



FALL 2018

- Sept 10 7:00 p.m. — Don Bell, curator, Historic Aircraft Squadron Museum, Carroll, Ohio — A virtual tour of the museum
- Don grew up in Powell, graduating from Powell school in 1949, and entered the U.S. Air Force soon after. He holds degrees from Otterbein and The Ohio State University. After a teaching career and several years as an audiovisual supervisor, Don retired in 1991. Upon retirement, he joined the Historical Aircraft Squadron and became curator of the museum in 2000.
- The Historical Aircraft Squadron was formed in 1994 by a small group of individuals who shared a common interest in historical aircraft. Don will tell us about the squadron and the museum, which houses some very interesting aircraft, uniforms, memorabilia, and equipment as well as informative displays, books, and DVDs.
- Oct 13 1:00 -4:00 p.m. — **Note this is a Saturday afternoon.** RJ Basista, former employee of Williamsburg and now Delaware County resident, will present an in- character re-enactment. Details to be announced later.
- Nov 12 7:00 p.m. — Tim Kreps, Powell resident, will re-enact a Pilgrim by putting on his pilgrim hat, waistcoat, and sabots to share pilgrim adventures. The stories begin in England and Holland and continue with vivid images of the crossing, and survival in Plymouth Plantation.
- Many artifacts will be used to tell the story of the pilgrims contact with the Wampanoag Indians. Firing a rifle and starting a fire with glint and steel will be an exciting part of the program.
- Dec 1 2:00 p.m. — Holidays in Powell - The Martin Perry House will be decorated and open for tours.
- January No program



PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Farewell Bob

For the second time this year, the Powell Liberty Historical Society lost a board member and tremendous friend. Bob Wilhelm, who we mentioned just last quarter in the President's letter as one of our "super volunteers," passed away in August.

When I first started volunteering at the PLHS, Bob was a solid member. He came to all the meetings and did some odd jobs when asked, but mostly he supported his wife Carole's huge efforts at the Society. Then, four or five years ago he decided we really needed his help at PLHS. He was so right. He jumped in with both feet. He became our treasurer and joined the Board. His contributions were too numerous to list but included organizing the financial statements, setting up the oral history mobile studio, initiating several fundraising campaigns, and finally organizing the house repair project. He brought energy, organization, and intelligence to every significant project we completed over the past few years. I saw him as a tremendous leader, mentor, and friend.

As I got to know Bob, I realized he was the very definition of a "Renaissance man." He knew so much about so very many things: music, photography, technology, woodworking, history; the list goes on and on. When he sat down at the piano at the Martin Perry House, I was surprised (yet again) by the beautiful music he played. Seems like I learned something new every time I was around him.

He was especially kind to my son Ben, who wants to follow in his footsteps and study to become an engineer. Ben, who is also a gadget lover, was thrilled when Bob stopped by our house and offered him a ride in his Tesla. Ben talked about the car for weeks after the tour. Bob once told me that splurging on the Tesla was one of the best decisions he ever made. That is a great lesson for all of us. If you have an opportunity to do something that will make you happy, go for it.

Farewell Bob. We will miss you very much.

Tim Steitz

President

Powell Liberty Historical Society

PLHS Dues

Our dues record keeping for the past few years has not been as systematic as it should be, which means that we are not always sure who has paid dues and who has not. We are fixing the problem and will be able to send timely reminders in the future. In the interim, if you have not paid dues this calendar year, please consider filling out the membership form included with the newsletter and send it along with your check.

Your continued support is much appreciated.

DONATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

We are very grateful for the following:

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

Will Reeves—Two Olentangy Local School memorial plates, Powell United Methodist Church anniversary plate dated 1825-1975, four pencils advertising the Red & White Store, paper tape for wrapping meat reading “Fred’s Better Meats,” plastic car trash bag advertising “Reeves Red & White Store,” and red plastic ice scraper advertising “Morgan’s Powell Sohio Services”

John & Louise Wright—Antique oak display cabinet with three glass doors (from Owen & Vernie (Steitz) Case home), 24-inch folding carpenter ruler, small sheep bell, and 1945 award ribbon from Powell School PTA Hobby Show

Joel Smith—1959-60 Powell School sports letter “P”, 1960 Olentangy Football Program, 1961 Olentangy Basketball Program, 1964 Olentangy Football Program, 1964 wool letter sweater for baseball & basketball

Bill Bruce—Electronic photo of an early 1970’s photo of the Powell Speedway

- ◆ Larry Dulin—\$50 in memory of Jo Gerwig
- ◆ Doug & Marge Meeker—\$35 renewal
- ◆ Gary & Joyce Quay—Life Membership—\$250.00
- ◆ Andy Anderson—\$25 renewal
- ◆ Melanie McEvoy—\$25 new membership
- ◆ Susan R. Kirkham Soper—\$25 renewal + \$50 in memory of maternal grandmother Mary T. Perry
- ◆ Scott Wittich—\$25 membership
- ◆ Karen & Brad Cowan—\$35 membership



Antique oak display cabinet donated by John and Louise Wright

In Memoriam —

Edward O’Neil Conklin, 89, died on August 18, 2018. He was born in Powell on February 13, 1929, to Burke and Anna (O’Neil) Conklin. He graduated from Powell High School in 1948.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS & TOURS

Powell-Liberty Historical Society shared a tent with the Delaware County Historical Society at the June 22-23 Powell Festival. There was lots of interest in the display of pioneer items brought to the tent which afforded us good conversation about our society and the opportunity to pass out membership and program information.

The information given at the festival may have had an impact on the many who participated in the annual August walking tour. A lovely summer evening was spent checking out the historically significant buildings around the city. Many who took the walk ended the evening with a tour of the house and enjoyed some refreshments.



Robert Wilhelm 1944-2018

Bob and Carole Wilhelm moved to the Powell area from Baltimore, Maryland, in 1974. He had graduated from Case Institute of Technology with a B.S. in Electrical Engineering in 1966 and received his M.S. in Systems and Control Engineering from Case Western Reserve University in 1968. He was hired in 1969 by Industrial Nucleonics Corp. and became a Senior Principal Engineer. With such a mind and position, you might think that he would hold himself a little above us commoners. But, that was not Bob's attitude at all. From the beginning, he was friendly and interested in learning the history of his new home in Ohio. Carole, ever the volunteer, became involved with the Powell-Liberty Historical Society very soon after its organization in 1986. She has held positions of president; organizer of special events, such as the Pancake Days and Good O'le Days; written monthly columns for the newspapers, entitled "History Today"; given tours of the Martin-Perry House; and provided PowerPoint programs for many speaking opportunities.

Carole could not have given such time and effort to our society without Bob's full encouragement and blessing. Soon Bob, himself, became more and more involved. Bob was instrumental until the very last few months, with the technological issues that go along with comput-

ers and programming. He was the one we turned to with questions as simple as "how do we get the copy machine to copy on both sides!" It was Bob who produced the PowerPoint presentations and supplied the laptop and projectors to show them. He saw to it that we had headset microphones for the walking tours, and it was he that edited our oral histories.

Bob was not opposed to getting a little dirty either. He stripped and painted the porch; he and his father refinished the store display case—and brought it up the stairs and around the corner to its location in the display room. What a job that was!

Bob went to bat for our local preservation concerning the Orange Road Bridge, worked with ODOT for the posting of Mulzer Mill information found on the banks of the Olentangy River in Highbanks Metropolitan Park, and represented our society at city hall meetings.

Until very recently, when the cancer became too debilitating, Bob filled the position of treasurer and board of trustees member. His struggle with cancer ended on August 20. How do we, as an all-volunteer society, survive without people such as Bob and Carole Wilhelm? And how do we thank them for their many efforts on our behalf? It is with very heavy hearts that we say good-bye not to just a member, but a true friend. Bob, you will be sorely missed.

We Need Your Help

As you know the Martin Perry house, the home base of the PLHS, was built in 1889 and was renovated nearly 30 years ago. Old houses require constant maintenance and upkeep, and like all houses, occasionally have major issues. The Martin Perry house has had several serious major system failures in recent months to go along with the need to complete some maintenance projects that have been deferred too long. In late March, we suffered a flooded basement due to a failed sump pump. No serious lasting damage resulted, but the pump had to be replaced. Simultaneously, the 30-year-old furnace failed and had to be replaced. In early July, just as the heat wave hit, the 30-year-old air conditioner failed and had to be replaced. The case can be made that we were exceptionally lucky to get 30 years of service from these systems but replacing these items was a big expense and our funds are limited.

If you have been at the MPH in recent months, you probably noticed partially completed repairs of the west wall of the house. Additional siding repairs and painting of the entire house is yet to be completed. In addition, minor

roof repairs are needed along with gutter and downspout repair or replacement and replacement of one of the kitchen doors that has structurally deteriorated and is being devoured by insects. There is no doubt that the list will continue to grow.

The total bill is \$14,000 and climbing. This is after very significant discounts provided by local vendors for their services. A very welcome grant from the Jack and Jane Van Fossen Fund of the Delaware County Foundation covered about \$1,700 of the expenses, but there is still a big hole to fill.

Your support is urgently needed. Please consider the need and send a contribution to help us keep the Martin Perry house watertight and serviceable for the coming years. There is a contribution form included in this newsletter that you can use for this purpose.

Thank you in advance for your help in keeping the Martin Perry house as the community gem that it has been. If you have questions or suggestions send them to treasurer@powellhistory.org

Program Summary

Summer has been a busy time at the Martin Perry House. We had three interesting educational programs in between installation of a new sump pump, furnace, and air conditioner and maintaining the gardens so nicely prepared in the spring by friends in memory of Jo Cornish.

On June 11, retired Judge Henry Shaw shared with us part of his extensive collection of Civil War firearms. Featured were some long arm weapons and several hand guns. In addition, he told us about his restoration of a rifled cannon which he hauls every year to Gettysburg in early July to commemorate the famous battle of 1865.

Also in June, some of the Powell Liberty Historical Society volunteers shared a vendor table with the Delaware County Historical Society at the Powell Festival. It was a good opportunity to showcase both historical societies.

The July 9 program featured a virtual ride on the C D & M (Columbus, Delaware and Marion) interurban transportation system, presented by Jack Hilborn, president of the Delaware County Historical Society. Jack shared the history of the interurban transportation system and the importance it played in the development of Franklin and

Delaware counties. Over the years, Jack's passion for railroad transportation has grown. We were fortunate that he was willing to share his vast knowledge with us.



A stop on the walking tour

The highlight of the summer programs was our annual walking tour of downtown Powell led by Sherry Carmichael on August 13. About 20 residents joined us on this interesting tour. Many thanks to Sherry, a 6th generation Powell resident and longtime historical society volunteer, for sharing Powell's history with us.

Photos of past events can be found by following the Past Events link found under the Events and Tours menu on the website, www.powellhistory.org. We hope to have videos of some programs and events available soon. A schedule of future programs can also be found on the historical society website. We hope you can join us.

Recent Research Queries

John Scott

John P. Scott from Bloomington, Illinois, emailed us in June to see if we had any information on his great-grandfather John W Scott, thought to have lived in Powell and worked on the railroad here. We were able to find that his great-grandfather (1867-1936) was buried in the Powell Cemetery and his great-grandmother Maude (Conklin) from Waldo, Ohio, was buried in the Africa/East Orange Cemetery along with her parents, Matthew and Minerva Conklin. In August John and his wife came to Ohio and located both his great-grandparents' graves. They paid a visit to the Martin Perry House before heading back to Illinois and enjoyed learning more about the Powell area and John's local roots.

Allison Goodrich

A woman posted on Facebook this small photo of Allison Goodrich, born in Liberty, Ohio, in 1850, that she found in an antique shop in Portland, Oregon, and was hoping it would be claimed by a family descendant. I checked our GOODRICH surname file and realized Allison was the grandson of Ebenezer Goodrich who came to Liberty Township in 1805. Ebenezer's marriage to



Allison Goodrich

Betsy Dixon in 1813 marked the first marriage in Middlebury (Powell today).

Allison's parents, Aaron and Sarah (Hardin), built the large white farmhouse that still exists between the river and Ohio 315, north of the Olentangy Environmental Control Center. There is a Goodrich family graveyard discovered there about 20 years ago that has the remains of Ebenezer and at least 12 of his descendants. Allison and his two brothers attended Ohio Wesleyan University, and I believe this photo was probably taken by a studio in Delaware, Ohio, upon his graduation. Allison died in 1924 and is buried in the Oak Grove Cemetery in Delaware.

No one else had claimed the "rescued photo" after two months, so I was happy to have the woman mail it to us for our files. I imagine there are several Goodrich family descendants still in this area, and we would be glad to hear from them and share additional information on one of the pioneer families of Liberty Township.

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 \$ _____

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*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.*