



SUMMER 2018

- June 11 7 p.m. — Retired Judge Henry Shaw — 19th Century American Small Arms Weapons of War
Judge Shaw will share with us part of his extensive collection of war firearms. Featured will be log arm weapons spanning the flint lock period to the model of the 1898 krag as well as handguns from the flint lock period through the model of the 1873 colt single action army.
- June 22, 23 Powell Festival
- July 9 7 p.m. — A Ride on the C D & M
Jack Hilborn, President of the Delaware County Historical Society, will present an interesting program about inter urban transportation and street cars in early Delaware County. Come take a ride with Jack on the C D & M.
- August 13 7 p.m. — Walking Tour of Downtown Powell. The tour begins at the Martin-Perry House.
Sherry Carmichael, life long Powell resident and long time Powell Liberty Historical Society volunteer, will lead us on a walking tour of downtown Powell. Join us on this interesting tour and learn about the history of your community.

DELAWARE COUNTY HISTORY NETWORK PROGRAMS

Big Walnut Area Historical Society — Memorial Day-
July 4, “Our Military Heroes” Exhibit at the Meyer Inn

June 12, 7:30 p.m. — “Stadiums & Athletic Fields of
Delaware County” by Brent Carson

July 10, 7:30 p.m. — “Brown Fruit Farm” by T.K. Cellar

Delaware Genealogical Society — June 7, 7:30 p.m.—
Workshop for Adults & Youth 6th grade & older at the
Delaware County Library Main Branch

Harlem Heritage — June 9, 6:00 p.m. — Harlem High
School Alumni Banquet

Gallant Farm — June 2, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Antique
Tractor Show

Stratford Ecological Center — June 8, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
— Hoe Down Square Dance

Delaware County Historical Society — June 13, 7:00
p.m. — “Railroads in Delaware County” by Jack Hilborn

July 11, 7:00 “Floods in Delaware County” by Brent Car-
son



PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Throughout our lives we take for granted the people that are most important to us. Growing up, I often took for granted the many things my mother did for us. I didn't thank my father nearly enough for providing for us. I expected my grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and family friends to help me in matters big and small. My conditioned "thanks (insert relative or friend here)" uttered on the way out the door never sufficiently expressed my true appreciation.

My failure to express commensurate appreciation to those closest to me continued into my adulthood. I can't possibly thank my wife enough for all she does for me, but my aversion to \$5 greeting cards and made up holidays makes it even more difficult. Even my kids don't get enough heartfelt thanks from me.

Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to express my genuine appreciation to the most important people in our organization, our "super" volunteers, the people who work for the Powell Liberty Historical Society most every week (hundreds of hours each year). It seems that we remember to thank the people who do a special task for us, but fail to express our gratitude to our most important contributors. Thank you to our core group of volunteers:

Charlene Baggs

Marilyn Battin

Sherry Carmichael

Allen Miller

Linda Miller

Bob Wilhelm

Carole Wilhelm

I appreciate you all so much I actually considered sending you each a top-shelf Hallmark greeting card and declaring July 1 PLHS Super-Vol Day...but my wife would start expecting fancy cards on Sweetest Day.

Sincere thanks!!!

Tim Steitz

President

Powell Liberty Historical Society

WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS

The Powell-Liberty Historical Society could not exist without volunteer help. Fortunate for us we are blessed with many who give of their time and talents liberally. To highlight just a few in this newsletter, let me remind the reader of the information given by Bob Wilhelm in the Spring Newsletter, concerning a grant that we received from the Delaware County Foundation, Jack and Jane Van Fossen Donor Advised Fund. We have begun upgrading our computer technology as a result. Bob Wilhelm has long been our very knowledgeable and capable tech "guru" and installed software to itemize our collection some years ago. Along with Bob, we have now an additional IT man, in board member Allen Miller. Allen has spent countless hours providing the society with research, acquisition of computer

equipment, obtaining WiFi service, programing, wiring, and installation. And after all of that, he patiently explained usage of all this "magic" step by step to us technically-challenged ladies! Our eternal thanks to you, Allen.

Tim Steitz is our Society President, but he is not above bailing out the rain soaked basement into the wee hours of the night, or cutting the Martin-Perry lawn "in his spare time." Thanks, Tim, for all the "extras" you do.

Recently, Pam and John Peters with their **grandchildren** spread the mulch on a warm morning. Such acts of kindness do not go unnoticed. Thank you, Peters' family.

DONATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

We are very grateful for the following:

Ed Cooper—Poster from Powell Speedway and two pair of wire-rimmed reading glasses

Kent Bermingham—Wicker child's rocker

Janet Wartman—Two children's Christmas books: a 1912 reprint of *T'was the Night Before Christmas* and *Santa Claus & His Helpers*

Judith Hall Kramer—Information sheet on Roxie Hall Bartholomew and Google color photo of Roxie Hall Bartholomew's house (1877-1892) on West Olentangy Street, Powell

Robert Lakemacher—Three Elementary Readers: 1919 *Nursery Tales Primer*, 1926 *Good Reading, First Reader*, and 1930

Fact & Story Readers, Book one; four sets of educational discs, including, 1931 *The Story of the United States in Moving Pictures*, 1931 *Rossig Educational Charts, Interesting Facts About United States/Europe*, and 1932 *Disc of Knowledge, Believe it or Not* by Ripley

Renewals—Harry Riggs, Chris and Terry Burga, Ed and Lois Sensenbrenner, Ron and Judy Gardner, & Peggy McNeal Hall

Jo Cornish-Gerwig Memorial—Ron and Judy Gardner & Janet Wartman

In Memoriam —

Gladys DeVault Andrews Miller, past PLHS member and sister-in-law of Louise Andrews Cornish, died at her daughter's home (Linda) in Alabama May 17.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS & TOURS

Marge Bennett gave a tour to the Shawn & Michele Hedderman family, which included son, Ryan, and daughters, Rachel & Riley, on March 31.

The Tyler Run Wolves Scout Pack, made up of 8- and 9-year-old boys, held their April 10 meeting at the Martin-Perry Homestead. They were studying "collections," and each brought a sample of things that they have begun to collect. Ten boys and eleven parents made up the group, with one of the father's sharing his life-long collection of stamps. It was our pleasure to show them the many "collections" of special and, often, non-replaceable antique items housed within the Powell-Liberty Historical Society's headquarters. It was interesting to hear, after an hour and a half, the boys say, "No! Can't we stay longer?" when they were told it was time to go home.

On April 26, Sherry Carmichael had the opportunity to present the history and work of the Society before the Powell Rotary. Several membership applications were given out, and we appreciate the chance to educate the local service clubs with our purpose and mission, and to thank them for their support.

It has become an annual invitation to speak to the Wyandot Elementary 2nd grade classes with a program developed to teach the students how ordinary life has changed from pioneer days to the present. And so it was Sherry Carmichael's privilege to share with five 2nd grade classes on May 2. The

enthusiasm of both students and teachers make these days so very rewarding and an opportunity to serve the area schools as part of our purpose of "Education."

May is the month that Olentangy Local Elementary Schools hold Pioneer Day for their many third grade classes. There are now so many elementary schools in the district, that the schools must draw lots for the various venues used. Our society has long been invited to participate in these special events, and we once again were invited to join both Tyler Run and Wyandot Run Schools.

May 9 found us at the Delaware Preservation Park's Gallant Farm where Tyler Run third graders were playing pioneers. The small barn on the grounds turned out to be a perfect location for the "School Marm" to hold her history lesson on "The Life of a Pioneer Child" and "Early School Days." Four sessions were held.

On May 15, the Wyandot Run Elementary School spent their day playing pioneer on the historic grounds of Liberty Presbyterian Church. There, the "School Marm" held her history classes in the old chapel. Again, there were four sessions. We view all of these invitations as opportunities to not only educate, but to instill in these young minds an appreciation and love of history.

We are most thankful for the donation of \$100 as a result of our involvement in Pioneer Day for these two schools.

Martin Perry House Gardens

If you happened to drive by the Martin Perry House Saturday morning on May 5, you may have noticed a large group of people busy working on the house gardens. In memory of Jo Cornish



Gerwig, former Powell resident, long-time member of Powell Liberty Historical Society and Powell Area Garden Club, several of her Farmers Insurance colleagues and garden club friends prepared the gardens for all to see. In about two hours together, her garden club buddies and work friends, plus some spouses, cleaned the garden beds, weeded, edged, mulched, and trimmed to enhance the appearance of the Martin Perry House which was near and dear to Jo's heart.

In addition to all of their hard work, her Farmers Insurance friends purchased several plantings to grace the gardens. A beautiful boxwood now greets visitors near the front door, three new birdsnest spruce were planted around the flag pole and, in keeping with Jo's passion for butterflies, there are now three new butterfly bushes to remind us of her every time we pass by. Her recent untimely death made it bittersweet to dedicate these new plantings to Jo's memory, but all agreed she would be pleased to see her friends working together to make the Martin Perry House a better place

Stop by anytime to walk around the yard and see the lovely gardens. Many thanks are extended to the Farmers Insurance employees and to the Powell Area Garden Club members who made it all possible.

THIS PLACE MATTERS CAMPAIGN

The month of May has been designated as "National Preservation Month" by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. This campaign strives to bring attention to historic buildings and sites, and to honor businesses and residences that have adaptively reused historic buildings and celebrate our heritage through local historic preservation efforts. "This Place Matters" signs are

available for photo ops in front of historic



sites to bring attention to their importance. Photos taken of these sites are then posted on Facebook during the month of May. Of course, the Martin-Perry Homestead matters to us, and we support this campaign to bring attention to other historic places that matter! See how many other "This Place Matters" signs you can find out and about.

Delaware County Foundation Grant Update

As reported in the last newsletter, the Powell Liberty Historical Society is the recipient of a grant from the Jack and Jane Van Fossen Fund administered by the Delaware County Foundation to support education, web access, and operating expenses.

In the past few weeks, grant funds were used to replace a 15-year-old device and to bring Internet access to the Martin-Perry house for the first time. Volunteers can now use their own computers, as well as the new computer, to work on their projects. Internet access has also allowed us to replace the land line phone system with a much less expensive voice over Internet system.

The grant was the impetus to redesign the website. The new site is integrated with a database so that genealogical records previously only available in paper files can be readily explored by anyone with web access. Similarly, a photo gallery containing images of many of the items in the PLHS collection and photos of early Powell and Liberty Township scenes and residents can be searched and viewed on line.

In addition to the improvements in the public website, a suite of private, controlled access, web-based tools were developed so that the volunteers can expand the information on the website and make it immediately available to the public.

Grant funding was leveraged with an additional grant from Microsoft's program for non-profits which provided free of charge collaboration software, cloud storage, and access to the online versions of many of the Microsoft Office applications. Volunteers now have the tools needed to collaborate on documents, presentations and other projects, and we now can electronically archive material so that information is readily available to all that needs it.

In summary, the generous grant from the Jack and Jane Van Fossen fund was the driving force behind modernizing our web presence and providing tools needed to support the work of our volunteers. There is much more to do and we hope that you will consider joining us on the journey to tell the story of the Powell and Liberty Township past.

History Page

I recently spent some time reviewing the file containing information about the formation of the Powell-Liberty Historical Society. I was struck anew with the Herculean task before the dedicated group of men and women who fought to save the Martin-Perry House and form the historical society from scratch. Louise Cornish and daughters, Janet & Jo; Marge & Willard Bennett; Donna & Charlie Lawrence; Janet & Gordan Masteller; Eleanor & Rodger Hawk; Sherri Pinkney; and others.

What brought this research about was learning about the death on March 1 of Judge John Hill. As the before mentioned, Judge Hill played a key part in the Society's formation. He helped file documents with the County Courthouse and was the Society's legal advisor. He died in Naples, Florida, leaving his wife, Connie, his children, and grandchildren. His stately home, while living in Powell, was on North Liberty Street. It still sits today on a hill, with a driveway gate stating "Bryn Mar" and is of historical significance. By 1900, the property was purchased by W. P. and Mary (Warner) Andrews, a relative of Louise Andrews Cornish. The family included daughter, Blanche, and son, Frank. The home was spacious and the farm and out buildings were backed by the Hocking Valley Railroad.

Blanche was an accomplished musician and graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University with a music degree. Earl Converse became her husband. Earl was well known in the local sports world for racing motorcycles and motorcars. We have wonderful photos of him on Indian motorcycles and in early cars wearing his racing gear. Blanche and Earl set up housekeeping in the parental home and while farming on the side, Earl was chauffeur for Mr. Jeffrey of the Jeffrey Manufacturing Company in Columbus. (Many men from Powell were employed at the Jeffrey Manufacturing Company, which made mining equipment.) Earl and Blanche remodeled the home, and there is a large "C" between the upper story windows and above the pillared porch. Unfortunately, some of the barns and outbuildings, as well as pasture, were destroyed by fires set by sparks from the passing trains. But the house remained unharmed. Upon Earl's death, W.P. and Blanche sold the farm equipment and the house.

The identifying "C" was left, as the new family to inhabit the house were Lenza Leland (Clay) & Freda Claymier, with children, Bob and Joellen. Mr. Claymier worked for



Old Wm. P. Andrews house – remodeled by Blanche Andrews Converse & husband Earl

Star Furniture Company and became a partner with two Ethan Allen Furniture Stores located in Worthington and the west side of Columbus. The Claymier children attended Powell School through the 1950s and graduated from the original Olentangy High School. Upon the death of Mr. Claymier, the home was once again sold. It was purchased by Judge and Mrs. Hill.

Through the years the home has undergone remodeling, but within its walls the joys and tears, the laughter and love of each family in its turn, have been known. I close with Joellen Claymier Wolfson's memories of this house in her poem entitled, "New Days."

Our house looks so different now,
The place is all changed,
But I remember how It used to be,
When I was a kid,
With a big screened-in porch,
Before the new owners made their bid.

Mom sold it to them,
She didn't need such a place,
Since Dad passed away,
And a single life now to face,
We had a huge yard,
Made from the front field,
And apples and a pear tree,
With a bit of a yield.

But there's new people there,
And they own the grounds,
And when I go home, I stop and look around,
Where we grew up,
On that old farm,
And sit and remember,
All of the charm,
That that old place held,
For my brother and I,
And when I look at old pictures,
I still feel that tie.

✎ Sherry Carmichael

Program Summary

The varied and interesting PLHS monthly programs are held on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. usually in the Martin Perry house.

On April 9, Marilyn Battin, Powell resident and historical society volunteer, presented "Researching Your Local Ancestors in Delaware County." Marilyn, a retired librarian with experience in genealogy, shared with us the many resources available at the Martin Perry house for members

of the community to use in searching for their own family roots. Stop by the house on any Wednesday when volunteers are there to help with your search or if you have information to share.

The May 14 program was a portrayal of Mrs. Rutherford B. Hayes, by Debbie Shatzer, Executive Director of the Delaware County Visitor's Bureau. Among other interesting facts we learned that Lucy Hayes was given the name "Lemonade Lucy" because she would not allow the



drinking of alcoholic beverages in the White House.

We hope you can join us on June 11 for our next program about civil war firearms.

Renew, Join for the First Time, or Make a Donation

Please help our mission by sending your check today. Your generous contributions will be tax deductible as donations to an IRS recognized 501-C3 non-profit organization. Thank you.

----- Please detach and return with your check -----

Name _____

email _____

Mailing address _____

Annual Membership Dues

\$35 Family \$25 Individual \$50 Business Member \$ _____

Lifetime Membership \$250 \$ _____

House Restoration \$ _____

Donation \$ _____

In Memory Of _____ \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Powell Liberty Historical Society • P.O. Box 385 • 103 E. Olentangy St. • Powell, Ohio 43065-0385

The Powell Liberty Historical Society is an all-volunteer organization and is not the same as the Historic Downtown Advisory Commission. The society receives no government funding and appreciates all donations and support.