Chagrin Falls Exponent

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

January, 2012 Ron Humphrey, Graphics Editor

Soups and Breads Luncheon Wednesday, January 18, 2012 11:30 AM (we will eat at noon) Atrium, Hamlet Village



With a program by John Bourisseau to follow the luncheon, discussing Chagrin Falls Civil War veteran and GAR historian A.E. Smith

Call Ann Goss, 440.247.6319, and tell her what kind soup you are bringing so she can make a sign. For those who are not bringing Soups or Breads please bring some canned goods or dried food stuffs for The Pantry Shelf (a hunger center)

New Members

John Dagil
Richard and Valerie (Furst) Gaudio

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

A Special meeting will be held Thursday January 12th at 10 AM in the Shute Building. The recent discussions regarding the Sears-Adams house has brought up many issues that need to be further explored. The purpose of the meeting will be to review previously stated goals and objectives to determine what has been accomplished and what we should focus on in the near future. All society members are encouraged to participate.

CORN HILL

I have many great memories of sledding on Corn Hill in the late 50's and early 60's. Corn Hill was located on the Gale Ober property at 76 S. Main St.. Mr Ober lived next to my grandparents, George and Laura Stallings at 68 S. Main.

It was called Corn Hill because Mr. Ober was still planting corn every year in the field at the base of the hill. Early in the season, we would have to plow through the stubble of the corn stalks until a path was created for the sleds and toboggans.

In all the years of sledding, I don't think I ever saw Mr. Ober. I remember peeking through the windows and seeing a somewhat cluttered dining room table piled with papers and other stuff and thinking he might be somewhat of a recluse. What a gift he gave us by letting us sled on his property.

The hill had 2 sections. We would get a running start up by S. Main St. and sled down a hill that was maybe 40-50 feet in length. We would go across a little plateau and then head down the main hill. It was quite steep and had a bump at the bottom that could launch us 8-10 feet through the air depending on our speed. We couldn't walk back up the hill--it was too steep, so we would walk through my grandparents property and up the steps that they had going up the hill

The western border of the field was delineated by a creek that ran north and south. Under very slick conditions, we could build a jump and fly over the creek into the back yard of the home at 71 S. Franklin St. On rare occasions, we could make it all the way to Franklin.

What I remember most though, was my grandparents. They had a wood burning stove in their basement and they were always ready to provide a hoard of kids with the warmth of a smile, the warmth of their home and hot chocolate.

John Bourisseau



Sledding on Grove Hill 1950

SLEDDING

Some of the great sledding memories were those times when Chagrin was hit by a great storm and they would close off Grove Hill. This picture is from 1950.

We asked people who subscribe to the Historical Society Facebook page to tell us their favorite sledding hill. Here are some of the responses.

Bill Stratton: "There was a wonderful sledding hill at the Rec Center, just beyond the swimming pool, now long taken over by tree and brush. Coach Quiz once allowed us to sled there as a gym class. On weekends, we often set up sledding jumps half way down the hill to build up speed for spectacular rides. At the bottom of the hill, the trail banked to the left for several hundred feet and if you were fast enough, you

could finish off the trail and across a small creek. Great memories."

Diane Barriball Frazier: "Our neighborhood had a great hill, Hazelwood Drive from Fernwood on down to Fairview. It was long and I hated walking back up!"

Tom Payne: "The steep grass (and headstones) hill on the left as you enter Evergreen Cemetery. We'd then hang a hard right at the bottom onto the drive, then bear left to go down what used to be the driveway to the Cheese Factory house."

Mark Aurelius: "Though, logistically in Bainbridge, Miles' Hill was our favorite. Close to home and sans-adult supervision, this sledding sweet spot would most likely have been a nightmare for today's insurance adjusters."

JANUARY HOUSE CLEANING

Please remember to save your unwanted treasures, antiques and collectibles for our February 16th Pot Luck Dinner Auction! Last year's auction was a great success, netting over $400 for the society.

DECEMBER OPEN HOUSE

Our annual "Old Fashioned Christmas" was a great success, with Youssef Hamid's wonderful choristers singing; the table dressed beautifully in green and gold with plates of delicious homemade cookies by our talented bakers; hot chocolate with marshmallows; and our dear Santa Mark Benson.
Hostesses were Anne Burr as chef and Muriel Bean and Jo Roeder as sous-chefs.
A special thank you to Kris Tesar and the members of the StageCrafters Glee Choir who joined our choristers in Triangle Park. **All had a splendid time!**

Tim Scott



Photos by Lucy Beattie

On December 15th, we took time from our work at the Historical Society to celebrate our volunteer curator, Pat Zalba's special birthday. Pat gives so much to the Society that it was felt that this day couldn't go by without her being honored. There was enough cake and pop for all. Along with taking wonderful pictures, Lucy Beattie provided everyone with party favors that included a birthday hat to wear. A fun time was had by all.

Curator's Corner

Overview Calendar

January 3	Architectural Review Board Meeting in Council Chambers at Village Hall
January 9	Civil War Program presented by John Bourisseau for the Federated Forum 2 PM Federated Church, Fellowship Hall
January 10	C.F. Historical Society Board Meeting, Shute Building, 9:30 AM (Note time change)
January 12	Special Board Meeting for Officers, Committee Chairs and interested members. We'll discuss Historical Society Goals Shute Building 10 AM
January 17	Soups and Breads Luncheon at Hamlet Atrium. Soup at 12 noon with program to follow.

Painting Update

The Takatch painting has been restored and you will soon see it hanging in the museum. It depicts a scene of the Chagrin Falls Business District on N. Main St., circa 1950's. The painting was donated in Scrap Zalba's memory by Chagrin Falls Artists Bob Takatch's children Kathy, Steve, Rob and Mike.

Acquisition: The Tale of a Box

The Historical Society recently purchased a "Chagrin Falls Grocery Store" folding box. (The "Chagrin Falls Grocery Store" is printed on the side of the box.) The August 10, 1911 Exponent gives us the following information. "The former R. P. Sweet Grocery was taken possession of this week by Mr. Vern Merriman, lately of Burton. It will be (called) The Chagrin Falls Grocery Co." The store was located on N. Franklin Street. We later read that Mr. Merriman conducted his grocery business for forty years. He passed away in 1957. Each item in our museum collection has a story to tell if we can just follow the clues! Several years ago we received a sign with gilt lettering on a black background reading "C. F. Grocery Co. It had been found in a barn on S. Franklin St. It is hanging above the door entering the "kitchen" room. The new acquisition of the folding wooden box will make a nice companion piece. It is now on display on the dry sink in the "kitchen" room.

Deceasd

Condolences to the families of Helen Stranz and also to Anne Burr on the loss of her mother Corinne Hemstreet. (Helen was a longtime member and a great supporter of the C. F. Historical Society. She was a business woman in C. F. as the owner of The Village Exchange. She would have been 101 her next birthday.