



# T W I N S B U R G HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 7, Twinsburg, OH 44087-1720

Phone: 330-487-5565

## **Happy 2012!**

We start the new year with an enthusiastic Board of Trustees and a variety of ideas for the year's programs and activities. Our hope is to have a list of program dates ready for March or April's Newsletter. As always, we welcome your suggestions!

## **Continuing Activities:**

One activity that continues year round is the Tuesday morning craft room. Currently three looms are in use, two of which are producing rugs. And the quilters are putting the finishing touches on the 2012 quilt! Quilters and weavers include Dolly Raines, Gail Herrilko, Lana Verbic, Carol Krupa, Lois Lowe (from Bedford), Marilyn Lown (from Monroe Falls), Kim Hrabak Mazey, Jane Weiss, Charlotte Wike, Marilyn Cagin, and Audrey Kancler. The looms and quilt production draw a lot of interest during open houses, and the Museum is a fun place to be on a Tuesday morning. Anyone is welcome to stop in and visit or help out. People are there from 9AM to Noon.

## **Christmas Party:**

December's Christmas party was held at the Riley House. Although parking is limited, we had a good turnout and did not hear of anyone missing out because of no parking. The Riley House was a warm and festive place to celebrate. The drawing for the 2011 quilt was held at the party, with Charlotte Wike holding the winning ticket. Congratulations Charlotte! The raffle brought in \$535, a record amount. Our sincere thanks to the Tuesday morning quilters and to all of you who bought tickets.

## **Here is something from the Fire Department's website - definitely a project that will preserve some of Twinsburg's history:**

The Twinsburg Fire Department is working on a Memorial Brick Walkway to go around the bell in front of Fire Station #1 at 10069 Ravenna Rd. It is to commemorate the years of service of members who have served this community since the beginning of the Fire Department's operation in the year 1919. Donations of \$25, in honor of or memory of a past or present firefighter, will be appreciated. Please contact Capt. Jim Hartung or Bonnie Kocmit at 330-963-6256 during regular business hours. The installation is planned for completion in the Spring of 2012.

## **February 2012**

### **Mark Your Calendars:**

**February 1, 2012**

*February Meeting*

**February 26, 2012**

*Open House 2-5PM*

**March 7, 2012**

*March Meeting*

**March 25, 2012**

*Open House 2-5PM*

**April 4, 2012**

*April Meeting*

**April 29, 2012**

*Open House 2-5PM*

**May 2, 2012**

*May Meeting*

**May 27, 2012**

*Open House 2-5PM*

**June 6, 2012**

*June Meeting*

**June 24, 2012**

*Open House 2-5PM*

**The War of 1812: The War that Nobody Won.**

History is often organized around wars and wars have a way of acquiring names and epithets. The Great War, The Civil War, The American Revolution, The War to End All Wars. Of course the naming rights often go to the victors and can add a touch of romance to what is a bloody business.

This year is the bicentennial of the War of 1812 much of which took place here in Ohio. The focus of the conflict for Ohio was what settlers saw as the encroachment of the Indians on their territories. The conflict was not universally supported and neither of Ohio's Senators voted for the declaration of war. Senator Campbell did not attend the War Congress of 1812 and Senator Thomas Worthington voted against it. He said that the advocates were much noisier than those opposing it.

Ohio Governor Miegs was a strong advocate of the war with the British and attempted to gain the allegiance of the local tribes of Indians. The state militia was woefully inadequate and the Ohio generals were veterans of the revolutionary war and past their prime.

On June 18 1812 President Madison signed the declaration of war and the young country was once again in battle with Great Britain. Declaring a war and fighting one are very different enterprises. Canada was the enemy and they were very close at hand. Most of the native Americans were in league with the British and they were fierce warriors. The war ended on Christmas Eve 1814 when American and British diplomats met in Ghent, Belgium to sign the peace treaty. Neither side really gained anything but both sides lost much.

In the next few newsletters we will be highlighting some of the people and battles of the forgotten war. Next month; Who was Tecumseh? How does he figure in this battle and our history?

**Sources:**

Marrin, Albert *1812 The War that Nobody Won*. New York: Athenium, 1985

Roseboom, Eugene H. and Francis P. Weisenburger *A History of Ohio*. Columbus:

The Ohio Historical Society. 1967

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**Sleigh Ride??:**

Now that snow is actually here, we might think back to how the early residents in this area dealt with Winter. Here's an excerpt from the Green Book :

**The Great Sleigh Ride of 1856**

The unusually good and long continued sleighing in the winter of 1855-56 led to many local sleighing parties. Considerable neighborly rivalry was stimulated and this led to a series of contests among neighboring townships. A rude flag, ridiculously embellished, soon became a prized possession. Solon, the first town to gain the flag, was deprived of it by Twinsburg, the first town in Summit Co. to win it. This victory required sixteen four-horse teams of Twinsburg. The flag was successively won by Bedford, Brecksville, Royalton, Boston, Independence, Hudson and finally Richfield with seventy-three four-horse teams. The excitement had become so intense and widespread that it was determined to make a final, tri-county contest. This was held March 15, 1856, Summit county winning with one hundred and sixty-two four and six-horse teams. A few days later Medina county sent one hundred and eighty-two similar teams to Akron. They took the flag with them back to Medina county, but through a veritable sea of mud. A string of bells used during this contest may, during the sleighing season, still be heard merrily jingling along the Macedonia road.

**The Twinsburg Banking Company**

To all appearances a more quixotic performance would be difficult to imagine than the actual methods adopted and pursued by Mr. E. O. Christy in the promotion and organization of the above bank. He came to Twinsburg in the fall of 1911, without introduction of any sort, and was a stranger to practically everyone in the town. He immediately announced in the stores, and to persons he met casually, that he had come to organize a bank, and then proceeded to set forth the advantage of such an institution and the methods he had used in other places and proposed to follow in Twinsburg. The people at first smiled as they listened, thinking that the explanation lay in a weak or overwrought mentality. Among themselves they joked about the matter, but very few took any serious interest in the man or the subject. After a sojourn in the town of several weeks, and without having asked or received any assurances, Mr. Christy left Twinsburg and went to Chicago to spend the winter. He returned, however, in the fore part of April following and immediately took up the agitation for a bank, and continued without cessation until the full capital was subscribed, the organization effected, and the building nearly constructed and equipped. He was not robust in health during any of his stay in Twinsburg, and much of his work was done under conditions that suggested hospital care, but by sheer will power he held himself to the task he had set himself and could not see the work neglected. In mid-summer of 1912, however, he succumbed to his illness and was taken to St. Luke's Hospital, Cleveland, where in September, 1912, he died. The bank was formally opened on November 11, 1912, and has proven itself a great convenience to the community. It has a capital of \$25,000.00 and its deposits at present aggregate \$129,402.04. Its surplus and undivided profits total \$3,728.55. Its present Board of Directors comprises the following: O. H. Bennett, G. L. Bishop, H. A. Cochran, C. H. Craemer, W. H. Chamberlin, P. P. Evans, V. R. Hempstead, A. R. Mountjoy, C. E. Riley. Its officers are as follows: President, C. E. Riley, Vice President, G. L. Bishop, Secretary, A. J. Brown, Treasurer, O. H. Bennett, Cashier, A. R. Mountjoy.

# Twinsburg Historical Society News Letter

## P.O. Box 7

### Twinsburg, OH 44087

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