

A Note from the President:

Greetings Twinsburg Historical Society Members,

The year is rapidly coming to an end and the Society has had many accomplishments including fund raisers, partnerships, and record membership. Here are just a few of the many accomplishments we had throughout the year:

The Old School Gala brought some great revenue for us in the sale of shirts and memorabilia from the old school. We had three days of non-stop visitors reminiscing with us on all of the old school artifacts we were able to salvage before the old school's demise.

Some great partnerships have been brought about with great interaction for all concerned. Our main one is with the local Twinsburg School District. We have welcomed the football team, the honor society, the art department as well as many other students who have been involved with projects at the society. The drama club has been influential in our production of Tales of Locust Grove.

We also developed a great partnership with the Twinsburg Library as well. What started out as a simple genealogy project blossomed into a complete archiving solution of all pictures, documents, and other pertinent information which will be displayed as the History of Twinsburg on a searchable website.

Leslie Heaphy PHD., a Kent State University History Professor, will be working with us to include The History of Twinsburg in two of the courses she teaches starting in the spring semester. The student's projects will relate to the history of Twinsburg and will help the museum with many of the projects we are working on. Some of the projects include: developing a junior docent program, developing a self-guiding tour of the museum with an app, determining once and for all if in fact Twinsburg played a role in the underground railroad, and many other projects.

Professor Susan Gray PHD, of Arizona State University had a project with her students that helped in transcribing all of the writings of Rev. Samuel Bissell that were archived at The Western Reserve Historical Society in Cleveland. They will be sharing the writings with us. We also contributed additional writings that we have in our possession that she could not locate. The end result will also be a searchable website of his writings. Also, all three groups above met together to see how we can assist and interact with all three groups to develop these museum programs to their fullest. We are also in the talking stage with Twinsburg Township to partner on some of their programs and assist where possible. The first project could be to restore the Civil War Monument to its original glory. Did you know about the properties we own and maintain? The Grange Museum, owned and maintained, The Freeman Barn, owned and maintained, The Riley House (Owned by the city). We have a ten-year lease with the city. We maintain it both inside and outside. This coming Spring, we will be painting the entire outside of the house with the assistance of The Rotary Club. The City does take care of the lawn since the house resides in the 900 acre park. Locust Grove Cemetery (Owned by the City) We maintain the cemetery with the cleaning, restoration, and maintenance of the headstones, etc. All of the Tales of Locust Grove monies go to the upkeep. Other museums have asked us for some help and guidance to maintain their cemeteries. We also erected the sign and the pillars at the entrance to Locust Grove Cemetery as well as moving the crypt when the shopping center was being built near it. Much of this was completed in previous years. We are members of numerous museum societies and groups, both locally and nationally and participate in many of the meetings and seminars. We harvest ideas and events from these meetings.

In conclusion, we know that 2019 will be a much better year for us and that you will see new displays, new artifacts, and perhaps, a new property. All of our partnerships will assist us in preserving the history of Twinsburg, Twinsburg Township, and Reminderville. As always, we thank you for your generous support and participation in all of our endeavors, as well as your contributions to our displays. What is nice about our museum, is that it is about our geographical area exclusively!

I would like to personally thank our trustees, businesses, and all members who have contributed this past year. Without you, it would not have been possible.

Respectfully,



Andrew Tomko

President

Twinsburg Historical Society

<https://twinsburghistoricalsociety.org>

*Twinsburg Historical Society
Christmas Party*



*Wednesday: December 5, 2018
Riley House*

7:00 PM to 9:00 PM.

*All are welcome. Bring a dish to pass and a gift to exchange.
Quilt drawing will be held that night*

twinsburghistoricalsociety.org

330 487 5569

Due to a “Cropping” issue in last months newsletter the last 2 ingredients in the Oatmeal Raisin Cookie Recipe got omitted.
Here is the complete recipe. Sorry for any confusion.

OATMEAL - RAISIN COOKIES

1 1/4 cups butter (2 1/2 sticks)
3/4 cup firmly packed brown sugar
1/2 cup granulated sugar
1 egg
1-teaspoon vanilla
1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 teaspoon salt
3 cups quick or old-fashioned oats
2 cups raisins

Place raisins in a bowl with very hot water and let set for ~½ hour.

When ready to use drain the water off.

Heat oven to 375 degrees.

In a bowl combine flour, baking soda, cinnamon, and salt; mix well.

Beat butter and sugars until fluffy.

Beat in egg and vanilla.

Add combine flour, baking soda, salt and spices; mix well.

Stir in oats; stir in raisins. Batter will be very thick.

Drop by rounded tablespoons onto ungreased cookie sheet.

Bake 8-9 minutes for chewy cookies, 10-11 minutes for crisp cookies.

For chewy they will not look very browned but cook more after taking them out.

Cool 1 minute on cookie sheet; remove to wire rack.

Store tightly covered. Yield 4 1/2 dozen.



T W I N S B U R G HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Tales of Locust Grove Final

Kudos to all of the wonderful actors who gathered in Locust Grove Cemetery to recreate stories of the citizens resting there on October 12 and 13. Thanks to the members who managed the tours and organized all of the food that was

donated by our generous local businesses. We are eternally grateful to Larnie Zellner and Mark Hess, who have provided the atmosphere by being our wonderful wandering minstrels for all eleven years. Thanks to the Twinsburg businesses which provided food and beverages and helped make "Tales of Locust Grove" such a fun experience. George's Donuts, Fresh Start Diner, and Starbucks have donated all eleven years! Joining them this year were Mr. Chicken, Teresa's Pizza, Gionino's Pizza, Romeo's, Twinsburg Beverage, Heinen's, Marco's Pizza, Giant Eagle, Mavis Winkle's, Michael's, Pizza Hut, Master Pizza, and Dunkin' Donuts. We are really grateful, and we encourage our readers to patronize these businesses. It was a real village effort.

Christmas Party

On December 5 all are invited to gather at the Riley House on Liberty Road at 7:00 for the annual Christmas potluck celebration. This is a wonderful way to tour the house, and to experience what life may have been like back in the day. The house is a portal to the past. In spite of the plumbing upgrades, flush toilets and a working kitchen, the rest of the house looks very much as it must have in the 19th century when Tolman Fitch Riley and his wife Mary Jane Chapman wrote "July 3, 1853" on the newly dried plaster in their upstairs bedroom. Tolman Riley built the house on the 170 acre farm that was his legacy.

Bring a dish to pass and a small gift for the exchange. There will be punch and good conversation. A great time to reconnect with old friends and make new ones. If you haven't come in a while, or if you have never visited before we will be glad to see you.

December 2018

Mark Your Calendars:

November 18, 2PM-5PM, Open House, National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors .

December 5, 7PM, Christmas Party at the Riley House.

January 2, 7PM, Trustee Meeting

January 27, 2PM-5PM, Open House, Presentation: **"Two Lives. One Flag"** Starting at 3PM

February 6, 7PM, Trustee Meeting

February 24, 2PM-5PM, Open House

March 6, 7PM, Trustee Meeting

March 31, 2PM-5PM, Open House

April 3, 7PM, Trustee Meeting

April 28, 2PM-5PM, Open House

May 1, 7PM, Trustee Meeting

May 26, 2PM-5PM, Open House

June 5, 7PM, Trustee Meeting

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January Open House Program

On January 27, 2019 at 3:00PM, our open house program will be *“Two Lives. One Flag”* presented by Bill Cook. It is the story of two men with two families - one American and one Japanese, both missing in action during World War II. Through one special flag, these two families are able to move toward closure despite a time-span of over 70 years.

Next installment of “Know Your Trustees.” This month we feature our Vice President, Bonnie Williams.

I was born and grew up in Twinsburg. I graduated from R. B. Chamberlin High School in 1970, and then went on to study biology at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, where I earned a BA in 1974. I married Jack Williams (RBC 1968) later that year and returned to Twinsburg.

I am presently the Senior Medical Technologist for the Critical Care Laboratory at Akron City Hospital. My plans include retirement within the next year.

I enjoy travel, particularly spontaneous road trips across the USA. I am attempting to visit all 50 states, and have 13 to go. I also enjoy genealogy, reading, hiking and math puzzles. I have four children and four grandchildren to enjoy.

Many of my ancestors lived in Twinsburg, with some of them arriving as early as 1831. For that reason alone, I have probably always been interested in the history of Twinsburg. One of my earliest memories is of my maternal grandparents' house being torn down to make way for the parking lot and drive-thru for the Twinsburg Bank. I didn't know it at the time, but their house was the original Moses Wilcox house. As I grew older, I observed more historic properties destroyed in the name of progress, and I realized that if we do not act to preserve our history, it will be gone. Many years ago, my mother, Lea Bissell, and my uncle, Larry Richner, worked actively to assemble a collection of slides of places and people in Twinsburg. I watched mom give programs to school children and organizations in Twinsburg, and became more interested. Several years ago, I was asked to join the Board of Trustees and thought that this would be a good way to become involved with the preservation of Twinsburg's history.

I have seen a great deal of progress in the last few years with the Twinsburg Historical Society. We have involved many new people with fresh ideas and different perspectives. We have updated displays, made Tales of Locust Grove a fantastic annual event, increased involvement of high school students, and increased our membership. We have a great website and Facebook page, both of which have increased our visibility in the community. All of these are goals toward which I believe we are progressing. I would like to see continued improvement in all of these areas, and I think it will happen. We have a great group of people working together.

Would you like to become member and help to support our many projects?

You can do that on line on our website

www.twinsburghistoricalsociety.org through our Membership page. It's easy!!

There is always something going on with our Facebook page. New pictures, interesting stories and tidbits about what went on in Twinsburg's past.

If you have questions call (330) 487-5565 and leave a message. We love to hear from you and we always welcome new members.



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During the 1930s and 40s volunteers were alerted of fire calls with a horizontal fire siren located on the Northeast corner of the Township Square. From the 1950s through the 1970s a vertical siren was mounted behind what was the Township Hall on the northwest corner of the square. The siren sounded ten times for two minutes for a fire and once for a rescue call.

After a major fire in 1953 on Church Street, with no fire hydrants in town, the volunteers all signed a bank note for a loan at Twinsburg Bank to purchase a 3,300 gallon tanker truck which was paid off over several years by doing fund raisers.

Prior to 1954 the position of Fire Chief and Assistant Fire Chiefs were elected for a one year period by the firemen. On January 4, 1954 the Twinsburg Township Trustees appointed Raymond R. Richner as permanent Fire Chief.

1948 – December, the Twinsburg School was closed for about a week due to the mass resignation of the school Principal and its teachers. The closing affected all 458 students. A high school student went to his younger sister's class to talk to her. In the process there was an argument with the teacher and the student allegedly cursed. That was followed by Superintendent Glen Powell grabbing the students arm and slamming him against the wall.

There was a 3 day strike by 135 of the 160 high school students against Mr. Powell for his "high handed methods". There were 3 students expelled for disrespect. Superintendent Powell was bound over to the Summit County Court on assault and battery charges. In court, Mr. Powell pleaded innocent and since it was never proven he struck the student he was released on a \$100 bond.

Mr. Powell and the entire teaching staff then resigned over outside interference and the school doors were locked. After the mass resignation, the parent's group tried to meet with the school board and Mr. Powell but the school board would not allow Mr. Powell to answer any questions. This brought an immediate protest from the Twinsburg Real Estate Owners Association. They asked that Mr. Powell and the School Board be removed. The School Board was supported by the Twinsburg Citizens League and 98 members of the School Alumni. In the end Mr. Powell and the teachers returned to school. Two of the three suspended student's also returned to school. The assaulted student remained suspended till the end of the year. He became a successful local businessman, married and raised his family in Twinsburg.

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Twinsburg, OH 44087

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