

The Mahoning Valley Historical Society Newsletter

HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS



PRESERVING THE VALLEY'S HISTORY FOR 132 YEARS

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- Archival Library
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Phone: 330-743-2589

Fax: 330-743-7210

mvhs@mahoninghistory.org

www.mahoninghistory.org

Business & Media Archives

330-744-7621

business_media@mahoninghistory.org



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Honoring a Great Benefactor



Anne Kilcawley Christman was an outstanding community leader and philanthropist in her lifetime. She served on the Board of Trustees of the Mahoning Valley Historical Society from 1985 to 1994, and was a consistently generous supporter of the Society's mission

and programs. After Mrs. Christman's death in 2002, she created a perpetual legacy of support for MVHS through her estate by naming the Society as a co-beneficiary of the Anne Kilcawley Christman Charitable Foundation.

Income from the Christman Foundation is now the single largest source of support for the Society's programs and operations through the Arms Family Museum of Local History and the MVHS Archival Library. Over the past five years, the Board of Directors and staff have used monies from the foundation to add principal of the Society's permanent endowment funds, develop new educational programs such as the *Anne Kilcawley Christman Hands-On History Room*, add staff to the collections department to implement an action plan to reduce the large backlog of unprocessed collections, and to underwrite a recent and important capital improvement project in the museum building.

At their meeting on November 20, 2007, the MVHS Board of Directors voted unanimously to rename the Manager of Collections and Curatorial Services position currently held by Jessica Trickett as the *Anne Kilcawley Christman Memorial Collections Manager*. This action is a relatively small gesture to acknowledge the Society's great appreciation of Mrs. Christman's extraordinary legacy and spirit of giving. ✨

The New Valley Experience



During the first decades of the 20th century, Youngstown was noisy with the sound of new construction all over the downtown. Sky-scrapers (for so they were in their time) rose up on the public square. New prosperity and ever-increasing population called for a new court house. Banks prospered and made their buildings look the part.

ants, to the early Pioneers, through the development of industry, immigration and the organization of neighborhoods.

Multimedia presentations add a new dimension to the experience and include an orientation video and a World War II-era documentary on the local steel industry. Kids can play with hands-on activities that include a touch board with the raw materials used in steel production, an immigrant's suitcase, documents and a nine foot long timeline puzzle!



Kids can take a peek inside an immigrant's suitcase!

Special thanks to former MVHS Board member and local news reporter **Tricia Perry**, for providing the narration for the orientation video in the exhibit. ✨

Funding for this exhibit was generously provided by The Ruth H. Beecher Charitable Trust.

Welcome New Members!

Dr. and Mrs. Ronald L. Gould
 Rev. John E. Keehner
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 Mr. H. Franklin Long
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Corporate Partners

**Denotes a new member*

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From This Direction

Late December is a traditional “home for the Holidays” time for many people. The Arms Family Museum of Local History and MVHS Archival Library are often blessed with out-of-town visitors who want to learn more about their heritage in the Mahoning Valley.

This year was no exception. The MVHS staff was particularly happy to welcome a large group of Vickers family members who visited on December 26, 2007. These were the grandchildren and great-grandchildren of the late Ernest Vickers, who was Mill Creek Park’s first Naturalist.

The group came to see the exhibit *In the Eye of the Beholder: the Photography of Ernest Vickers* that is currently showing on the second floor of the museum. They were impressed with Ernest Vickers talent as a photographer, and very pleased that the Historical Society preserves this important collection and makes it available to the public.

A happy, healthy and prosperous New Year to all!

~ H. William Lawson

**History-To-Go
 Irish in Youngstown**

In 1797 Daniel Shehy of County Tipperary was the first Irish immigrant to settle in Youngstown.



Brown, Bonnell, and Company iron puddlers in 1883 included several Irish immigrants.

Massive waves of Irish refugees from the 1840’s Potato Famine settled in the area and filled the labor needs of the iron mills, canals and railroads. Sally Murphy Pallante of the Irish American Archival Society and one of the authors of *Irish in Youngstown* and *the Greater Mahoning Valley* will recount the history of Irish settlers in the Valley and their prominent roles in community politics, arts, business, sports, entertainment and religion.

This free *History-To-Go* event will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 10th, 2008 at St. Patrick’s Church, 1420 Oak Hill Ave, Youngstown. This event is sponsored by Rulli Brothers. ✨

Get your Hands-On:

Adopt-a Neighborhood

Rebecca Whittenberger, Curator of Education



An innovative local history project is underway with a sophomore class of honors students from the new East High School!

With a generous grant from the Raymond John Wean Foundation, the MVHS education department is partnering with students from East High School to administer a program during the 2007-2008 school year called “Adopt-a-Neighborhood.”

The creation of a brand new city high school this year led to the closing of two others, and with it came the challenge of students adjusting to a new school in a new neighborhood with new classmates. To help face this challenge, the “Adopt-a-Neighborhood” program was created to help students develop a greater awareness and appreciation for their new school’s neighborhood by learning its history.



So how exactly will these students “adopt” a neighborhood? The program outlines two goals: the students are to research, investigate, and document the history of their school’s neighborhood using a form of media of their own creation, and to assist in the physical preservation of their community by doing a local cleanup project. Led by their teacher, Jeff Odoguardi, this class of honors students will be creating an original video documentary about the history of the East side, and the MVHS regularly hosts sessions at our archival library where the students receive the tools and information they need to create their video.

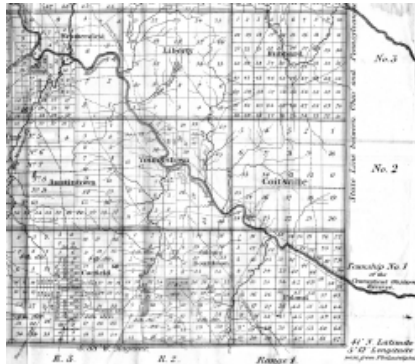
The knowledge they acquire will benefit not only them, but the local community as well, because at the end of the school year the students will present their video documentary at a public community night sponsored by the Historical Society in the spring. We are proud to partner with East High School’s students as they “Adopt-a-Neighborhood!” ✨

Artifact-ually Speaking

Pamela Speis, Archivist

The Mahoning Valley is part of a tract of land that once belonged to the state of Connecticut. Connecticut's Western Reserve was bordered north and south by Lake Erie and the forty-first parallel, and extended 120 miles westward from Pennsylvania. In 1795, Connecticut sold a portion of the Reserve to a group of speculators known as the Connecticut Land Company. The company surveyed the land, marking several townships of twenty-five square miles to sell to individuals who would in turn subdivide the townships into smaller parcels for sale.

In 1796, John Young of Whitestown, New York, set out to view the land for himself before making a purchase. In February of 1797, Young visited Connecticut and purchased from the Connecticut Land Company Township Two in the Second Range of the Western Reserve. The sale was finalized on April 9, 1800.



A portion of Henshaw's 1830 Map of Trumbull County. Youngstown Township is in the middle of the image.

The first Court of Common Pleas and General Quarter Sessions was held at Warren on August 25, 1800. During that session, the Court divided Trumbull County into civil townships. The governmental township of Youngstown (not the same as the 5 miles squared township) comprised most of what is now Mahoning County and included the townships of Poland, Coitsville, Hubbard, Liberty, Youngstown, Boardman, Canfield, Austintown, Jackson and Ellsworth.

Youngstown Township ceased to exist in 1913 when its remaining area was annexed by the City of Youngstown. Parts of Boardman, Liberty and Coitsville Townships were also affected in 1929-1930 when the City of Youngstown added to its incorporated area through additional annexations.

Name of brand	Markings in Writing	Markings on Brand
Jonathan Towler	Square crop off the left ear	□ □
Jared Fairland	Square crop off the right ear	□ □
James Hillman	Crop off the right ear and two-thirds tail in the left	◁ □
Samuel Cleveland	Mark on the right ear	— □
Abijah Peck	Strip a crop from the upper side the left ear, with in the under side the right and a hole through the upper side the left ear.	◁ □

Earmarks from Youngstown Township Record Book, 1802

MVHS is fortunate to have an original record book for Youngstown Township covering 1802-1829. The ledger contains township minutes, road work, records of Overseers of the Poor, lists of township officers, apprenticeships, and other township business.

There is a section in the back which records earmarks and brands registered for residents of the township, used as a means to identify livestock. The ledger was given to MVHS by Senator Benjamin Franklin Wirt in 1911. There is a transcript available for the first section of the ledger. ✂

Sight & Sound

Business & Media Archives of the Mahoning Valley



Former WKBN TV-27 News Personalities Jim Campbell and Tom Holden with their written scripts.

The newest addition to the Business & Media collection comes in the form of 60 large bankers boxes of newscast scripts from 1993 to 2006.

For each day there is a folder with scripts from the 6:30 am, Noon, 5:30, 6:00 and 11:00 p.m. newscasts. These scripts include the news story, allotted time, the

name of the anchor who read the story, camera instructions, and production notes.

These scripts may be developed so that students and researchers can follow along with the video newscast, to learn about video production, and to see how news stories evolve over the course of a day. ✂

Damaged Painting Marvelously Restored



Portrait with blanching varnish

William Rayen (1776-1854), settled in the Mahoning Valley before 1802. Rayen operated a tavern and mercantile in Youngstown. He was also involved in the early township government and other business and economic pursuits. Through his Estate after his death, Rayen established Youngstown's first public high school open to all students regardless of race, creed, gender, or economic condition. The Rayen School was opened in 1866.

The c. 1815 portrait of William Rayen in the Society's collection unfortunately suffered some water damage when condensation formed in the museum's attic during last winter's frigid temperatures. The varnish over the oil paint blached and formed the cloudy layer seen above. The painting was taken to the Intermuseum Conservation Association in Cleveland where a conservator removed the varnish and retouched some minor paint losses. The portrait



After restoration

was then given a new protective coating of resin that includes light stabilizers and reframed, with new felting to protect the canvas and new hardware for proper hanging. To see more photographs of the restoration and to learn about other pieces that were also damaged and conserved, visit the MVHS blog at www.mahoninghistory.blogspot.com. ✂

The Mahoning Valley Historical Society,

founded in 1875, educates and promotes an interest in the history of the Mahoning Valley by collecting, preserving and developing material representative of the people who have inhabited the region.



648 Wick Avenue
Youngstown, OH 44502-1289

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Holiday Open House 2007

On November 30th, 98 members and guests attended the Historical Society's annual Holiday Open House. Attendees were treated to wonderful food, fellowship and live music and were able to preview the new Valley Experience exhibit, and see the wonderful holiday decorations throughout the museum. A special thanks goes out to these donors that helped make the evening a success: Ms. Joanne F. Beeghly, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Calcagni, Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Doyle, Dr. and Mrs. Chander Kohli, Ms. Joanne Dove Prisley and Mr. Charles Rumberg.

Upcoming Events

March 10, 2008	History to Go Irish Immigration at St. Patrick's Church	7:00 p.m.
June 12, 2008	History to Go Historic Fellows Riverside Gardens Tour	Time TBD

You can stay on top of upcoming events and special announcements by joining the MVHS Email List.

Send an email with "subscribe" in the subject line to: mvhs@mahoninghistory.org

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