

Keepers of the Past

Goshen Twp. Historical Society P.O. Box 671, 1843 SR 28, Goshen OH 45122 (513) 575-1027 GoshenHistory@gmail.com



President's Message

Early this summer we put into motion plans to change our museum's focus from that of an historic house museum to more of a true local history museum. Our revised donations policy has brought much needed clarity to our collection and how we interpret it. If you visit the museum, you will note that the 19th century décor is giving way to many smaller vignettes with information cards, posters featuring the biographies of important Goshen citizens, and featured treasures from our archives. The museum's new direction enables us to showcase the people who have figured prominently in Goshen's history, how they lived and what we can learn from them.

Perhaps the most significant item currently on display is the recently restored Civil War battle flag from Goshen Company C, 2nd Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry. Goshen Company C fought in many of the war's fiercest battles and this flag traveled with them. A list of these battles is posted next to the flag.

Elected Officers 2016

President – Linda Wasson
Vice President – Andrew Evans
Recording Secretary- Edna Rhoades
Corresponding Secretary – Nina Ross King
Treasurer – Rick Kneipp

Board Members at Large

Gerald Ross
Tug Brock
Audrey Koch
Sandy Graham

Appointive Offices

Director – Rick Rhoades
Parliamentarian – Art Snider
Historian – Jim Koch
Librarian – Susan Barnette
Advisor – Jim Poe
School Liaison – Valerie Zackerman

GoshenHistory.org Statistics

Our mighty little Web site has some impressive stats:

- Number of online visitors year to date – 1,545
- The average visitor to our web site looks at 5-7 pages.
- Most popular pages: "Visit" (information about the museum, cabin and history library), "Photo Gallery" and "Goshen Heroes."
- 64% of people viewed our site using a personal computer or laptop, 412 visited our site using a smart phone and 137 people accessed GoshenHistory.com using a tablet.
- Over 800 visitors to our web site this year were people outside the state of Ohio.

GoshenHistory.org or GoshenHistory.com – either one will now bring you to our Web site!

continued on page 2

In a second floor bedroom, you will find a display of beautiful Victorian petticoats, chemises, and night dresses, but next to them is a collection of rough and rugged items required to wash, dry and press these delicate underpinnings.

Also in the master bedroom, the tedious process of making clothing - from spinning and carding wool to making shoes to a treadle sewing machine that belonged to Kathryn Marr's mother – is featured in another exhibit.

In the parlor, a new infographic poster features biographies of early Goshen physicians Drs. Josiah and Daniel Lyman, and offers a glimpse into the life of a typical 19th century country doctor. Another poster tells the story of WWII flying ace John Voll, complete with pictures including an amazing shot of Voll in his P-51D Mustang in the sky over Italy. A new exhibit of baseball great Sam Leever, aka the Goshen Schoolmaster, has also been installed in the parlor.

Our museum is open to the public every Tuesday from 10am to noon, and is available for private group tours by appointment. Goshen has a rich and colorful history. Please find time to visit (and bring a friend!), learn how we are preserving Goshen's history for the future, and share your memories with us.

Best regards.

Linda Wasson
President, Goshen Township Historical Society



Thank you!

To the Jim Poe family for sponsoring the professional restoration and framing of the Civil War battle flag from Goshen Company C, 2nd Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry, which is now prominently on display in the parlor of the Anchorage. What a treasure!

To Gerald Ross and Tim Johnson for the new screen door at the Anchorage. Gerald purchased the door, a beautiful vintage style in a sturdy maintenance-free material and, with Tim's help, completed the installation. It's a big improvement aesthetically and functionally. Thanks, guys, for the donation of the door, as well as your time and effort.

To Tug Brock for pulling our float (the Goshen Log Cabin replica) in the Memorial Day Parade. It takes more than just a big truck to pull that cabin off the farm and maneuver the parade route – it takes skill. After successfully towing the cabin out of the pole barn, down the narrow lane at the farm, and into the parade line formation at Marr Cook Elementary, the cabin's trailer had a flat tire. Not only did Tug quickly find someone to fix the flat so we could participate in the parade, he generously offered to purchase new tires for the trailer before our next parade this fall.

To Ken Klosterman for the ledgers and letters from the GAR KilpatrickPost, Goshen, Ohio. We are thoroughly enjoying deciphering this treasure trove of information from the 1880s through 1910.

Another very big thank you to Gerald Ross who has graciously sponsored the installation of a poured cement floor in the pole barn at the Cook Farm. Not only will a cement floor make it easier to tow and store our log cabin replica on its trailer, it will enable us to use the pole barn for other functions and events. We are very, very thankful for a membership so giving of time and resources.

Goshen Local School Gymnasium

By Pete Taylor

The Goshen Local School Gymnasium has been removed from our sight as the mighty machines turned it into bricks and dust. Our memories of the gym are still in our minds as we are swept back in time. I can still hear the words of a song as the cheerleaders prompted the singing of excited basketball fans: "When the red and grey comes down the line, we will see them win another time, for the dear old school we love so well, we will yell and yell and yell and yell and yell..." We still used the old wooden chairs for the games until bleachers were installed in the fifties. The team would come on the floor and the game began.

Basketball was not the only activity in the gym. Christmas was a joyful time as the whole schools gathered on the floor in the old wooden chairs that seated two people. Miss Christine Williams played the piano as someone would lead the singing for the beautiful Christmas carols. Then we heard the sound of sleigh bells! We knew Santa was on his way with a smile, a HO HO HO, and candy and an orange for every student. What wonderful memories as Bill Sushine donned the famous red suit with white trimming and a snowy beard.

Classes needed to raise money for class projects. They would rent a black and white movie and the students attending would pay a dime to see the fast paced western with hard riding cowboys. I remember Bob Steel as the hero in one of the movies. You may recall him from F Troop, as one of the soldiers.

Who can forget the pretty prom dresses the young ladies would wear? The gym was decorated with colorful ribbons and flowers. Young men who never wore a jacket and tie were there in a suit to escort their pretty companions to the event of the year. There were other dances like Sadie Hawkins Day Dance, square dances, and we even learned the polka. There was a local string band called The Muddy Creek Ramblers, and they introduced us to the latest waltz

Once we had a country band that was well known on WKRC TV. The leader was Preston Ward. He had a very good band as Cincinnati viewers will recall.

The would-be actors and actresses presented some well-rehearsed school plays over the years. Furniture was borrowed and a lot of practice went into each production. Under the direction of George Dunning, we portrayed the old time minstrel show. We had colorful costumes with huge bow ties. We took turns telling jokes and singing. One of the musical portions had patriotic songs. Mr. Dunning was outstanding in bringing the best out of us as our voices blended.

In the fifties, someone thought of having a movie night for the whole town. Families would gather in the gym, set on the old wooden chairs and watch a movie together – and there was no admission cost.



One of the favorite sports was DONKEY BASKETBALL GAMES. The animals had rubber shoes and the shots had to be made while the player was on the back of the donkey. The donkeys were trained to remove the player from his back just as he was going to shoot. The spectators were treated to a wonderful evening of fun.

May I conclude our trip down memory lane by mentioning two more important events held in the gym. At the Dinner box Auction a young lady would pack a lunch for two and at a certain time at the dance or other activity, the lunches were auctioned off. The one with the highest bid would get to eat lunch with the girl of his dreams, if he had enough

continued on page 5

money in his pocket to outbid the one looking for the girl of his dreams. This was a very interesting event that may have prompted a lasting romance.



High school graduation was a milestone for the senior class. They had been together for twelve years for a multitude of programs in the gym. Now they have come to a time of parting. Some will remain in the area, others will move away, some will pursue college training, or become a member of the armed services. There are those who never returned as they gave their lives for freedom.

We are very aware that buildings do not last, but the memories remain as long as our minds can recall the joys of yesteryear.



Pete Taylor is a featured writer for GTHS Keepers of the Past. Pete will also be our guest speaker at our membership meeting on September 28, 7:00pm in the Community Room at Goshen High School, 6707 Goshen Road, Goshen OH 45122.

Upcoming events

Wednesday August 24 Road Trip to the restored Shusters Mill in Georgetown, Ohio. Meet at 10am at the Anchorage to car pool and caravan to the mill for an 11am tour. Address is 8029 State Route 221, Georgetown OH 45121. **This tour is open to active Goshen Twp. Historical Society members only.** No Wednesday night meeting.

Monday September 12 GTHS Board of Trustees meeting. 7pm at the Anchorage.

Wednesday September 28 Membership meeting. 7pm in the Community Room at Goshen High School. Guest speaker is Pete Taylor.

Monday October 10 GTHS Board of Trustees meeting. 7pm at the Anchorage.

GTHS Celebrates Grandparents Week with Spaulding Elementary. Tuesday October 18 open house at the Anchorage – museum open 10am to 1:30pm, address 1843 SR 28, Goshen OH 45122.

Thursday October 20 open house 11:30-1:30pm at the Log Cabin next to Goshen High School, 6707 Goshen Road, Goshen OH 45122.

Wednesday October 26 Annual Goshen Cemetery Tour, 6pm. Members should meet after the tour at 7:30 at the Anchorage for a brief meeting to elect officers for 2017-2019.

Monday November 14 GTHS Board of Trustees meeting. 7pm at the Anchorage.

Watch for upcoming information on Holly Fair!



The Many Uses of Pottery Crocks

By Jeannine Roediger

Plastics have really taken over as the containers of choice, but their safety is often in question these days. Glass, of course, was and still is used, but at one time pottery crocks were used to hold foods for storage. Not only were they used to store foods, but also for fermentation processes and pickling. Made from rich clay deposits here in Ohio, the pottery was made into practical items that helped families survive winters by storing and keeping their foods. They came in all sizes and shapes, from 20 and 30 gallons to little pint-sized jugs with corks to keep in the flavor of their contents.

My memories of these old crocks are many and varied. Perhaps one of the most fragrant was when sweet pickles were being made, always in mid to late-summer when small pickles and cucumbers were plentiful. First they were put in the crock with a salt water brine and left for several days. A plate was laid on top, forced into the water by a clean, smooth rock, then covered with a clean towel. The top was skimmed daily prevent any mold from growing. Once finished in the brine, an alum bath was used to crisp the pickles. Then a mix of apple cider vinegar, spices and sugar were boiled and poured over the rinsed pickles. The spices and vinegar would fill the house with aromas of cinnamon and allspice, ginger and cloves. This was heated daily several days then the pickles were put through a water bath canning procedure. The sweet chunks of pickle were crisp and tangy with the flavors of many spices. It took a couple of weeks to make them, but the results were worth the wait.

Cabbage was shredded, put into the crocks with salt water and left to ferment into sauerkraut. Again the cabbage was weighed down with a plate that fit inside the crock and a rock, then covered with a towel. This needed to be skimmed daily, as well. Once the fermentation process was complete, about 10-12 days, the kraut could be kept in the crock, covered with a towel, or a seal of paraffin could be poured over the plate and around the edges. Its tangy goodness and tart taste went well with many a winter's meal of pork or beef.

Much of summer's produce found its way into crocks.

Carrots can also be made into sauerkraut, and pickles were made of squash, green beans or green tomatoes, and all could spark up winter meals.

My in-laws made plum preserves and apple butter and stored it in gallon crocks for winter. Bushels of green gage plums or apples were put into a huge, copper pot with gallons of honey and slowly stirred over an outside fire until the proper consistency. This was a job that required a lot of stirring and just the right amount of fire underneath so it wouldn't scorch. These sweet treats were put on bread to eat with beef and pork summer sausage made during butchering days. The preserves could also be sealed with paraffin and stored in an unheated upstairs room through the winter.

Large crocks were reserved for curing meat after butchering. A brine was made of sugar, salt, and a small amount of salt peter or sodium nitrate, which was mixed in gallons of water. This solution was poured over the meat and kept cold to cure for up to 60 days. The meat was then dried and hung up in a smoke house for more flavor and good aroma.

Crocks were also used to store fried foods, such as sausages and pork steaks. The meat was fried, placed in the crock with a layer of lard poured between steaks, then over the stack to cover it completely, until the top was reached. To use over the winter, one would dig out the required amount of meat and reheat.

Many things were put through a fermentation process, including hard cider which was put into crocks with added sugar and yeast, then allowed to ferment at room temperatures about 10 days. It was then jugged and corked. The corks were often sealed over with paraffin to keep.

All those pickling and fermentation processes allowed our ancestors good eating come winter when the gardens were no longer producing. Crocks were a major part of that plan and held many different treats to carry the family over long winter.

The GTHS has a wonderful collection of antique crocks, including vintage salt crocks with distinctive cobalt designs. See the new exhibit of these Tupperware precursors at our museum.



Log Cabin



The Anchorage



www.GoshenHistory.org