

Chagrin Falls Exponent

Chagrin Falls Historical Society 21 Walnut St. Shute Memorial Building
Web Site: www.chagrinhistorical.org

Scrap Zalba, Editor | May, 2011 | Ron Humphrey, Graphics Editor

CIVIL WAR PROGRAM

Thursday, May 19, 2011

6:30 p.m. DEDICATION OF CHAGRIN FALLS G.A.R. FLAG MARKERS AT EVERGREEN CEMETERY

7:30 p.m. PROGRAM AT SOUTH FRANKLIN STREET CIRCLE
(across the street from the cemetery)
ON THE CIVIL WAR VETERANS FROM CHAGRIN FALLS

by

JOHN BOURISSEAU

Refreshments by South Franklin Street Circle

Welcome To New Members

Cinda & Rod Chima

Joy & John Crabb

Sally & Frank Gagliardi

Nancy Hanna

CIVIL WAR PROGRAM

The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) was the organization founded by the Union veterans of the Civil War. Each Post was named for a soldier from the community who was killed in battle. Chagrin's Post was named for Norman L. Norris, who was wounded at Cedar Mountain, Virginia on August 9th, 1862. He died at a hospital in Alexandria, Va. On September 4, 1862 and is buried at Alexandria.

The N.L. Norris Post #41 had hundreds of members who lived throughout the Chagrin Valley. It was the responsibility of the post historian, A.E. Smith, to gather the personal battle histories of the veterans. The Chagrin Falls Historical Society has the handwritten record of these personal histories.

The dedication of the GAR Flag holders will start at 6:30 p.m. at the Civil War Monument in Evergreen Cemetery. We will then move to South Franklin Circle (across the street from the Cemetery) for a program by John Bourisseau starting at 7:30 p.m. that will be drawn from the personal histories of the members of the N.L. Norris Post #41 of the GAR. Veterans from the Norris Post served in 68 separate units during the Civil War! They were in the infantry, cavalry, heavy artillery, light artillery, the Navy and in colored units.

Chagrin boys fought in every major battle and every theater of the Civil War. They chased Morgan's Raiders through Kentucky and Ohio, pursued Quantrill in Kansas and Missouri, ferreted out members of the Knights of the Golden Circle, served as the "Squirrel Hunters" to save Cincinnati from invasion, ran blockades on the Mississippi and some went directly from Gettysburg to Governor's Island, New York to help quell the draft riots there. These and many more stories from these personal histories will be shared during the program. In addition, we will have some artifacts from our museum, and from a personal collection.

Parking will be available at South Franklin Circle with a shuttle bus to the meeting room. Look for the signs. Refreshments will be provided by South Franklin Circle.

OUR BUS TRIP TO LAKE COUNTY ON APRIL 20th

17 of us, including our very nice bus driver Dale, had a very sweet tour of three Lake County sites - first to the Indian Museum of Lake County in Willoughby, where the wonderful director, Ann DeWard, gave us a fascinating talk about the Whittlesey Indians who came to this part of Ohio, (no one knows when or where from)and disappeared about 1600 AD. Ann even showed us with flint and stone, etc., how their tools were made.

The museum is full of beautiful and interesting artifacts from all of America: the Plains Indians, Seminoles of Florida, The Southwestern Navajos and Zunis, Inuits of Alaska, etc.- and their carvings, baskets, jewelry, weavings, pottery and beaded clothes.

We reluctantly left the museum to go to our next destination, Rider's Inn in Painesville, built in 1812, where we had lunch. Elaine Crane, the owner, gave a very interesting account of the inn's history as part of the Underground Railroad, and about Ohio during the Civil War.

Then on to the Lake County History Center, which is in process of transforming the 1876 Lake County Poorhouse building into a museum. They are filling the series of many rooms with thematic Civil War exhibits, including a beautiful Mourning Parlor. We were most impressed with their many volunteers hard at work. They will also have an outside museum with various buildings

We had a low-key but pleasant trip, with a very nice group of people, including some newer members. ***Tim Scott***

The museum's "Oreo Sweetheart Case"



HELEN STRANZ SENDS HER THANKS!

Thanks to all of you who gave me the wonderful boxes of chocolate mice with red, white and blue ribbons on them. They were a fabulous addition to the birthday cake and they were delicious. You all certainly know that chocolate, mice and the American Flag are my favorites. The large cake was decorated with a big happy mouse carrying a large American Flag. Your birthday wishes were very special and I only wish I could have shared my cake and mice with each of you. Please come for a visit if you get East. Happy Easter and a Happy Spring!!!

Helen Stranz



Helen's Birthday Cake

IT'S AN OREO PHOTO?

While cleaning out a drawer in the office of the Society last week I found an item that looked like a plastic oreo cookie. I showed it to Pat Zalba who had found it in the Research Room a couple of years ago, opened it and saw a small photo enclosed in the gutta percha container. She placed it with other photographs in a metal file drawer. When I asked her about it she said it was called a gutta percha and had a photo in it. By golly, it screwed open just like you twist an Oreo cookie so you can lick the creme filling! Then I said "a gutta what?" This is where the fun began.

I tried to find out more about it on the internet but didn't know what to call it. So… I mailed a lady named Maureen Taylor who is known as The Photo Detective. She responded immediately to my query and said that they are, in fact, called oreo or oreo sweetheart cases. She said she would date the image if I could send along some photos. She kindly offered not to charge me for her services. But what's with "gutta percha"? Turns out it is a plant from the tropics whose sap was and is used to make a plastic. Much of the literature available indicates that these photograph cases were made of Gutta Percha plastic. Paul K. Berg, who seems to be the authority on miniature photographs, says they were first introduced in 1853. Most such cases are black and brown, but ours is a beautiful orange. Orange and green cases were also introduced in 1853 and are highly prized.

My question is which came first - the cookie or the photo case? Since the cookie didn't come along until 1912, I think someone looked at one of these charming cases and said, "that would make a pretty cookie".

I think that our Oreo case and photograph likely dated from the 1860s, and this case perhaps was carried in a soldier's pocket to keep the image of his mother close to his heart. Enjoy the photo, and when I hear back from Ms. Taylor I'll let you know how she dates our find.

Zo Sykora



An exhibit at the Indian Museum

Photo by Terry Taggart

CURATOR'S CORNER

Calendar Overview

May	4	North Solon Women's Group Tour and History Overview at Museum, 1:30 p.m.
	10	C.F. Historical Society Board Meeting, Shute Bldg., 10:00 a.m.
	12	C.F. High School Scholarship Awards Night.
	19	Evening Program: G.A.R. Grave Marker Dedication at Evergreen Cemetery followed by the Civil War Program at South Franklin Circle. (See details in the Newsletter.)
June	1	C.F. High School "Senior Projects Display" at the Performing Arts Auditorium, 10:30-12:30 p.m.

Student Senior Project:

Daniel Pecchio, a C.F. High School senior, has chosen the Historical Society as the supervising venue for his Senior Project. His special historical interest is in World War II, and he is a member of a W.W.II re-enactment group. He will be helping us to more specifically identify the military uniforms in our collection. He may also photograph collections in general and help in computer work. He will be with us from May 16th through May 27th.

Accessions with a C.F. connection:

A C.F. postcard showing a team of oxen; booklets: Down The River Road, Blakeslee's 1874 History, C.F. Pictorial Sesquicentennial Edition, Valley Views, 1970; Illustrated cards by C.F. artists Dale Harsch, Florian Lawton, Lois Salmon Tool; scanned photo of the Methodist Church Young People's Choir, 1940s.
(*Arline Moore)*

Two scanned copies of the Wheeling RR (C.F. station) from the Cleveland State Photograph Collection
(*Eric Hansmann)*

A C.F. Advertising Ink Blotter for "The Coates Company - Unifeed-The Perfect Dairy Feed-Hay and Maple Syrup". They were located at Washington St. and the Wheeling and Lake Erie Tracks.
(*Gloria Modliszewski)*

Pat E. Zalba,
Volunteer Curator