

HISTORICALY SPEAKING

June 2012

The Newsletter of the Pioneer & Historical Society of Muskingum County

MUSEUMS OF THE PIONEER & HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MUSKINGUM COUNTY

The Stone Academy
115 Jefferson Street
Zanesville, Ohio

Hours: Wed, Thurs & Fri 1:00 - 4:00
Saturdays 10:00 - 1:00
April through October

Dr. Increase Mathews House
304 Woodlawn Avenue
Hours: Sat & Sun 1:00 - 4:00
May through August

Both museums may be visited at other
times by appointment.

The Historical Society office is
located at the Stone Academy
740 454-9500
www.Muskingumhistory.org

walk-ins have also appeared. Jim Geyer, our director, will provide a more comprehensive update of phase one of our Mathews House project. I can report that things have gone well. With the recent reinstallation of the wrought iron hand rail on the exterior rear staircase the exterior is ready to weather the next decade. The Master Gardeners are in the final phase of planting this years flower gardens. A member has donated free professional lawn care and that has also enhanced the exterior of both of our buildings. We are still getting advice and estimates about what to do about the brick wall on the east side of the Stone Academy's yard that collapsed this past winter. The executive committee will have to make a decision soon on how to proceed with that issue. Curator Mitch Taylor has been busy rearranging exhibits and organizing new ones.

Jim has scheduled several bus loads of visitors in the coming weeks so we anticipate a good season for visitors. None of our activities would be possible without the support of our members and the assistance of the Friends of the Pioneer and Historical Society of Muskingum County. We cannot express our gratitude for the support we get from our volunteers and members as we continue to work at preserving our buildings and heritage for future generations.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings members,

Your Pioneer and Historical society is ready for a new group of visitors and programs for the 2012 season. We have been open for several weeks now, the local elementary schools have been visiting both our museums the last few weeks. Some

Bob Jenkins

PRESIDENT, PIONEER AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF MUSKINGUM COUNTY



Updates

Jim Geyer, Director

Mathews House Improvement Project (MHIP)

Work contracted for with Lepi Enterprises was completed in early May and certified for payment by architect Pat Kelly. Two doors and thirty-eight windows, including exterior trim and existing exterior storms and shutters, were restored. Roof and chimney repairs were completed, as well as the installation of new gutters and some downspouts. Damaged shake siding was repaired or replaced and all exterior painted surfaces got a fresh new coat of paint.

Budget limitations prevented the complete replacement of the water piping and boiler as planned, but new backflow devices, valves, and fittings were installed. The existing boiler was inspected and deemed to be in good shape. Damaged A/C ductwork was replaced. Phase IV addressed storage needs with plans to replace the existing garage with a new climate-controlled carriage house. Lack of funds nixed that idea. However, the existing garage got a new coat of paint thanks to a group of volunteers from Rolling Plains Church. It is not financially feasible at this time to address the accessibility issues identified in Phase V. While continuing to seek grant funding for an accessible entrance, a first floor display will be developed to allow visitors unable to navigate the steps a view of the second floor by way of a slide show.

With the re-installation of the wrought iron railings by Friesingers on May 19 the MHIP officially became history. When all the bills are paid spending on the Mathews House will total over \$73,000. A Rogge Foundation grant, large gifts from the Friends of the Society and the Brighton Historic Association, and gifts ranging from \$10 to \$2,000 from 57 members and donors made all this work possible. A final accounting of project income and expenses will be available in early July. Just contact the office if you would like a copy, or if you have questions.

Museum Operations

Although the tourist season is just starting, early signs are good. Our walk-up visitors, motor coach

bookings, and tours by appointment are all up from past years. This spring a total of seven third grade classes and several home school groups toured both our buildings. Other school tours are scheduled for the fall. The Stone Academy continues to host the monthly meetings of the Zanesville Civil War Roundtable and Friends of P&HS.

Stone Academy Wall

Following a partial collapse of the east privacy wall at the Stone Academy and subsequent assessments by the City of Zanesville and architect Pat Kelly, the Board of Trustees agreed to attempt to save as much of the wall as possible. To stabilize the wall several courses of brick will need to be removed and the remaining wall capped. The Board instructed the Director to secure estimates, with the goal of completing the repairs before winter.

WHAT ARE YOU MISSING?

If you have been following us on Facebook, in recent months you have seen pictures, news or archival documents about:

- The history of the Adamsville circuit of the ME church.
- Our newest accession, a rolling pin made from the Y Bridge.
- Notices of Civil War Roundtable meetings.
- Pictures of St Thomas Church before and after the tornado of 1912.
- Our three new display cases.
- Pictures of mystery objects.
- The progress of the Mathews House Improvement Project
- A bunch of old guys at the Adams Mills post office (one could be your grandfather)
- Silly ads from days gone by

And much more

When you are on Facebook, look up *Pioneer and Historical Society of Muskingum County*, "Like" us and join in the discussion. Our posts on FB are just like this newsletter except that they are in color, they come several times a week, you can engage other readers in discussion and the Society doesn't have to pay the printer or the mailman.

WEED PULLERS NEEDED; IMMEDIATE OPENINGS

Readers of our newsletter know that we frequently ask for volunteers to serve as docents, or tour guides. This need still exists but perhaps you do not feel as though you have a firm grasp of our history or maybe you aren't comfortable around groups of people. Another volunteer opportunity exists that does not require any knowledge of history and which allows you to work by yourself on your own schedule. This opening is for people to help maintain the grounds around our museums.

The Muskingum County Master Gardeners do a wonderful job on the flower and herb gardens at the Dr. Increase Mathews House. The herbs have been a special problem as many of them migrated out of their assigned spots. This spring the Master Gardeners completely reworked the garden, pulling and resetting the bricks that serve as dividers of the plots. The flower garden is always a bright spot in the Historic District and worthy of a visit in its own right.

Even though those two gardens are covered, there are other beds, bushes and trees that need attention. Ann Burkhart, Lloyd Barnes and Jim McDonald, among others, have spent many hours trimming hedges, pulling weeds and trimming trees but with two large yards to maintain, more volunteers are needed. The work is not without a measure of danger and frustration. Poison ivy flourishes in the soils of Putnam and the hedges can turn into a botany lesson as one tries to identify all the different species that are intertwined. This is not easy work but it is rewarding. The museums are open limited hours but the yards never close. The work you do on the grounds could have an impact on a greater number of people than those who tour the museums.

Any individual can do his or her part but you might also look at this work as a family or organizational project. You could impress your friends with the "McGillacuddy Family Garden at the Stone Academy" or the "Knights of Pythias Hedge at the Dr. Increase Mathews House." If you are interested, call the office at 454-9500 or use the Contact Us feature of our web site.

PIONEER & HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MUSKINGUM COUNTY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Bob Jenkins, president

Jerry Simeral, vice-president

Janet James, secretary

Morten Bach

Lloyd Barnes

Ann Burkhart

Gary Felumlee

Floyd Felumlee

Alan King

Stephanie Kline

John Lear

Jim McDonald

Mitch Taylor

Mike Willey

Tina Wickline

Jim Geyer, Museum Director

If you have any questions or suggestions regarding the activities of the Historical Society contact any member of the Board.

WHAT DID HIS FRIENDS CALL HIM?

The Society receives many requests for information on local history topics and we get a feeling of satisfaction when we are able to assist the researcher. The feeling is even better when the researcher heaps lavish praise on our heads. As a case in point, go to <http://www.politicalstrange-names.blogspot.com> On the right side of the page under "Previously Profiled Politicians" for May 2012, click on Epaminondas Ludwell Grigsby. The Director and Curator appreciate the kind words.

Andy Osterdahl has an affection for strangely named politicians which he has turned into an interesting web site, "The Strangest Names in American Political History." While we helped Andy, Andy also helped us. Prior to his email, Mr. Grigsby was just the man with the long chin whiskers and high hair in the Society's photo album. Now we know more about this former mayor of Zanesville.

Another politician with local connections is included in the Strangest Names site, Return Jonathan Meigs, Jr. Meigs was governor of Ohio when Zanesville was the state capital.

THE BRICK PERMIETER WALLS OF THE STONE ACADEMY

In his Director's Report, Jim Geyer writes about the problems with the brick walls at the Stone Academy. This is a good time to review those walls, the most recent additions to the academy property. When the Historical Society acquired the Stone Academy in 1984, it had brick walls on all four sides of the lot. Former neighbors of Dick and Lydia Taylor, the last private owners of the Academy, have told us that the walls were built in the 1930s or 40s and that the general feeling was that the Taylors wanted privacy for their fancy garden parties, much to the consternation of the neighbors. The walls were built of Zanesville-made street pavers, bricks that are larger, denser and heavier than common building bricks. At that time, when brick streets were torn up for repairs the bricks were not re-laid, providing a cheap source of bricks for other purposes. It also appears that the brick mason used a mortar mix that might have been economical but was not up to the demands of Ohio freeze and thaw cycles.

The wall along the alley ended at a gate at the driveway with another short section rounding the corner. In addition to inferior mortar, this wall had another liability; the foundation of the wall was exposed above ground, leading one mason to suggest that the level of the alley had been lowered after the wall was built. The alley wall came tumbling down on a Sunday morning during a rainy spring several years ago.

The north wall had gradually started to lean to the outside until it rested against our neighbor's garage. In 2008 it was lowered to a stable height and was capped with concrete.

The west wall is the longest of the four walls. The bottom few courses of brick serve as a retaining wall for the terraced yard. The most notable feature of this wall was a fountain with the water spewing from the mouth and into the cupped hands of a cherubic boy on a fixture made by the Mosaic Tile Company. When the Society acquired the Academy in 1984, the supply pipe was rusted through and the fountain was hanging by a small sliver of pipe. The fountain was removed and is now on display at the Increase Mathews House.

Hydrostatic pressure behind the south wall

along Jefferson Street is causing it to lean toward the street. The lean was there when the Society took possession of the Academy and is has gradually increased through the years. The most proper, and very expensive, fix would be to trench behind the wall, tie the wall to supports extending into the front yard, back-fill and cut drainage holes into the wall.

The walls help to set off the Stone Academy and make it a more imposing feature on its spacious grounds. Bricks might not receive much respect today but at one time Zanesville was the brick manufacturing capital of the United States and bricks were shipped from here to locations around this country and even into foreign countries. The walls pay tribute to our industrial heritage. The walls have been in existence long enough that they now have historic importance. However, these attributes are not enough to justify the thousands of dollars that would be needed for an extensive repair or replacement.

The Trustees have considered several options to fix the east wall including removing a few courses of brick and capping the top, removing many courses and capping, tearing the wall down and rebuilding it, taking the wall down to just a stub and putting a board fence on top of that, or taking the wall out completely. All options are expensive. The Trustees feel that the Society's financial resources should be used to maintain the museums and their contents and that they cannot justify spending large amounts of money on decorative walls. The final decision as to how far the wall must be lowered has not yet been made but the Director has been soliciting bids for different options and the final plan should be agreed upon before winter. If you have any opinions regarding the walls or any suggestions, please contact any member of the Board of Trustees.



JOHN McINTIRE REMEMBERED IN VERSE

The *Times Recorder* for October 2, 1947, reprinted the following poem which originally appeared in the *Ohio Republican* on October 28, 1843. Newspaper editor John Greiner wrote the words to be sung by the students at the McIntire Academy to show their appreciation for their benefactor. We have no information regarding the tune to be used.

The anniversary of McIntire's death is on July 29. Since this is the newsletter closest to that date, we take the time now to remember one of our town's founders, a farsighted man who continues to influence our community through the scholarships awarded by the terms of his will.

JOHN McINTIRE

by John Greiner

The Indian reigned the forest king,
In wild and dread array;
The war whoop made the valleys ring,
With terror and dismay.
The wild wolf left his lonely den,
With eyes like burning fire;
To watch the stranger, friendless then,
The youthful McIntire.

A brave and noble heart he bore,
No perils could alarm,
His axe and rifle, all his store,
But strong and firm his arm;
Through hardships, poverty and pain,
His spirit would not tire,
And toil and danger strove in vain
To conquer McIntire.

When wealth his later years had crowned,
And blessings on him poured,
The weary traveller ever found
A welcome round his board;
With him the stranger found a host,
Would grant him each desire,
And every child of want could boast,
A friend in McIntire.

When Death had doomed with iron hand
His body to decay,

His frailties written in the sand,
Were all then washed away;
But long the blessings he bestowed,
On others shall inspire,
Their hearts with burning gratitude
And love for McIntire.

His wealth was ever made to bless,
Not only friend, but foes,
He made the dreary wilderness
To blossom as the rose;
And generations yet unborn,
Here learning shall acquire.
And wreaths of laurel shall adorn
The name of McIntire.

Of all the many plans devised
To benefit mankind,
He chose the one most highly prized,
To cultivate the mind.
The group around us here presents
A scene all must admire,
We are the living monuments
That honor McIntire.



John McIntire by James Pierce Barton. *P&HS Collection.*

Pioneer & Historical Society
Of Muskingum County
115 Jefferson St
Zanesville OH 43701

Non-Profit Organization
U S POSTAGE
PAID
Zanesville OH 43701
PERMIT NO 528

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Lecture: **"The Forgotten War"** commemorating the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812

The Stone Academy, 115 Jefferson Street

Thursday, June 28, 2012, 7:00 PM

Speaker: Robert Jenkins, President of the Pioneer & Historical Society

Lecture is free and open to the public.