

# The Mahoning Valley Historical Society Newsletter

## HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS



PRESERVING THE VALLEY'S HISTORY FOR 132 YEARS

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March & April 2008

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Contact MVHS for information about

- Membership
- Museum Tours
- Archival Library
- Outreach Programs
- Facilities Rental

Phone: 330-743-2589

Fax: 330-743-7210

[mvhs@mahoninghistory.org](mailto:mvhs@mahoninghistory.org)

[www.mahoninghistory.org](http://www.mahoninghistory.org)

Business & Media Archives

330-744-7621

[business\\_media@mahoninghistory.org](mailto:business_media@mahoninghistory.org)



### Greystone is Documented; Drawings Win National Award

The Mahoning Valley Historical Society is proud to announce that architecture students from Kent State University have won the national Charles E. Peterson Prize for their work in documenting the former Olive and Wilford Arms residence, now the Arms Family Museum of Local History, for the National Park Service's Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS).

The HABS project for Greystone is the first one to be completed in Mahoning County. Funding for the project was provided by The Walter E. and Caroline H. Watson Foundation.

Students of Elizabeth Corbin Murphy, FAIA, a Principal in the firm of Chambers, Murphy and Burge Restoration Architects, Ltd., of Akron, Ohio, and an Adjunct Professor at Kent State University's College of Architecture and Environment Design, worked on the Arms House HABS project over the course of the 2006-2007 academic years. The project was described in the May/June 2007 issue of *Historical Happenings*.

The Students produced measured drawings of the house with plans and elevations of the historic building according to United States Department of the Interior specifications for HABS, and submitted the drawings and other required documents for acceptance into the HABS collection at the Library of Congress, and provided copies of the same for the MVHS archives.

The project was also submitted for The Charles E. Peterson Prize, which annually recognizes the best set of measured drawings prepared to HABS standards and donated to HABS by students. The prize honors Charles E. Peterson, FAIA, founder of the HABS program, and is intended to increase awareness, knowledge, and appreciation of historic buildings throughout the United States while adding to the permanent HABS collection. To date, more than 2,000 students from 68 colleges and universities have participated by completing more than 500 entries and almost 5,000 sheets of measured drawings. The Arms House project received first place honors and students accepted the award at a ceremony in New Orleans. They also received a \$3,000 cash prize.



The Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), the nation's first federal preservation program, began in 1933 to document America's architectural heritage. The Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) and the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) collections are among the largest and most heavily used in the Prints and Photographs Division of the Library of Congress. All of the documents in the HABS collection are available free of copyright restrictions.



MVHS Executive Director Bill Lawson (far right), Mark Schara (far left) and Elizabeth Corbin Murphy (second from left) congratulate the Kent State University Architecture students on a job well done.

Staff from MVHS attended a presentation at Kent State by Mark Schara, an architect with HABS that outlined the significance of the program, and showed some recent projects. The drawings of the Arms house produced by the students were on display as an encouragement for architecture students to apply for the HABS summer projects. ✪

**Welcome New Members!**

Karen A. Barr & John E. Cisine  
 Holly J. Burnett-Hanley  
 H. Keith Monroe  
 Stephen M. Thomas

**Corporate Partners  
 SILVER PARTNER**

Fibus Family Foundation

**PARTNER**

Home Savings and Loan

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 PRESERVATIONIST**

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**RESEARCHER**

Mr. & Mrs. Richard P. McLaughlin

**INTERPRETER**

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Schwebel

Mr. & Mrs. Stuart Strasfeld

**2007 Year-End Giving**

WE Bliss Foundation Charitable Trust

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The Charles & Alice Schmutz

Charitable Foundation

The Murphy Contracting Company

The Tod Foundation

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John & Judith Kuti

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Ms. Angelyn Scarmuzzi

Mrs. Charles Schaff

Mr. Edward Seidler

Ms. Janice Tattrie

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Zapka

**From This Direction**

Our Historical Society is currently blessed with the presence of the following student volunteers and interns:

**Jimmy Evans** is a student at Western Reserve High School in Berlin Center. Jimmy is transcribing the original membership book from Tod Post #29, Grand Army of the Republic, for his senior service project.

**Nicole George** is a graduate student at Kent State University working toward a Masters Degree in Public History. Nicole is completing a project involving the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation Archives.

**Jaime Aiken Hughes** is an undergraduate student at Youngstown State University majoring in Women's Studies with a minor in Historic Preservation. Jaime is working on accessioning three-dimensional collections.

**Christy Leonard** is an undergraduate student at YSU majoring in Professional Writing and Editing and seeking Museum Studies Certification. Christy is working on archival and three-dimensional collections projects.

**Lauran Moore** is an undergraduate student at Kent State majoring working toward a Bachelor's Degree in Education. Lauran is working on curriculum guides for the exhibits on the museum's second floor to be posted online for easy teacher access.

On Tuesday, April 29, MVHS will honor all of our dedicated volunteers, including the bright young people listed above, at our annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. It's not too late to become a volunteer to be eligible to attend this event!

~H. William Lawson

**Virginia Historian Visits Youngstown**

On January 14th the MVHS Board of Directors and staff welcomed Dr. Charles Bryan, President and CEO of the Virginia Historical Society to Youngstown for a special meeting.



Dr. Bryan spoke to the passion American's have about their history, and why Historical Society's are important. He provided a much needed pep talk as MVHS embarks on an ambitious capital campaign.

Special thanks goes to **Judy and Reid Schmutz, Al and Suzanne Fleming,** and **Charles H. Bentz Associates** for making this visit possible. ✨

**Get your Hands-On:**

**Volunteer Opportunities**

Rebecca Whittenberger, Curator of Education

Preserving local history is important. Why? Because it's yours. Local history is not only part of our community's identity, but also our identity as individuals. By remembering the past, we learn and appreciate who we were, who we are now, and who we should be in the future. As an MVHS volunteer, you help preserve, educate and promote an interest in the history of the Mahoning Valley, a history we can all identify with, and in which we should all take pride.

As a volunteer, you can plan your own schedule based on your availability. We provide training for all projects and a professional working environment. Below are examples of the current volunteer opportunities available to you:



**Education and Public Programming:**

As a "Museum in a Suitcase" presenter: you will present suitcase programs to students at local schools; Help create and implement history-based workshops, classes and children's programs; and develop educational materials such as pre and post visit activities for schools.

**Archives and Library:**

A typical project can include working with historic diaries, military records, family collections, photographs, or newspaper clippings.

**Curatorial/Collections Research**

These volunteers will research and catalog various types of artifacts including 19th century textiles, tools, etc.; aid the Collections Manager and Registrar in safely boxing artifacts in archival boxes; and help the curatorial staff in computer data entry of artifacts into collections management software.

**Museum Events**

Event volunteers help implement fun and interactive activities at museum open houses and family and membership events.

**Business and Media Archives of the Mahoning Valley** volunteers assist the Project Manager in computer data entry of media-related artifacts

For a complete list of volunteer opportunities, visit [www.mahoninghistory.org](http://www.mahoninghistory.org). For more information about volunteering, please contact our Curator of Education at 330-743-2589, or email [education@mahoninghistory.org](mailto:education@mahoninghistory.org). ✨

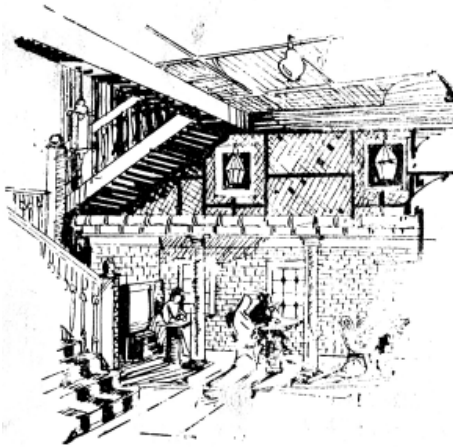
# Artifact-ually Speaking

Jessica D. Trickett,  
Anne Kilcawley Christman Memorial Collections Manager

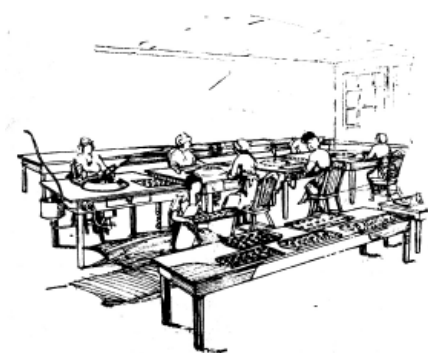
Youngstown confectioner Harry Burt, inventor of the “Good Humor” ice cream bar, opened his first downtown store on South Hazel Street in 1893. The confectionery, specializing in penny candy, soon outgrew that small storefront and Burt moved his store to South Phelps Street. Burt added ice cream, a soda fountain and grill, a bakery and a restaurant.

By 1921, Burt’s confections were so popular that he again expanded, acquiring and renovating the building that still stands at 325 West Federal Street. The new facility, opened April 4, 1922, included retail and dining spaces as well as production areas that were open for the public to tour and inspect.

Burt published a souvenir booklet for the store’s opening, skillfully marketing a visit to Burt’s as a unique experience that catered completely to the customers’ enjoyment. Burt’s offered several dining and assembly rooms, a soda grill, candy department, bake shop and flower shop. Burt painted an inviting picture, describing the atmosphere at the “Arbor Garden” dining room, “Near at hand fountains bubble and golden throated birds respond in sweet notes to the harmonies of the merry making within the doors.”



*Arbor Garden Dining Room*



*Chocolate Dipping Room*

Burt was just as intent on his patrons’ enjoyment of the behind-the-scenes operations. Production areas included an ice cream plant, candy factory, bakery and catering kitchens. Burt wrote “We want to impress this fact: every part of our factory is open at all times in work-

ing hours for inspection by the public. Among ourselves we think it is the most interesting part of our establishment.”

After Burt’s death in 1926, his widow sold the Good Humor brand to New York investors in 1928, and the family ceased candy making in 1935. But the building in which he created most elaborate confectionery remains, remarkably un-altered from its 1920s renovation. It stands as a reminder of the innovative confectioner who made Youngstown the birthplace of the Good Humor bar. ✂

# Sight & Sound

**Business & Media Archives of the Mahoning Valley**

The Business & Media Archives Collection has over 6,000 digital images indexed in its database. They are searchable by name, date and subject and cover 1930-1990’s. Included are photos of employees and station renovations, news photos and area landmarks including downtown Youngstown and Idora Park.



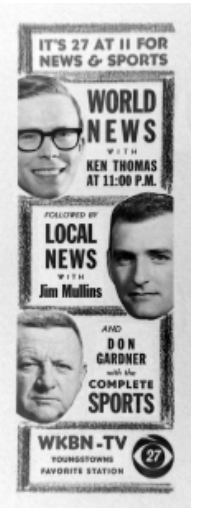
*Schwebel's Bread circa 1960*

Also in the archive are advertising illustrations. Historians and scholars have recently taken a closer look at advertisements and studying them as clues to the social, political and economical environments that produced them.

The concept of advertising pre-dates the United States, and can be traced to early sign boards and actors persuading passersby to attend theatre productions in Europe. Early advertisements in colonial America were mostly about goods on hand, but also promoted slave sales and notices of escaped slaves. In the 1880’s as industry and mass produced products emerged, advertising sought to find and persuade buyers.

In the 1920’s advertising became increasingly important in the consumer driven economy and new media such as magazines, movies and radio broadcasting provided a new way for advertisements to reach the consumer.

Advertising has continued to evolve since the 1920’s. New concepts and even more media outlets created a “Creative Revolution” in the 1960’s and advertising is now a targeted, segmented, branded multi-billion dollar industry. ✂



## You Can Help!

A frequent request in the MVHS Archives is photographs and information on Presidents and Presidential candidates that have visited Youngstown. If you attended any of the recent events hosted by Senators Obama or Clinton, and have photographs, please consider donating a set of photo lab prints to the archives. Future historians and researchers will be grateful! For more detailed information on donations, please contact the archives at (330) 743-2589. ✂

## Call for Nominations

The Historic Preservation Committee of the MVHS Board of Directors are requesting nominations for the fourth annual Historic Preservation Awards. Awards are given to commercial and community revitalization projects, and can also be given to individuals for avocation of preservation. For more information and to request an application form call the MVHS office at (330) 743-2589. ✂

## 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.



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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.



## History to Go

Please notice the time correction for the Irish History to Go presentation on March 10th. The event will begin at **6:30 p.m.**

Also, mark your calendar for the not-to-be-missed June event at Fellows Riverside Gardens! This event will include a walking tour of the gardens by experienced guides that will explore the history behind **Youngstown's Garden**. A reception will be held after the tour in the Davis Center and will include food, drink and live music. There will be a small charge for this event. 🐦

## Upcoming Events

Sunday, March 9	<b>Civil War History</b>	3:00-5:00 p.m.
	Historian Steffon Wydell Jones portrays Alvin Smith and Charlie Garlick, Civil War Veterans Cost: \$6.00 Adults; \$4.00 Children MVHS Carriage House	
Monday, March 10	<b>History to Go</b>	6:30 p.m.
	Irish Immigration at St. Patrick's Church 1410 Oak Hill Ave, Youngstown	
Tuesday April 29	<b>Volunteer Luncheon</b>	12:00 p.m.
Thursday June 12	<b>History to Go</b>	Time TBD
	Historic Fellows Riverside Gardens Tour	
Tuesday June 17	<b>Save the Date!</b>	5:30 p.m.
	MVHS Annual Meeting	

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