Chagrin Falls Exponent

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

John Bourisseau, Editor | February, 2014 | Ron Humphrey, Graphics Editor



FOR MEMBERS ONLY!

ANNUAL POT LUCK DINNER

Thursday, February 20, 2014, 6:00 p.m.

Fellowship Hall, Valley Lutheran Church, 87 East Orange Street
Reservations Required. Contact Anne Burr 440-338-1556.
Come Ready to Play—Guess What it Is??

New Members

Welcome to Mary Carino, Carole & John Kusik Mary Leichty and Hamlet Retirement Holdings, LLC Corporate Life

Condolences to the family of Ruth Lodge Greeley



George Ober House-circa 1874

GEORGE OBER HOUSE

The Chagrin Falls Historical Society has entered into a purchase agreement with Russell Investments for the building at 87 E. Washington Street. The home was originally built by George Ober in 1874 shortly after he moved to Chagrin.The Ober Bros. Manufacturing Company, and it's various iterations, were one of the major industries in Chagrin for over 80 years producing sad irons, trivets, tools, a variety of wooden handles, lathes and many other household items.

For many years it held the Reed Nichols funeral home, and more recently it has been utilized by Russell Investments.

We started exploring this classic Italianate building as a possible home for the Historical Society well over a year ago. It is a huge step for us as an organization, and represents a leap of faith that we can raise the funds required to purchase, renovate/restore and sustain the building into the future.

At the January Board meeting, the Society Executive Committee approved the parameters of the purchase agreement. The final language was reviewed by a board authorized committee consisting of Laura Gorretta, Carolyn Sihler, Bill Hamann and myself. The agreement was signed over the weekend of January 18th with the closing date set for Feb 21st. I am very thankful for all the work that Laura Gorretta has put into this endeavor--she has given extensively of her time and expertise.

There are a number of contingencies that will be addressed as we move towards the closing date. We have engaged Phil Koepf, an Architect with experience in Historic Restoration to help us analyze the costs involved in renovating/restoring the building. In reality, there is ample space, in good enough condition, that we could move in right away and use the building. But there is so much more that we could do to make the building the home of the Chagrin Falls Historical Society.

We have engaged CTG Environmental LLC to complete an assessment for the presence of asbestos. Asbestos was frequently used in plaster in homes from this period. Cost to renovate the building will be directly related to how much asbestos is present.

One of the most important issues going forward will be to determine our role with the Village of Chagrin Falls. We have been meeting with the mayor, members of council and other Village officials to discuss the support that we have received in the past and how the Village can continue to support us in the future.



George Ober House—Reed Nichols Funeral Home

We have been blessed to be in a Village owned building. All of our discussions have been positive. Village officials recognize that the Historical Society is the repository of the history of Chagrin Falls. Because of

their support, we have been able to utilize our many volunteers to disseminate this knowledge in a variety of ways--from publications, lectures, to free programs. Almost all local Historical Societies receive some level of support from the community they represent.

As an organization, the acquisition of this building will provide many opportunities and many challenges. We have an awfully lot of work to do.

Decisions about fund raising--we have enough in our Heritage Fund to allow us to start this project, but we cannot finish it without additional fund raising with the goal of replenishing the Heritage Fund, and adding to it.

Sorting through all of the items in the museum--if you haven't been around and through the museum in recent years, it is difficult to comprehend the variety and number of artifacts and historical items that we have. One of the movers that we brought in to give us estimates on moving, thought there to be 9000 lbs. of material in the attic alone! The up side of this, is that we will have more space to create displays from all of the items that we have.

Think of it--we could create new ways to tell the history of Chagrin. We could create spaces that celebrate the pioneer families, that demonstrate the role of the arts and artists in Chagrin. We could celebrate the amazing architecture present in the homes of Chagrin, the role of agriculture in the growth community. We could show off our extensive collection of period clothing, our amazing quilt collection or large collection of military uniforms and artifacts going back to the civil war. The possibilities are almost endless.

Our strategic planning process is going to help us. We have put it on hold during this interim period, but will get going again. The goals and tasks that we have generated will allow us to sort through many of the issues that we will face.

We look forward to each of you being part of the process!

President John Bourisseau

SOUPS AND BREADS DRAWS A CROWD

A crowd of about 65 people gathered at the Hamlet Atrium on January 15, for a feast of homemade soups and breads and to learn the interesting histories of the Montgomery Ward and Sears and Roebuck catalogs.



Kevin Horak with his catalogs

Speaker, Reverend Kevin Horak, Associate Minister from the Church in Aurora and amateur thespian, gave an animated talk on how the catalogs differed, how they competed and some of the more unusual items they sold. Most knew they had sold houses but who knew they sold cars and tombstones?

A big thank you goes to Hamlet and Jean Hood, in particular, for providing the facility and all of the setup and help with serving. The bakers and soup makers deserve a round of applause for their delicious fare. And, thank you to the hospitality committee for handling all of the details.

Anne Burr

MEMBERS ONLY POT LUCK

Please join us February 20th for the annual Members Only Pot Luck. Bring a dish to share and your place setting and join in the camaraderie and fun. This year we are bringing unusual items from the museum collection to see if you can guess what it is and how it was used.

See you at the Lutheran Church at 6 pm!

Anne Burr

WHERE THERE IS A WILL, THERE IS A WAY

Have you considered planned giving. While monies from bequests may not be available for our immediate needs, they can certainly help to sustain the Society in the future. Talk to your financial planner to discuss how you can help to sustain our future.

John Bourisseau

Curators Corner

Overview Calendar

February	11	Chagrin Falls Historical Society Board Meeting, Shute Building, 9:30 am
	19	Plaque Committee Meeting, Shute Bldg. 10 am
	20	Pat Zalba presents "Shawls at the Falls" to the Fox Hollow Garden Club, noon
	20	Pot Luck Supper, members only, at the Lutheran Church, 6:00 pm Program to follow: Guess What It Is?" (Items from the museum collections)

Re: Accessions with a Chagrin Falls Connection:

This is the spot where I usually list our recent accessions and acquistions. Since I have been sending "end of the year" thank you notes and gift agreements to be signed by donors I thought I would summarize our total for your information. In 2013 we had 35 donors of Chagrin Falls historical items. The items donated this year included papers, books, magazines, ledgers, clothing, purses, gadgets, maps, fire extinguishers, paintings, photographs, maple sugar molds and pharmacy bottles. Some donors gave one item, while some gave 50 or more. One donor gave 170 glass plate negatives. In addition, we received permission to scan (and return) over 300 photographs from one family's collection. (This has been keeping Zo Sykora very busy!) Each donor is asked to sign a gift agreement and a thank you letter is sent. We are a 501 (c) 3 organization and donations are tax deductible. The Historical Society can not legally appraise items. Appraisals are the responsibility of the donor or their designated appraiser. Each accession is assigned a number, the items are then marked and cataloged. The next step is to enter them into our museum software data base.

We also purchased four acquisitions this year. One was purchased on ebay and the others from a private party. Now you know!

Happy Valentines Day!

Pat Zalba
Volunteer Curator

