

The Mahoning Valley Historical Society Newsletter

HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS



PRESERVING THE VALLEY'S HISTORY FOR 135 YEARS

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Scrapbook

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Volume 38 Issue 1

July & August 2010

The Mahoning Valley in 1875

As the Mahoning Valley Historical Society approaches its 135th anniversary, it is a good time to reflect on what was happening in 1875. The following excerpt was taken from the 1875-76 Youngstown City Directory, one of the earliest volumes in the archival collection:

The city of Youngstown as it is today contains all the advantages of cities of the first class. The City Directory published by Wiggins & McKillop, in the fall of 1874, contains 4,121 names; making an estimate of 3 1/2 to each name, we make a population of 14,323.

The public buildings, in point of architectural beauty and permanence in construction, are of the highest order. Recently several new and handsome business blocks have been erected, and others are in contemplation; which are and will be standing monuments of enterprise and prosperity. The opera house erected at the north-west corner of the Diamond, is built in the most modern style and finish, artistically designed, second to none in the State.

There is no inland city in the country that can offer to the public better Hotel accommodations than Youngstown. The Tod House was built during the years 1868-69, by Messrs. Stambaugh, Crandall & Tod, at a cost of \$125,000. The house contains sixty-five rooms, which are supplied with all the modern improvements for the comfort and convenience of guests.

The streets are mostly laid out east and west and north and south; are wide and graded and paved, and supplied with a good system of sewage. Rents are reasonable, taxes are even less than are imposed in other cities of the same class, when the fact is taken into consideration that most of the improvement in streets and public buildings have only recently been made, and are now in process of construction.

A charter has been granted to the Youngstown Street Railway Company to build a street railway, beginning at Hazelton and extending through Youngstown to Briar Hill, a distance of four miles.

Enormous growth was happening in the Mahoning Valley in this time period, which continued through the early decades of the 20th century. In the next few issues of Historical Happenings watch for more articles on the people, businesses, and organizations that were thriving in 1875. ☘



Tod House
& Civil War
Monument
ca. 1870



Advertisement from 1875 City Directory

Save the Dates!

Sunday, September 12

Local History Crawl

This History to Go program will visit other local historical society sites. Locations & Time TBD.

Tuesday, September 14

Press Event & Founders Day Dinner

The Campaign for the Mahoning Valley History Center goes public as the Historical Society celebrates 135 years!

From This Direction: Annual Report

The 135th annual meeting took place on Tuesday, June 15, 2010, at the Holy Trinity Romanian Orthodox Church. Over eighty members and guests convened for dinner, a business meeting which included election of new Directors, and presentations of the 2010 MVHS Historic Preservation Awards.

Board Development Report

Charlotte Gelhaar, member of the Board Development Committee, presented the following nominees who were elected to serve three year terms on the MVHS Board of Directors: Donna Buzulencia, Tyler S. Clark, Sallie Tod Dutton, Presley L. Gillespie, Jeffery Grdic, Betty H. Jagnow, Mary Lou Reyes, Rebecca M. Rogers, Frank A. Rulli, James H. Sisek, Esq.

Treasurer's Report

as of May 31, 2010

Balance Sheet

Assets

Current Assets

Unrestricted Assets	\$784,308.73
Restricted Assets	81,707.45
Capital Campaign Assets	<u>1,516,487.79</u>
Total Current Assets	\$2,382,503.97

Property and Equipment

Land, Building,	
Artifacts & Equipment	\$1,667,373.59
Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(656,372.23)</u>
Total Property & Equipment	\$1,011,001.36

Endowment Funds

Olive F.A. Arms Trusts	\$1,605,613.61
General Endowment Fund	<u>730,160.43</u>
Total Endowment Funds	\$2,335,774.04

Total Assets **\$5,729,279.37**

Liabilities & Fund Balances

Total Unrestricted Fund Liabilities	\$202.25
Total Fund Balances	\$5,729,077.12

Total Liabilities & Fund Balances **\$5,729,279.37**

Statement of Operating Support, Revenues and Expenses

Total Support	\$310,616.15
Total Revenue	<u>294,389.71</u>
Total Support & Revenue	605,005.86
Total Expenses	<u>477,151.88</u>
Excess (Deficit)	<u><u>\$127,853.98</u></u>

In Memoriam

Historical Society members who passed away in the previous year: Gretchen Roemer Birrell, Alex Downie, George Gasser, Ruth E. Kyle, R. Virginia Lindman, Wiley Perry, Edna D. Pincham, Winifred Richards, Clara Louise Schafer, R. Walton Shively, Yvette Stanley.



Richard Mitchell with the YSU Vintage Photography students who produced the Megown Photography Exhibit. May 7, 2010.

Thanks to these generous Annual Meeting Donors

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Progress Report

Executive Director H. William Lawson presented an impressive report of all the accomplishments and initiatives made by the Board and staff in the past fiscal year. Here are some of the highlights:

- ◆ Holiday in Motion at the Arms Family Museum drew 3,357 visitors, generated \$7,356 in admission fee revenue and created almost \$5,000 in museum store sales.

- ◆ Hits on the Historical Society's website are ten percent higher than last year, and followers on social media sites such as Facebook and Flickr continue to increase.

- ◆ The Education Department reached more than 4,000 local school children, through tours and outreach programs, and speakers bureau presentations were given at over 20 organizations.

- ◆ The Collections staff featured six new exhibits in the Arms Family Museum in the past year, all while exceeding goals for processing new and backlogged collections.

- ◆ The Business & Media Archives of the Mahoning Valley staff has processed and digitized more than 4,200 individual objects and over 19,000 (more than double last year's amount) linear feet of WKBN-TV 27 news videotape.

- ◆ Historical Society Board Members, staff and volunteers collaborated with community programs such as: First Night Youngstown; YSU Summer Festival of the Arts; Leadership Mahoning Valley; YSU English Festival; CityScape/Street Scape Planting Day; YSU Homework Express; St. James Episcopal Church Bicentennial Celebration; Winter Celebration at the Davis Garden Center, Mill Creek MetroParks.



Kids enjoyed the Founders Day Open House and the Holiday in Motion Display in 2009.



2010 Historic Preservation Awards Program

Special thanks to the program sponsor the **Raymond John Wean Foundation** and to members of the judging panel: George D. Beelen, Ph.D., Facilitator; Donna DeBlasio, Thomas Leary, Ph.D., Rebecca Rogers, Norma Stefanik, and Brenda Williams.

Community Revitalization Award

John Stark Edwards House & Museum – Interior & Exterior Restoration



The John Stark Edwards House was built in 1807, and enlarged in 1809 by one of the first pioneers to arrive from Connecticut. This home was occupied by three families: The John Stark Edwards Family; the Thomas Denny Webb Family; and the Iddings Family. It was a residence until 1938 when the last survivor turned the house over to the state. Martin Davey, Governor of Ohio at the time, gifted the structure to the

Trumbull County Historical Society. In 2006 The Historical Society received grant money through the Ohio Cultural Facilities Commission and began a restoration of the interior including ceilings, walls, floors and windows; as well as exterior renovations including a new roof, spouting, repair and repainting of the original cedar siding, new shutters with the original metal hardware, reinforcing of stone walls and accessibility improvements. Project designers include: Harry Kapouralos, project manager; William Sauer, architect; Don Hazel, Trumbull County Historical Society President; Gina Bodor, grant coordinator; and Martha Ellers, advisor.



Bill Lawson & David Sabine with Gina Bodor, Don Hazel, William Sauer & Harry Kapouralos



Community Revitalization Award

National McKinley Birthplace Memorial Exterior Restoration

The National McKinley Birthplace Memorial, in Niles Ohio, is a tribute to the birth place of our 25th President. Designed by the New York Architectural firm of McKim Mead & White, the facility consists of a central courtyard a public library, and a museum. Restoration included cleaning and repair of terra cotta fascia and soffit within

the courtyard, repairing and restoring marble pavers, repair of the original clay tile roof and copper flashing, re-glazing of original windows and replacing three large skylights. Owner of this property is the National McKinley Birthplace Memorial Association Board of Trustees and Project designer was Balog Steines Hendricks & Manchester Architects.



Bill Lawson, Joe Steines & Dave Sabine

Commercial Revitalization Award

Realty Tower Apartments – Exterior & Lobby Restoration



Designed by noted Youngstown architect Morris Scheibel, this 13-story building was built by the Realty Guarantee & Trust Company for their offices in 1924. The building has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1980. The Frangos Group purchased the building in December 2000, and later hired City Architecture, Inc. of Cleveland, Ohio to design an adaptive reuse project to convert the building from offices to apartments. Construction formally began in 2008. Along with renovation of the interior spaces, the project included restoration of the original cornice and other historic exterior finishes, and restoration of plaster, metal, stone and tile surfaces in the historic lobby.



Bill Lawson, Bill Spertazza, Dee Smethey, & Dave Sabine

MVHS Directors Awards of Achievement

Three individuals that demonstrate a commitment to historic preservation received this award:

C. Gilbert James, Jr.

has been a strong advocate for local history and historic preservation for five decades including: establishing the Western Reserve Village on the Mahoning County Fairgrounds in Canfield; spearheading the campaign to raise funds to preserve and restore the Mahoning Valley Historical Society's Carriage House, and adaptively reuse it as the MVHS Archival Library and meeting center; and being an active participant with several historical agencies including MVHS, the Canfield Historical Society, the William Holmes McGuffey Historical Society, the Western Reserve Village Foundation, the International Institute of Youngstown, the former Medical Museum at St. Elizabeth Hospital and the Melnick Medical Museum at Youngstown State University.



Patricia Sweet,

a tireless advocate for historic preservation, led the efforts of the Historic Preservation Committee, Board

of Directors and staff to create the annual Mahoning Valley Historical Society Historic Preservation Awards program in 2005. She also was instrumental in securing financial support from the Raymond John Wean Foundation to underwrite this program over all of the past six years. The Historic Preservation Awards program has been a highly successful, visible and positive community outreach for the Historical Society in its goal to advocate for more diverse and effective historic preservation efforts in the region.

Leland Van Camp –

has been a cornerstone in the small community of Beloit for many years. In 2004, he provided the impetus to organize the Beloit Area Historical Society; the vision for acquiring and preserving an old tin shop as the home for the organization; and continues to advocate for the collection of artifacts related to Smith Township. Nominator David Mannion had this to say about Mr. Van Camp: "His tireless dedication to this community has truly been a blessing, and his keen interest in preserving the history of the Beloit area is very inspiring to the next generation of citizens considering historical preservation efforts and community service."



Thank You to these Members that contributed in the July 2009 to June 2010 Year!



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Honoring the Valley's Jewish Heritage

On June 10, the Historical Society honored the 75th anniversary of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation with a remarkable event at the Harry Burt/Ross Radio Building. The main floor of the site was filled to capacity as over 110 guests from both organizations came together to partake in the evening's festivities.

An intriguing exhibit culled from the Historical Society's archives by Jessica Trickett commemorated the history of the Valley's Jewish community and drew a continuous line of viewers. Many guests took advantage of the occasion to tour the historic building assisted by staff members. After a buffet of kosher foods, the assembled group was welcomed by Treasurer of the Board Karen Abrams. Following her remarks and introductions, the crowd was treated to a PowerPoint presentation by Bill Lawson. Vintage photographs of local families and historic sites were the backdrop to this insightful journey through local Jewish history. James Ross's impact on Zionist activities here and abroad received special attention.



Bruce Lev, YAJF President Elect, Bill Lawson, Sam Kooperman, YAJF Executive Secretary & David Sabine

The final tribute to the Jewish Federation's legacy came in the form of a framed collage of historic photographs designed by Leann Rich. President of the Board Dave Sabine and Bill Lawson presented the Federation with this image-laden proclamation from the Historical Society. In a most gracious thank you letter, Sam Kooperman noted that this tribute will hang in a place of honor in their board room. He also expressed his gratitude for the opportunity for members of the

Federation to learn more about their heritage as well as the contributions of James Ross.

Special thanks to Charlotte Gelhaar, Karen Abrams, and Marilyn Oyer for their invaluable assistance. The successful evening was historic on many levels! ✨

Carol Potter, Campaign Director

Hands-On History: "A Blooming History"

Rebecca Whittenberger,
Curator of Education



Gardens are at their loveliest during this time of year. Many of us enjoy the beauty, serenity

and relaxation that gardens provide. Yet, how many of us are scholars of their history? Olive Arms was a student of the history of gardens and how their design is of equal importance with their content. Such was her depth of knowledge and passion for the subject that she wrote an extensive essay entitled "Art in the Garden and the Wild Flowers of the Western Reserve." In this essay, she discusses old world examples of gardens in France and England and outlines the components for the perfect garden landscape in a way that is at once both impressive and charming.

"It seems to me that I have always known and loved a garden," she writes. And no stone of thought on the subject of gardens is left unturned. What should be the size and type?



What should be the style in relation to the house? How should it be accessed? How should the natural slope of land be used? How much green? How many flowers? What kind? Should weeds like daisies and Queen Ann's lace be included? According to Olive, they should definitely be considered.

From examining different time periods, to outlining construction principles, to sharing lessons learned from her own garden, Olive tenderly and knowledgeably shares her passion while simultaneously giving practical advice. She writes, "So let us have gardens, for we will be following in the footsteps of those of past ages, and but expressing the love of the garden that has been in our hearts for generations." ✨

Olive's entire essay can be found on our website: www.mahoninghistory.org

History To Go Event a Rare Treat



On Saturday, June 26th, members and friends of the Historical Society had the rare opportunity to explore the historic vehicle collection of Mr. & Mrs. Richard Best. The eclectic assortment included functional vehicles, as seen with the Dollar Bank armored car, which would pull up to the gates of



local steel mills on Fridays to cash paychecks; classics; and the whimsical. Special thanks to the Bests for opening their property for History To Go! ✨

Artifact-ually Speaking

Jessica D. Trickett, Anne Kilcawley Christman
Memorial Collections Manager

Needlework is one of the hallmarks of civilization; earliest examples of embroideries have been found in the tombs of ancient Egypt. During the middle ages, rural women learned embroidery from their elders in order to make essential household goods

including clothing and linens. Highborn women learned embroidery as part of their training in "lady-like graces." Young women produced samplers to demonstrate their needlework skills and to serve as pattern sources for future use.

Samplers of the 17th century and beyond usually included numerals and letters, preparing girls for marking dates and initials on family linens, a responsibility they would assume upon becoming housewives. Samplers were worked both in schools and at home and demonstrated both simple and complex, decorative stitches. They might feature floral patterns, inscriptions



Elmina Smith 1840 Sampler

of quotes and verses, depictions of buildings and human figures, and usually included the maker's name and the date.



The Mahoning Valley Historical Society recently received a sampler completed in 1840 by Poland resident Elmina Smith. Charles T. Clark, a descendant of Elmina, generously donated the sampler and other items this past April. The sampler features a rendering of the Smith family's Greek Revival-style house as well as floral motifs, trees, and birds.

Elmina Smith later was a teacher at the Poland Institute, a private school opened in 1849 by B.F. Lee. Lee's academy was the forerunner to Poland Union Seminary, chartered in 1862. She went on to marry Wright Adair, the son of early Poland, Ohio settler James Adair. Elmina Smith's sampler survives as a tangible representation of one girl's preparation for adulthood and the imminent responsibilities of running a household. It also gives insight into that era's social and gender roles, an example of the skills expected of a young woman of the time. Both useful and beautiful, Elmina Smith's sampler is a welcome addition to the collection.

Sight & Sound

Business & Media Archives of the Mahoning Valley

The Business & Media Archives collection contains a scrapbook from 1926, created by Warren P. Williamson, Jr., that has clippings about the early days of WKBN Radio. In the scrapbook are newspaper articles about what the station broadcasted and early technical problems that occurred. One clipping dated November 30, 1926 and titled "Out of the Ether" has some listener reactions to the new radio station:

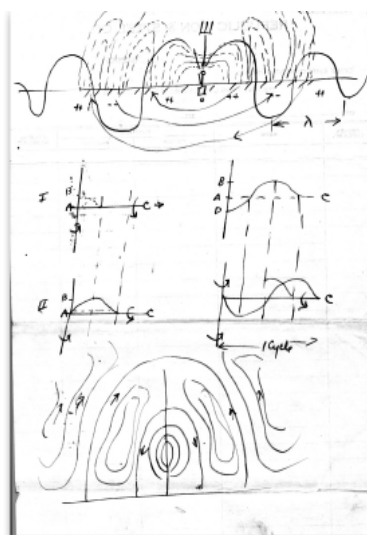
"But as the radio show, with the election returns, and for the Rayen-South game, WKBN demonstrated that a properly engineered, low-powered local station can be tuned in or out the same as a broadcaster at a distance. Among all the talk over the local station's debut, I have heard but one protest against a local station such as WKBN."

"I'm sure the fans in general will join in good wishes for Brock and Williamson as proprietors, and for Chorpening as operator, and I think the proposition will boil down to this: If WKBN gives us programs as interesting as the other available programs, we'll listen to 'em; if it doesn't, we'll tune them out. And as long as the station remains as sharply tuned as it has been, even individuals who don't like the programs still won't have any objection to the station."

Also included in the scrapbook is an outline on the early history of radio waves and drawings done by Williamson; a collection of letters involving tree trimming to remedy interference with radio waves; autographed photographs and a full page *Youngstown Vindicator* spread detailing the new studios. Items like these show Williamson, Chorpening and Brock as true pioneers in radio, as they were involved with all aspects of early broadcasting. Visit mahoninghistory.org to see more items from the scrapbook.



Signed promotional photograph from WTAM's "Ernie at the Mike"



Left: Sketches of radio waves done by Warren P. Williamson, Jr.

The Mahoning Valley Historical Society celebrates the history of the people of the Mahoning Valley.



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Youngstown, OH 44502-1289

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Historical Happenings

is published bi-monthly by the Mahoning Valley Historical Society. It is sent as a free benefit of MVHS membership.

MVHS is a private non-profit corporation, which owns and operates the Arms Family Museum of Local History, the MVHS Archival Library, and the Business and Media Archives of the Mahoning Valley.

Leann Rich, editor



www.facebook.com/mahoninghistory

Thank You!

Thanks to Lutz Greenhouse for providing hundreds of annuals and to Charlotte Gelhaar for the Boston Ferns that have brightened the gardens of the Historical Society's campus.



Upcoming Events

Tuesday, July 27	Paul Schell Photography Exhibit Opens Arms Family Museum	1:00 p.m.
Tuesday-Friday August 10-13	High Tech History Summer Camp Arms Family Museum	9am-Noon
Thursday, September 10	MVHS Celebrates 135 Years	
Sunday, September 12	Local History Crawl (Details TBD)	
Tuesday, September 14	History Center Campaign Public Launch Founders Day Dinner (Details TBD)	
Sunday, September 19	The Mahoning Valley Collects Exhibit Closes Arms Family Museum	
Friday, December 3	All Dolled Up Holiday Preview Party	5- 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, December 4	All Dolled Up Exhibit Opening	10 a.m.-5 p.m.

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