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

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

Phone: 330-487-5565

**February 2016**

## **Open House**

We will be having an **open house** on **JANUARY 31st**, 2-4 at the museum. We decided to open this month. Please join us if you can. Bundle up it could be cold. Our February open house will include the American Hobo Program put on by the Western Reserve Historical Society. The program will start at 3:00, refreshments will be served.

## **Mark Your Calendars:**

Calendar being assembled  
as you are reading this.

## **Condolences**

We were all saddened by the passing of our dear friend and member Carol Cornell, earlier this month. We have received five donations in her memory.

## **Programs**

We should have our calendar of events for the year ready in the next newsletter or at least at the February open house. I do know we will again try to have the museum open every month and the Riley House at least every other month.

## **Trustee**

We were unable to have our regular Trustee meeting last month. Our next meeting will be February 3rd at 7:00. We will be meeting at Audrey's house.

## **Donation**

Another generous donation has been received. Larry and Wanda Hoon, and Denise and Nancy(Hoon) Wolff have given a generous gift to the museum in memory of their parents Franklin and Alice Hoon. Franklin made beautiful hand painted signs. I believe he made our original Historical Home Signs that you still see on the homes that are left. We are always thankful for any and all donations to the Society.

## **Bicentennial Calendar**

We still have sponsorship available for our bicentennial calendar we're putting together. The cost is \$125.00 per page. If you have a business, or would like your family to sponsor a page just contact the museum, leave you name and number and we will get back to you. Only 26 or 28 sponsors are needed. 2017 is Twinsburg's bicentennial, we hope to have the calendar done and ready to sell by Sept-Oct. this year.

## **New T-Shirts**

We have a wonderful picture of the front of the barn with the quilt, taken by Kim Garred. She will let us use this image for our new t-shirts. Gayle Davet has taken care of the order. Price is \$20 each and will be available at the January Open House.

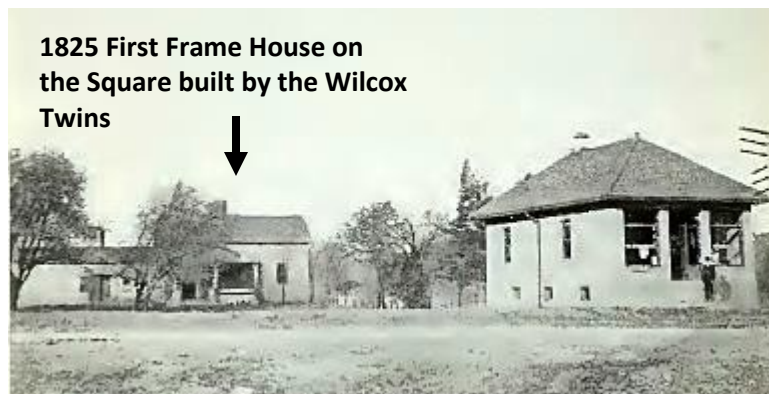
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**Twinsburg, OH 44087**

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Some sources say Elijah W. Bronson, land agent for the Wilcox twins built the first home (log) on the east side of the Square. The second home near the Square was a frame house built by Mr. Myric and was on the south side of the Square (Rt. 82). The following year Mr. Myric sells his home to Leverett Clark and moves east. The Township purchases 1 acre of land northeast of the Square (Rt. 91) to create the first Cemetery. This was 23 years before Locust Grove was built. The first burial in the Township Cemetery was Lucretia Hull who died in September. February 3rd, a meeting was held at the school house, a vote was taken to keep the Square free of any public buildings. After some time a one story house was erected on the Square. It was moved twice, and then torn down. September 5th, the parents of Ethan Alling (Lewis and Nancy) both die the same day of typhus fever. The Congregationalists build a two story building. The upper floor was used for worship and the lower floor was used for a school.

1824 – During his time in Connecticut studying theology, Samuel Bissell marries Fanny Gaylord of Harwinton. A small group of Methodists begin meeting and worshipping in the home of Solomon Upson. 1825 – Samuel Bissell was licensed to preach the Gospel by the South Litchfield Association (association of 20 Churches). Moses and Aaron Wilcox each build a small frame house on the north side of the Square. In August the Wilcox Twins move their families to Twinsburg. The trip took 40 days and they arrived in Twinsburg with two horse teams on October 7th. The last leg of their Journey was on Lake Erie aboard the schooner “Red Jacket”.

A post office was established with Moses Wilcox as the first post master.



Ethan Alling started a dairy business with 22 cows some of which he bought for \$12 each. He took the butter to Akron once a week and sold it for 8 cents a pound. Ethan also made the first cheese in Twinsburg. He sold 600 lbs. in Aurora at 5 cents a pound. Much was lost to spoilage and shortly after he quits the dairy business but his brother Lewis continues Dairy farming.

Ethan Alling begins construction of the first tavern on the southeastern corner of the Square (Rt. 82 & Rt. 91).

1826 – In the fall of 1826 Rev. Bissell returns to Aurora with his new wife and opens a small school.

**Monthly Meetings First Wednesday of every month at 7:00 PM**  
**Open House the last Sunday of Every Month from 2-5PM**

Check us out on the Web: [www.twinsburghistoricalsociety.org](http://www.twinsburghistoricalsociety.org)

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The Alling tavern was completed and opens on December 6, 1826. Formal opening included a Christmas Ball. The tavern served drinks and sold liquor by the bottle.

**1827** - The Wilcox Twins die hours apart and were buried in the same grave. Rev. Samuel Bissell of Aurora was asked to give the funeral sermon. At the time of their deaths, their mortgage to the state of Connecticut School Fund for the land they purchased had not been paid off and the land reverted back to the Connecticut School Fund. Property owners stop all improvements until the issue can be resolved. A couple of years later, Rev. Bissell went to Connecticut to meet with Mr. Seth Beers, commissioner of the Connecticut School Fund. The issue was resolved. Some accounts say those who had purchased land from the Wilcox Twins paid again but it's not clear exactly how the Wilcox mortgage balance was adjusted between the existing land owners, the Wilcox widows, and the Connecticut School Fund.



Moses Wilcox named one of his son's after his brother Aaron. Aaron Wilcox 1814-1881 married in New York and moved to Painesville where he clerked in the store of his wife's brother-in-law Isaac Gillet. He later became president of Lake County Bank, served as Mayor of Painesville several times and was one of the founders of the Lake Erie Female Seminary where his five daughters were educated. Lake Erie Seminary later became Lake Erie College.

**Lack of Facts** –The location of Twinsburg's first Cemetery created by the township in 1823 is unclear. Locust Grove was created in 1846 and has over 70 burials dated before its creation. If or when the bodies were moved from the Township Cemetery to Locust Grove was also unclear. Where the Wilcox Twins were buried in 1827 and when they were moved to Locust Grove was also unclear.



**1828** – In April, Rev. Samuel Bissell closes his Aurora School and moves to Twinsburg to become the pastor of the Presbyterian Church and society. The church builds the Rev. Bissell a log block house just west of Twinsburg square. On the same lot as the house also stood a 20 by 30 log building that was once a shoe shop. In the fall, the former shoe shop was fitted with seats and Rev. Bissell opens the Twinsburg Institute School. 40+ Students were enrolled. . Classes in the log school house continued until 1831/1832 when Rev. Bissell was called to teach at Western Reserve College. There were no classes at the Twinsburg School during that winter.

In the spring, Ethan Alling and Jabez Gilbert bought the stage line running from Hudson to Cleveland, and moved the Northfield stop to Twinsburg. Jabez Gilbert was a well-known stage driver. This transaction brought about a tri-weekly mail and from one to five stages a day. The venture was finally successful although Ethan Alling lost \$600 in running the stage the first seven months. Much of the freight passing between Cleveland and Pittsburg was conveyed through town in "Pennsylvania teams," usually six horses drawing a large covered (Concord) wagon.



# Twinsburg Historical Society News Letter

## P.O. Box 7

### Twinsburg, OH 44087

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#### STAFF

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**President:** Gail Herrilko

**Vice President:** Charlotte Wike

**Secretary:** Bonnie Williams

**Treasurer:** Dan Simecek

**News Letter:** Bob Davet

Twinsburg Historical Society  
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