

HISTORICALLY SPEAKING

September 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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MCH AND OTSPM TO RECEIVE AWARD

In 2016 Muskingum County History and On the Same Page Muskingum collaborated to present the most ambitious series of programs in our history. In 2015 our two groups encouraged people to read books by and about Zanesville native Zane Grey. In 2016 we continued with the idea of adults and children all over the county reading the same books with a local history and literacy initiative under the general title of "Exploring our Underground Railroad Heritage." Adults were encouraged to read *Ulysses Underground*, G L Corum's account of the deliberate placing of stations along the route of the Underground Railroad

in southern Ohio as interconnected families, including that family of future president Ulysses Grant, found ways to secure the freedom of slaves from the southern states while children read *The Last Runaway*, *Stealing Freedom* and *Henry's Freedom Box*. There were lectures on the 1835 Ohio Anti-Slavery convention at the Stone Academy, the Guthrie family and Horace and Lucinda Nye; visits from Rev. and Mrs. John Rankin, John Parker and Henry "Box" Brown; and walking tours of the Putnam Historic District. In addition to OTSPM, we worked with the Putnam Presbyterian Church and the Nelson T. Gant Homestead. A 14 page promotional booklet, distributed throughout Muskingum County and praised by many people involved in museum work around the state, gave the details of 15 different activities, all related to the UGRR.

All of this programming did not go unnoticed by the museum community in Ohio and on October 7, 2017, the Ohio Local History Alliance will present MCH and OTSPM with an **Outstanding Achievement Award** in the category of "History Outreach: Public Programming, Budget Category over \$25,000" at the OLHA annual meeting at Crowne Plaza in Dublin, Ohio.

The Ohio Local History Alliance (formerly known as the Ohio Association of Historical Societies and Museums) "works to advance the field of local history in Ohio through education, advocacy, and collaboration." Its over 300 members range from small neighborhood historical societies to large history museums. The OLHA regional meetings provide a way for organizations such as Muskingum County History to meet with other similar local historical societies to work together to find solutions to common problems and to learn from each other's successes so that we can all do a better job of preserving our communities' history. The awards presented at the annual meeting recognize outstanding work from around Ohio. The honored projects serve as examples for other local history organizations and demonstrate to the communities in which the organizations are located that they have been judged by their peers and are deserving of support.

FALL PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Jim Geyer, Museum Director

THIRD MONDAYS: SEPTEMBER 18th, OCTOBER 16th ... 1:00 pm at the Stone Academy

Our museum support organization, **Friends of Muskingum County History**, meets monthly in the spring and fall. Meetings include a program about local history and are open to the public.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST ... 6:00 pm at Ohio University Zanesville (Elson Hall Auditorium) *Constitutional Politics in the US*

The **free program**, in honor of **Constitution Day**, is sponsored by the **Muskingum County Bar Association, Muskingum County History, Muskingum Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Ohio University Zanesville Cultural Committee.**

The speaker will be Dr. Michael Les Benedict. One of the nation's most respected constitutional historians, Benedict's career has spanned over forty years, having earned his Ph.D. in history from Rice University and attended the law school of the University of Illinois. He is the author of *The Blessings of Liberty*, now in its third edition, as well as an accompanying source book, *Sources in American Constitutional History* (2d ed., 2017).

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD ... MUSEUM DAY LIVE; 1-4 pm, Stone Academy and Mathews House

Both of our museums will be open to the public **free of charge** as part of Smithsonian magazine's thirteenth annual Museum Day Live, an initiative in which museum across the United States emulate the spirit of the Smithsonian Institution's Washington DC- based facilities, which offer free admission every day.

FOURTH MONDAYS: SEPTEMBER 25th, OCTOBER 23rd, NOVEMBER 27th ... Zanesville Civil War Roundtable, 7:30 pm Stone Academy

Muskingum County History is honored to host our local Civil War Roundtable at the Stone Academy. CWR programs are open to the public free of charge.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15TH ... 2:00 pm at the Stone Academy ... *EVA PROUT GEIGER AND DANIEL VAN VOORHIS: Two local people you probably don't know about but should*

Those of you who admire James Thurber, as I do, might be surprised, as I was, to learn that he was deeply and madly in love with a movie and vaudeville actress from Zanesville. When asked about the grandfather of the Army's armor branch most will think of General George Patton. But in reality that honor rests with a man from Zanesville who left college to enlist for the Spanish-American War and later serve with distinction in WWI.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29TH ... *PRESIDENT MONROE'S VISIT TO ZANESVILLE AND PUTNAM ... 2:00 pm at the Stone Academy ... features Dennis Bigelow appearing as President James Monroe.*

(This is the program that was originally scheduled for August 31st but had to be postponed)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14th ...MEMBERSHIP MEETING ...7:00 pm at the Stone Academy

This business meeting is open to all Muskingum County History members. The agenda includes election of officers for 2018, committee and financial reports, and proposed changes in Society By-Laws to include the new trade name (Muskingum County History) and updated descriptions of committee responsibilities. The meeting will not include a program.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2017

Technology effects all aspects of our lives. A few years ago who would have thought we would see the day when we would need to re-boot our coffee pots, but there are times when the only way to get a Keurig machine's attention is to unplug it and plug it back in.

In my time working with Muskingum County History I have seen many changes. I remember using a typewriter and carbon paper to type up mailing labels before sending out a mimeographed newsletter. Membership records are now kept on our computer. Typewritten, and even earlier, handwritten, accessions records have given way to the Past Perfect computer software to catalogue our collection. We still use the US postal service but the fax machine was sent to Goodwill and emails are our primary means of communication.

Our biggest technological advance has been with this newsletter. By going to a digital format we can bring you a newsletter with full color illustrations that you can read on a variety of devices or print out for later reading. We save postage and printing costs, there is a shorter turnaround time by cutting out an outside copy shop and we are not restricted by the number of pages. Most of our members are now receiving the digital version but a few people still prefer their newsletter to be printed and mailed. We have the capability to make color copies but they would still not have the quality of the digital version and there would be an added expense. We have considered making a printed color version an option at a slight premium.

Through all of this *Muskingum Journal* has continued to be old school with black ink on white paper, hand delivered by the US Postal Service. The only changes we have made through 24 years of publication have been three different printers and a change in the color of the cover from blue to yellow. With the next *Journal*, due out soon, we will try to combine old and new technology. We could never afford to go the *National Geographic* route with glossy pages and color photos so instead we will create an album titled "Muskingum Journal 24:1" on our Facebook page where we will post the photos used to illustrate the articles in the Journal. We aren't sure yet how this will play out but we will likely spread out the posting over several days and include illustrations that that are related to the articles but

which we could not use due to space limitations. Whether or not we do this with future issues depends on the feedback we receive from you so please make comments as the posts appear.

This change is somewhat like when homeowners installed both gas and electric lighting fixtures in case the new electricity thing didn't catch on. With one foot in the past and one in the present we are dragging our history forward so more people can enjoy it and learn from it.

Mitch Taylor, PRESIDENT MUSKINGUM COUNTY HISTORY



How the mail was delivered in 1901 and how it is still delivered today—by men, and now women, who walk from house to house.

MUSKINGUM COUNTY HISTORY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mitch Taylor, president

Bob Jenkins, vice-president

Janet James, secretary

Donna Taylor, treasurer

Morten Bach

Sis Bowman

Ann Burkhart

Pete Cultice

Gary Felumlee

Floyd Felumlee

Devon Johnston

Alan King

Stephanie Kline

John Lear

Caleb Stewart

Sandy Turner

Mike Willey

THE JOHN McINTIRE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Zanesville, Ohio
1827-1947

Our First Library

The John McIntire Public Library had its beginning in 1827, when a group of young Zanesville men met to establish a reading club which later became the Zanesville Athenaeum. The club was incorporated in 1828 and in 1830 secured for 1¢ a year for 1000 years a lease on land adjacent to the Court House.

A brick wing to house the Athenaeum Library was added to the Court House in 1830, at a cost of \$3500. The first catalog, a printed booklet, was issued in 1831. The library was open two days a week, "from sunset for two hours."

In 1874 the County bought the lease from the Athenaeum for \$6575. The Library moved across Fourth Street to a building where the Citizens Bank Building now stands. In 1887 the Athenaeum purchased a building at Fifth Street and Locust Alley (now the Taft Hotel) and moved to their new quarters.

Rules

Athenaeum rules were very strict. The library was open only to Stockholders and Members who paid \$5 and \$3 a year. If a reader failed to replace a newspaper in the files before leaving the room he was fined 25¢. Only one book could be taken out of the library at a time; it could be renewed once, and then could not be taken out by the same person for six months. A Member failing to return a book on time was fined 25¢; if he failed to return it within one week the Directors might assess a



The Athenaeum was in the right or eastern wing of the courthouse.

fine not to exceed twice the value of the book. Readers caught removing a book from the library without permission were fined \$5. Stockholders lending books to "any inhabitant of Zanesville or the adjacent towns" were fined \$2.

Financing the Athenaeum

Despite the dues from Members and the fines, the Athenaeum found itself in financial difficulty in 1876. The McIntire Estate came to the rescue by granting \$1000 per year to the library, with the stipulation that it be open to "senior school students" and "forty others" selected by the McIntire Trustees. In 1884 this amount was increased to \$1525. Support from the estate continued until March 1, 1902, a total of \$35,666 being given to the library. On July 1, 1904, the Athenaeum was turned over to the Board of Education to become a public library, to be called the John McIntire Public Library. It is now supported by county intangible funds.

The Buckingham Library

The Eunice Hale Buckingham Library, established at Putnam Female Seminary in 1845, with 200 volumes, was also given to the Board of Education. In 1904, the collection was added to that of the Athenaeum, so that both libraries contributed to the new public library.

Carnegie Building

In 1906 the Chamber of Commerce secured a grant of \$50,000 from Andrew Carnegie for a new library building. Construction was begun in October, 1906, and the new building, at Fifth and Elberon, was opened to the public March 23, 1908. It is said that this is the first library build with Carnegie funds which was allowed to honor the name of another person, a privilege granted in recognition of the long continued support of the McIntire Estate. Portraits of John McIntire and his wife, Sarah Zane, thought to be the only ones in existence, may be seen at the library. Tradition tells that the artist painted Jon McIntire from descriptions given by his friends, as the portrait was painted after his death. Two pewter plates, made in London, said to have belonged to the McIntires, are owned by the Library.

Librarians

Miss Margaret Stilwell was the last librarian of the old Athenaeum. When the library reopened as the John McIntire Public Library Miss Alice Searle became librarian. At her death in 1915 she was succeeded by her assistant, Miss Mary E. Eldor who died in 1931. At this time Mrs. Mabel Henderson, then Children's Librarian, was appointed librarian, serving until her retirement in 1945. During these years the program of the library was greatly expanded until library service reached the entire county.

Library Books

The 1839 catalog of the Athenaeum listed 2204 volumes. The library now has 85,000 books. The oldest book in the library, inherited from the Athenaeum, is a folio edition of

Chaucer's Works printed in 1602. The library has many other volumes from the two original libraries, some of them of interest for their quaint illustrations, or valuable for historic research.

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Circulation

Records of library use before 1906 are no longer available. During 1905-06, the first year of operation as a public library, 59,536 books were circulated. 491,211 volumes were issued in 1946. The largest gain in circulation came between 1937-1944, when the library was expanding its services throughout Muskingum County.

Borrowers

The library served only those subscribed until 1876. From that date until 1904 students were permitted to use the collection under terms of the McIntire grant. From 1904 to 1933 residents of the Zanesville school district had free use without payment of fees. In 1937 service was extended to county residents, by establishing a station at Frazeyburg. Miss Katherine Randolph, who received a library card March 28, 1908, is thought to be the borrower with the longest record of continuous use of the library.

Library Agencies

The John McIntire Public Library now serves residents of Zanesville and Muskingum County. The library maintains:

Main Library, at Zanesville

Branch libraries at Dresden, E. Fultonham, New Concord, Roseville, and South Zanesville

Stations or book collection service in smaller communities and in rest homes and institutions

Book collections in 15 city elementary schools and in 48 county schools.

Staff

Almeda Coulson Brown, appointed in 1921, has the longest record as a staff member. Members of the staff are:

Elizabeth Earle, Librarian

W. A. Henderson, County Librarian

Kathryn Patterson, Children's Librarian

Margaret Harshbarger, Cataloger

Almeda C. Brown, Loan Desk Librarian

Virginia Reynolds, Assistant County Librarian

Franklin Burnworth, Order Librarian

Harriet Wright, Book Mender

Mary Jane Risen, Assistant, Adult Department

Florence Orr, Assistant, Children's Department

Patricia Edna Morris, Assistant, Catalog Department

Patricia Ann Morris, Typist

Isabel Lyttle, Story Teller

Betty Burnworth, Bookkeeper

Robert W. Ayers, Custodian

Blanche Shilling, Branch Librarian, South Zanesville

Lulu Gill, Branch Librarian, Roseville

Lucille Fauley, Branch Librarian, E. Fultonham

Clara Butler, Branch Librarian, Dresden

Ilene Murrey, Branch Librarian, New Concord

Student Aides: Barbara Holmes, John Mahaney,

George Schmidt, Robert Henderson

Trustees

The library is governed by a Board of Trustees appointed by the Board of Education. Each member serves for seven years, without compensation. Mrs. Eleanore Bailey Johnson, first appointed in 1926, has the longest record of service. Present members of the Board are:

Herbert M. Baker, President

George Lilienthal, Vice President

Mrs. Eleanore Bailey Johnson

Miss Edith Geiger

John Allen

Norris Schneider

William Morris

(Thanks to MCH Trustee and McIntire Library librarian Caleb Stewart for sharing this history of the library from 1947.)

