

Salem Historical Bugle

The Salem Historical Society, Inc.

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Volume 44 Number 1

Spring 2024



OHIO LOCAL HISTORY ALLIANCE
Inspire. Connect. Educate.



OHIO MUSEUMS
ASSOCIATION

Membership Meeting on Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 7 PM

A Portrait of Lizzie

***A first-person portrayal of Jane Elizabeth Hitchcock Jones, abolitionist and suffragist.
Ginger Grilli, Local Historian***

Membership Meeting on Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at 7 PM

***Burchfield's Footsteps — Historical Connection of Charles Burchfield to Salem, Ohio
Cheryl Mattevi, Curator of Burchfield Homestead***



Please check our Facebook page and website for updates on future speakers!

We are looking for exciting and interesting speakers for our membership meetings. If you have a speaker or topic you'd like to suggest please call Kevin at 330-205-3923.

March 2024 *Bugle* President's Greeting — Jay Wootten

Welcome, Spring! I'm hoping we have winter before you get this Spring Bugle.

Thanks to the many donors who responded to my end-of-year request. If you specified a particular expense you wished your donation to fund, be assured that it will go there.

It is an especially busy time at the SHS as we welcome a dynamic new director, Chrystal Robinson-Shofroth. Chrystal is not a replacement for David Stratton (after all, who could replace him?). Instead her portfolio includes grant writing, networking with area organizations and state-wide historical societies, and generally being the "face" of our Society. Younger than most of our volunteers, Chrystal has, during her first week in February, moved us into more social media and additional ways of publicizing our activities. By the time you read this, she will have turned us upside down and inside out in a positive way.

As an artist, she has great ideas about how to design publications and event programs. As an event organizer, she has ideas about what we can do to attract participants and encourage membership involvement. She is turning a new page for us. Let us welcome that.

I urge you to attend membership meetings this Spring to meet Chrystal as well as to hear speakers Ginger Grilli (March) and Cheryl Mattevi (April). Ginger is portraying Jane Elizabeth Hitchcock Jones, abolitionist and suffragist, and Cheryl, curator of the Burchfield Homestead Society, speaks about Burchfield's Salem to commemorate his birthday and inaugurate the new Burchfield Trolley Tour created by Keith Mann.

And David Stratton now has a new title: Director Emeritus. Many of David's tasks have been taken on by Sherry Ayers, our office manager, who is also a Board member. David will keep his desk and work with us. We will always need him.

I am excited by the new dynamic Chrystal brings, but I also know that we will continue traditions SHS has established over 76 years. Mark your calendars now for the Founders Day Banquet on April 30th at the Community Center. The Founders Day committee has selected three Citizens of Honor, but as I write this, they have not accepted the honor, so I can't reveal them here. Come and help us honor three people who work to keep Salem a great place to live.

The Curator's Porch from *David Shivers*

Spring is just around the corner! I am writing this on February 9, 2024, at ten o'clock in the morning. The temperature is fifty degrees. Of course, I am sitting on the porch typing this article! I hope this letter finds you in good health, and you were able to get out and enjoy this glorious day. If you are counting (from the day I am writing this) spring is only forty days away.

1976. Nineteen Hundred and Seventy-Six. The American Revolution Bicentennial. I am sure you can still picture the logo. Two and a half years from now, our nation will celebrate the Semiquincentennial. I am sure you are thinking, "Has it been that long since the Bicentennial?", "Almost fifty years, already?" or "Oh, that is still three years away."

Philadelphia has been preparing for this milestone event for over two years. They are planning a huge celebration. Semiquincentennial doesn't roll off the tongue as easily as Bicentennial. They have named their event Philadelphia 250. The national name is America 250.

What I remember about 1976 could fill volumes, but I will try to keep this brief.

It started with "*Bicentennial Minutes*" This was a series of short educational American television segments commemorating the bicentennial of the American Revolution. The segments were produced by the CBS Television Network and broadcast nightly from July 4, 1974, until December 31, 1976. (The series was originally slated to end on July 4, 1976, but

was extended to the end of the year, airing a total of 912 episodes.) These aired every night at either 8:27 or 8:57 P.M. I remember checking the 'TV Guide' for the time, clicking the rotary knob on the television to WJW-8 and watching this every night. You could learn a lot in that minute and a half! This set the tone for what was to come.

I was living in the best of two worlds. July of 1976 was between my eighth-grade year at Junior High and my freshman year of High School. I was young enough to still participate in some of the kid's events, yet I was old enough to go to many of the adult's events. It was perfect!



And there were events! It started slowly; the crescendo was July 4th. I will name just a few of these events. Historical Society tours, the Salem grade schools performed patriotic plays and pageants, tug-of-wars, beard growing contests, pie eating contests, art exhibits, stores decorated their windows, the State Theater screened the movie "Salem 1950", pet parades, bike parades, art contests, cooking contests, jump rope contests, Revolutionary costume contests, ice cream eating contests, sidewalk sales downtown, stores held their own contests... then in July of 1976 these events ramped up. There was a hot air balloon lift off at Waterworth park, there was an incredible Grand Parade followed by a Gala Ball.

Even television (Commercials... Pepsi – "Small Town USA" (rebroadcast), Coke – "Coke Adds Life – Bicentennial", Burger King – "Two Hundred Million People", and the shows "The Bob Newhart Show", "Bewitched", "The Carol Burnett Show" all had special Bicentennial episodes) was capturing the spirit.

Everything, everywhere, was Red, White, and Blue!

July 3rd, Vice President Nelson Rockefeller presented the Bicentennial Minute. Tonight was the last sleep before "THE day!". I remember Mom waking us up at dawn. Through the magic of television, we watched majestic tall ships entering New York Harbor with the sun rising behind them. I took a few short movie clips of the TV screen, then sat back and watched in awe of this amazingly beautiful event. This is one of those memories that etched a picture in my mind which will last a lifetime.

Thinking ahead, my sister Sharlene rented the pavilion at Waterworth for the day. The morning was filled with getting our picnic lunch ready. We met at the pavilion, soaked in the perfect weather, delicious food, and family-time during our picnic. We went to Sevakeen Lake for the afternoon's events. That evening, my sister Terri, her college roommate Kathy, (Both 1976 graduates from Kent State) and I hopped in the Mustang and headed to Waterworth to watch the fireworks. Sadly, we would miss "THE" *Bicentennial Minute* on July 4, 1976, narrated by First Lady Betty Ford. Luckily, it was rebroadcast the next night. The fireworks were amazing! Driving home, Billboard's number one song "Afternoon Delight" by Starland Vocal Band was playing on the car's radio. I was taking it all in and reflecting on everything we had done during the past few years leading to this moment. I knew we had just lived through a major historic event. The activities and festivities were on a scale that would most likely not be seen again. The Bicentennial brought us together as a community and as a nation.

President Ford presented the last Bicentennial Minute on December 31st, 1976. The Bicentennial was over, but would never be forgotten.

You may have already guessed where this is going. The Salem Historical Society's Revolving exhibit's theme for 2026 is Looking Back at the Bicentennial. Now, as an older person, I hope to show the youth of Salem (and remind the adults) of the extraordinary occasion we experienced. Hopefully, the 250th will be as richly celebrated.

Now is the time we begin to prepare; I am envisioning an interactive exhibit. Videos, music, pictures, and stories presented by citizens of our town about Salem's Bicentennial celebration. This display will be surrounded by artifacts from that time. It would be greatly appreciated if you could start looking in your closets and storage areas for items you would like to donate to the museum or that you would loan the museum for this display. Do you have a remembrance of 1976 you would like to share in writing or in an audio oral history or video? We would be happy to capture your story. We would love to preserve it for the future citizens of Salem when they celebrate the Tercentennial in 2076. Please contact me at America250@USA.COM. If you are sending electronic documents or scans (PDF, Pages, and Word files are preferred). Photo scans are welcome. (Preferred formats for pictures are JPEG, TIFF, or HEIC although movie films, slides and film negatives are also welcome), or MP3, AAC, or WAV (audio tapes, reel to reel, or cassettes are welcome). Please send sound or video files to USA250@USA.COM.

Look for some related pictures on page 1 of this **Bugle**.
Until next time, I wish you a happy, healthy spring!

The Website Connect by Joy Cable, Webmaster
salemhistoricalsociety.org or salemhistoricalsociety.com

Some of our loyal members may remember that they were able to receive the **Bugle** newsletter in their email rather than getting a paper copy delivered via US Postal Service. These same members may also have noticed that the emails deliveries have stopped!

NEWS: The Email Option is Back! **You can now request to receive the Bugle electronically in your preferred email rather than in your mailbox.** If that is your choice, we ask that you complete the "Bugle Email Request Form" on our Membership Page of our website. Even if you have received The **Bugle** electronically in the past, you need to complete this form to restart this service.

To access this form, go to our Website Membership Page:
salemhistoricalsociety.org/membership

Then scroll to the bottom of the page to the Section Labeled
"Bugle Email Request Form"

Complete the form accurately and Click Submit

Alternatively, use the QR code here to go directly to the form.
Thank you to all who tap into our website!
Stay safe, stay healthy, and stay connected.

QR code for Bugle Email Request Form



Report from the Membership Chair - Taylor Cappa

Hello Friends! I hope the holiday season was wonderful for all of you and you enjoyed the time with your loved ones! Getting down to business, we give a warm welcome to our newest members: Ray Cox, Keith High, Tony & Lori Maroni, Wendy Sternagle, Craig Fehr & Debbie Eagani. We give a special shoutout to our newest LIFETIME member- Mr. John Armeni! He was the first recipient of our new membership cards that I spoke about in the last **Bugle**. We also extend our special thanks and gratitude to our current members who have renewed their membership: Susan & Jany Peters, Cindy Rottenborn, Nancy Votaw, Mike & Ramona Weitz, Dixie Gordon, Marion Ackerman, Virginia Toot, Kathy Strelko, Bill & Connie Ward, Patricia Beil, Margaret Sabo, Susan Eaton, and Gordon & Vivienne Dunn. Your con-

tinued support is greatly appreciated, and we would not be able to continue this legacy without you all. With spring approaching, we look forward to new beginnings and the growth that the season never fails to provide. If you know anyone who is interested in membership – send them my way! Please don't forget to check your label to see when your membership expires. As always, it has been a pleasure and thank you for supporting our wonderful town by being a part of our society. Arrivederci!

Salem Historical Society Names a New Director

Artist, event organizer, grant writer, and now museum director. The Salem Historical Society welcomes Chrystal Robinson-Shofroth as our new director. *[photo on page 1]*

Chrystal comes to us from EN-RICH-MENT of Stark County where she teaches art and serves as director of development. Long active in the Alliance Area Preservation Society and Haines House Underground Railroad Museum, Chrystal was the curator and event coordinator at Jupiter Studios (art gallery, restaurant, and music venue) intermittently for ten years.

Chrystal has also served as a grant panelist with Ohio Arts Council and is an active nationally award-winning professional artist. She has been a leader of the Stark County Arts Community for several years and is a recent graduate of Stark County Leadership Spotlight Class.

She also operates GhostRighterz Artist Services, which serves artists in a variety of ways from custom merchandise production to freelance technical writing and event coordinating. This busy woman will network with Salem organizations and arts and historical groups in surrounding communities.

Chrystal and her family reside at Westville Lake, just outside of Salem, where her two daughters, Iris and Violet, enjoy their lakeside homestead.

"I look forward to this new opportunity to learn about the history and connect with the people of Salem. I have a passion for history and education. I am excited to join the Salem Historical Society as Director and bring my innovative, creative energy to this community," Chrystal said.

Long time Salem Historical Society Director and former president David Stratton takes on the duties of Director Emeritus, a new departure for us.

Changes in Board of Trustees Meetings

At its January planning session, the Board of Trustees voted to change its meetings from the first Monday of the month to the second Monday of the month for a three-month trial period. The change was made so that the Board could review financial reports prior to the meeting. Financial reports cannot be created until bank statements are received after the close of a month's business, so the Board received the reports without time to review thoroughly before voting to accept the reports.

The Board also voted to try a strategic agenda instead of a conventional agenda for those three months. In a strategic agenda, informational items like the minutes of the last meeting, managers' reports, committee reports, etc., are distributed in writing ahead of time as a consent agenda. Any item can be removed from the consent agenda at the Board meeting, but normally all informational items are accepted with a single vote. Moving from a conventional agenda with oral reports taking most of the meeting leaves time for the board to work on goals and assess progress in meeting those goals.

Board meetings are held in the workroom of the Dale Shaffer Research Library at 7 PM. and are open to membership. Closed sessions are held for personnel matters.

February/March/April Bugle Highlights

- 1984** A resolution was made to name the museum house given in memory of Elizabeth Pearce as “The Pearce House”. Russell Gibbs’ family donated the 1885 Steinway piano now in our meeting room. Catherine Ward was among those welcomed as new members. Annual dues were \$4.00. The booklet “Looking Back Through the Salem Newspapers” was released. Dick Wootten was president.
- 1989** Annual dues were increased to \$5.00. Dale Shaffer began a regular column in the Salem News. Dorothy Costlow was president.
- 1994** Annual dues were increased to \$8.00. Carolyn Caldwell was installed as president. 27 members were added in 1993, with 9 becoming Life Members. Memorials were given for 10 members who died during the year. A \$6510 Conservation Assessment grant was received which resulted in an evaluation of our facilities to guide in conservation and restoration of our buildings.
- 1999** Annual membership was \$10.00. Carolyn Caldwell was president. Connie Alexander and family sponsored renovation of the schoolroom. Dale Shaffer submitted an article for Timeline, “Sculptor of Salem, John Segesman”. The book, Mullins’ Red Cap Utility Trailer, was available at the gift shop.
- 2004** Annual dues remained at \$10.00. George W. S. Hays was president. The Bugle began the 23rd year of publication. JeanAlice Fehr was featured for her volunteering efforts. A tribute was given to Caroline Lehwald for her great contributions to the success of the Museum over the many years.
- 2009** The monthly meetings were Jeff Mihalek “Outhouse Archaeology” and Ginger Grilli “Doctor’s Instruments”. David Shivers was president. Dale Shaffer’s 27th book, Hope Cemetery – A Storied History was released. Forty-six members donated \$1635 to the Lehwald Endowment Fund. “Eights” was reported to have been significant to Salem City Schools as four of the schools opened on the “8’s”, Reilly School opened for the first time on October 8, 1928; Buckeye School on December 8, 1948; Senior High School on September 15, 1958; and Southeast School on September 28, 1968. Dues were increased to \$20.00 for annual membership.
- 2014** The museum’s website was rebuilt and can now be accessed by smartphone and tablets. 40 new members were added this past year. Salem Twin Cinema closed after nearly 40 years of service to the community. The 10th “New Year’s Eve Salem” Celebration was held with our Salem Historical Society theme for the event “Traditions and Cookies Around the World” with 13 countries represented.
- 2018** *[Compiler’s Note: Although the Salem Historical Society was doing many exciting things during 2019 and 2020, only one or two issues of the Bugle were published each year. Thus, many “Highlights” will be missing for these years from this and future issues.]*

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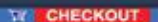
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Salem Historical Society & Museum

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*Mailing label has membership expiration date.
 Dues support the work of the Society.
 Special thanks to our contributors.*

Quotes from Dale Shaffer from Alice Deatherage and Kristy Hinchliffe

We remember Dale Shaffer by using his collection of quotes and wisdom to share with all of you.

- 1) Blessed are they who know the way to bring back memories of yesterdays.
- 2) Always choose to do what you'll remember 10 years from now.
- 3) Small deeds done are greater than great deeds planned.
- 4) Always put off till tomorrow what you shouldn't do at all.
- 5) Life is what happens while you are making other plans.

In other activities, we have been providing genealogical information to visitors and people who make requests. We sent a family Bible from 1832 to a relative in Pennsylvania with the Bible information to another interested party in Arizona; sent Quaker Lady replicas from Shepherd's Heart to a summer visitor who came from California; copied research forms to help us be more organized. We are still collecting obituaries. We did research, unsuccessfully, for another family and suggested a place which may have more information for her. We gathered genealogy information for a museum photo to be added to our collection.

From us to you, don't forget to change you clocks on March 10th, have a wonderful Spring, Happy Easter, and remember those on Memorial Day.



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