



8996 Darrow Rd., Twinsburg, OH 44087-1720

Phone: 330-487-5565

www.twinsburghistoricalsociety.org

president@twinsburghistoricalsociety.org

2023

January Newsletter

This month's Newsletter is dedicated to Dolly Raines, long-time member *and* the person in charge of the Tuesday morning crafters. You may not be at the Museum on Tuesday mornings, but you likely know Dolly from open houses and other events.

She and the Tuesday group have been contributing quilts for an annual raffle since 2007. This has added \$9535.00 to the Historical Society's treasury! In addition, the group has given another \$1506.00 from sales of items on display in the Craft Room. (\$400.00 this year alone) While we are, of course, grateful for the money, the social and educational contributions by the group can't be measured. Visitors might be offered a chance to weave on one of our vintage looms....people are encouraged to learn about quilting and are invited back for Tuesday mornings. The atmosphere is warm and welcoming and truly a place where history lives.

NO DECEMBER OPEN HOUSE

As has been our custom, there will be no open house at the end of December. However, January's should be fun....Open House is Sunday, the 29th, from 2:00 to 5:00, and we will have all sorts of materials for making Valentines....just bring your ideas. Kids of all ages are welcome!

2022 The Year in Review

2022 had us back in full swing. We hosted 11 Open Houses. So good to see folks back in the museum. Our wonderful design crew, Beverly Klimas and Diana Kriedman worked all year to reorganize exhibits, update signage, redecorate the Riley House and keep our buildings neat and tidy. Rich Bissell, Ken Roddy, Bob Davet, Ed Ponter took care of fixing and maintaining our properties. You would be amazed at all they do.

The Black History month program, under the direction of Dr. Condance Longmire was a big success. We had the biggest attendance so far. Many local folks contributed their time and talent to make this all happen.

We kicked off the Writer's Series with two evenings with 5 authors total in the Riley House. We are ready to have a bigger season in 2023.

"The Old Tyme Fayre" was back in full swing too. Beautiful weather, the ever popular third grade quiz, the Marble Museum guy and of course the chickens. Kids crafts and games and hot dogs too. Local plants and produce were on display and the Garden Club judged the entries. The Diersing women brought their wonderful baked goods. Nobody had to go hungry.

"Tales of Locust Grove" was blessed with perfect weather. We had the largest cast ever and several new faces and characters. Free pizza too.

November's program, "The History of Liberty Park", by the Summit Metro Parks, was truly informative. It was so well attended that we had to keep bringing in extra chairs.

We wrapped up the year with the Christmas Party at the museum. Lots of food and lots of fun. It is wonderful to see the museum so full. Congratulations to Gayle Davet, winner of this year's quilt. Gayle's ticket was pulled from a total of 104. Although she had purchased tickets earlier in the year, Gayle generously bought one more at the Christmas party on Dec. 7th, helping to boost sales over 100. And it was the ticket she bought that won! You just never know....

We have two film companies working in the Riley House too. Lots more details as things firm up.

Mark Your Calendar

- 1/4/2023, Trustee Meeting, 7PM, First Congregational Church.
- 1/18/2023, Special Program, "History of Geauga Lake" 7PM. Museum.
- 1/29/2023, Open House, Valentine Craft Making, 2-5PM. Museum.
- 2/1/2023, Trustee Meeting, 7PM, First Congregational Church.
- 2/26/2023, Open House, 2-5PM, Museum.
- 3/1/2023, Trustee Meeting, 7PM, First Congregational Church.
- 3/26/2023, Open House, 2-5PM, Museum.
- 4/5/2023, Trustee Meeting, 7PM, Museum.
- 4/23/2023, Open House, 2-5PM, Museum.
- 5/3/2023, Trustee Meeting, 7PM, Museum.
- 5/21/2023, Open House, 2-5PM, Museum.
- 6/7/2023, Trustee Meeting, 7PM, Museum.
- 6/25/2023, Open House, 2-5PM, Museum.

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Review by Veronica Hughes

Have you heard of the Sultana disaster of 1865? This tragedy – the worst maritime disaster in the history of the US to this day – took the lives of over 1,100 people, most of them Union soldiers from Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan who were returning home after spending time in Confederate prisons. The boat was overloaded and in disrepair, and it exploded in a blaze of fire on the Mississippi River. Five Twinsburg soldiers were aboard; four survived, but Eli Thompson was one of the victims. His story is included as part of Tales of Locust Grove each year, told by his friend, Sgt. William McKinney. There is information on our soldiers of the 115th Ohio in *Beyond the Monument: The Civil War Soldiers of Twinsburg, Ohio* by Veronica Hughes (for sale at the museum or on Amazon). To learn more, watch the fascinating, comprehensive documentary currently on Amazon Prime, called “Remember the Sultana” that tells in great detail the story of this tragedy, including letters from Ohio soldiers.

If you haven't been to the Historical Society lately, come visit us. There are two new displays that you don't want to miss. The first is a totally new military display, filled with military uniforms, metals, rations, newspaper articles and much more that honors the men from Twinsburg who proudly served our country. The second display contains Valentines that are from the late 1800's to the early 1900's. Hope to see you there.

HISTORY OF GEAUGA LAKE PARK

Geauga Lake has a special place in the hearts of many who live in the area....it was the best place to go as children, a possibility for a teenage date, and a favorite destination for many families. Our first program of the year, The History of Geauga Lake Park, is sure to bring back many memories. Presented by John Kudley, of the Aurora Historical Society, the program is scheduled for Wednesday, January 18, at 7:00. Besides the presentation, Mr. Kudley will have two tables of photos and artifacts for everyone to enjoy. This all takes place at the Museum. There is no charge, and we will have refreshments. All welcome!

Pictures from the History of Liberty Park Presentation on November 16th, 2022



“The challenge of history is to recover the past and introduce it to the present.”

David P Thelen

Renewing Members:

Martin Golembiewski

Lance & Jessica Lanier

Daniel Nichols

John & Jeanie Pavelich

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Want to get involved or just help out?

Are you a High School Student that needs community service hours? Are you a person that just wants to get involved with the Historical Society as a volunteer? Please consider signing up as a THS Volunteer. It is simple, Just fill out the Volunteer Information Sheet and we will put you on our Volunteer list. When things come up we will contact you and give you dates, times and what we need help with.



SCAN ME

You can download the form by scanning this QR Code.

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Racing in Northfield Timeline by D. Diersing 2015

August 15, 1958 – Northfield Park opens for a 44 night racing season.

December 31, 1958 – Ohio Racing Commission denies the request by Grandview track to move its harness racing schedule to Northfield Park. The commission felt the statue was not applicable in the Grandview's case was one passed by the Legislature



March 1959 - the Ohio House passed a bill to move the 1959 racing schedule from Grandview to another Ohio track.

August 5, 1959 - the Grandview racing schedule was moved to Northfield.

June 8, 1972 - Walter Michael and the board of directors of Northfield Park agree to accept an offer of \$7.5 to purchase the track.

June 29, 1972 – The Ohio Racing Commission approves the sale of Northfield Park for \$7.5 Million to three Cleveland area men. George Steinbrenner III 50% share, Carl Milstein 45% share, and Robert Skakich 5% share. The facility is leased to outside operators.

This Month in History:

1937 Federal Old Age Pensions Started

2006 Sago Mine Disaster West Virginia

1959 Alaska became the 49th state of the United States of America

1954 Elvis Presley Records First Demo Record

1933 Work is started on The Golden Gate Bridge across the San Francisco Bay.

1961 Algeria Gains Independence From France

1957 Wham-O Company Begins Making the Pluto Platter / Frisbee

1966 Indira Gandhi becomes head of the Congress Party and prime minister of India

1922 Insulin First Used

Trivia Challenge:

The sinking of what ship in 1915 eventually led to the United States entering World War I?

- A. Bismark
- B. Titanic
- C. Lusitania
- D. Monitor

RMS *Lusitania* was a British ocean liner that was sunk by a German submarine in World War I. The sinking caused a storm of protest in the United States as 128 American citizens were among the dead. It helped shift public opinion in the United States against Germany and was a factor in the United States' declaration of war nearly two years later.

Answer: C

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| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Bonnie Williams* | President |
| Jon Howard* | Vice President |
| Audrey Kancler* | Secretary |
| Gayle Davet* | Treasurer |
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| Richard Bissell* | Maintenance |
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| Dr. Constance Peek-Longmire* | Trustee |
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*** Trustees**

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