



8996 Darrow Rd., Twinsburg, OH 44087-1720

Phone: 330-487-5565

www.twinsburghistoricalsociety.org

president@twinsburghistoricalsociety.org

2024

April

Newsletter

Mark Your Calendar

In honor of Women's History month, we would like to dedicate this issue of the newsletter to Betty Tomko. Betty, a former historical society trustee, broke down gender barriers in 1978 by becoming Twinsburg's first female firefighter, paramedic, and state certified fire inspector. Thank you, Betty!

PLEASE NOTE OPEN HOUSE CHANGE DUE TO THE EASTER HOLIDAY:

Since Easter is on the last Sunday in March, we have moved our Open House to March 24th. Hours are the same, of course, 2:00-5:00, and there is always something new to see.

In addition - we have a few pairs of glasses - free and safe - left from our program March 13 on the upcoming Solar Eclipse.

We hope you will plan now to be at our Annual Meeting - Saturday, April 13 - for delicious shared food and a great program.

The program topic is something we have wanted for years - The Underground Railroad. Rumors have circulated about Twinsburg's role in this but been proven false. The "basement" of our big stone Museum could *not* have been a stop on the Underground Railroad as the building dates only to 1866-67. The yellow Freeman House, in front of our Barn, did *not* have secret rooms - it was explored thoroughly before demolition. Were there stops in Twinsburg for the Underground Railroad? We may never know. But we *can* learn more about this most revered piece of history. David Gates, from the Summit County Historical Society, will present the program "Understanding the Underground Railroad in Ohio" after our potluck and meeting on April 13th.

We will be at the First Congregational Church, 9050 Church St. The doors open at 4:30 and we'll plan to eat at 5:00. Bring a dish to share and your own table service - we'll have beverages. There will be a short meeting following dinner and election of officers. The program is scheduled to start at 6:30. All are welcome to dinner and program or just the program!

It's that time of year when high school seniors are finalizing college choices, and figuring out the financial details. Scholarships are always helpful! The Twinsburg Historical Society has been offering a scholarship since 2011. When we established the scholarship, we wanted to honor someone who had been a great asset to the organization, and chose Bob Culhan. Bob had grown up in Twinsburg and was a member of the historical society since its inception. He was dedicated to preserving all aspects of history, and was especially interested in older crafts, such as weaving and chair caning. He instructed people in classes at the museum for many years.

We encourage any graduate residing in the Twinsburg School District to apply for the scholarship. It is not necessary to attend Twinsburg Public Schools. (Private and home-schooled students are eligible.) The link for the Robert Culhan Scholarship is available on our website.

3/24/2024, Open House, 2-5PM, Museum. (NOT 3/31/2024)

4/3/2024, Trustee Meeting, 7PM, Museum.

4/13/2024, **Annual Meeting**, Doors open at 4:30PM, Dinner 5PM, Quick Meeting 6PM, Program 6:30PM. First Congregational Church, **Program: "History of the Underground Railroad"** by the Summit County Historical Society.

4/28/2024, Open House, 2-5PM, Museum.

5/1/2024, Trustee Meeting, 7PM, Museum.

5/26/2024, Open House, 2-5PM, Museum.

6/5/2024, Trustee Meeting, 7PM, Museum.

6/30/2024, Open House, 2-5PM, Museum.

7/3/2024, Trustee Meeting, 7PM, Museum.

7/28/2024, Open House, 2-5PM, Museum.

8/7/2024, Trustee Meeting, 7PM, Museum.

9/4/2024, Trustee Meeting, 7PM, Museum.

9/7/2024, **Special Program**, Olde Thyme Fayre, 10AM-5PM, Museum and Freeman Barn.

Twinsburg Historical Society Newsletter

8996 Darrow Rd.

Twinsburg, OH 44087

www.twinsburghistoricalsociety.org

Our annual Unity/Black History program was a phenomenal success. Approximately 75 people attended the event at the Congregational Church. We dedicated the program to the late Mr. Hubert Brandon, and several of his family were able to attend. The theme was musical, and thanks to Mr. Larnie Zellner, who put together most of the program, served as master of ceremonies, and also performed for us, we were entertained for nearly two hours! We had the pleasure of listening to some very talented musicians, interpretive artists, and storytellers.

After the program, we were treated to some fantastic food donated by Estella White-Darden and Kristen West. Thank you to the committee consisting of Marti Franks, Keith Harris, Audrey Kancler, Dr. Constance Peek-Longmire, Bonnie Williams, and especially, Larnie Zellner Sr.



Out and About in the Community:

Bonnie Williams, Rich Bissell, Beverly Klimas promote the Historical Society at Twinsburg's Community Expo on March 9th at Twinsburg High School.

On March 13 History and Science merged in a great program at the Museum. This was about the upcoming solar eclipse on April 8, 2024 and was presented by six members of the High School's National Honor Society. The program was well-prepared and enthusiastically presented, and the presenters handled several questions from the audience, a nice-sized



crowd, during and after their talk. We were asked to remember their most important point: safety. **Do not look directly at the sun!** They gave information on what glasses to use and not to use. At the program's close they instructed and helped several attendees create special pin-hole boxes for non-direct viewing.

We thank the six young ladies who are pictured above for a fun and informative evening: Jessica Moore, Amelia Wolff, Nicole Belfiore, Addison Cross, Marlena Riley, and Carmella Rivera - as well as their advisor, Michael Porinchak. **(Partial Eclipse Starts at 1:59:31PM, Total Eclipse Begins at 3:14:12PM, Max Eclipse Begins at 3:15:53PM, Total Eclipse Ends at 3:17:35PM, Partial Eclipse Ends at 4:29:14PM)**

Renewing Members:

Gregg Charbonnet (7yrs)
David & Deborah Hill (17yrs)
Larry & Sharon Hurd (5yrs)
Dan & Tabby Ogrizek (8yrs)
Paul & Cathy Powers (8yrs)
Betty Schatz (8yrs)
Frank Carr (15yrs)
Mary Stencil (2yrs)
Keith Barnes (6yrs)

Renewing Business Partners:

Forest City Erectors (8yrs)

This month's Featured Business Partner:



Twin Masks Performing Arts Center (TMPAC) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization committed to producing intimate, thought-provoking shows that engage, entertain and encourage audiences to consider different perspectives and points of view.

9076 Church Street, Suites 2 and 3,
Twinsburg, Ohio 44087
Tel. 330-888-3211

www.twinmasks.org

"The challenge of history is to recover the past and introduce it to the present."

David P Thelen

Twinsburg Historical Society Newsletter

8996 Darrow Rd.
Twinsburg, OH 44087

www.twinsburghistoricalsociety.org

SOLON TO TWINSBURG

A JOURNEY DOWN SOM CENTER ROAD,
NORTH STREET. ROUTE 91, DARROW ROAD,

OR AS YOU LIKE IT

By William T. Gillie

Part 13

Father lived out one of his dreams of providing a home for a herd of Hereford cattle who regarded fences as challenges rather than obstacles; certainly not as limits on their freedom. They dined out much of the time. We grew agile in pursuit.

Back to Mr. Hotchkiss; he may or may not have been in his dotage, but looked forward to the day on which he would lead "the New Revolution" down Euclid Avenue in Cleveland.

Next, Mr. John R. Davies, a good and honest soul and his wife, with their three children, Denny, Oreanna, and Bob, used the house and farm, the latter to a limited extent. The Davies were from England and were gracious people with a firm work ethic. Mr. Davies, a man of slight build and small stature, was for years the sexton in the Twinsburg Congregational Church where, among many other tasks, he and the church bell engaged in a weekly tug of war. The bell never drew him clear out of sight, but the encounter always appeared to be touch and go. Sexton Davies was a man of purpose, not given to half-measures. He rang the bell.

Mrs. Davies was a cultivated lady who imparted to her three heirs a clear understanding of the essential and honored virtues -- a sweet lady and one of considerable spirit from Olde England. It was a privilege to know her.

Next down the road on the east side is a small house built for and used for many years by a hired hand on the large and well provided Bowman farm farther south.

This Month in History: April

1973 New York's World Trade Center Completed

1941 Germany invades Yugoslavia

1935 Twenty of the worst "Black Blizzards" that occurred throughout the Dust Bowl years happen on a single day often referred to as "Black Sunday"

1955 Fleet Street Newspaper Worker Strike

1968 Student Occupation Columbia University

1947 Kon-Tiki Expedition Starts

1975 South Vietnam Surrenders

1980 Terrorist group takes Iran embassy hostages in London

1932 The New Royal Shakespeare Theatre opens in Shakespeare's birthplace of Stratford-upon-Avon

Trivia Challenge:

What U.S. President worked as a lifeguard?

- A. Dwight D. Eisenhower
- B. Woodrow Wilson
- C. Bill Clinton
- D. Ronald Reagan

Answer: D
Ronald Reagan was a lifeguard during high school and saved 77 lives. Other Presidents with swimming backgrounds include John F. Kennedy, Gerald Ford, John Quincy Adams, and Teddy Roosevelt.

Twinsburg Historical Society Newsletter

Board Officers

Bonnie Williams*	President
Jon Howard*	Vice President
Audrey Kancler*	Secretary
Gayle Davet*	Treasurer
Lea Bissell	Historian
Richard Bissell*	Maintenance
Diana Kriedman*	Acquisitions
Marti Franks*	Publicity
Beverly Klimas*	Displays
Roy Meier*	Membership
Giz Roddie*	Trustee
Ken Roddie*	Maintenance
Dr. Constance Peek-Longmire*	Hospitality
Bob Davet*	Newsletter/ Website
Keith Harris*	Trustee
Leslie Roach Bowers*	Volunteer
Bekki Salamon-Maslar*	Coordinator

* Trustees