

Acquisitions Report

Bob & Linda Platt

During 2017, over 300 items were donated by over 50 people. We want to thank all the generous people who see the importance of preserving history.

For example, we received:

- Bowl & picture
- 1940 toaster
- Copper Kettle
- Scrapbooks & photos
- Quilts
- Hats
- Pewter
- Army uniform
- 1922 Fordson tractor
- Cook stove
- Wedding dress
- Tools

Once again, artifacts with historical significance to Smithville and Green Township were donated, including:

- SHS yearbooks, photos, letter sweater, jacket
- A.A. Hostetler Potatoes bag
- 1926 H.S. Rutt advertising
- Point Breeze post card, program
- Friendship Quilt made by Georgetown Homemakers club
- Prospect View Farm L.W. Hostetler & Son sign
- Collection of local arrowheads

With the opening of the Downey Pioneer Visitors Center, the first items on display were from the Schneider family, previous owners. These included a copper boiler, drop leaf table, quilts and even a wedding dress. As we look ahead to 2018, new displays will be set up in the Visitors Center.

During Christmas in the Village, visitors to the Caboose Toy Museum, enjoyed seeing a collection of vintages Santa's in honor of Gene Autry's 1947 "Here Comes Santa Claus" song.

For information about donating, call 330-669-9455.

Antiques Market

Linda Platt

Despite a rain shower during set up, the 6th annual Antiques Market was very successful.

Once the sun came out, so did the shoppers. Glassware, furniture, tools, marbles and jewelry were among the items for sale.

The shoppers enjoyed dulcimer music as they strolled among the dealer booths on the tree-lined yard of the Mishler Mill. Visitors also toured the Pioneer Village, watched the Smithville Stars vintage base ball game, and shopped in town.

Plans are being made for the 2018 Antiques Market scheduled for Saturday, August 18, 2018. For information, call 330-669-9455.

Financial Report

Phil Maasz

Balance in the checking account at the end of 2017 was \$18,568.65.

Five largest sources of income:

Five largest expenses:

Rent:	\$17,565.00	Electric:	\$6,827.91
Taxable sales:	\$ 7,087.91	Insurance:	\$4,652.50
Donation of Cash:	\$ 3,982.60	Supplies:	\$3,480.71
Interest from Lytle Endowment:	\$ 3,291.00	Real Estate taxes:	\$3,237.60
Harold Downey memorial funds:	\$2,575.00	Natural Gas:	\$3,203.10

The treasurers books were audited this spring and found to be in excellent condition.

Membership

Pat Keirstesd

New Life Members

Richard & Nance King, changed from husband/ wife
Donna Mishler Howarth
Denny Hahn
Barbara Rehm Zumbiel
Jenise Woodward

Kim Lytle, changed from individual
Suzanne Waldron
Barbara Vaughn
Denny Lehman
Brenda Ziegler

May we remember those members who passed away in 2017.

Life Member – Ruth Peterman 1-9-2017

Charter Life Member – Arden Ramseyer 1-10-2017

Life Member – Marian Starn 2-7-2017

Life Member – Harold Downey 8-9-2017

Dues are as follows:

Students - \$5 Individual - \$10 Husband/Wife - \$15 Life Membership - \$100

We always welcome new members and new ideas.

Harold Downey, July 16, 2017



A Man and his Dreams

This past year has been a year of major changes in leadership at the historical society. For the past six years Harold Downey had served as the President of the Smithville Community Historical Society. He was a life member and his love for preserving the community's history could not be denied.

In some way or another his hands touched every building that consist of the "Pioneer Village" and Mishler Weaving Mill complex. His ideas abound as to how the history and stories of the buildings and people of Smithville and Green Township should be presented. All but two of the structures in our complex were from Smithville or Green Township and we can bet that when some of them were being moved to the Pioneer Village, that alone could be a good story.

The final structure would bare his name the Downey Pioneer Visitors Center an 1830's structure. This structure would be rebuilt after moving it from Milltown Road in Wooster. Though it was free, to reconstruct it with a dry basement and many other features to meet the growing need of the societies collection, it would be far from free. There were countless hours of volunteer time to put the finishing touches on the structure.

On July 16 with all of Harold's family in attendance the historical society honored Harold for his years of work and devotion to the society.

But this year Harold was encountering something much bigger in his life, "Cancer". His battle was brave but he would pass on August 9, 2017.

When we look at each of the buildings you can see "A Man and His Dreams."

News from the Mishler Weaving Mill

Kathy Meitzler

This past year we had seven tours and of those tours, four were school tours. The 2017 Wayne County Farm Tour brought lots of visitors. We're glad that doesn't happen every year!

Several looms were warped this past year. Warping means threading the loom with over 300 threads of yarn! It takes several hours. We have five floor looms that rag rugs are woven on. At this time there is only one loom that place mats and table runners are woven on.

Besides the dishcloth power loom there is another power loom that weaves press cloth. Table Runners and place mats are made on it. Table cloths can be made out of the press cloth, also.

We are now selling dishcloths at Medley on Main here in Smithville since they are open during the week. We have a lot of extra products in the Gift Shop other than those just made in the Village and Mill. Come and check us out!

Building Maintenance and Grounds

Dan Kaufman

Another year has passed. Time marches on for ourselves and the buildings that many of us have worked so hard to save for future generations. Unfortunately the preservation never ends.

This year will primarily focus on restoration and maintenance of all our existing structures. The investments in hardware and technology to protect and preserve our investment and reduce the need for maintenance that risk the welfare of our staff as well as our many wonderful volunteers, whom I'd like to thank at this time.

New gutters and leaf covers to end climbing risks and plugged gutters that damage our structures were placed on the Heritage Center. A new safe ramp was installed at the front entrance to the Mishler Weaving Mill. A larger and safer stairs and landing for the entrance to the Heritage Center, formally the Reception Center is in the planning. We continue to address our security and fire system projects, headed up by Keith Chambers. Thank you Keith and MCTV.

New First Aid Stations with Automatic Defibrillator stations will be discussed, which will be located in the Downey Pioneer Visitors Center and the Heritage Center.

Major repairs will be needed for the Church of God and the older Log Cabins. Grants will be applied for, volunteers will be sought to assist with the work.

The tracks under the Caboose will be restored, thanks to labor being donated by a railway construction company.

We truly have been blessed by the time and generous donations of many who have made the dream of preserving the past for future generations a reality. As our events and tours continue to grow, we must strive to keep the past looking its best.

Again Thank you for all your wonderful support.

The Smithville Squirrel Revival

(A little bit of humor)

As we all know, we do not own the buildings at the Smithville Community Historical Society, the buildings own us. Several of us had commented about some holes in the overhang at the Church of God. So as any dedicated building Maintenance men our team Ralph Smucker and Dan Kaufman went to investigate these openings. They raised a ladder into place and up went Dan, upon reaching the opening Dan stuck his head up to see if there was anything at the opening. To Dan's surprise, out popped a squirrel and down the front of him it ran, on down the ladder jumping off before it reached Ralph. They set traps to remove any remaining squirrels and then went about patching the holes.

This reminded me of the Ray Stevens song "The Mississippi Squirrel Revival". The song took place in a Baptist Church, but it can also happen in a Church of God.



New - Saint Nicholas

25th Year
Christmas in the Village
Christmas in the Village
2018
December 1 & 2



24 years as Santa Claus

In 1992, Nita Downey had a wonderful idea. She initiated “Christmas in the Cabin”, now 25 years later and the addition of a number of other buildings “Christmas in the Village” is celebrated at the Smithville Community Historical Society.

With the snow, Santa Claus whom had been with us for 24 years moved south to be closer to family and warmth. But, wait, Saint Nicholas arrived to bring good cheer to young and old alike. We have been lucky to have two gentlemen who saw the warmer side of Christmas and kept the tradition for all to enjoy.

Our decorating team started in mid-November to decorate the outside and insides of more than a dozen buildings in mid-1800's holiday decorations. Two of the cabins would have cut-live trees decorated and greens in each of their windows. Bows, garland, swags and ribbon adorned the other buildings to help create this joyous season.

For many years Santa Claus was moved to various buildings in the Pioneer Village and one year was in the Model-T Museum. This year, Saint Nicholas would have a new home in the Downey Pioneer Visitors Center. The team of Jeff Carr, Tim Homan, and Margo Stafford went to work decorating with ornaments from the 1930s and 1940s on a table top tree. Jeff created wall hangings with historical information of Christmas to hang throughout the main floor and donated a collection of Santa Claus statues. A seating area was created for Saint Nicholas and Mrs. Claus, another area was set for the elves who assisted with the visitors. Not only candy canes, but apples and oranges were furnished for the children. A steady stream of families arrived at 6 P.M. on Saturday to have children's, family and engagement pictures taken with Saint Nicholas and Mrs. Claus. The visitors were again at the door on Sunday for an afternoon of Holiday excitement.

The Tin Shop, Blacksmith Shop and Pottery Shop were all open. At the Pottery Shop, “Dave, the Potter” created ornaments for the children and Doug Spence painted their names on the ornaments. Over eighty ornaments were given to our guests.

In the Sheller Log House, hot mulled cider was served to our visitors. For family fun at the Irvin Pioneer Cabin, the fire was going in the fireplace and families roasted marshmallows.

On Saturday evening Dorothy Hodgdon and family played Christmas Carols on the 1873 Schantz pump organ and various instruments. Sunday brought Lila Smucker to the 1873 Schantz pump organ to share many of the traditional Christmas songs of the period.

Each year a member donates the use of their tractor to pull the Congress Twp. Kid Wagon to transport our guest between the Village and the Mishler Weaving Mill.

To close out the celebration, the Orrville Community Band presents their annual Christmas Concert in the beautifully decorated historic Church of God. Thank you to John Robinson for keeping this group of wonderful musicians together.

Most of all, THANK YOU to all of our volunteers for making this event one to create family memories.

Open House Changes, New Programs

Each year we try to add exhibits and programs to our Open Houses to entice visitors to return, because one visit to our "Pioneer Village" and "Mishler Weaving Mill" complexes in no way lets you see everything.

At our May 20 Open House we are inviting those whom have Antique Power equipment to come and display this vintage equipment that powered the industrial revolution of the late 1800's and early 1900's. This equipment opened the door to farmers to become more productive and invent many time savings pieces of equipment for farm and industries. We will also be highlighting the donated artifacts from 2017 that appear in most of our buildings.

June 16 Open House we will present our first Civil War Encampment. We are fortunate to have our own Abraham Lincoln re-en actor Gerald Payn coordinating this event. We will be using the site of the old elementary school across from the Church of God and have extended our hours from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. The buildings in that general location will be open and the remaining buildings will open at 1:30 P.M. At 2 P.M. that day we will hold the formal dedication of the Downey Pioneer Visitor Center. There will be new rotating exhibits and some permanent exhibits for all to enjoy. Some items will be new to the museum; Native American artifact collection, Abraham Lincoln exhibit, along with items moved from the Heritage Center formally known as the Reception Center.

July 15 Open House will slow a little as the Orrville Community Band will present it's annual Summer Band Concert of historic marches, show tunes and music from the 1940's starting at 3:30 P.M. Following the concert we will once again host our Old Fashion Ice Cream Social with ice cream made by various members. Donations from the ice cream social are used for the restoration of the Historic Church of God

August 18 or Open House is paired with our 6th Annual Antiques Market (see page 2 for information). Our hours at the Mishler Weaving Mill are 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. while the Pioneer Village will open at 1:30 P.M. and close a 4 P.M. There will be food available at the Mishler Weaving Mill and Norma Trotter and friends will entertain the shoppers with early musical tunes.

September 16 Open House is Model-T Day and we will host an antique, classic and vintage car drive-in which will be located on the lawn of the Mishler Weaving Mill. There will be a demonstration of re assembling a Model-T which they try to do in around five minutes. The members of the Greater Akron Area Model-T Club usually try to bring any new and unusual Model-T items to display for the day.

October 20, there is a fragrance in the air, Apple Butter making Open House. This starts the evening before with the peeling of at least three bushels of apples. Some say "when pigs fly" but on this evening it is when the peels fly. They start the open fire and also the fire in the outside bake oven. The apples go on the fire around 9 A.M. and come off around 3:30 P.M. Note**you must be a member to purchase apple butter which is a donation and the apple butter must be refrigerated as the jars are not sealed.**

Norma Trotter and friends will provide music at most of our Open Houses and we will also have some additional craftsmen showing their skills at various Open Houses.

It would not be Smithville with out the Smithville Star's vintage base ball games. They are celebrating 150 years of Base Ball (two words) this year. They will play their games on the field adjacent to the Methodist Church with all game starting at 2 P.M. The following is the scheduled teams to play against the Stars

May 20, Canal Fulton Mules

June 16, Wyandotte Ghost Riders

July 15, Mansfield Independence

August 18, Mohican River Men

September 16, Akron Black Stockings

The team is involved in tournaments on Labor Day weekend and the third weekend of October. Manager, Jeff Carr is always looking for additional players. If you like to swing a bat and play the game by a few different rules call Jeff at 330-466-1087 and become a team player.

Saturday, December 1 , 6 to 8:30 P.M. and Sunday, December 2 1:30 to 4 P.M. bring the family to "Christmas in the Village". This celebration takes you back to the mid-1800s to a slower, memorable time to create family memories. Craftsmen, treats, music and more, catch a ride on the Kid Wagon. Oops, have your family picture taken with Saint Nicholas and you may even catch Mrs. Claus in one of the buildings. You might even find some special gifts at our Gift Shop located at the Mishler Weaving Mill.

2018 Schedule of Events for Smithville Community Historical Society

All General Meetings are at 7 P.M.

All Open Houses 1:300 to 4 P.M. except June & August opening at 10 A.M.

Board of Trustee Meetings, third Monday of each month at 7 P.M. at the Heritage Center

Smithville Stars home Vintage Base Ball games will all start at 2 P.M.

Being played behind the Irvin Cabin.

Monday, January 1 – **NO GENERAL MEETING**

Monday, February 5 – General Meeting at C.O.G. 150 years of the Grange, presented by Priscilla Gresser, Hostesses Pat Keirstead & Cheryl Long

Monday, March 5 – General Meeting at C.O.G. History of the Smithville Stars by Jeff Carr
Hostesses Nancy King & Dorine Widder

Monday, April 2 – General Meeting at C.O.G. Native American Life Among the Eastern Tribes by Jason Murvine. Hostesses Marilyn Payn & Anita Rennecker

Monday, May 7 – General Meeting at C.O.G. History of the Smithville Inn by Rick & Kathy Hammond. Hostesses Linda Platt & Carole Martin

Sunday, May 20 – Open House Antique Power Show
Smithville Stars play Canal Fulton Mules 2 P.M.

Monday, June 4 – General Meeting – Tour of the Rittman Historical Society Buildings.
Time & Restaurant TBA

Saturday, June 16 – Open House Civil War Reenactment 10 A.M. - 4 P.M.
Dedication of the Downey Pioneer Visitor Center 2 P.M.
Smithville Stars play Wyandotte Ghost Riders 2 P.M.

Monday, July 2 – General Meeting – Tour Spring Hill Historic home near Massillon.
Time & Restaurant TBA

Sunday, July 15 – Open House, Band Concert 3:30 P.M. and Ice Cream Social 4:30 P.M.
Smithville Stars play Mansfield Independence 2 P.M.

Monday, August 6 – General Meeting – Tour the Yoder Amish Farm at Berlin,
Time & Restaurant TBA

Saturday, August 18 – Antique Market 10 A. M. - 4 P.M. Open House 1:30 – 4 P.M.
Smithville Stars play Mohican Rivermen 2 P.M.

Monday, September 3 – **NO GENERAL MEETING**

Sunday, September 16 – Open House, Model-T Day
Smithville Stars play Akron Black Stockings 2 P.M.

Monday, October 1 – Annual Picnic at Rex & Diane Millers at 5:30 P.M. Bring a dish to share,
beverages provided. Program TBA

Saturday, October 20 – Apple Butter Making – Open House

Monday, November 5 – General Meeting at C.O.G. "Emma, the Spy," presented by Kathy Kraus
Hostesses Ruth Ann Chambers & Barb Mast

Saturday, December 1 – Christmas in the Village 6 – 8:30 P.M.

Sunday, December 2 – Christmas in the Village 1:30 to 4 P.M. Christmas Concert at 3:30 P.M.

Monday, December 3 – General Meeting at C.O.G. The Hodgdon Family Christmas Concert,
presented by Dorothy Hodgdon and sons.
Bring your cookies to share, beverages provided.

The Heritage Times 2018

Officers – 2017

President – Ralph Smucker
Vice President – Mark Irvin
Secretary – Harlene Steiner
Treasurer – Phil Maasz
Maintenance Supervisor – Dan Kaufman
Acquisitions – Bob & Linda Platt

Finance & Fund Raising - Keith Chambers
Membership – Pat Keirstead
Mishler Mill Manager – Kathy Meitzler
Publicity – Margo Stafford

Committees

Registrar/Newsletter – Margo Stafford & Tim Homan
Tour Coordinators – Nita Downey & Kathy Meitzler
Web site & Facebook – Tim Homan & Margo Stafford
Christmas in the Village – Nita Downey
“Smithville Stars” Base Ball – Jeff Carr

Building Managers – 2018

Black Smith Shop – Eric Mast & Keith Chambers
Caboose – Children's Museum – Bob & Linda Platt
Church of God – Dana Keirstead
Depot – Doug Spence & Shane Hartzler
Downey Pioneer Visitor Center – Nita Downey
Irvin Pioneer Log Cabin – Mark & Olena Irvin,
Rosemarie Vrabel

Lydo Barn – Rex Miller
Mishler Weaving Mill – Kathy Meitzler
Sheller Log House – Lila Smucker
Spring House – Carole Martin & Dorine Widder
Tin Shop – Fred Wetshtein
Village Pottery – David Sollenberger & Sam Sheller
Wheelwright – Walter Mullett
Heritage Center – All Board Members
Model-T Museum – Frank Krajcovic