



T W I N S B U R G HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

Phone: 330-487-5565

March 28 Program:

Wednesday, March 28 the Twinsburg Historical Society will host its first program for 2012. Five of the most knowledgeable residents will be on hand to tell stories and answer questions about Twinsburg's past.

Marge Percy, Charles Crouse, Stan Jewell, Don Bissell and Homer Stocker will all be on hand to share over 400 years of memories. Bring your questions and they will try to answer them. If you have old pictures of a younger Twinsburg bring them along. Someone may be able to shed some light on who's in the picture or where the picture was taken. Want to know who your street is named for? Do you live on Luman Lane? Did you go to Bissell or Wilcox Schools? Want to know more about the Riley House over on Liberty Road? How about questions about the many century homes that you pass on your way to the freeway.

Perhaps you have a story to share or maybe there are a few skeletons that you know about. Heard some rumors? Bring those tales along too.

The program begins at 7:00. There is no charge and refreshments are on the Society as well. If you have never been inside the museum, this would be a great first trip. Join the experts in a conversation about the past. It's a great way to get connected to the future.

The museum is at Darrow Road, right next to the Mail Pouch Barn.

Annual Meeting

Annual Meeting and Potluck date is April 21. Please bring your own table service and a dish to share. Plan to arrive at 4:30 to visit and also to get a look at two videos (DVDs). One is of last year's "Tales of Locust Grove", done by Kim Culhan. The other is a truly silent movie, filmed in Twinsburg in probably the early 1920's. This will also be an opportunity to buy raffle tickets for this year's quilt, created by the ladies who meet Tuesday mornings at the Museum. Election of officers will also be held. The meeting is at the Congregational First Church on Church St.

Special Thanks

Our thanks to Frank Hanzel who has once again made the "crank" or "wind up" Victrola work. This is always of great interest to the young people who visit, and we had two groups of Cub Scouts who missed this in February. We'll hope they come back and hear the music. In addition, Ken Roddie has the wax cylinder player working again.

April 2012

Mark Your Calendars:

**Monthly Meetings First
Wednesday of every
month at 7:00 PM**

March 25, 2012
Open House 2-5PM

March 28, 2012
Program 7:00 PM

April 21, 2012
Annual Meeting 4:30PM

April 29, 2012
Open House 2-5PM

May 12, 2012
*Twinsburg Garden Club
Plant Sale 9:00 AM*

May 19, 2012
*American girl Tea Party
Riley House 2:00 PM*

May 20, 2012
*Hat Lady Tea Party 2:00
PM at Museum*

May 27, 2012
Open House 2-5PM

June 24, 2012
*Open House 2-5PM
"Kids Day"*

June 21, 2012
Jam Session at the Barn

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And the Beat goes On:

The War of 1812 is called the “Forgotten Conflict” but there are many things that still linger. There are at least three musical milestones that came out of this war.

The campaign slogan “Tippecanoe and Tyler Too” was the title of a song written for the presidential campaign of 1840. Whig candidate, William Henry Harrison and his running mate John Tyler of Virginia. In 1811 Harrison was the governor of Indiana and responsible for the destruction of Prophet’s Town, and Indian stronghold. The Prophet, was the brother of the Indian leader Tecumseh. According to legend, The Prophet placed a curse on Harrison. Harrison was elected but died one month after his inauguration. He was the first president to die in office. The song, however, firmly established the power of singing as a campaign device.

Francis Scott Key, a Georgetown Federalist, had come to Baltimore in September of 1814 to secure the release of a prisoner. He was on board a British ship when Fort Henry was attacked at the Campaign of Chesapeake. On the morning of the fourteenth he was amazed to see that the American flag was still flying. That sight inspired him to write the poem “The Star Spangled Banner” which was set to the tune of an eighteenth century British drinking song. The song was a great hit almost immediately but it did not become the national anthem until 1931 over one hundred years later.

In 1959 an Arkansas principal wrote a silly song about the battle that took place in New Orleans. He wanted to create an enthusiasm for history among his students. The song was a rather biased account of that battle as told through the eyes of an American. The melody came from an older tune titled “The 8th of January” the date of the battle. Johnny Horton recorded the most popular version and he also adjusted the lyrics for a version to be marketed in the U.K. The song is popular to this day. “The Battle of New Orleans made the Billboard Hot 100 chart at number 28 for 1959. It was the number one country song in that year.

Sources:

1812 the Video PBS

Current, Richard N., T.Harry Williams and others American History: A Survey Volume 1

Heidler, David S. and Jeanne T. Heidler, ed. *Encyclopedia of the War of 1812*

Hickey, Donald R. *The War of 1812: A Forgotten conflict*

Coordinated Open Houses:

VFW Post 4929 and the Twinsburg Historical Society are scheduling coinciding Open Houses on the last Sunday of every month, giving residents an opportunity to visit two historic institutions on the same afternoon. The Historical Society will be open from 2:00 to 5:00 and the VFW from 1:00 to 5:00. The VFW was founded in 1946 by several men who had served in WWII. It is located at 9825 Ravenna Rd. and offers displays of many different pictures, documents, and memorabilia donated by Veterans.

American girl Tea Party

The Library will once again utilize the Riley House, on Liberty Rd., for an American Girl Tea Party. There will actually be two sessions, both on Saturday, May 19. One is from 2:00 -3:00 and the other is 3:30 - 4:30. Sign up begins May 5 - Call the Library at 330-425-4268, Ext. 3. Seating is limited, and children must be accompanied by adults.

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Below you will find an excerpt from the "Nosey Book". This excerpt and poem was written about Rev. Samuel Bissell. The students of the "Twinsburg Institute", now the Twinsburg Historical Society, held Rev. Samuel Bissell in the highest regard. So for the celebration of his 95th birthday they filled the Institute with family, friends, students and former student. That is when W.R. Rose wrote "A Tribute".

A Retrospect

It is now well nigh a century since Rev. Samuel Bissell came from Aurora, a single purpose in his heart, to serve his God by service to his fellowmen. It is not humanly possible to measure his success. To be sure, the crude cabin is now gone, Lyceum Hall is now a store-room, the old Institute building is torn down, and even the stone building of which Mr. Bissell said, "The rock of Gibraltar will as soon give way, without an earthquake," presents an altered aspect to the passerby. A thoughtless man might say that the Institute is gone. But is it? Minds were quickened and trained, new purposes were brought into life and currents of thought and action started that can be terminated only by the end of time. Twinsburg's share in this honor is that her sons and daughters, from generation to generation, availed themselves of the opportunities offered them. Comparatively few men live to experience such satisfying fruition of their labors as did Mr. Bissell. He never experienced affluence; little enough the ordinary comforts of life. Yet his life was full and the sunset hours made peaceful because he had made his full contribution to society. It is to the credit of the present citizens of Twinsburg that they delight to honor the memory of this stalwart figure whose long life spanned so extensive a period of the town's development.

A TRIBUTE
W. R. Rose

I.

"Deep in the wildwood his clearing was made;
Deep in the forest his torch redly flamed;
Firm in the soil his foundation was laid;
Rude were the timbers he fashioned and framed.
There in his temple he taught and he prayed—
Voicing the mission that hosts have acclaimed.

II.

"Worn was the pathway that led to his door—
Worn by the seekers who came from afar;
Widely he scattered his bountiful store—
Far shone the light of that beautiful star.
Heavy the burden he cheerfully bore.
Calloused the shoulder he put to the car.

III.

"Shadows that drift in a wavering line;
Shadows that circle and halt by the wall;
Shadows of seekers enriched from the mine,
Learners who came at the magical call;
You drew the life from the sturdy old vine—
Steward and master, he gave you his all!"

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