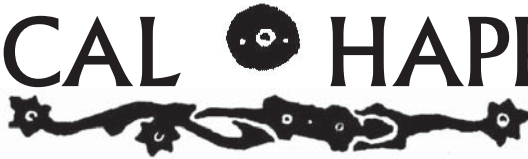


The Mahoning Valley Historical Society Newsletter

HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS



PRESERVING THE VALLEY'S HISTORY FOR 135 YEARS

Volume 38 Issue 3

November & December 2010

In this issue

- Feature Story:
Civil War Ohio 150
- Hands On History:
All Dolled Up,
Behind the Scenes
- Artifact-ually Speaking:
Battle Lines Drawn
- Sight & Sound:
The FHA Electric Home

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

www.mahoninghistory.org

Business
& Media Archives
330-744-7621
business_media@
mahoninghistory.org



Battle Lines Drawn: Harper's Pictorial History of the Civil War

The 150th anniversary of the American Civil War is upon us. The Ohio Historical Society has created an online portal to pull together all the resources, exhibits, collections and events that relate to the Civil War sesquicentennial (2011-2015). The Civil War story in Ohio touches almost every community in the state, and this website is a place for those interested in its vast and fascinating history to come together around the anniversary of that time period. Visit online at www.ohiocivilwar150.org.



The Historical Society's first contribution to the Civil War 150 project is a new exhibit featuring *Harper's Weekly* Civil War illustrations. *Battle Lines Drawn*, opens November 2nd at the Arms Family Museum of Local History. *Harper's Pictorial History of the Civil War* depicts the War's battles, people, despair, and destruction in striking detail, giving the viewer a window on war through the artists' eyes.



All Dolled Up

The Details!

- Opens Saturday, December 4th, runs through Sunday, January 9th
- Special Admission Prices: \$5 Adults; \$3 Children
- Members are always Free!
(Bring your membership card or be prepared to show ID)
- Hours are Tuesday-Friday 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.;
Saturday 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.;
Sunday 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.
- Closed Mondays, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Years Day.
- Special evening hours on Fridays, December 10th & 17th: 1:00 to 7:00 p.m.
- The exhibit is self guided
- Additional parking will be available in lots along Wick Avenue, look for signs.
- Avoid the admission desk and purchase tickets online at www.mahoninghistory.org



Preview Party

Friday, December 3rd
5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

\$15 MVHS Members

\$18 Guests

RSVP by Tuesday,

November 30

330-743-2589

Holy Trinity Romanian Orthodox Church Christmas Open House

December 4 & 5 Saturdays 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
December 11 & 12 Sundays 12:00 to 5:00 p.m.
December 18 & 19
January 8 & 9 626 Wick Avenue, Youngstown
Next door to the Arms Family Museum

Foods & Bake Sale
Nativity Displays
Chinese Auction
Church Tours
330.746.5397



Hands-On History: All Dolled Up

Rebecca Whittenberger, Curator of Education

Transformation of the Arms mansion into a holiday wonderland is underway. Soon the museum will be elaborately festooned with vintage holiday decorations that rekindle the magic of yesteryear. The effect is breathtaking. The crowds will be dazzled. But how does such a spectacular exhibit come together?

For the past three years, Anthony Worrellia has been the head designer for the holiday exhibit. When asked how an exhibit of this magnitude is accomplished, he named three things: passion, planning and collaboration. "Our home in Smoky Hollow was always festive during Christmas because of the way my mom decorated it. Growing up around it all these years has given me a passion for it," Anthony says. "Planning starts well over a year in advance," he continues. "Ideas are written down as they flow, pencil drawings are created and then details like lighting and greenery are added to these drawings." Anthony also works on "collaborating with other collectors and what they have, which is then worked into the exhibit design."

A featured collaborator this year is Allen Cunningham. Assisting with the exhibit design, Allen is a local doll collector, designer and artist whose intricate creations are one-of-a-kind, handmade originals. This year's exhibit will also feature two themed trees by collectors Jerry and Darla Arnold from Beechwood, Ohio. Their forty-year collection has been featured in *Early American Life* magazine and exhibited at the Taft Museum in Cincinnati.

When asked what else visitors should know about the exhibit's creation, Anthony said, "It takes countless hours of planning and hunting to find treasures. These items truly are rare and one-of-a-kind. There's no other exhibit this grand in this area. It's our own little 'New York' in Youngstown."



Anthony Worrellia decorating



Allen Cunningham decorating



The Campaign for the Mahoning Valley History Center has surpassed 72% of our goal of \$6 million! The public phase of the campaign was launched on September 16th at a press conference held in the historic Harry Burt/Ross Radio building.

In celebration of our Valley's remarkable legacy of innovation and entrepreneurship, exemplified by the creation of Good Humor® ice cream on a stick, it is a pleasure to announce the Harry Burt Donor Bar Campaign. This campaign provides a unique opportunity for you to support the new History Center and to mark

your legacy through the purchase of a personalized, engraved plaque hand wrought by Wendell August Forge. This partnership between Wendell August Forge and the Historical Society is perfect, as the Forge maintains a tradition of hand craftsmanship dating back to 1923. Olive Arms would be pleased!

You are invited to purchase a Harry Burt Donor Bar for yourself, or to honor a friend, loved one, or organization. We need support from our members to ensure that the History Center will be an outstanding asset in the revitalized downtown corridor. The Donor Bars are available in three different metals: Aluminum (\$125), Bronze (\$250), and Copper (\$500), and your gift is tax deductible. Donor Bars will be permanently displayed in the History Center.

Thank you for your commitment to preserve Mahoning Valley history.



All Dolled Up Sponsors

The Anne Kilcawley
Christman Foundation

Charlotte Gelhaar

The Vindicator | Vindy.com

HOME SAVINGS | RLSMITH GRAPHICS

Commonwealth/Suburban
Title Agency, Inc.

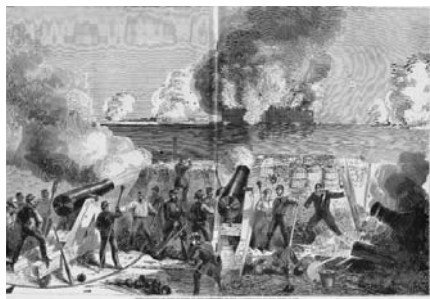
Crouse
Hardware

Artifact-ually Speaking

Jessica D. Trickett, Anne Kilcawley Christman
Memorial Collections Manager

The American Civil War divided the nation and pitted neighbor against neighbor. A battle that began over States' Rights within the Union came to represent, in the words of President Abraham Lincoln at Gettysburg in 1863, a "new birth of freedom."

After Lincoln's election in 1860, South Carolina became the first state to secede from the Union, fearing the federal government's threat against States' Rights, particularly the right to hold slaves. Six more slaveholding states soon followed. Representatives from the seven seceded states convened at Montgomery, Alabama in February of 1861 to form the Confederate States of America, electing Jefferson Davis as president of the Confederacy.



forces under General P.G.T. Beauregard opened fire on the fort on April 12, 1861, beginning the Civil War in earnest.

Harper's Weekly, a leading magazine of the time, covered the war's unfolding events for readers on both sides of the battle. *Harper's* sent both reporters and artists onto the battlefield to capture news from the warfront as it happened. The articles and illustrations they produced have become important documents of the war period.

During and after the war, *Harper's Weekly* editors Alfred H. Guernsey and Henry M. Alden worked to compile and publish a definitive history of the Civil War. Combining original illustrations and content from *Harper's Weekly* wartime coverage with historical context and previously unpublished information, Guernsey and Alden authored *Harper's Pictorial History of the Great Rebellion in the United States* from 1863-1867. Published between 1866-1868 by Harper and Bros., the multi-volume work was later re-released as *Harper's Pictorial History of the Civil War*. This work featured over 1,000 illustrations by artists of renown including Thomas Nast and Winslow Homer.

Fort Sumter in Charleston, South Carolina remained in the hands of the U. S. Army after the state's secession in December of 1860. The state's militia surrounded the fort, cutting off its supplies, and demanded the fort's surrender. Negotiations proved fruitless and Confederate

Sight & Sound

Business & Media Archives of the Mahoning Valley



4500 Rush Boulevard

After the Great Depression and banking crisis of 1930, the federal banking system was restructured in 1934. The National Housing Act of 1934 was passed and the Federal Housing Administration was created. Its intent was to regulate the rate of interest and the terms of mortgages that it insured. These new lending practices increased the number of people who could afford a down payment on a house and monthly debt service payments on a mortgage, thereby increasing the size of the market for single-family homes.

In 1935 one of the first FHA homes in Youngstown was built on Rush Boulevard on the city's South side. This fully electric home was a step forward in modern building, being electrified throughout, even to air conditioning. The purpose of building this home was to "demonstrate to the public that now is the time to build," according to Joe L. Alcorn, FHA manager at the time. Progress on this home was broadcast daily on the "Home, Sweet Home" program over WKBN. Al and Molly O'Day, mythical characters, in their dramatic skit, told of developments, from the making and tearing up of plans, continuing through the construction process, and then the house was thrown open for public inspection and sold. The purpose of the personalized program was to stimulate new home construction which in turn helped to revive the building industry.



Al & Molly O'Day going over the home's plans



An ad from the open house booklet.
This furniture set cost \$418.00 in 1936

The estimated cost in 1935 was \$18,000 for the 2100 square foot home (over \$275,000 in 2009 dollars). It was billed as the "Home of the Future" with the most exciting feature being an integrated radio system – radio sets were not visible, instead a master radio was installed in a closet with hidden speakers throughout the house. Hundreds of contractors and vendors donated materials, labor and furnishings for this home, and it welcomed large crowds at its opening

in January of 1936. The home was purchased by Warren P. Williamson, Jr., president and founder of WKBN, who resided there until 1992.

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



648 Wick Avenue
Youngstown, OH 44502-1289

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Youngstown, OH
Permit No. 140

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

Founders Day Thank You!

Thank you to these donors that helped make our 2010 Founders Day Dinner a success! David and Terry Bayowski, Robert A. Calcagni, Eva J. & Robert L. Doyle, Farmers Trust Company, Suzanne Fleming, Charlotte C. Gelhaar, James W. Herr, Raymond P. Manley, Rev. Edward P. Noga, and Joanne Dove Prisley.

Upcoming Events

Friday, December 3	All Dolled Up Holiday Preview Party	5- 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, December 4	All Dolled Up Exhibit Opening	11 a.m.-5 p.m.
Friday, December 31	First Night Youngstown Live Entertainment! Arms Family Museum Archives Library History Center (Downtown)	6-9:00 p.m. 6-9:00 p.m. 6-10:00 p.m.
Sunday, January 9	All Dolled Up Closes	

MVHS Board of Directors

J. David Sabine, *President*
Robert Calcagni, *First Vice President*
Sharon Berlin, *Second Vice President*
John McNally IV, *Secretary*
Tazim Jaffer, *Assistant Secretary*
Philip Kocon, *Treasurer*
Karen H. Abrams, *Assistant Treasurer*

George D. Beelen, Ph.D.
Germaine F. Bennett
Donna J. Buzulencia
Tyler S. Clark
William J. Cleary, Jr. M.D.
Sallie Tod Dutton
Janice L. Fagert
Suzanne Fleming
Charlotte Gelhaar
Presley L. Gillespie
Jeffrey Grdic
Donald Gubany
Betty H. Jagnow
C. Gilbert James, Jr.

Karen Kohli
Rev. Lewis Macklin II
Joan Madej
Neil Maxwell
Nancy Morris
Marilyn Oyer
Tricia Perry
Mary Lou Reyes
Rebecca Rogers
Frank A. Rulli
Charles Rumberg
James H. Sisek
Jeanne D. Tyler
John H. Yerian, Jr.

Administrative Staff

H. William Lawson, *Executive Director*
Jessica D. Trickett,
Anne Kilcawley Christman Memorial Collections Manager
Leann Rich, *Manager of Education and External Relations*
Pamela L. Speis, *Archivist*
T. Lea Mollman, *Registrar*
Rebecca Whittenberger, *Curator of Education*
Constance L. Jones, *Project Manager, BMAMV*
Charles W. Kelso, Jr., *Media Specialist, BMAMV*
Anthony Worrellia, *Building and Grounds Supervisor*
Mary Ann Richards, *Bookkeeper*
JoAnne Nunziato, *Administrative Assistant*