TWINSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Moses & Aaron Wilcox
Twin Brothers

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February 2013

Happy 2013!

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!

No March Open House

There is no March Open House at the Museum because Easter falls on the last Sunday of March. Appointments to visit the Museum can always be made by leaving a number on the Museum phone - 330-487-5565.

It's that time of year again!!

It's dues paying time again, and if there is a red dot on your address label it means that we would appreciate your dues. You will note that we have increased all categories, but this is the first increase in six years. Dues and contributions are essential to covering many of our multiple expenses - please see the article on page 3

Please use the form below or go to the web site and download the Membership form and mail it in.

Mark Your Calendars:

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

Open House the last Sunday of Every Month from 2-5PM

No March Open House.

Annual Pot Luck Meeting April 20, 2013

More coming next month…….

Twinsburg Historical Society 2013 Membership Dues

Can be filled out online and printed from our website too!!

___ Individual Memberships.....$15.00
___ Family Memberships.....$25.00
___ Business/Professional Memberships.....$100.00
___ Perpetual Memberships……$150.00

Name:_____
Address:_____
City:_____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Phone _____
Email address, if you would like to receive our (infrequent) reminder emails:_____

Particular interest:
- ◇ Genealogy
- ◇ Twinsburg History
- ◇ Antiques
- ◇ Quilting

Please send your check and completed form to:

Twinsburg Historical Society
PO Box 7
Twinsburg OH 44087

Check us out on the Web: www.lwkweb.com/twinsburghistoricalsociety

Akron Public Library Classes:

Classes via "Special Collections" at the main branch of the Akron Public Library. For more information and to sign up for classes, call 330-643-9030 or go to speccollections@akronlibrary.org
Saturday, February 9: 10 am - noon USING ANCESTRY IN YOUR GENEALOGY RESEARCH
"Ancestry" is the premier online genealogy resource, with more than 8,000 databases and 200 billion images. Its use is free at any Akron Summit County Library. This workshop on Feb. 9th will help people learn how to use it.
Saturday, February 23: 10 am - noon GETTING STARTED IN AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGY
Saturday, March 23: 10am - noon FINDING YOUR IMMIGRANT ANCESTORS

Barn Quilting:

Barn quilt coming to the Freeman Barn! A barn quilt is an 8 x 8 foot plywood square, painted with a quilt block pattern, and then mounted on a barn. Ohioan Donna Sue Groves had the idea to paint a quilt-square design on her barn to honor her mother, a quilter. Her idea turned into a movement to promote tourism by having quilt patterns painted on a bunch of barns and create an art trail. Tourists, coming to see the barns, would help the area's economy by spending money on hotels, gas stations, restaurants, etc. Also, since when you see a farm you often think of the men hard at work, the movement would honor the women and their contributions to running a successful farm. In 2001 Sue and a group of volunteers mounted the first quilt in Adams County and the American Quilt Trail began. The trail has spread to 43 states and continues to grow.
There is only one barn in Summit County that has a barn quilt and that is at Crown Point Ecology Center in Bath Township. The Twinsburg Historical Society's 50th Anniversary Committee is meeting with the Director to obtain details on designing and constructing a quilt for the Freeman Barn. The Committee plans to have opportunities throughout the year for the community to participate in painting or helping complete the quilt in some way. Details will be coming soon.

Quilting, Underground Railroad and Lincoln:

Besides being something warm to wrap around you on a cold winter's night, quilts often tell stories. Signature quilts tell about communities, crazy quilts tell about the maker's interests, and quilts from the slave days tell about the Underground Railroad. Coded messages sewn into the quilts led the slaves to safe houses and escape. The Aurora Library, 115 E. Pioneer Trail, 330-562-6502, is having a Scavenger Hunt for Quilt Codes from the Underground Railroad hidden throughout the library, February 18 – 23.
This precedes the traveling Lincoln exhibit which will open on February 23rd. It is entitled "Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War". This exhibit, touring the country from October 2011 – Fall, 2015, will appear in Ohio only 11 times.
The Historical Society is located in the basement of the Aurora Library, 115 East Pioneer Trail. Hours 2:00 PM—4:00 PM, Monday, Wednesday and Friday or by appointment. Visit aurorahistorical.org or call 330-995-3336 for details.
A group from the Museum's Tuesday morning quilters and weavers will visit the Aurora Library on Tuesday, Feb. 19, and participate in the scavenger hunt. If you would like to join the group and carpool, meet at the Museum at 11:00AM on the 19th.

January 27 Open House:

Hostess for Open House is Lea Bissell.

1913 Flood

Much of Ohio experienced horrendous flooding 100 years ago this March. Called "The Great Flood of 1913", this is often said to be the worst natural disaster in Ohio's history. Prolonged rains, beginning on March 23 (Easter Sunday), combined with the remnants of heavy snowfalls in January and February to cause virtually every waterway in Ohio to overflow. Some of us may have heard about this from our parents or grandparents; others learned about it in history class. Reports vary, but well over 400 people across the State died, many in the Dayton area. Tens of thousands of buildings were flooded, all forms of businesses, services, and transportation were disrupted, and shipment via Ohio's canals ended permanently as locks across the state were either washed away or dynamited to speed the flow of water and lessen flooding and were never rebuilt. Cleveland lost docks and trains and railyards and lumberyards, while Akron had as much as ten feet of water in some of its downtown streets. According to the "green book", Twinsburg, Ohio, 1817-1917, Twinsburg's "considerable elevation" helped minimize the town's flooding and damage. Tinker's Creek overflowed its banks, causing some flooding of cellars and destruction of fences and culverts. The railroad stopped operating for awhile. All in all, though, it appeared that Twinsburg was spared much of the misery experienced by the rest of the State.

Sources:
"Past Pursuits" A Newsletter of the Special Collections Division of the Akron-Summit County Public Library, Vol. 11, Number 4. www.ohiohistorycentral.org

On Display: The Special Collections Division of the Akron-Summit County Library will have an exhibit entitled "Taken at Flood" on display March through May at the main branch of the library. There will be photographs, news reports, and first hand accounts to portray the impact of the Great Flood on the region. For more information call 330-643-9030 or send an email to speccollections@akronlibrary.org

Pinching Pennies

Welcome as we wander down memory lane. This year we are celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the Twinsburg Historical Society by taking a look at the way things were, back in the day.

We will start our series with money. The average income for that year was $5,623.00. The minimum wage was $1.25/hr. Babysitters charged about fifty cents an hour and seventy five cents after midnight. That rate stayed the same whether there was one kid or five. We changed diapers, read stories and always cleaned the kitchen too. The average house cost $21,102 dollars as opposed to $150,790 today. You could buy a car for $3,233.00 and gas it up for twenty five cents a gallon. You could literally drop a dime to make a local call from the pay phone on the corner. Half of the dime could get you a Hershey Bar. You could go the local show and watch a young Paul Newman and a sensuous Patricia Neal in "Hud" for a buck seventy for two. Another .45 cents for a box of popcorn and a couple of Cokes and you were on a pretty nice date. You could pay your bills with a five cent stamp. A burger at one of the slick new fast food joints was .20 cents. Fresh eggs were .50 cents a dozen and ham was .39 cents a pound. Three jars of Gerber baby food could be had for a quarter. Sugar was .38 cents for a five pound bag and coffee prices were starting to go through the roof. It was a different world. We were willing to pay a lot of money for a computer which was really a giant calculator, and saving pennies in a jar seemed a great way to save up for a savings bond which made a great graduation gift. How cool to pay $12.50 for a $25.00 bond. Time moved on and we saw plastic mean money and many people don't bother to balance their checkbooks any more. Who needs a stamp when you bank on line and who would think a quarter was a pretty good tip? A lot has changed in fifty years and much has stayed the same. Time to move with the times. The question is not "Why we are raising the dues now?" but rather, "What took us so long?"

Next month we will look back at the lovely fashions of yesteryear. Can't wait to dig out those prom pictures and wedding photos.

Twinsburg Historical Society News Letter
P.O. Box 7
Twinsburg, OH 44087

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