

Ohio's Small Town Museum in Ashville

AAHS VOL. 15 FEBRUARY 2012



MURAL POSTERS FOR THAT SPECIAL PERSON THAT LOVES ASHVILLE

You can now purchase poster size copies of the Fourth of July mural signed by the artist, Dirk Rozich for \$40. Unsigned copies are just \$10. The back side of the poster has all of the information regarding the hidden meanings in the work. It is the perfect gift for anyone away at college or in the service.

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Daniel Cordell setting up a camera for the Welcome Video shoot

MUSEUM WELCOME VIDEO PRODUCED

Bob Hines and videographer Daniel Cordell produced a "Welcome Video" for the museum. The four minute video hits all of the highlights visitors might want to see as they tour the museum.

The Brad Sherman family graciously appear in the video, together with Charlie Morrison and

Charles Cordle. They view the mural and take a tour of the museum.

The Ashville Pythian Sisters donated the flat screen TV on which the video is played. Stop in and view the production when you get a chance.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

When Dorothy Cormany started creating a scrapbook as part of a 4-H project back in 1944, she had no way of knowing that she was starting on a lifetime hobby or that her hobby would become a vital resource for future generations in this area. Dorothy has managed to produce 66 books of historical material covering the lives of family, friends and others from the Ashville area. Most of her material was drawn from articles that appeared in the Pickaway County News and the Circleville Herald.

The human interest stories that she compiled for the museum about long-forgotten residents of the area have become a priceless source of amusement and sometimes a starting point for uncovering hidden information about our community.

One recent experience illustrates the value this kind of material and the sometimes powerful emotions that they can evoke.

Recently, a couple from Maryland were desperately trying to locate information on the both the husbands father and his father's legal guardian, but they did not know where to start. They knew the husbands father was placed in the Pickaway County Children's Home and released to a legal guardian at age 11. In a strange twist of fate the legal guardian they were looking for was a man named John William Cormany. The Pickaway County Genealogical Library volunteers suggested that they contact Dorothy, so they came to the museum. Knowing they were looking for a Cormany (which certainly was a strange twist of fate), Dorothy had her husband, Max, bring her scrapbook of the Cormany family to the museum. The information in the scrapbook and Max provided key connections to the husbands past and ultimately he has been able to reconnect with an older half-brother and half-sister.

If you have never seen the library at the museum, you should stop in. You will be amazed at the material you will find in the many scrapbooks, high school yearbooks and other cataloged material. Please call first to make an appointment with Dorothy.

We think that our society is very blessed to have volunteers that are willing to give of their time and talents to help others that are searching for connections. That is a big part of what our museum is all about.



Dorothy Cormany is pictured with her personal scrapbook collection.

DONATIONS TO THE AAHS LEGACY ENDOWMENT FUND CONTINUE TO GROW

The AAHS Legacy Endowment was started several years ago to help fund the future operations of the AAHS. Those persons currently honored with a contribution made in their name include:

Georgia Mallory
Dale Logsdon
William Hinkle
Freida Hite
Mary Ellen Hinkle
Maud Elizabeth Hines
Curt Williamson

Anyone wishing to make a tax-deductible contribution in anyone's honor to the Fund can do so by issuing a check to:

The AAHS Legacy Endowment Fund
c/o The Ashville Area Heritage Society

The check may be sent to:
Treasurer, AAHS
34 Long Street
Ashville, OH 43103



Burt and Bonnie Logan were welcome visitors to the museum in the early Spring. Burt is the Executive Director of the Ohio Historical Society.



THE BUCKEYE CORN PARTY

By Ruth Eberts

An annual Ohio corn growing contest was instituted by Mr. A. Putnam Sandles, president of the state agricultural commission. In 1912 there were ninety-one Ohio farmer boys who entered the contest and succeeded in raising more than one hundred bushels on their tract. They won a trip to Washington D.C. and were guests of President Taft. The tour was initiated to promote interest in education and patriotism. Pickaway County did not have any winners that year. The state yield for corn for all farmers averaged just 35 bushels to the acre.

In 1913 the Ohio boys increased their yield in spite of heavy handicaps of flood and drought. Boys who raised 100 or more bushels of corn to the acre, the winners of special train trip prizes from Congressmen and citizens, and the winners of the county and township contests went on the corn excursion. The average yield of the contestants the previous year was 85 bushels to the acre. Some townships put up the money to cover the trip expenses for their winner. There were also twelve money prizes given by the state commission. The National Cash Register Company and the Western Soil Improvement Association presented prizes to the three highest in each of the four quarters of the state.

Many boys sold their acre of corn to pay their own way when they did not win a free trip. Any boy who entered the contest, his parents, and other persons who helped to make this trip possible could go on the trip at the special rate.

C.H. Bogardus of Lima won a trip to Washington for writing the winning corn song in the corn song writing contest. The song is sung to the tune of "Marching Thru Georgia" and was chosen from 100 compositions that were submitted by juniors and seniors.

Corn boys who made the trip from Pickaway County were: George Rector, Charles 'Dwight' Rector, Harold Wilson, Leland Fredrick, John Puffenbarger,

Harry Puffenbarger, Pearl Smith, Daniel Gantz, George McGhee, Paul Cromley, Leonard Sark, George Trimmer, and one girl, Miss Leona Jennings. Our local winners were Paul Cromley with 94 bushels from Harrison Township and Leonard Sark with 85 bushels from Walnut Township. Roger Hedges was a contestant from Walnut Township with 67 bushels. Charles 'Dwight' Rector of Deercreek Township received the state prize for champion corn grower with a yield of 117.8 bushels to the acre.

The hills of Athens County yielded an average in excess of 100 bushels by her junior corn growers, the result of knowledge learned from the Agriculture College at Ohio University. At least two girls attained yields in excess of 100 bushels according to local reports from Athens and Williams counties. Prof. A.G. McCall of the College of Agriculture in Columbus prepared a corn catechism from material in several bulletins on corn growing that he believed would be of special interest to the boys entering the contest.

The Pickaway County boys and their friends who boarded the Big Pennsylvania in Circleville totaled twenty-three persons. They joined the 243 boys and girls and their friends who had already boarded the train. Seven special Pennsylvania trains carried several hundred juvenile corn growers and between 200 and 300 farm girls who excelled in bread baking to the National Capital. Governor Cox and his eleven year old son James M.

Cox, Jr. accompanied the boys and girls. As the contestants and those who accompanied them were seated in the electrically illuminated train, Uncle Joe, the Cincinnati Enquirer man, met them and presented them a red pendant on which was the name of his town, Cincinnati.

The movement of the train was handled in military formation, and there was sightseeing in Pittsburg that included a special tour of the H.J. Heinz Company plant on Tuesday December 2nd, a daylight ride through the Allegheny Mountains and a reception by the Pennsylvania governor at Harrisburg.

T.D. Hartman of the National Stockman and a farmer of Pittsburg donated twenty barrels of select apples that were given to the boys and their friends on the trains. Mr. Hartman was a former Pickaway County resident.

In Washington D.C. the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, David F. Houston, had agreed to address the Corn Boys on Thursday December 4th at 8:00 in the morning. Then they were to visit the laboratories to see the work being done by the department's corn and other specialists. Mr. Houston attempted to change the time the boys were to arrive to 9:00 a.m. because the buildings were not to open until then, but the boys' responded that they had sore feet and were lacking in sleep. The reception was cancelled. Nearly one hundred corn boys did meet and

Buckeye Corn Party continued on page 8

SUBMITTING STORIES

We love it when someone takes the time to write a short article about someone who once lived here. There are stories about teams, about teachers, about events and more. We especially love ones about unforgettable characters.

If you would like to write an article about the area that we can publish in our newsletter please send your material to the Newsletter Editorial Board at:

34 Long Street
Ashville, Ohio 43103

Or

E-mail them to:
aaahs@ohiosmalltownmuseum.org



Isham Randolph (1848-1920)
American civil engineer, reversed
the flow of the Chicago River

RANDOLPH STREET MYSTERY SOLVED!

By Bob Hines

Sometimes you hear something, a vague and tenuous connection to something important in the past. You file it away in the corner recesses of your brain to maybe explore or reconsider at some future date.

In 1968, I had the good fortune to interview Dr.

and Mrs. Chester Rockey about the history of Ashville. It was during this interview that Dr. Rockey told me that Mrs. Rockey's grandfather—William Cromley boarded the civil engineer that oversaw the construction of the Scioto Valley Railroad through northern Pickaway County. He told me that Mr. Cromley was so impressed with the young man that he named the street in front of the train station in his honor. Rockey knew this young man's last name was Randolph, but he neither he nor Mrs. Rockey was sure of his first name. He thought that this fellow eventually had something to do with the Panama Canal.

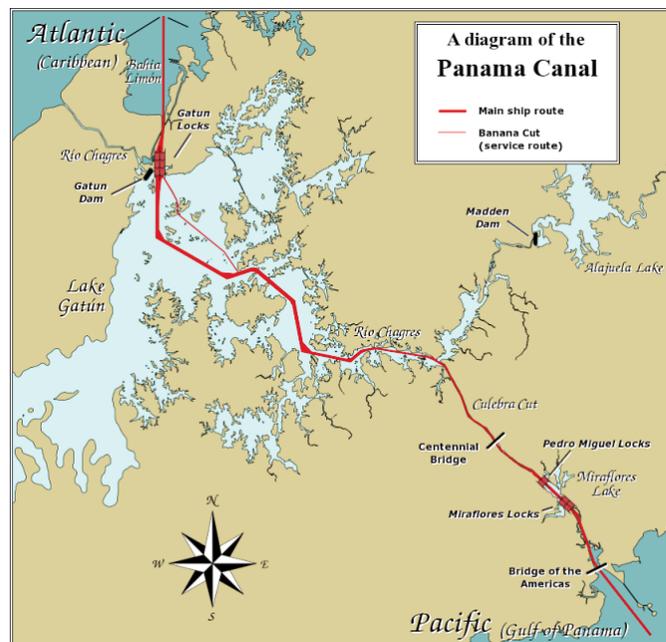
Well, I did not have much luck learning about this mysterious Mr. Randolph—not until several years ago when that long ago discussion crossed my mind. Thank goodness for the internet. I did a key word search using Randolph, civil engineer, and Panama Canal.

BINGO!!

I found out that Mr. Randolph's first name was Isham. I also found out some other interesting things about Mr. Randolph:

- He was a grand nephew of President Thomas Jefferson.
- He was thirteen when the Civil War broke out. His family were relatively wealthy slaveholders in Virginia. But they were decimated by the war. He lost both of his older brothers that fought for the Confederacy.

- At the end of the War he left home and sought his living as an axeman on the Winchester and Strasberg Railroad. Although he had no formal training in civil engineering, he was elevated to that position.
- In 1876, he was appointed the assistant engineer for the Scioto Valley Railroad.
- He moved to Chicago in 1880, where he made a name for himself as a sanitary and civil engineer.
- He was the chief engineer for the construction of the great Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal. This has been named the 5th greatest Civil Engineering achievement of North America (it essentially reversed the flow of the Chicago River).
- He was later appointed to the International Board of Consulting Engineers for the construction of the Panama Canal in May 1905 by President Theodore Roosevelt.
- His big impact was that he swayed Roosevelt to abandon the thought of a sea level canal in favor of a lock and dam system through Panama. He was called disloyal in the national press for not backing Roosevelt's opinion, but Roosevelt changed his mind and adopted Randolph's minority view.



YEAR IN REVIEW – 2011

Hidden Symbols Tri-Fold Mural Brochure was created. Ruth Howell designed and printed 100 brochures. They are on hand at the museum.

At the January meeting, Bob Hines presented a slide show called **“Miracles in Ashville”** which is about the evolution of the Ashville Small Town Museum and in March, he talked about former Ashville resident Rear Admiral Christy of the United States Navy.

A **“Welcome Video” DVD** is available and will be made accessible to all Teays Valley School District 5th grade teachers, and museum volunteers. It is similar to the DVD of event/s attractions of Pickaway County, which runs continuously in the Visitors Center for visitors' viewing pleasure and information.

David Heyer will be designing a replica of Sam Deeds' fire escape.

A **\$500.00 donation** to the museum general fund was made in memory of Gretchen (Hedges) Srigley Seitsinger.

Museum Alarm System – The permit application (\$15.00) was forwarded to Franklin Christman, Village Administrator, for handling.

The Ashville Women's Civic Club donated \$1000.00 to the museum. As a thank you, Bob will make a power point presentation on 'women's achievements' and give the club a guided tour of the museum.

Bob and Diane Hines gave Burt Logan, CEO of the **Ohio Historical Society**, and his wife Bonnie, a personal tour of the museum.

The Ashville Pythian Sisters donated \$800.00. Its intended use is to help with the purchase and installation of a welcome video system like the one at Pickaway County Visitors' Bureau.

The purpose of the welcome DVD is to educate. Bob would like school children to be made aware of the museum as an educational resource. It is also felt that placing this educational tool on You Tube would be beneficial.

Bob is also working on a second, more comprehensive video. Daniel Cordell, a former employee at Bob Hines' firm, possesses audio and visual skills and the tools necessary for making a museum documentary to educate Teays Valley School teachers and children about the incredible historical resources found at the museum. Bob and Diane Hines donated the funds to develop the documentary.

The Trustees voted to purchase a new DVD player to be used with the welcome video.

The trustees authorized a gift of an annual membership to both the **Ashville Pythian Sisters** and the **Ashville Women's Civic Club**.

The fascia board above the new mural was in need of repair.

Craig Foster was contacted and he offered to cover the board, donating all materials and labor to complete the job in exchange for an 'in-kind' statement in the amount of \$425.00. In appreciation for his generous donation, the Craig Foster family was given a lifetime family membership in the AAHS.

AAHS President Mike Kindt worked with the Teays Valley High School Art Department teacher, **Cheryl Cherry**, on the annual t-shirt design contest. Contest winners and monetary awards were: 1ST Place, Kasi Welsh, \$50.00; Runners-up: Ashlie Kozee and Charlotte Luth, \$25.00 each; Artistic Merit: Megan Gallagher, Austin Larrick, Jess Passen. Thanks to all 32 entrants for their efforts.

Due to scheduling conflicts, the meeting time for the AAHS Trustees was moved from the Wednesday prior to the monthly general membership meeting to 6:00 p.m. the night of the general monthly meeting (the second Monday of each month).

Bob Hines presented an interesting slide show about **J. Perry Stoltz**, famous Ashville entrepreneur, promoter and millionaire who help change Miami Beach from a mango swamp to America's playground.

On May 19, four groups of twenty **Ashville First Graders** toured the museum, accompanied by their teacher, Mrs. Key. Museum volunteers provided home made cookies to the students.



Baked goods for the Ashville sidewalk sale

Mike Kindt reported \$210.50 profit from the first **Ashville sidewalk sale** at the museum. Sales included baked goods donated by AAHS members and friends, tee-shirts, bottled water, yard flags and miscellaneous donations.

Local handyman, **“Git-er Done” John Largent**, was contracted to trim the bushes in the Centennial Garden and dispose of the waste for the sum of 150.00. The Ashville

Village Workers removed the tree nearest the museum.

Mural artist, Dirk Rozich made 11” x 17” color prints of the mural into a poster. Pictures are on card stock and are unmatted and unframed. 250 prints were ordered at a total cost of \$395. Dirk framed one print for display at the 4th of July information booth. 50 prints will be signed by the artist and sold for \$40.00 each.

Spires Termite Control treated the museum for an ant/termite problem.

Museum volunteers cleaned the end of the shelterhouse and set up a display of museum items in the Information Booth. Proceeds from sales totaled \$1,547.00. We have been operating the information booth in conjunction with the Ashville Community Club for a number of years.

Year in Review – 2011 continued

An interesting slide program about **John Oman**, inventor of a working gyroplane in the late 1800's, was given by Bob Hines. John Oman was a farm resident living near St. Paul for many years. After adulthood he moved to Texas where he continued working on perfecting his flying machine.

Our second sidewalk/bake sale of 2011 netted \$200.75 for the museum.

Wendy's Burger Bash netted the AAHS a profit of \$335.00. (\$260.00 from food sales and \$75.00 from raffle ticket sales.)

Our annual picnic was fun and well attended. Our 50-50 raffle-ticket seller, extraordinaire, Eleanore Chandler, sold \$75.00 worth of tickets.

The Trustees voted to renew AAHS's membership in Ohio Association of Historical Societies and Museums.

The October Trustees meeting was held at the Seed House (at the Roger and Helen Hedges Farm) hosted by proprietors, Debbie (Irwin) Hulse and Dwight Karshner.

Debbie and Dwight told about the origin the Seed House and the history of Hedges Hybrids.

A Program Calendar is being prepared in an effort to attract more people interested in Ashville History to attend our AAHS monthly meetings. Some of the subjects to be discussed include "How Randolph Street (Ashville) got its name." – Bob Hines; "Sarah Fisher Racing"; "Our Rich Musical Heritage" – Dave Rainey – "Vivian Michaels Tribute" and "Using Puppets in Education" – Karen Amey; "The Ashville Bank Robbery" – Dwight Radcliff, Charlie Morrison, Pat Von Ins, Nancy Bausum; "Museum Video Premier, Teachers Edition" – Daniel Cordell; "Area Oddities – World's Largest Woman, Chic-Chic, Buster (the Dog Who Voted Republican), and more. – Bob Hines; "Lockbourne Army Airbase" Historian – Robert Stroup II, "Candidate Night" – Invited candidates, "Ashville Area Organizations", their purpose.

The trustees authorized the purchase of the book, "**Historical Pictures of Pickaway County.**"

A reconditioned printer was purchased when the old one (same brand, same model) stopped working.

Approximately 50 AAHS members and guests enjoyed a sit down, turkey dinner and all the trimmings prepared and served by Pythian Sisters at the K of P Lodge Hall. Joe Dean won the raffle basket for which \$150.00 of raffle tickets were sold.



2011 AAHS Annual Picnic



Art Deal, Joe Dean, Mike Kindt at the 2011 Christmas Dinner

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Another year has gone by. Where does the time go ?

State of affairs...

We still need volunteers and new members.

Currently we need someone to help Charlie Morrison on Tuesday and Friday mornings from 10:00 to 1:00. We are losing more than we are gaining on memberships. Individual yearly memberships are \$ 20 and family yearly memberships are \$ 25. If you know of anyone that is interested, please ask them to join.

On the accession trail...

Thanks to authors Mark Remy, David Clarke, and Jimmy Gloyd for copies of their books.

Thanks to the following for items donated: the family of Katie Dum for the material from her father's store [Bowers], Bill Winter, Paul O'Day, Stella Coey, Marvin Devores, Ruth Eberts, Margo Sark, Betsy Noggle, Katie Cromley Conner, Gary Throp, Don Forquer, Jerry Follrod, Gretchen Featheringham, Richard Pettit and any others we may have missed.

General thanks...

Thanks to the "elves" for all their baking for the sidewalk sales.

Thanks to the Pythian Sisters for preparing our Christmas dinner and buying us our new flat screen TV.

Thanks to the Ashville Women's Civic Association for their kind donation.

Good health to all.

Mike Kindt

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Buckeye Corn Party continued from page 3

shake hands with Mr. Houston, but most of them chose to continue on with their sightseeing in Washington.

T.P. Riddle of Lima, the treasurer of the Buckeye Special Corn tour, reserved the entire Adelphi Theater in Pennsylvania for the group to see a special presentation of Louisa Alcott's "Little Women" on Friday evening, December 5th.

Pictures were taken of the members of the Buckeye Boys Corn special party, and plans were made to exhibit the pictures at the Pan American World's Fair in San Francisco in 1915. Pictures were also used for advertising. It was believed that the special trains carrying the Ohio Party to Washington comprised the biggest and most luxurious long distance excursion movement ever handled by the Pennsylvania system or any other railroad in the U.S. during those days. One enthusiastic supporter of the corn growing contest told bankers, grain merchants and others financially interested in the welfare of agriculture that the taking of 1,500 champion corn growers to Washington was an advertisement of the fertility of Ohio's farm land and that this would contribute to higher land values. It was believed

that the large increase in corn yields were a result of the introduction of new scientific farming knowledge and application being learned at the colleges.

On December 8, 2011, Margo Sark donated a large picture from the Buckeye Corn Special Tour Party to the Ashville Museum for display.

The picture was taken at the H.J. Heinz Company plant in Pittsburg on December 2nd, 1913. It originally belonged to Lillie Brintlinger Brinker, wife of John Trimble 'Trim' Brinker. Margo believes that Lillie went on the tour with friends from her Grange Hall. Margo is the widow of Bruce Sark who was a grandson of Lillie and Trim Brinker.

Sources:

The Country Boys Honor List, The Democrat Watchman, December 12, 1912

Apples for Buckeye Party, The Circleville-Union Herald, November 27, 1913

Corn Boys off on Fine Trip Left for Washington D.C. on Special Train, The Circleville-Union Herald, December 4, 1913

Small Growers of Big Corn Leave Circleville on Special Train for Washington D.C. , The Circleville-Union Herald, December 3, 1913