

The Curator

Centerville-
Washington History

The newsletter of Centerville-Washington History

Director's Thoughts

By Cheryl Meyer

Hi Friends,

The warm summer sun, the sounds of children playing outside . . . yes, this is a wonderful time to live in Centerville and Washington Township. With all the summer events that are planned, I feel a sense of community pride and excitement.

If you have ever visited the Asahel Wright Museum at 26 N. Main Street, you will have acquainted yourself with the challenges and sacrifices of living in the 1800s as well as the understanding of how self-sufficient the people were. If you haven't had the opportunity to visit the Asahel Wright please consider doing so. You will be in



for a historical treat.

Right next to the Asahel Wright Museum sits the Schoolhouse Museum.

Once you enter the building, you will be flooded with a sense of academic nostalgia. This small frame building by the sidewalk bordering Main Street was probably added between the late 1800s to the early 1900s.



Leonard Ream, a skilled hat maker, owned the property which was believed to be used as a hat maker's store. In addition, this building may have also been used as a store by James Harris. Since that time, it has been used as a gift shop and a visitor's center. Today Centerville-Washington History uses the building as a one-room schoolhouse museum; filled with school desks, artifacts, and an array of

photographs of our historic nine one-room schools. The Schoolhouse Museum is open Tuesday through Friday from 12 noon until 4:00 pm. There is no charge to visit.



The mission of our organization is to connect the community to its heritage by collecting, preserving, interpreting, and promoting the history of the local area. We achieve our mission every time we welcome visitors to our museums.

Take care dear friends and enjoy all that summer has to offer.

"It Takes a Village"

Presidents Letter

By Ed Ross, President

It will be a very busy year!

Besides our regular summer events; school tours, speaker series, museum exhibits, summer youth programs, *Ghost Walk* and *A Sense of Taste* in the Fall, there are exciting new things happening.

Susan Melville has been recording fascinating podcast stories with some of our wonderful long-term members.

We will be participating in *Party in the Park* at Stubbs Park on June 10th and July 15th. A fun family affair!

On June 28, we will have a fundraiser at the Submarine house with silent auctions, food, and fun.

We recently participated with the Centerville Washington Park District for the *Homesteading Event* at Bill Yeck Park. This was a perfect activity for families with children. It was fun for everyone, including the volunteers! If you wish to join us, there is always room for more volunteers.

The dates and details of all of these events will be posted on our website, Facebook page, and in this newsletter. We look forward to seeing you this summer!

The Mission of Centerville-Washington History is to connect the community to its heritage by collecting, preserving, interpreting and promoting the history of our local area. Centerville-Washington History is partially funded by the city of Centerville and Washington Township.

Curator's Corner

By Joellen Ulliman, Curator

Preserving Family History

"Nothing really lasts forever" . . . except love . . . so preserve your family's history for as long as possible. Most of us unwittingly throw precious memories in plastic bins and old shoe boxes. We glue things into albums and forget all about them. We store things in wet basements and hot attics.

I am just as guilty as you! Fortunately, I collected a few wise tips over the past five years serving as your curator. Hopefully, my *"experience brings wisdom"* to you!

Quite simply, do the least amount of harm. Use acid free paper, archival boxes, photo sleeves, and markers and pens that do not bleed through paper.

From where can you get these special materials? My favorites sources are **gaylord.com** and **talasonline.com**. Keep things out of direct light when displaying; consider giving artifacts an occasional rest in storage. Scotch tape, staples, and metal paper clips are deadly over time. No matter what, never use albums with magnetic/sticky pages. These were very popular in the 1970's-80's. If you have pictures stored this way, rescue them! If photographs easily lift, remove them gently and store appropriately. If not, leave them alone. Trying to take them out of the albums will be disastrous.

A current trend is to take a photo of an item or paper and trash the original, but *"think twice before tossing once"*. There is nothing like authenticity. Having the original is cathartic and a true link to the past. However, there is a fine line between saving absolutely everything and being an archivist.

Save original deeds, certificates, documents, decrees. Photographs need to be sorted and marked. Which ones show people, dates, places, and events significant to your family? If they aren't marked and you have no idea of who/what is in an image, pitch it. Saving photos of people and places no one knows wastes space, and so do out-of-focus shots. Store everything in a temperate climate.

Then . . . because *"time flies"*, start collecting as much history as possible from living people. We have lost too many links to our past. *"There's no time like the present"* to preserve the past for future genealogists.

Most recently my aunt, our 91-year-old matriarch, died. I finally *"bit the bullet"* and sent interview questions to relatives. I asked them to share as much as they remember about each person in their own lineage. I asked for details: give all names, locations, dates of birth, marriages, divorces, death (including cause), military experience, school attendance, career/job history, maybe an anecdote or two, and most importantly, a claim to fame for each person, such as best cookie baker, ladies' man, most dependable. . . anything that captures a bit of a person's



personality. Finally, I asked how they wish to be remembered.

"Once we know better, we do better". The caring love you put into saving your family's treasures will bring stories to life for generations to come.

Membership Renewals – NEW Directory process

By Karen King,

Communications and Marketing Manager

As this edition of The Curator goes to press, well over half of our active members have already renewed their memberships. THANK YOU! Your annual dues and donations make it possible to collect, preserve, and promote the history of our local area. If you've misplaced your renewal card or would like to renew your membership online, please visit: www.CentervilleWashingtonHistory.org/membershipform

NEW for 2022 will be our annual membership directory mailed separately to members only. Remember to let us know if you'd like to opt-into or out of the directory if you haven't done that already. If you have any questions about your membership or the directory, please feel free to contact me at karencwths@sbcglobal.net or call 937.433.0123.

Thank You

Education Corner

By Melissa Wagner, Education Coordinator

Homesteading Ohio Program

Families undertaking the journey to a new home, in the Ohio Territory, at beginning of the 18th century were met with numerous hardships along the way. On May 7th, **Centerville-Washington History**, in collaboration with the **Centerville-Washington Park District**, offered our second annual Homesteading Ohio simulation of the 10-day journey by our first local settlers as they traveled from Cincinnati to Washington Township.



After choosing one of four character profiles, families took time to pack their “wagons” for the journey. There were a variety of activities to try on the approximately 1-mile trail at Bill Yeck Park. Ed Ross and Phil Kern introduced the families to about 30 tools from the past including a stone chisel, splitting froe, a sickle, and ice tongs.

Ralph King’s station offered a pelt identification game. Families learned to play the games of graces and quoits from our youth volunteers Kevin, Queenie, and Mihir. Younger children looked to their elders to demonstrate how to play with yo-yos and jump ropes. Jason and Liz Wright demonstrated the process of butter-making along with some yummy samples of beef jerky and butter cheese donated by Dorothy Lane Market.



Along the trail, Susan Melville helped travelers navigate the events, such as a broken wagon, brought on by “Situation Stations”. Centerville-Washington Park District volunteers helped families to try archery and learn how to identify animal tracks. Dressed as young ladies from the beginning of the 19th century, youth volunteers Methni and Allison engaged families in conversation about frontier clothing. Finally, upon reaching their destination, Karen King offered some reflection points and an opportunity for families to build their own Lincoln log cabin.

This simulation gave participants a sense of how early settlers dealt with food and money shortages. Everyone left with an appreciation for the determination and hard work needed to survive frontier life in Ohio.

Thank you to all our CWH and Park District volunteers! After receiving positive feedback from the approximately 70 participants, we look forward to making Homesteading Ohio an annual event.



Who was Horace Pease?

By Karen King Staff



On the “Walk Through the Tombstones” tour of the Sugarcreek Baptist Church Cemetery, the second marker pointed out is that of a mother, Ann, wife of Horace Pease, dying in April 1829, and son, William, in May 1830 at age one year. The mother presumably was taken by a complication of childbirth. This marker is a fairly large obelisk with the

engraving listing Ann and William on the south side. The east face of the monument records the death of Francis, the 5-month-old son of Horace and Sarah Pease, in 1835. (The two other sides are blank.) Horace had remarried, but who was Horace Pease?

Horace Pease was born Feb. 14, 1791, in Connecticut, the oldest child in a large family. He left home at age 20 and found work in a Philadelphia cotton mill for 3 years. Then he ventured further west, traveling and trapping furs with a cousin as his companion. He eventually made his way to Cincinnati around 1816. He manufactured saddle trees (the foundation of a horse saddle) and married Ann Stiltz in 1821. Their family added two sons, James (b. 1821) and Webster (b. 1823), and a daughter, Ellen (b. 1825).

The family then moved to Carrollton (now West Carrollton) in Montgomery County in 1827 where they joined one of Horace’s brothers, Perry Pease, and operated a small fruit distillery. They lived and worked by current-day West Alex-Bell Road where Holes Creek goes under the road as you leave Washington Township and enter Miami Township. Other Pease family members came to live in the area as well. Sadly, Ann died in 1829 leaving Horace with 4 children under the age of eight. Baby William died the following year. It’s a sad story indeed. But it’s not the end of the story.

Horace married Sarah Belville in 1832 and the family began to grow again. Francis, the 5-month-old infant who died in 1835, was the second child born to Sarah and Horace. Their children that survived into adulthood included two sons, Walter (b. 1832) and Charles (b. 1836), and three daughters, Mary J. Pease Stockstill (b. 1839), Harriet B. Pease Clegg (b. 1844), and Anna E. Pease Phillips (b. 1848). When the canal was completed the brothers added a flour mill in Carrollton and built another successful mill on East Third Street in Dayton in 1839. Horace and his family moved to Dayton then to manage that wing of the business.

Mr. Pease was well respected, intelligent, and industrious. He was known as an interesting conversationalist. He served the growing community as

a state legislator in 1834, served with the Montgomery County Commissioners when the new (1850) County Courthouse was planned, being credited for its Greek design, and helped to establish a Dayton bank branch. He founded another business, Buckeye Iron and Brass Works, which his son Charles would preside over. Son Walter served with the First Ohio volunteer infantry and was a prisoner of war in 1862, but was released after several months and continued serving until 1869. Another son, Webster, invented a tobacco cutting machine that was produced by the iron & brass works company.



Horace, and his second wife, Sarah, are buried in Woodland Cemetery in Dayton. Their marker is a bit grander than the one in our little cemetery, and it has all four sides engraved. Sarah’s passing is recorded as 1862 at age 57, and Horace’s in 1875 at age 84. Engraved on the third side is a remembrance of Horace’s oldest son James, who left home for an adventure, not unlike his father, but died at age 28 in 1850 in California. The final side reads, “Anne Stiltz of Baltimore MD, wife of Horace Pease, died Apr. 29, 1829, aged 28 years.” That Horace’s marker includes both of his wives, though only one is buried there, is a touching tribute. It also tells us something else about who Horace Pease was.

Centerville-Washington History scholarship winner, Laura Zipes!



For the fifth consecutive year, Centerville-Washington History is awarding a scholarship, in the amount of \$1,000, to a deserving Centerville High School graduate. Requirements for CWH Scholarship applicants include: a graduating senior residing in Centerville-

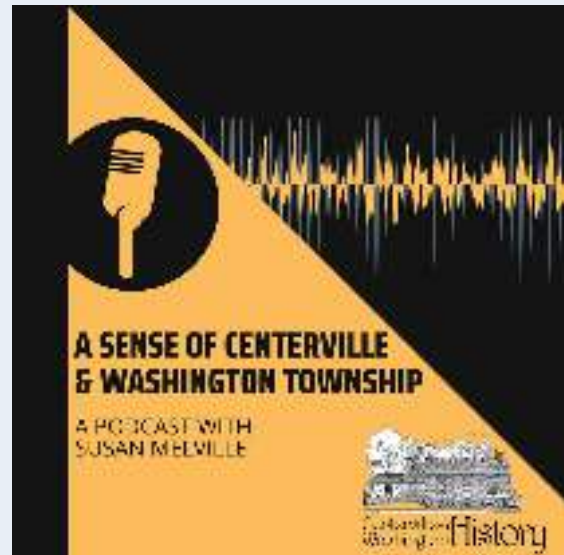
Washington Township with a GPA of 3.0 or above, and must be accepted at and planning to attend an Ohio four-year (public or private) college or university as a full-time student majoring in education or history.

Congratulations to the 2021-22 CWH Scholarship winner – Laura Zipes! This extraordinary young lady has demonstrated her athletic talents and leadership abilities as Varsity Captain of the Centerville High School Swim Team, President of the National Honor Society, and Unit Representative of the East Unit Assembly. Her club memberships include Students Against Destructive Decisions, Key Club and French Club. Laura is very active in the community working at Dunsinane Swim Club and the Washington Township Rec Center coaching and encouraging young swimmers. Laura plans to major in Secondary Education at Miami University. Centerville-Washington History congratulates Laura, along with her parents Jeffrey Zipes and Sandra Slobodzian-Zipes, for her high school achievements. Best wishes for continued success at Miami University!

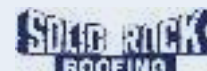
A Sense of Centerville and Washington Township

by Susan Melville, staff

Did you know that Centerville-Washington History has a podcast? Many of you may be asking, “What is a podcast?” A podcast is like a radio show that you can listen to whenever you want. We have been able to record some of the stories of our local residents through an audio recording. The interviews are available on our website as well as on hosting sights like Spotify and Amazon Music. We hope you enjoy listening to these stories and perhaps we’ll be giving you a call for an interview!



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WHERE WERE YOU ON JULY 13, 1950?

By Phil Kern, CWH

On the morning of July 13, 1950, a B-50D Superfortress bomber (a redesign of the B-29), on a training mission from the US Air Force Strategic Air Command, took off from Biggs Air Force Base, El Paso, TX. This departure was the start of a long journey en route to England with a planned stopover at Wright-Patt AFB, Dayton, OH and then continue on to England. The aircraft was heavily loaded, in excess of 86 tons.

Around 2:54 pm, while flying over Warren County, OH, the bomber suddenly fell from the sky and crashed approximately 4 ½ miles northeast of Mason, OH, west of S.R.741 and north of Hamilton Rd. Capt. John Adams, the pilot, who had 1,020 flying hours, and the other fifteen crew members, were instantly killed.

An eyewitness indicated that he thought the plane was flying at around 7,000 ft. and appeared to have stalled before going into a nosedive and hit the ground exploding.

An Air Force crash report stated that, when the plane hit the ground, it made a crater 125 ft. in diameter and 20 ft. deep. This impact created a deafening explosion and could be heard 11 miles away in Ridgeville, OH, and most likely in the southern edge of Centerville and Washington Township. The explosion was caused, not only by the fuel onboard but also by the high explosives in the shell of the nuclear bomb. Fortunately, the bomb did not have its 'physics-package' installed at the time. This package is part of the nuclear bomb that carries the fissile material, which when imploded, causes the nuclear reaction. The Mark-4 bomb, in use during the Cold War years of 1949-1953, was similar to the Mark-3 Fat Man bomb that was dropped on Nagasaki, Japan in 1945.

Upon hearing the explosion, thousands of locals raced to the site to see what happened, causing a huge traffic jam on the narrow county roads. Firefighters arrived to extinguish the fire and control the crash site. Wright-Patt AFB officers arrived shortly afterward and secured the site. Bulldozers and clamshell diggers were brought in to search for 'undisclosed parts' and other airplane components. Other USAF departments arrived to support the search and assist in locating any equipment that may have contributed to the cause of the crash. In the end, the only identifiable part ever found was an aileron servo motor.

After a lengthy investigation by the Air Force, Boeing, and Pratt & Whitney, no cause of the crash could be determined due to the complete disintegration of the plane upon impact.

Today, we are left to wonder, if the 'physics-package' had been installed on the bomb, what would have been the end results? Would southwest Ohio look like Nagasaki after the atomic bomb was dropped during WWII?

Centerville-Washington History

MONTHLY SPEAKER SERIES

2022-2023

Third Tuesday of the month
Free and open to the public!
Enjoy refreshments and historical education.
Donations welcome and appreciated.

**RecPlex West Theater (Rec West)
965 Miamisburg Centerville Rd.
Reception 6:30 p.m. Program 7:00 p.m.

September 20, 2022

Steve Grismer
*Dean, Dillinger & Dayton Ohio:
Legend, Lore & Legacy*

October 18, 2022

Angie Hoschouer
History, Mystery, Murder & Mayhem

November 15, 2022

Paul Cooper
Doolittle's Raid on Japan

January 17, 2023

Doyle Burke
"Satan Killer" Darrell Wayne Ferguson

February 21, 2023

Tanya Maus
19th Century Quakers in Southwest Ohio

March 21, 2023

Hylde Strange
The Crosley Brothers

April 18, 2023

David Greet
*Al Fouts: A Bootlegger and Safecracker
Who Lived from 1891-1981*

May 16, 2023

Martin Gottlieb
*Lincoln's Northern Nemesis:
Clement Vallandigham*

CentervilleWashingtonHistory.org

Donations welcome and appreciated!

A Change in Board Members

Centerville-Washington History thanks Tom and Susan Boyd for their service as board members. They have played a major role on the Publications Committee and will remain active members.



We welcome Cole Hetman to our Board of Trustees. Cole has been involved with the Washington Township RecPlex for many years and we are excited that he is sharing his love of history and great ideas with our organization. Thank you, Tom and Susan for all you have done for us and all that is yet to come!

Welcome to our New Members!

Daniel Baker
Cole Hetman
Katherine Lucas
Marian McIntosh
Cameron Voorhees
Deborah Whitlock-Rouish

In Sympathy

Our condolences go out to the family and friends of those recently lost. They will be missed.

Tom Bartol, a member since 1983, passed away in September 2021 leaving behind his wife, Mary Ann. Tom was an active volunteer and sang in many different local choirs.

Claude Short, a member since 2010, passed away in October 2021 leaving behind his wife, Jean. Claude had a long distinguished military career in the Air Force and loved airplanes.

Judy Pabst passed away in September 2020. Our belated condolences go out to family and friends. Judy loved to sing in church choirs and was active in many community organizations.

Paul served his community on various charitable boards, through volunteer service and as husband to the first female mayor, Shirley Heintz.

Centerville-Washington History

Submarine House
SALES | SPORTS | SPIRITS

TUESDAY, JUNE 28, 2022
6-8 PM

You're Invited

503 MIAMISBURG CENTERVILLE RD

- FUN & FOOD WITH FRIENDS
- SILENT AUCTION BASKETS
- \$10 DONATION AT THE DOOR
- SUPPORT CWH!

Party With a Purpose: Tacos

Thank you to our Scholarship Committee members

Peggy Brooker, Bill Gaul, Dave Meyer,
Ferne Reilich and Joellen Ulliman,
for selecting this year's scholarship winner.

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Centerville- Washington History

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Tuesday-Friday Noon-4 PM

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