Chagrin Falls Exponent

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

December, 2011 Ron Humphrey, Graphics Editor



Society Investigates the Feasibility of Acquiring the Sears-Adams House

The Society Executive Board authorized an ad hoc committee to study the feasibility of acquiring the Sears-Adams house for the use of the Society. The Committee, chaired by Beth Skeel, included Society members John Bourisseau, Carolyn Sihler, Diana Nazelli, Wendy Naylor and Kathy Waterson.

The developers who own the Sears-Adams house, known more recently as Windsor Hospital, have submitted a request to the Village for demolition of the structure.

The Sears-Adams house is a magnificent structure that is deeply engrained into the history of Chagrin Falls. In the 1830's Charles Sears owned a large portion of the land that became the Village of Chagrin Falls and was one of the individuals who laid out and recorded the original streets in 1837. He built his home overlooking the Village in 1844.

The Committee met weekly over a 6-8 week period exploring issues related to the structure and consulted with an architect familiar with the restoration of historical structures. The Committee feels

New Members

Perry and Jenny Clark

that the Sears-Adams house would make an excellent future home for the Historical Society. The purchase and renovation of this magnificent structure would alleviate many of the current issues presented by the Shute Building.

The Committee met with the Executive Board and members to present their report and recommendation on Tuesday Dec. 1st, and discussion continued at the Board meeting on Dec. 8th.

There exists a wide range of opinions regarding whether or not the Society should move forward in an effort to acquire and renovate the Sears-Adams house.

The Committee projects that it would cost about 2.5 million dollars to fully renovate the structure, create an addition that would allow for an elevator and handicapped access, provide additional parking and to create an endowment that would sustain the use of the building into the future.

The 2.5 million cost is far beyond the present resources of the Historical Society and raising the funds would require a concentrated effort from a dedicated core of people with a shared vision.

Due to the wide variance in opinions among Historical Society members, it was recognized that there is a lot more discussion and exploration of the Societies needs for the future needed. Since there are some time factors involved, with the developers seeking demolition, the Committee decided to ask the Mayor of Chagrin, Thomas Brick to authorize a separate committee, independent of the Historical Society, to explore other means of saving the Sears-Adams House.

The full report of the feasibility committee is available on-line at www.chagrinhistorical.org

John Bourisseau



ANNUAL SOUPS AND BREADS LUNCHEON

Wednesday, January 18, 2012 at the Atrium at Hamlet Village. Set-up will be at 11:30, Lunch 12:00, with the program to follow. Bring your favorite homemade soup or breads to share. John Bourisseau, our president, will share the Civil War Diary of A. E. Smith. A. E. Smith was a veteran of the 7th OVI and after the war, was the historian for the GAR.

ONE MISSION

We were all deeply moved by Todd Lyle's film One Mission a beautifully orchestrated series of interviews of veterans from Chagrin Falls. They spoke of their war experiences from World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam, Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan. Incredibly stories, told by those men and woman who were there. Several veterans of the wars were in the audience, as well as families of veterans. A perfect rememberance of veterans day. Stories of Patriotism and sacrifice for our country.

BEAUTIFUL JOB

Diana Gardner arranged a beautiful patriotic table, all red, white and blue with stars and stripes napkins for our delicious homemade cupcakes. Tim Scott

A SPECIAL 100TH HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO DAVIS CALDWELL.

An Historical Society past president and Treasure. Dave also helped at the toy table during many of our "Christmas Past" open houses. Best wishes to Dave!

Great Christmas Gifts!!

Your favorite books published by the Chagrin Falls Historical Society are now available for purchase on-line. Just go to our website www.chagrinhistorical.org and click on the banner at the top of the Home page.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR WANTED

Since the passing of Scrap Zalba, I have been filling in as the newsletter Editor. I have enjoyed working with Ron Humphrey to create the monthly newsletter, but would welcome someone else to step up. It is not a major time commitment. It would be beneficial to attend our monthly Board meeting. Articles are usually submitted by the middle of the month to the Editor, who then reviews them and submits them further to Ron in a digital format. Ron will lay the articles into the Newsletter template, and then you and Ron go over the layout. The editor then gives final approval for printing. If you are interested, email me at jbourisseau@gmail.com, or call 247-0722 John Bourisseau

STORIES WANTED

I would like to do a series of stories over the Winter based on the recollection of Society members who grew up in the area. The theme could be any specific Winter rememberance that you have about life in Chagrin. Please submit your stories to me at jbourisseau@gmail.com, or drop off, or send your hand written copy to the Historical Society, 21 Walnut St. Chagrin Falls, OH 44022.





Curator's Corner

Overview Calendar

December 2 Everyone is envited to "Christmas Past" Museum Open House: (7:00 Candlelight Caroling in Triangle Park) Museum open house with Victorian Decor, Santa Claus, cocoa and cookies, Shute Bldg. 7:00-8:30 p.m.

13 C. F. Historical Society Board Meeting, Shute Building, 10:00 a.m.

THANK YOU ONE AND ALL

Thank you to all who helped to make the Historical Society "Christmas Past" open house a special evening for all. A special thank you to those who decorated the museum, baked or brought cookies, made and served cocoa, sang carols, visited with Santa Claus, played with the toys and hosted upstairs and downstairs throughout the event!

Accessions with a Chagrin Falls Connection

We recently received a large framed watercolor painting done by the late Chagrin Falls artist Robert Takatch. Bob Takatch lived on S. Main Street for many years. He is known as one of the founders of the Valley Art Center. In more recent years he was the illustrator for Sandy Phillipson, Chagrin Falls writer of children's books. The painting shows N. Main Street from the corner of Bell St-the old Ober Building-to the old Wolf's Harness shop, circa 1950's. The Society is having the painting re-framed and re-matted with acid-free material. The painting was donated by Bob's adult children in memory of Scrap Zalba. (Kathy Kline, Steve, Rob and Mike Takatch)

The WWII uniform that had belonged to Stephen Shields. Given by his brother Ed. (Ed Shields)

Methodist Church Booklets: Project 80, Restoration and Remodeling Fund: The United Methodist Church of Chagrin Falls 1977 Directory; The United Methodist Church of Chagrin Falls, Stanley Cote, Minister, 1968. (Pictorial) (Ann Goss)

Copies of the Civil War letters between George Hodges of Chagrin Falls and his wife and other family members. (Helen Hodges Scheiner)

Have a wonderful Holiday Season!
Pat E Zalba
Volunteer Coordinator