

Chagrin Falls Exponent

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

John Bourisseau, Editor | June, 2012 | Ron Humphrey, Graphics Editor

The last newsletter of the year is usually set aside to review the activities of the Society during the past year. All I can say is WOW--we had quite a year.

As an organization, we have expanded our membership to over 400 people. That's about a 5-8% growth over last year. There continues to be a core of dedicated volunteers scanning our photograph collection and entering the scans and information into our museum software.

A new group of volunteers has begun photographing our object collection and entering the photos and information into the computer. Like the photograph collection, this is another huge undertaking. After photographing the object (quilt, oil lamp etc.) the volunteer then records the accession number and goes back into the original accession books to find the details about who made the donation and other pertinent information.

The oral history committee has been revitalized and is hard at work and there is energy around re-establishing the house plaque program with a new set of guidelines and procedures.

Our program committee provided us with another outstanding year. From our opening program by Cathy Winans about the Shaker community to our bus trip to Kinsman, our programs informed, excited and provided numerous opportunities for fellowship. Now we end the year with the spectacular presentation of Souls of the Village: Chagrin Falls in the Civil War June 8th & 9th. The partnership creating this performance is really unique. I think it may be also the first time that the Society has applied for and received a grant from a public entity. I can't tell you how excited I am about this endeavor. I believe it will be something that will bring history to our community in new and exciting ways.

This year also brought into focus our space needs. We have become aware that we cannot stay where we are forever and explored options for the future. We made a serious offer on a building, but ultimately couldn't agree on a price. While this process was at times stressful, I am continually thankful for the strength, knowledge and dedication of our Board. They were willing to meet again and again to discuss and consider the various options that were open to us.

With the increase in membership and the energy surrounding all the tasks that they are involved in, our volunteer hours are up considerably. Thank you to all who continue to give of their time to help fulfill our mission to discover, preserve and disseminate knowledge about Chagrin Falls and its vicinity. We couldn't exist without your dedication.

And finally, I can't talk about our year without mentioning the loss of Scrap Zalba. He was a Lion to our organization, and his passing has left a sense of emptiness. We are thankful for the many generous contributions to the scholarship fund established in his name. We were able to fund a $1500 scholarship in his memory this year, and hope to be able to do so for years to come.

New Members

Glenn & Marilyn Wyville

ROSE LIVINGSTON

Have you ever heard of Rose Livingston? Up until a few weeks ago, I hadn't either. That's when we received a phone call from a woman near Seattle, Washington making an inquiry about Miss Livingston and her connection to Chagrin Falls.

The woman making the call had a letter dated Feb 20, 1913 with the letterhead of Jas. M. Gates Co Dry Goods and Carpets, Chagrin Falls, Ohio. It seems that the Gates family hosted or entertained Miss Livingston during her stay in Chagrin Falls. Because of the nature of the letter, the caller was interested to know if we could find any references to Miss Livingston.

The Exponents, during February and March had many references to Rose Livingston. She was also known as the "Angel of Chinatown" Miss Livingston was traveling the country speaking about women's suffrage, but also about the white slavery trade. She herself, had been abducted at age 11 and forced into prostitution. She escaped, and dedicated her life to saving young girls in Chinatown.

She was a divisive figure, partly because of her personal history, but also because she dared to speak in public to large groups of men.

While in Chagrin, she spoke to many different groups. Her purpose was to raise funds to help support her efforts to save the young girls of Chinatown. At one such session, Mrs. Williams, the wife of the Methodist minister, placed her diamond engagement ring in the basket, while the Reverend donated his watch and chain. The next day, Miss Livingston placed the ring back on Mrs. Williams finger saying "There is no money value placed upon an engagement ring. It is too sacred to barter for gold. God would not want it under those circumstances. You made the sacrifice and that is sufficient, so I return it. Now wear it forever"

Through numerous email exchanges, we have found out that our inquirer is writing a screenplay about the life and efforts of Rose Livingston. She is looking to find more information about this town called Chagrin Falls, where a woman who had experienced so much suffering, was received with such respect, compassion and generosity.

John Bourisseau

DON'S NEW BOOK FROM START TO FINISH

Mill Town on the Chagrin River - The History of Early Mills and Foundries in Chagrin Falls, Don Barriball's newest book, will be available for purchase later this summer at Fireside Book Shop and at The Chagrin Falls Historical Society. Don has been researching and writing this book for the last 18 months or so and has painted a map of the river showing all of the dams and businesses. He has also done scale drawings of undershot and overshot water wheels and a basic flour mill. I have had the privilege of working with Don on the selection of photographs held by the Society and ads from *The Chagrin Falls Exponent* and the layout of the text and illustrations. Over the past month Don and I have worked with Ron Humphrey who turned my cut and pasted rough draft into a beautiful book. We have proof read ourselves blind during this process and kept thinking of things we wanted to add to make it "even better." I have learned so much from Don not only about the individual mills and dams and foundries but also about the type of people who originally settled in Chagrin Falls and established these industries.

I have thoroughly enjoyed working with Ron Humphrey who knows how to do all sorts of magical things with a camera, a scanner and software that cleans up both old and new photographs. Ron's artistic eye puts things where they look the best. Thanks to Joyce Teeft for the original artwork she created for the cover.

Don and I are so grateful that "that dam book" is almost ready to print.

Zo Sykora

CALL FOR COOKIES



The Historical Society is going to provide cookies and Lemonade following the production of *Souls of the Village: Chagrin Falls in the Civil War* June 8&9 at the Performing Arts Center(PAC).

We are hoping for a large crowd--so we will need lots of cookies.

You can bring your cookies to the PAC prior to the performances. The doors will be open around 6 PM, or you can leave your cookies at the Historical Society on Thursday.



Abe and Mary Todd Lincoln encouraging people to see ***Souls of the Village.***

If you saw the Blossom Parade, you may have seen President Lincoln and his wife Mary Todd Lincoln. They had some soldiers and friends marching with them and they were encouraging all to attend the performance this weekend.

From a personal note, I had the opportunity to sing River Jordan, one of the songs being performed Friday and Saturday with soloist Bryan Guffey on Memorial Day--it is worth the price of admission!

Tickets are $22, $18 for seniors and students and $15 for a group of 15 or more. You can order tickets on line at www.chagrinacademy.org or call 440-715-4004



HOUSE PLAQUE PROGRAM

We will be reviewing and re-organizing the house plaque program. Beth Skeel has volunteered to head up a committee and if you are interested then let Beth know. Right now, Beth has a few people working with her, but we would like a few more. If you are interested, please call Beth at 440-429-4652.



Chagrin Falls Triangle before Triangle Park circa 1860.

Curators Corner

Overview Calendar

June	**8 and 9**	"Souls of the Village": Chagrin Falls in the Civil War. Performing Arts Center, High School 7:30 pm.
	12	Chagrin Historical Society Board Meeting, Shute Bldg, 9:30 am.
	12	Program Committee to meet Shute Bldg, 2:00 pm. Please attend if you are interested.

The Museum will continue to be open throughout the summer each Thursday, 2-4 pm, and by special appointment. Call the Historical Society if you wish to visit other than a Thursday.

Summer into Fall Display Civil War Collection

In keeping with the theme of the 150th Commemoration of the Civil War, we will be featuring many items of the 1860's era in our summer into fall display. Uniforms, photographs and ephemera pertaining to the war, as well as women's dresses, shawls and a bonnet. Kent State Fashion Museum has a Civil War exhibit "On the Home Front," running into August that I understand is quite interesting. Some of us hope to get there this summer.

Do you have photos?

The Village of Chagrin Falls is looking for photographs of the flood of 1959. If you have any showing the high water level of the river, would you please let us know. The photos can be scanned and the originals returned to you. Thanks!

I hope you have a wonderful summer!

Pat Zalba
Volunteer Curator