is our goal, but for now there are still many members for whom we do not have email addresses so we must continue to use a format that is easily adaptable to a print publication. Change may be gradual but it will come.

We look forward to your comments regarding our new name. Any questions or concerns can be directed to our new email address or talk to any member of our Board of Trustees.

Mitch Taylor, PRESIDENT, MUSKINGUM COUNTY HISTORY

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If you are not receiving the digital version of this newsletter, send us your email address to info@muskingumcountyhistory.org to be added to our mailing list.

HELP WANTED: ORGANIST, no monkey required. With our reed organ back in working order we need some volunteers to show it off at an afternoon concert. If you are qualified (no noodlers, please) and would like to experience this piece of Americana, stop by the Stone Academy during our regular hours and take it for a spin. We are open to all genres from a Buxtehude fugue to "A Whiter Shade of Pale" or "Green Onions."

Keeping with our name change, we will soon change our name on Facebook. For now, follow us at Pioneer and Historical Society of Muskingum County for almost daily postings of photos and documents.

If you have Muskingum County artifacts you wish to donate to Muskingum County History you may contact us at info@muskingumcountyhistory.org or call the office at 740-454-9500. Your information will be forwarded to the Collections Committee for consideration. Items we are generally NOT currently accepting include clothing, photographs with no identification, factory-made furniture from outside Muskingum County, sewing machines and general interest books. Items we are interested in include locally made glass, pottery, tile and furniture, studio photographs where the subjects or locations are known, reasonably sized products of local heavy industry (a locomotive would be way cool but then we would have to lay track), and books by local authors.

THE SCOURGE OF THE VALLEY

While searching through a drawer of archival materials at the Increase Mathews House we came across a clipping from the Zanesville *Signal*, apparently from February 1883, which deals with a subject of utmost importance to citizens of Zanesville – floods. The 1913 flood was so devastating that we sometimes forget that it was just one of a series of foods that affected the area since before the founding of the city. After reading the article we have to wonder if John McIntire could have picked a better location.

FLOODS .

**Graphic Account of the Floods
in the Muskingum Valley from the Year
1773,
to the present Year 1883.**

BY W. C.

The greatest local event of the past fortnight, not only in this city, but throughout the Valley of Muskingum, in Ohio, and elsewhere, was the flood. The rushing rivers, at flood height, have gone sweeping down through these valleys, laying waste property aggregating millions of dollars, and attended by loss of life. From the breaking up of the ice in the Muskingum river at this city, Sunday, Feb 4th, 1883, the all absorbing topic of conversation has been high waters and floods. The newspapers have devoted much space in their columns to accounts of the late floods, which will ever be memorable in the annals of history. The water in some localities having reached a height but seldom attained, or at least within the memory of the oldest inhabitant.

As so much has been said in regard to the late and former floods, in the above named sections of the country, as also in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Indiana; and as there seems to be a great diversi-

ty of opinion regarding the late and former floods here and elsewhere, and thinking that the thousands of readers of the *Signal* might be interested, I will give a short history of the most notable floods of the past, obtained from reliable sources.

The dates and figures here given may be relied on as strictly correct, the object of the writer being no other than that of pleasing those who may read the articles, and making a bit of history.

The earliest floods of which we have any reliable information, date as early as the years 1773, 1789 and 1793, and 1806, 1810 and 1815. Settlers and boatmen of early days often spoke of those high waters and excitements of the great floods. We also have record of the spring of 1815. I learn that all of the low lands contiguous to the Muskingum and Licking rivers and tributaries, and also throughout portions of Pennsylvania, Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana flooded for miles in extent. All of the low lands hereabout were inundated to the depth of several feet. At the mouth of Licking and in the stone house on River Street, near the Iron Bridge of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, now occupied by Mrs. Anthony Wilkins, of which we propose to make a leading land mark, as there has not been any material changes in this building since its erection, about the year 1810. During this flood of 1815, the water was nearly to the ceiling of the first story, about eight feet six inches being on the first floor of the front room. This flood was claimed to be the biggest and most destructive ever known here, Then again it was claimed by others—white men and by some of the old Indians—that the flood of 1793 was the greatest. For many years the old time marks in this old stone house were plainly marked on the walls. New owners and occupants since have slightly changed things, and the old time water marks have been obliterated. From 1815 to February 1818, but two feet six inches of water were on the first floor of this house.

The few settlers, by this time, who occupied the low lands along the rivers, had become a little used to these high

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waters, and were most generally prepared for them. The old settlers built their cabins on higher grounds, and the most damage was done to fences, cord wood and sugar camps. In February 1818, the water was two feet six inches and January 1828 there was the same height on the front room of this stone house.

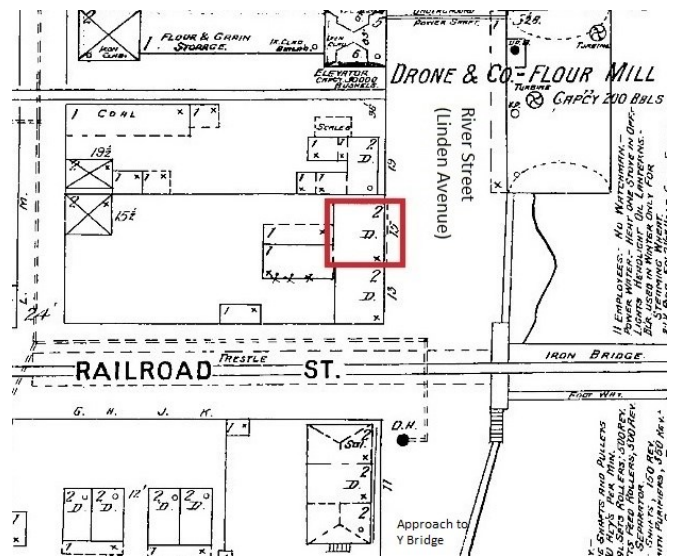
Here I will allude to an accident that occurred during this flood of March 1815. On the morning of the 31st of March, Dr. Isaac Fowler, who was on his way to visit a patient, was drowned in attempting to reach the west end of the Main street bridge. His horse was washed from the road leading thereto.* On the following Sunday, April 2nd, the bridge was swept away. Passing from this memorable flood to that of December 22nd, 1828, which was not so high but more destructive, owing to the heavy ice. Another followed January 22nd, 1828, but not quite so big as the one of 1827.

We next speak of that of February 18th, 1832. Of this flood much has been said of late and is have been compared with those of today. His one was very destructive. Millions of dollars worth of property was destroyed besides human lives, and numbers of horses, cattle and other stocks, were swept away by the torrents of waters that formed the mighty flood.

A few years previous to January 18th 1832, there was considerable rain fall, which caused the heavy ice on the Muskingum and Licking rivers to give, and on that day, Wednesday February 19th, 1832, it rain all that day and night, and also on Thursday, doing an immense amount of damage to property and to the wing dam, and Granger's grist and saw mill, and store house. Here we will give the reader an idea of the wing dam.

About the year 1810, a company was formed in this city who built what was termed the wing dam, across the Muskingum river. The principal wing ran across the stream in a line with the south side of Market street, and within about a hundred feet of the eastern shore, and extending down the stream and opposite the head of

the present canal. This old dam will be recollected by many of our citizens and others who saw it. It still remains intact but hidden by the water. The break in the new dam, erected in 1840, caused by the heavy ice of the 10th of February 1873, laid bare and to view this old wing dam. It might be proper to state that the canal only extended down as far as the old Reeve's mill (now coffin factory). Afterward the State extended it as far as it is at present. The dam was wood, of V shape and similar to that across the mouth of Licking. It was about ten feet high on the front or lower side. The brothers James (father of M.M. Granger, of this city) and Henry Granger built the mills spoken of, during the year 1810. The south end of this dam, the stone arched abutment and mill flume gateway are still remaining but hidden from view by the water.

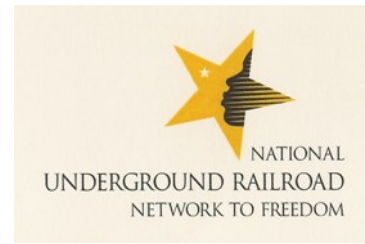


On this 1895 Sanborn Insurance map, the home of Mrs. Anthony Wilkins, referred to in the article, is outlined in red. It was two lots north of the railroad overpass on Linden Avenue. The house appears to have been demolished at least by 1905 and is now the location of the Farm Supply Center grain eleva-

* Dr. Fowler's death in the flood of 1815 was also described in an article in *Muskingum Journal* 22:2.

Exploring Our Abolitionist/UGRR Heritage

Jim Geyer, Museum Director



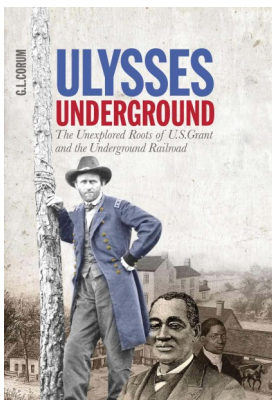
When the National Park Service approved our application to include the Stone Academy in the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom (NTF) in 2011 we didn't do much to mark the occasion. Since then four other sites in Putnam have joined the Stone Academy and the Nelson T. Gant Homestead as NTF sites. Our March newsletter previewed our plans for a **major programming initiative** about our UGRR and Abolitionist heritage.

In a couple of weeks you'll be receiving a **promotional booklet in the mail**. It will detail 17 different programs and activities to be presented over the next five months. The main focus will be the six NTF sites: the Stone Academy, the Putnam Presbyterian Church, the A.A. Guthrie House, the George Guthrie House, the Major Horace and Lucinda Belknap Nye House (aka Nye-Potts House), and the Nelson T. Gant Homestead. There will also be three programs featuring **living history portrayals**, a new **guided walking tour** called Underground Putnam, and a presentation about **local folklore** associated with about Putnam abolitionists and the UGRR.

The **Keynote** will be a lecture about the **1835 state abolitionist convention held at the Stone Academy in 1835**. The speaker will be **UGRR author and historian G.L. Corum**. The program will focus on abolitionist activities in 1835 and profile many of the delegates who came to the Stone Academy to form the Ohio Anti-Slavery Society. The program will be on September 25th at 2:00 pm. Corum will also speak at the Friends of MCH meeting at 1:00 pm on September 26th about researching the UGRR and at the Zanesville Civil War Roundtable that evening.

OnTheSamePageMuskingum will distribute books about the Underground Railroad **free of charge** as part of their 2016 "community read" literacy initiative. (Their initial focus in 2015 was books by, or about, Zane Grey). **G.L. Corum's *Ulysses Underground* is one of the books featured this year**. A limited number of copies will be **available to our members** on a first-come-first-served basis. Let me know if you would like a copy.

All of the details – dates, times, venues, and speakers – are being finalized and will be included in the promotional booklet. The information will also be available on our new website, www.muskingumcountyhistory.org. As always, you can call the office, 740-454-9500, if you have questions.



Putnam Presbyterian Church



John Rankin