

HISTORICALLY SPEAKING

June 2017

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

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

JUNE 2017

On page 2 of this newsletter Museum Director Jim Geyer reports on the new MUSKINGUM COUNTY HISTORY MIKE KLINE SCHOLARSHIP. Considering the ever-present challenge of maintaining two old buildings, three yards and many artifacts, some of you may wonder why we have decided to spend historical society money to establish a scholarship (with additional funding coming from our members and Mike's colleagues, friends and former students). The answer lies in our purpose statement. In addition to preserving our history by way of our museum collection we are committed to **"assur[ing] that this legacy is passed on to future generations"** and to do

this we must **"educate and engage a diverse public..."** We must do more than house artifacts, we must continue to teach people about our history and to do that we must have researchers and educators who can study and interpret our various personal histories. We each know the stories of our personal pasts but to put them all together to form the big picture of Muskingum County's or Ohio's history we need someone with the proper training. Historians don't fall from trees, they must be developed and nurtured, two attributes associated with the namesake of our scholarship. In the same way that we spend money on acid-free, archival quality storage boxes to preserve our precious physical artifacts we must spend money on people who can preserve the history of our culture. That is not to say that every student who benefits from the scholarship will write a Pulitzer Prize winning history of life in southeastern Ohio. Some might opt to study 16th century Lithuanian history and never foot in Muskingum County following their graduation. We are willing to take that risk knowing that in the long run we still gain.

Another way we have supported history education is through our involvement with Ohio History Day. Before MCH Trustee and OU-Z professor Dr. Morten Bach took over the administration of our 8 county district two years ago there was zero participation. This year nearly 100 students took part with two Muskingum County projects advancing to the national finals. We are happy to be able to provide a small stipend to the winning students to help with their expenses in traveling to the finals at the University of Maryland.

To fulfill the mission stated in our by-laws of "maintaining a unique and meaningful identity as a community" we must foster "an understanding and appreciation of our heritage." Two ways in which we do this are by maintaining a collection of artifacts and by promoting the academic study of our history. We have done the former for over 100 years and we are now actively engaged in the latter.

Mitch Taylor, PRESIDENT MUSKINGUM COUNTY HISTORY

THE MIKE KLINE SCHOLARSHIP



Mike & Stephanie Kline in front, with Jarod Anderson of OUZ and members of scholarship committee behind.

It is with great pleasure that we announce the establishment of the **Muskingum County History Mike Kline Scholarship at Ohio University Zanesville.**

Educating and engaging a diverse public is an integral part of the Muskingum County History mission. This scholarship will significantly impact the lives of deserving students pursuing a career in history and/or education.

The scholarship is a fitting tribute to Associate Professor Emeritus of History Michael J. Kline. Mike was the first full-time faculty member at Ohio University Zanesville and served the campus and its students for over four decades before his retirement in 2007. During his tenure at OUZ, Mike taught thousands of students and showed a particular commitment to student mentoring. In the community, he is well-known for his engagement with local organizations which he has served in various capacities, including serving as a trustee of this organization, and as a regular speaker for

historical society and Civil War Roundtable events.

The new permanent scholarship is endowed through gifts of members and friends of Muskingum County History and students, colleagues, and friends of Mike Kline.

You can join us in honoring Mike and influencing young lives by contributing to the scholarship fund. 100% of your tax-deductible donation will become part of the scholarship endowment, earning income and increasing the amount given annually to recipients. Checks should be made payable to Ohio University Foundation and should be mailed to:

Jarod Anderson, Director of External Relations
Ohio University Zanesville
1425 Newark Rd
Zanesville, Ohio 43701

BASEBALL PROGRAM

Thursday, June 15, 7:00 pm Stone Academy

FROM THE KICKAPOOS TO THE FLOOD SUFFERERS TO THE GREYS: The History of Professional Baseball in Zanesville 1887-1996

Local baseball is the focus of this presentation, co-sponsored by the Muskingum County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society and Muskingum County History. Presenter Peter Cultice will use vintage photographs of local teams, players, and ballparks in his talk about the heyday of America's Pastime played out in Zanesville and Muskingum County. Peanuts, popcorn, and Cracker Jack provided.



ZANESVILLE'S LOST PARK

The 1913 flood damaged many homes and businesses but it also destroyed things had no commercial value and which housed no people but were things of beauty and quiet in what was then a smoky, industrialized city. **Spangler Park** is a case in point. Located between the Muskingum River and Muskingum Avenue at the head of Woodlawn Avenue, it was built on low land that experienced frequent flooding. Despite the land being raised it was no match for the waters that inundated Putnam and downtown Zanesville in 1913. Recently we were given a copy of an article titled "The Story of My Gardens" written by Tileston Spangler and printed in *American Homes and Gardens* magazines in which he described how this park came to be. In one of the great ironies of life the article was printed in the March 1913 issue, the same month in which the flood hit.

This article deserves to be reprinted but there is a question as to where? It would be seen by more readers and would be more likely to be saved if printed in *Muskingum Journal* but our digital newsletter gives us the opportunity to illustrate it with scans of color postcards. We are going to try to utilize the best parts of both media and present excerpts of the article and color pictures here and print the complete article in our next issue of *Muskingum Journal*.

In the account that follows, Mr. Spangler's words are printed in italics.

Mr. Spangler described the original condition of the area that became his park by writing, *"The town, later the city, of Zanesville, on the opposite bank of the river gradually grew until reaching across the stream it absorbed the old village of Putnam, and with its manufacturing plants, warehouses and railroads, occupied the once beautiful river sides until only one stretch on the south or Putnam side remained unoccupied and unused except to become a common dumping ground. This low land, a hundred and fifty feet wide lay some twenty-five feet below the avenue, and the annual freshets of the river covered the debris with a charitable mantle of sand."*



...the stones of various sizes laid "broken ashlar" style were placed against the planks to get a true wall...a coping of plain concrete placed on top. Steps were needed to connect the various levels...On the second wall was placed a balustrade of cement work.



A friend presented a terra-cotta lion's head, and the following season a successful wall fountain, using some of the forms for balustrade posts, and utilizing the lion's head was evolved.



The lake has been christened “Lac de Coœur” by the ladies of the family from its heart-shaped design, and the tiny island a witty friend name The Isle of Man.



A fringe of cotton wood and willow trees, which grew near low water mark of the river, was saved to form a fine background for the garden.

The park was submerged by the 1913 flood and sometime later it became the location of the city bus barn. In the 1990s, recognizing that the area still held potential as a park, Putnam residents Bart and Kate Hagemeyer cleaned up the deserted lot and created Restoration Park. Recent developments at the park include installation of raised beds for urban farming funded by an Urban Agricultural Initiative through the Soil and Water Conservation District and the planting of woven willow sculptures by Howard Peller with funding by the Cora E. Rogge Foundation. Mr. Spangler should be pleased that this former wasteland is once again being used in a productive manner that benefits the people of the community by supplying basic needs and aesthetic values.

For the full article “The Story of My Garden” see the next issue of *Muskingum Journal*.

WORLD WAR I PROGRAM

Thursday, July 20, 7:00 pm Stone Academy
115 Jefferson St., Zanesville



World War I Posters: For the Hearts and Minds of Ordinary People

Presented by Susan Talbot-Stanaway

NOTE: This is the first of a series of programs to commemorate to 100th Anniversary of America's participation in WWI. Three additional programs are planned for 2018.

President Woodrow Wilson's re-election campaign song in 1916 was entitled, "Elect Wilson, He Kept Us out of War." However, on April 6, 1917, at Wilson's urging, the United States Congress declared war against Germany. Only a few hours later, one of Wilson's most energetic campaign backers, George Creel, urged Wilson to develop means to engage the war on the home front through "expression, not suppres-

sion." The objectives were to unify people of all ages and backgrounds, including millions of immigrants, to motivate young men to enlist and women to abandon their traditional roles and become war workers. This presentation will describe the posters as works of art and propaganda, discuss the artists who created them, and articulate how posters established new American heroes and heroines with lasting importance in national history.

The lecture will also include information about the home front during the war, including stories with Zanesville connections. In community organizations, on the farm, and in the workplace, Ohioans were exposed to new roles, new beliefs, and a new sense of national unity. People, young or old, were urged to support the families of soldiers, to purchase war bonds and stamps, to dig and tend War Gardens, to undergo the hardships of rationing, and to report spies and hate the "Hun."

The program is open to the public free of charge. Light refreshments will be provided.



Susan Talbot-Stanaway is retired Director of the Zanesville Museum of Art. She is an art historian, concentrating on American Art, and has curated over 500 exhibitions. Recently her research and curatorial efforts have focused on World War I posters, American illustrators, and contemporary art quilts. She is currently cataloging the State Archives' collection of over 600 WWI posters that

MATHEWS HOUSE EVENT

Saturday, July 29th, 6:00 – 9:00 pm

Dr. Increase Mathews House Museum and Gardens
304 Woodlawn Avenue



History and Harmony in the Gardens

This unique and fun event will feature the Memorial and Herb Gardens at the Mathews House. We are extremely fortunate to have a group of talented Master Gardener volunteers lovingly care for our gardens each year. This event is in honor of their hard work and dedica-



tion.

In addition to featuring our beautiful gardens, the event will include museum tours, a silent auction, food, and live musical entertainment.

The music will be provided by ***The Regulars***, a popular up-and-coming Columbus-based barbershop quartet. The group, part of the International Award winning Alliance Barbershop Chorus, recently performed to a sell-out audience at the Backstage Bistro in Columbus. They have also been featured at the Midland Theater in Newark, the Three Rivers Regatta in Pittsburgh, and the Royal Rhino Club Barbershop and Lounge in Columbus. **Their 20-25 minute show will be presented on the grounds near the gardens at 6:15, 7:00, and 7:45.** Limited seating will be provided but you are welcome to bring a lawn chair.



This Mathews House event is being held in conjunction with **The Putnam Hop**. While you're in the neighborhood, check our business friends. Many, including the Bridge Café, Muddy Misers, Weasel Boy, and the Narrows, will be having special Putnam Hop promotions.