



VOLUME 26, ISSUE 3

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FALL, 2023

HOMECOMING GAME

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2023

FOOTBALL GAME vs. FAIRBORN 7:00 PM

QUEEN CROWNING CEREMONY 6:30 PM

PARADE, THURSDAY OCTOBER 5, 6:00 PM

Our Alumni Open Houses started in 2009 and this past May 7 was our best ever. Make sure you come next year to see the History that the Alumni Association has accumulated through the years. Here, and on the back page, are some pictures of activity during this three-hour walk-through annual event, open to the public and is all free, and held at the High School Cafeteria.



GHS Year End Awards for the School Year 2022-2023

The **Senior Send-Off** May 25 in the high school gym was the assembly that recognized the high school award winners for this past school year. This year's Seniors chosen were:

Kenna Jenkinson won the **Jack Raudabaugh** award this year. She set the school record for the lowest girl's golf score of 33 for 9 holes, 69 for 18 holes, and 37.22 average (for 9 holes). She was a State Qualifier her sophomore and junior years (she spent part of her senior year practicing golf in Florida). She was four-time MVL Athlete of the Year for girl's golf in the MVL and first team all-MVL all four years. Kenna was golf captain, MVL Scholar Athlete, Science Club, Student Council member, National Honor Society, National Technical Honor Society, second team MVL in softball (sophomore year), and is the daughter of **Corey Jenkinson** GHS 1995 and **Christi Stebbins Jenkinson** GHS 1999.



Kenna >>>>

Caden Lecklider was the winner of the boys' **Jack Raudabaugh** award. Caden also set three school records, all in swimming: 1,650-yard Freestyle (66 consecutive laps) at 19:19.30, 200-yard Freestyle at 1:54.86, and 500-yard Freestyle at 5:14.85. He was first team all-MVL in Freestyle for his last two years after being Honorable mention his first two years. He was a swimming district qualifier all four years, and was Captain once in his two years of baseball. He was a Scholar Athlete, MVL Scholar Athlete, Student Council member, National Technical Honor Society, and Skills-USA-VICA student. He is the son of **Matt Lecklider** GHS 1991 and **Julie Lecklider**.



Caden >>>>

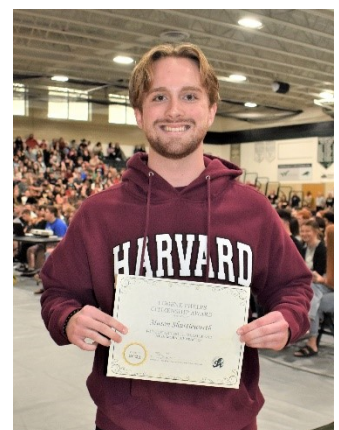
The two Citizenship awards were started in 1967 and 1970.

The **Elizabeth Hill Citizenship** award went to **Samantha Frens** on the 54th year of this award. Sami is a Valedictorian, Class Officer, Homecoming Queen, and will attend both Wright State University and Sinclair College. The 57th boys **Eugene Phelps Citizenship** award this year went to **Mason Shuttleworth** was a Valedictorian, Prom Court member, athlete, and will attend Harvard University. He also won the **Kathryn Griner Academic** award, which has most often gone to the student who is number one in G.P.A.

At the right are Sami and Mason >>>>

Other award winners were:

Courage winner was **Ethan Sunsdahl**, **Advocate Pride** winner **Ella Strawn**, **OHSAA Sports and Academic** winners **Alaina Baughn**, **Nolan** and **Noah Ellis**, **Distinguished Athletic Award** winners **Kenna Jenkinson** and **Brock Short**.

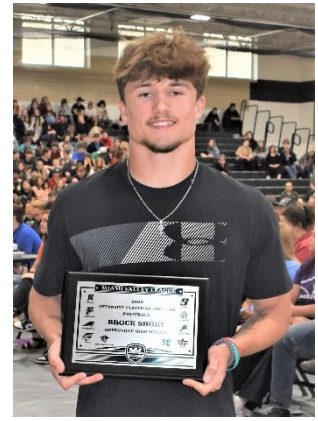


The **Paul Warner Principal's Leadership** award is given for high standards of honesty, integrity, as well as leadership to a Senior. Paul Warner's grandson, **Dr. Alex Warner** GHS 1967, presented this year's certificate to **Ella Strawn**, who was a four-year Class President at GHS, and will attend Ohio State University.

The **Jason Barker Spirit** award is presented to a GHS student with very fine personal qualities, who displays good sportsmanship, has good moral values, is fun-loving, has a good sense of humor, is friendly to students and staff, and is very helpful to his/her peers. Coaches vote for this award and the winner this year was **Noah Stevens**, who will attend the University of Toledo. Jason Barker was in the Class of 1995.

The MVL Football Player of the Year went to **Brock Short**, who set rushing records at GHS. **Kenna Jenkinson** was also the MVL Girl's Golfer of the Year.

Below pictured: Ella Strawn with Alex Warner, Noah Stevens, Kenna Jenkinson, Brock Short:



The 149th annual Commencement was held Saturday, June 3, indoors because lightning in the area was seen an hour and a half before the scheduled outdoor starting time. This year there was a record eight Valedictorians, all with 4.000 GPA, pictured below:

Alaina Baughn, Ellasyn Bruner, Noah Ellis, Nolan Ellis, Samantha Frens, Carson Pope, Mason Shuttleworth, and separately pictured **Sierra Dobson**.



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The Valedictorians (alphabetically) and their college plans:

Alaina Baughn, Ohio Northern University and studying Forensic Biology.

Ellasyn Bruner, Anderson (IN) University, and studying Education, majoring in Math

Sierra Dobson, Ohio State University, and studying Psychology.

Noah Ellis, University of Toledo, and majoring in Mechanical Engineering.

Nolan Ellis, Findlay University, and studying Animal Sciences, in pre-veterinary school.

Samantha Frens, Wright State University and studying Entrepreneurship, and Sinclair College to study Interior Design.

Carson Pope, West Virginia University, and studying Forensic Chemistry.

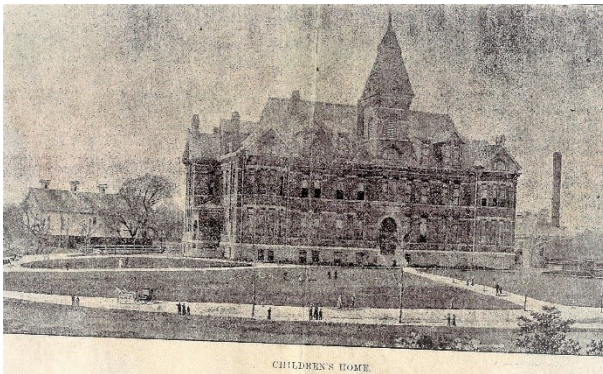
Mason Shuttleworth, Harvard University, and studying Math, Music, and Philosophy.

This year's class of 209 graduates earned \$450,000 in scholarships. 63% planning on attending a two or four-year college, 33% plan on going into the workforce, and 4% to the military. There were Valedictorians speeches, but the most unique one was a dual speech given in unison by the twins Noah and Nolan Ellis.

The final part of Graduation was the traditional throwing of the caps (below):



The first **Darke County Children's Home** was a huge Victorian and Gothic style brick structure constructed in 1888 and opened in 1889 or 1893 (conflicting reports). Through various enlargements and changes, it was used until 1970 and remained in existence until September, 1972, when it was torn down using 13 charges (or 25 pounds) of dynamite. The building project in 1884 of \$25,000 was overwhelmingly voted for in 1882 (4,541 yes to 1,854 no) and the site selected was known as the **George W. Mannix, Sr.**, 120-acre farm, just north of Children's Home-Bradford Road. The dimensions of the building were 116 feet long, 91 feet deep, and 60 feet high, with a basement. Before this building was constructed in 1889, the local orphaned or neglected children had to be raised in the Darke County Infirmary (County Home for aged, delinquent, or mentally challenged people).



Children's Home when originally built in 1889



1908 postcard with 22 kids

There is no accurate way of telling how many children lived during its 80 years of occupancy. When the building opened, 56 children were moved here from the County Infirmary. In the first 25 years, over 600 children went through the training here and were placed with responsible families or in promising employment. A possible peak usage could have been around 1950 when 64 children were listed as residents, occupying the home's rambling 55 rooms. The structure was originally built to accommodate up to 100 children. At that time (1950), the superintendent and matron for the building was **Ora** and **Emma McClure**, who estimated the total cost to feed, cloth, house, and take care medically for the 64 children was \$30,000 per year or \$469 per child. Imagine what that cost would be in 2023! The McClures were paid \$80 per month and there were nine other women and two men employed here.

Photo plate from 1910 (below)

Employees of the Children's Home in 1900



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The overall operators of the Home in 1950 were supervised by a board of five trustees, four appointed by the County Commissioners and one by the juvenile court judge. Darke County's Board of Visitors assisted in supervision, with Clerk Mrs. **Bonnie (Jed) Coppock**. **Dr. C.J. Mills** was the Home's physician. A seamstress was employed to do sewing for the "inmates".

The home was situated on a 167-acre tract owned by Darke County with 100 acres being tillable. In 1950, the kids took care of the animals and treated some as pets. There were 30 head of cattle, 50 hogs, and 750 chickens. There were 12 other farm-related buildings on the property, which included a milk house, chicken house, tractor shed, two barns, brooder house and slaughter house.



1919 postcard on a visitation day or holiday



1906 postcard with 23 children

A two-story brick school house was constructed north of the main building in 1895. Many teachers served here, including Mrs. **Marguerite Bigler (Mac) Stoltz**. Some schooling was done on site but school age students would usually be transported by school bus to the city schools.

The standards stated said that no children would be admitted under two years and over 17 years of age. The maximum age was 21, except if the individual was not able to find another home or employment. The daily routine began at 6:00 am and breakfast for the employees at 6:30. Children's breakfast was at 7:00, the noon meal at 11:30, and supper at 5:30 pm. Bedtime was 9:00 pm unless kids were attending a ball game or other activity. Some residents joined the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Masonic DeMolay, and the Order of Rainbow Girls. Many attended church and Sunday School and rode in the 42-passenger school bus acquired after World War II to either St. Paul's Lutheran Church or St. Mary's for the Catholic kids. Musically inclined girls were given musical instruments to practice and music lessons were given to capable girls. There was a library, four mules to ride, swing sets, basketball hoop/court, a croquet set, softball equipment, and pony rides. A playground was on the north side of the building.

There were chores assigned to everyone every day and they could add up to several hours a day. The girls washed eggs, helped prepare and serve dinner, make beds, clean house and do the laundry. The older girls helped care for and supervise the younger ones. The boys helped with farm work, barn cleaning and lawn mowing. The lawn mowing took longer times to complete.

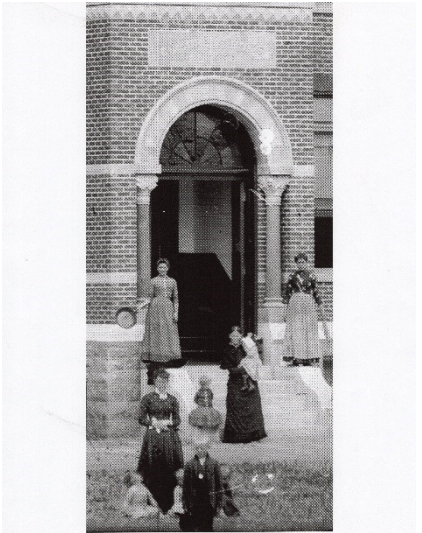
This Home provided a mass-scale foster upbringing for hundreds and hundreds of youths who might have perished without this service by the county. By June, 1969, there were only five residents at the home and the building was condemned as a fire hazard.



1923 post card(above) Riegles in 1964 >>



MR. AND MRS. RIEGLE
Ollie and Esther to Kids



1910 entrance

The boys and girls had separate playrooms and separate dormitories and bath facilities. Boys were on the south side of the building and girls on the north side. A hospital room was in the attic, and there was a separate laundry building with heavy duty machines and steam presses for welding, etc. In 1913, there were 35 boys and 28 girls residing there. By rule, parents and relatives were allowed to visit by appointment once a month, but visitors were always welcomed.

There were several sets of men superintendents and usually their wife as matrons. Some of the known ones and some years they were there: **Thomas Teal** was the first one (1889-1892), **Thomas Monger** and wife (1892-1912), **Albert Wagner** and wife (1912), **Alvin Gilbert** (1913-1914), **Ray** and **Mrs. Compton** (1914-1926), **Mom** and **Pop Kreider** (1926), **Henderson (Hank)** and **Myrtle Albright** (1927-1938), **Earl Dininger** (1939-1941), **Ora** and wife **Emma McClure** (1942-1956), and **Ollie** and wife **Esther Riegle** (1957-1966), who once said that it was hard to make this house a home. The Riegles made home for over 400 children with a maximum of 69 at one time, and they built lasting relationships. Near his retirement, Ollie said, "We feel responsible for these children and don't intend to let them down."

Mom and Pop
Kreider
(1926)>>



These children here knew the frustrations of coping with loneliness, rebellion, lack of hope, in the minds of those who feel society has rejected them. They fought boredom many a day. The younger ones were scared when they came. In 1964, there were ten boys and eleven girls living there.

After the Children's Home's destruction, the **Michael Group Juvenile Home** was founded in 1976 on East Main Street to provide care for adolescents/ problem boys, between 12 and 18 years old, and originally had a maximum occupancy of ten. Higher numbers lived there at times.

There could have been hundreds of children who stayed at the Children's Home and attended Greenville schools throughout the years. Some timeline events are included here, along with some related stories and recollections from some of the children who grew up in the Children's Home and later graduated from GHS. Years identified for each section are the years that the individual's story covers, or the years they lived at the Home (inmate names are omitted):

1958-1966. My sisters, brother and I were raised in the Darke County Children's Home. We were put in there by the Court in August, 1958. My memory of that day was that it was hot, my clothing was uncomfortable, and I was barefoot. Judge Williams sent me across the street to get a pair of shoes, and these were the first ones that were ever bought new just for me. The reason for being taken from our home was a dangerous step-dad. The "Home" was overseen by **Ollie** and **Esther Riegle**, who lived in an apartment in the northeast corner of the Home. There were 30 boys and 40 girls when we arrived (1958). We were kept separate most of the time, except for meals and planned activities such as baseball, going to church, or performances by local dance groups. We attended St. Paul's Lutheran Church with **Sam Hoeflich** as pastor.

We learned many life skills such as cooking, sewing, cleaning, and making a proper bed. We had to clean every morning and make beds before going to school. The boys learned farming. We were taught good manners, the proper and modest way to conduct ourselves, and perfect posture. We were expected to stifle our emotions.....such as "wipe that frown off your face!"

Sundays were for church and visitation with family. Some of us did not have family come to visit, at least not for a long time. When we sinned, we were punished. Most times this was taking what few luxuries away from us that we had, like taking away hair curlers, outside play, and normal bed times. Or, we would be paddled. Mrs. Fisher's Home in Dayton was always a threat to be sent to for disobedient girls.

One time, some of us girls ran away from the Home, getting as far away as Woodland Heights and hid in a ditch until Ollie found us. For running away, our punishment was a severe paddling and we had our privileges taken away for two weeks.

There were three age groups of girls: small (or little), middle, and big. What group you were in determined your job and bedtimes. Most girls had >>> the same haircut, called a *shingle bob* – very short up the back, longer on the and short bangs. Exceptions to this were those girls with naturally curly hair.



We wore clothing from the attic, that was called WPA dresses. *Shingle bob cut*>> They were everyday dresses with flowers, round necks, and were self tie. These were from the World War II era. Each year we got one new outfit and new pair of shoes right before the Fair, to wear on Sundays. One year we got black shoes from a Mason Shoe salesman and I hated those shoes. To this day, I can't wear black shoes.

We looked forward to summers at the City Pool IF we got our morning chores completed. Every year we attended the Shrine Circus and the Great Darke County Fair. Going to the Fair allowed us a freedom and normalcy we rarely enjoyed. Then in school we were much like outcasts there. One sister remembered in grade school at Woodland Heights being called a "Home Brat". S always thought a brat was a spoiled child and couldn't imagine how anyone could think we were spoiled. Another sister felt like they were treated equally, but they all missed the social activities and interactions that community school kids experienced.

For entertainment, we had a record player, a small TV in an alcove area, did reading and homework, playground, picked strawberries along the road. You got a sense of pride from doing things, like selling tomatoes and strawberries.

Oh, and foster homes. Ugh!! I can't imagine how some of these people were ever approved to take children into their homes! I was in foster homes twice and they were weird people and

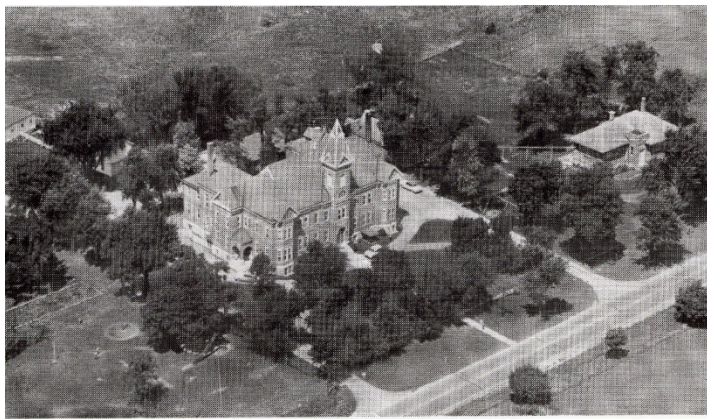
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lived out of town in St. Marys and New Bremen. The ones I experienced were perverted. I won't go into details but you can imagine. In today's 21st century world, a better screening process is used to find better foster parents.

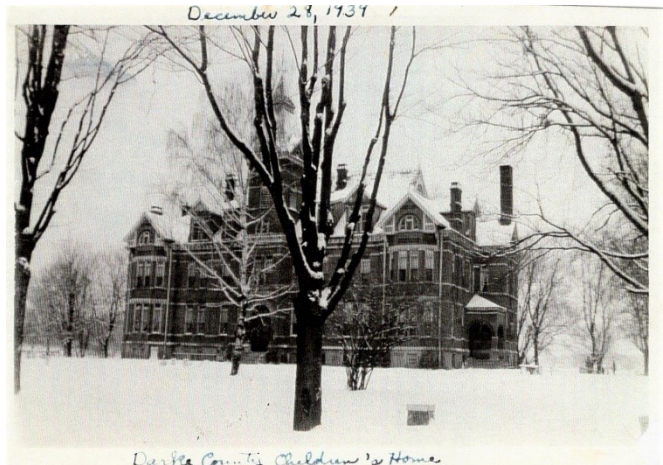
When Ollie Riegle (1899-1979) was nearing his final days in the hospital, his wife Esther apologized for being so rough on us kids in the Home and asked one of us, "Have you ever forgiven me?"

My time in the Home taught me a lot, but left many emotional scars that I have learned to cope with, but have never truly gotten over. Growing up without the love and nurturing of someone who loves you unconditionally is rough, but one good thing is that my kids always got that from me. Love is what was missing at the Home.

I left the Children's Home to live with my Mom when I was 16 and left her home after I graduated in 1967 from GHS at age 17. The rest of the story.....Married to the same man for 56 years, two children, four grandchildren, and living my best life.



DARKE COUNTY CHILDREN'S HOME



1939 Photo in winter time

Aerial view of the complex in the 1940s (school on right).

1943-1950. When I was five years old, my father passed away leaving my mother with three small children to raise. When I was 11, she was in failing health and the kids were placed in the Children's Home. I lived and worked at the Home until I was 18.

It was the end of World War II and, if you got anything at Christmas, that is more than you got at home. There was a Christmas tree placed in the main entrance every year. Churches and businesses in town donate gifts so that each child in the home got two gifts. If we got a hat or gloves, we got to keep them. If we got toys or games, they were stored on the third floor in the attic. As their toys would get broken or wear out, a few more toys would be brought down from the attic.

Once I was in the pantry with the matron of the Home, and I spied a keg of chocolate drops. When she wasn't looking, I unlatched the window to enter later that evening. I and two friends sneaked through the window and took enough candy to eat and hide some for later. We didn't get caught but if they had, they would have been given a hoe and sent to the truck garden patch to do digging work.

I learned how to work, driving a tractor and firing up the boiler furnace. I did this early in the morning so the boiler could get heat into the rooms. Older boys milked the 16 cows and separated the cream from the milk, and even churned butter. We mowed the grass with a real push mower. Girls were in charge of the laundry – big washers and rollers to press the sheets.

The north and south sides of the building were mirror images of each other. The boys were on the south side with a large room to play games or do homework. There were benches along the walls where each boy kept his personal belongings. Everybody was pretty honest. They didn't steal each other's stuff.

At mealtime, the inmates would single file down to the dining room and sit in their assigned seats. You always cleaned your plate. I didn't like peas but was forced to eat some. We all carried out our dirty dishes and the girls washed them. The daily menu was about always the same. Saturdays and Sundays might mean that there would be something special to eat, such as fruit cocktail, potato chips, or hotdogs. On Saturdays we got pie. We would bet our pies away, like betting that someone couldn't do something, like jumping out of the hay mow. He might sprain his ankle but he'd have two pieces of pie that night for dinner.

The first television was a small black and white one donated by the Ruth Lyons Christmas Fund and it went on the boys' side. Both sides had radios and I remember listening to Gene Autry, the FBI, Peace and War, Amos and Andy, George Burns and Gracie Allen. We used to crowd around the radio like it was a treasure.

Bicycles were few and far between. The Home had one with no tires and we rode it on the rims. In the summer, the kids ran bare foot and threw metal can lids as airplanes. We took two years of catechism at the Lutheran Church and got confirmed. We didn't seem to have a choice of whether to go there and never questioned it. We raised the hogs there and butchered them, making sausage, cracklins and lard. We made homemade ice cream.

There were some real bad things that happened out there, but I don't want to talk about that. I'd say that about 90% was good, but each person may look at their life out there differently than I did. I graduated from GHS in 1950 at age 18.

1889-1901. Four children were buried in the Children's Home Cemetery, Located near the southwest corner of the property, along Children's Home Bradford Road. They became sick at the Home and buried on the site. Donna Unger (1887-1889), Virgil Lamb (1890-1898), Lulu Byard (1888-1900), and Harry Page (1890-1901). A marker is still there today.>>>



1920. Two boys age 15 and 12 escaped from the Children's Home. They walked to Union City and from there, hopped on and rode freight trains to Bellefontaine and Urbana. They were apprehended by a railroad crossing watchman in Urbana. Superintendent Compton drove to Urbana and returned the boys to the Home. This was their second attempt at running away from the institution. There is no record of what their punishment was or how many more attempts they made. Neither one graduated from GHS, but that was not uncommon for the time period.

1955-1963. We moved to Greenville from Shelby County to a home on the east side of town. Our parents had eleven children over approximately 20 years and they could not manage this many kids. We were all very poor and the only thing our parents ever gave us was our birth. I was eleven years old when four of my siblings and I came to the Home under the direction of Judge Williams. Two of my siblings were eventually adopted to a family from Ansonia. My oldest brother, who was eight years my senior, would bring one brother and me to his house one weekend a month to spend in a “normal” living environment. These trips from Fridays to Sundays were anxiously anticipated.

I was in the fourth grade when I came to the Home in 1955. **Mrs. Stoltz** had her D. D. students at the school building north of the Home, as well as the elementary school age students who lived at the Home. There were about 25 students there at that time and **Mrs. Kurz** was the teacher for all the grades. In earlier years, there had been several teachers. When nearby Woodland Heights School was built one mile west on Route 118 in 1957, all the Home’s younger kids were bused to the new school.

We learned to take care of ourselves and we knew what was “going on”. We were quick learners and became street smart. Older girls helped with the cooking, sewing, ironing, washing, and cleaning the building, and middle-aged boys helped with the mowing, gardening, and farming. Older boys had to fill the hoppers of the coal-fired furnace boilers daily. Everyday life included having the “Barn-Boys” milk the Guernsey cows by hand until the 1960s. We pasteurized and bottled the milk. We baled hay in season. We raised approximately 250 chickens, which were used both for eggs and for meat for our meals. Our hogs raised there were butchered at a shed to provide meat, sausage, and cracklins for eating. We had a couple of horses who lived their lives on the grounds. Superintendent Ollie Riegle once bought a buckboard and two or four mules so he could show it off. With an identifying sign, he was happy to drive it onto the racetrack at the Darke County Fair.

I showed a Grand Champion bull at the Miami County Fair in 1962. Other boys showed Guernsey dairy cows every year at the Darke County Fair.

Many boys and girls staying at the Home were constant companions or dated each other. No known marriages occurred during these years between those who lived there or had lived there previously. An earlier marriage between two residents was previously noted.

Ollie Riegle was a really good person and would carry with him individual pictures of all or most of the kids there. These were like wallet sized photos and strung together in a fold-out long strip to proudly show anyone else “his children”.

Darke County Commissioners did not have to provide help as much as they would have thought to keep the Home sufficiently operating. The kids who lived there took care of much of their own needs themselves by doing a lot of hard work. They earned their way into society and contributed much to our community.

Photo at right:

Darke County’s Childrens Home took the District Guernsey Show Grand Champion of Show title at the Miami County Fair in Troy in 1962. The two-year old bull, Royal Creek Stanley, was part of the herd of 55 registered Guernseys at



the Home. This collaboration over several years between the Childrens Home Barn-Boys and the FFA at GHS showed off their leadership skills, their dedication to their work and their animals, and their showmanship.

1948-1955: I came from a family of six who lived in a log house in northern Darke County. All six of us came to the Home in 1948 after our Father died in 1948, but we never really understood why we were sent away from our home to go to the Childrens Home. My youngest brother was about six months old at the time and was placed in the nursery. This was a younger age youth that the Home would normally accept but they were all from the same family, perhaps explaining why this happened. This youngest brother was eventually adopted out of the Home.

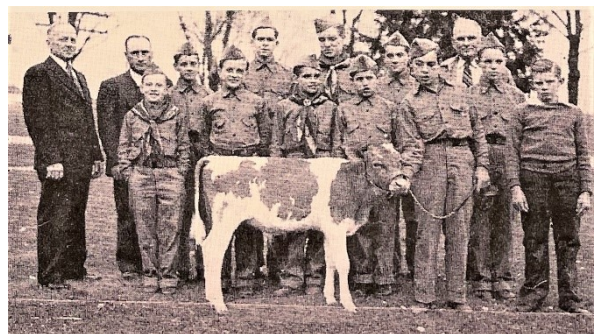
All boys slept in a large room on the south side with the girls sleeping on the north side. There were small rooms on each side that were used by sick children to stay during their illnesses. There were two bathrooms on each floor – one for girls and one for boys. There was a large, massive attic with hardwood floors which had to be occasionally mopped. This area was for storage and clothes were kept in a large closet. Residents would get these clothes during their stay and were rationed out. Three full-time women were hired to be overseers of each section. There was a nursery at the south side building front, and there was a workers' break room directly behind. This break room would become a make-shift first-aid room with bandages, etc., to handle minor accidents, because this room is where adults were often present.

Three or four cooks would come in each morning to fix food to feed the population. Older girls would set the tables for meals. There were two large freezers in the basement. The food was good and you could take whatever you could eat. The administrators wanted everyone to eat as much as you wanted to eat. You did have to finish your meal and, if you didn't, you would have to sit at your dining room seat until you ate it all. Some would sit in their seat until the 9:00 bedtime trying to get all the food down that they had chosen to be eat.

The County owned 163 acres that were planted with crops, pasture and some woods. There were two hired hands to manage the farm, and the Barn-Boys worked after school doing their chores, like mowing, baling hay, milking the cows, and even plowing. Three to five acres of tomatoes were planted each year and were picked by many of the girls. Also, potatoes and green beans were planted each year with a planter machine. The beans were taken to a facility in Union City to be canned. The cattle raised onsite for food were taken to Suter's Meat Market to be slaughtered due to health regulations. The dairy cows produced the milk consumed at the Home, with students separating the cream from the milk. The Health Department made the County acquire a pasteurizer.

I took a bull to the Ohio State Fair in 1949 or 1950 and it became the Grand Champion. This picture of a calf with Home residents and officials represents the importance of raising livestock's impact at the Home in this era. *(photo from 1949 or 1950).*

All the heifers were registered and the phase of raising cattle at the Childrens Home was taken very seriously. Many residents became involved with 4-H clubs, the FFA and FHA at the High School.



There was a swimming pool located on the south side of the Home but it was filled in with dirt before 1948. There was a playground with swings on this south side. A baseball diamond to the west of this location was used by many residents. A common game was “round town” where each person played each position in rotation.

We took the Greenville City Schools bus to school to the high school or junior highs in the elementary buildings on school days, along with the Home’s own bus or station wagon for trips to church at St. Paul’s Lutheran each Sunday. Boys who were interested were also in Boys Scouts joined Troop 185 and this troop was sponsored by the Lions Club and met above Gallaghers Drug Store. We also attended the Shriner’s Circus annually and one or two days at the Ohio State Fair. We went to the Darke County Fair daily. Many boys showed cattle and lived at the Fair. We also took the bus trip to the village of St. Mary’s each year to mingle with the children from the Shelby County Childrens Home (in Sidney). There was a picnic and softball games, and was a good time in socializing with children having similar backgrounds.

Superintendent Ollie Riegle was not good for the job he had. He was a good man but not properly trained to handle the many circumstances which arose, and he had no college degree. There were a few fighters with attitudes among the residents, but this is common to most phases of life. One punishment was to be sent to bed at 6:00 pm or an hour or so earlier than usual. This could carry on for three or four weeks and you would not get extra privileges. Or, you might have to just sit in your chair. If you did not follow the rules, there was always a threat that you might be sent to a facility in Lancaster, Ohio, for problem boys.

I stayed an extra year after graduation and did work at the Home. I was paid a salary to do work around the building. My Dad was a painter and I inherited that trait. There was much painting to be updated and many window trims to do. Some relocating immigrants would stay in the Home for varying periods of time until they found homes to move to. Some of them built beautiful cabinets and screen frames, and did other work around the building. These temporary residents were well received by the management and the children, and they made great contributions.

I believe the original organizers back in 1880 did the right thing and got the community on board to finance and build this home. This home was a good blessing to the county and those who came through. After the home officially closed in 1972, **Charlie Michael** donated significant money to establish the **Michael Home** on East Main Street to house boys who needed a place to stay in certain situations. No similar occurrence ever happened for needy girls. The Children’s Home was successful through the years and helped many children when their families were in need of this service.

Editor’s note: The Shelby County Childrens Home was pretty much like ours and was located southeast of Sidney. It was called the “Orphans Home for Children, Sidney, O” on this 1905 postcard. It was a similar Victorian architecture structure like the Childrens Home in Darke County was and was built in 1897. There was a separate girls’ cottage on the left and a separate boys’ cottage on the right. It was closed for occupancy in 1976 and torn down in 1992. A separate two-story school was built in 1903,



closed in 1939, and torn down in 1965. *Shelby County Childrens Orphans Home(above)*

1924 Christmas. The little ones feasted to their heart's content with an avalanche of toys and gifts and food for Christmas. The Harmon Foundation of New York City offered provisions that made this a big event for the kids. The Rotary Club was responsible for supplying the toys and games. There were three fine turkeys supplied, and the Western Ohio Creamery and Walter Buchanan sent out loads of ice cream. Schmermund Jewelry provided a new watch to a boy who crafted his own watch out of scrap materials. Others who donated were the Lutheran Church, Elks Lodge of Versailles, Waggoner Bros. coal company, Birt's grocery of Greenville, the Palace Store, Westerfield Bros. Co., Harry Vance, Greenville Piano Co., Wm. Young, the Benkerts, Dr. and Mrs. Metcalfe, Faulkner and hench, Ray Wenger, Brown's Bootery, and Greenville Baking Co. who furnished the cake for the feast.

1927. the Superintendent Henderson and matron Myrtle Albright were arrested by Sheriff Bert Wagner, Sept. 2, 1927, with warrants that charged them with unlawfully and cruelly punishing two boys age 13 and 10 by holding them in an ill-ventilated, dark room for 17 to 24 hours, and depriving them of necessary food. The leaders were released on \$200 bond. There are many articles about this but no conclusion was written that we can find, after legal postponements. They survived this negative situation because they continued to be the leaders in 1929.

1929-1943. My parents had six children, three boys and three girls. One each died of pneumonia. With the Great Depression coming and losing two children resulted in his parents separating in 1929. Under a lot of pressure and feeling depressed, my mother left my father for another man and they moved to Pontiac, Michigan. My father tried to keep the kids as long as he could. Years later, as my wife and I would travel to see my father in 1956, he told a story to my wife about once how he was sweeping the floor and found a five-dollar bill underneath one of the pieces of linoleum, and this allowed him to keep his kids little longer. During this time (1929), us children ages twelve, eight, six and four, were all sent to the Darke County Children's Home to live.

"The Home" is what most of us inmates called where we lived. The building was brick and fitted in modern style (as of 1930). The grounds were 52.5 acres. Children received there were between infancy and 21 years old. The girls were taught housework and the boys were instructed on various outside duties on the farm. Some learned carpentry and could use that skill in life. The building was heated by coal and wood. The boys lived on one side of the building and the girls on the other side.

School was held nine months a year in a model building built especially for that purpose. Teachers in the 1930s were: **Miss Murphy**, 1st grade, **Pauline Zimmerman**, 2nd grade, **Pauline Bright**, 3rd and 4th grades, who taught the kids to love reading, **Walter Martin**, 5th, 6th, and 7th grades, and **Bessie Hoffman**, 8th grade, who kicked me out of 8th grade because I wouldn't cipher.

The Home had 36 boys ranging in age from 6 to 21. There were 26 girls also ranging from 6 to 21 years old. The nursery was for those under six, had eight children from ages two to six, and this is where I was put. I remember when I got there, all the other children in the nursery were laughing and saying, "Are you a boy or a girl?", because my hair was quite long. What they didn't know was I was from Dayton and would have grown up as one of those "dead end kids". I used to chase my brother and sisters around the house with a hatchet shouting, "You S.O.B.'s, better let me in!" So, as they teased me because of my hair, I pushed and shoved some of them around and, well, so much for that! I was quite small for my age, and siblings and relatives would call me "Skeeter". This was also the name I was called by all the children at the Home as I was growing up.

I named all the approximately one hundred kids who were at the Home during my years there to the best of my memory. Most were non-descript and many boys later went into World War II. One had a father who was a prize fighter. Another received the Silver Star for leading the U.S. Army in a rock throwing contest when both men ran out of ammunition (a skill he acquired at the Home, no doubt!). Many had physical disabilities (like a glass eye, broken eardrums, one leg, hunchback, etc.). Some boys used the tunnel between the basement and the laundry house to reach an area where the girls were getting dressed and they could spy on them. There were all types of kids here and many were eccentric or smart. Three siblings there were from a Jewish family. Some were daredevils and many tried to run-off. Several committed suicide in later years. They all lived hard lives. Some would "run home" and stay with their parents for a while. Some had learning disabilities, but in those days, no help was given to people like that.

One inmate named Jake at the age of 17 was tried for murder for hitting a four-year-old boy who was teasing him, in the head with a hammer. He was convicted of murder and executed by electrocution as soon as he turned 18 (the youngest ever to be electrocuted in the state of Ohio, at the time). When asked if he had any last words, he said, "Well, there's no use crying over spilled milk."

Only one kid I know about (a boy named Dale) was ever adopted out of the Home while I was there. Mary was raised as a baby at the Home and her wedding in later years was held there. One resident couple, **Wilbor Oswalt** and **Esther Wilson**, did marry each other (late 1930s or early 1940s).

1950. The first ever Open House for the facility was held May 17, 1950, to the public. A concert was provided by the newly organized Treaty City Band, under the direction of **William Kurz**. The McClure's believed that Darke County should be offered the opportunity to inspect the home, meet the personnel, and learn about its operations. Population at that time was 64 children. At that time, children attended school through the sixth grade on site, then went to the Greenville school junior high age. Another open house was held in 1952.

1966-1969. The Home passed to a new authority in 1966. The Darke County Child Welfare Board was replaced by the Darke County Welfare Department. The whole staff at the Home resigned in 1966. The **Rev. Earl Hickman** had the title of Supervisor of Children's Services and became the effective leader. The Home was refurbished in 1966 with funds from the NCR and

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Kettering Foundations, and more in 1967, but this was to little avail, since its closing was imminent. By 1969, a foster care program was implemented to replace the Children's Home. Only five children lived in the building and it had been condemned by state fire officials. On March 10, 1972, a bid of \$10,000 was offered to demolish the building and clean up the site by William Neff and Sons. The County Commissioners promised to donate the building site to the Darke County Area Joint Vocational School if a levy for its construction would be approved in Nov. 1972. The Bell Tower came down Sept. 15, 1972 with use of dynamite, making the structure only a memory. The school building was demolished in late 1978.

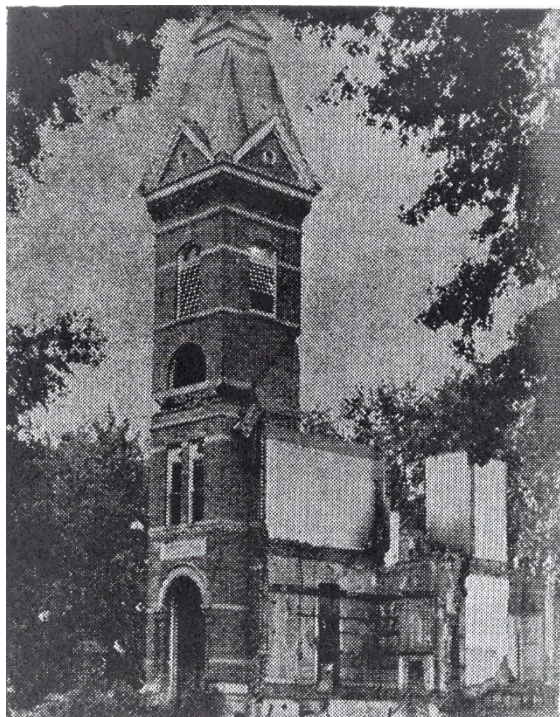


March, 1972 getting ready for demolition

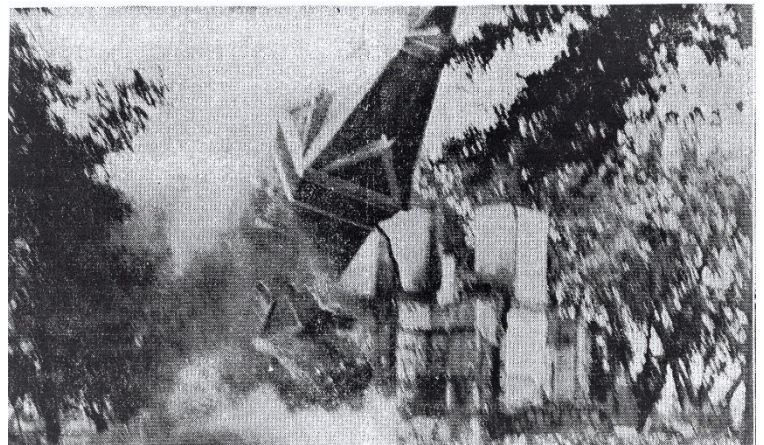


School being dismantled in 1978

Only the Bell Tower is left standing after most has been demolished, Sept. 15, 1972 (below left)



The Bell Tower crashes down the next day, 1972 (below)



THE END

The final chapter was written for the Darke County Children's Home in 1972. Living in this building caused heartaches for many of the children who grew up there and many of the families touched by this. Many learned basic life skills during their years there but at a cost. The outside world was not aware of things that happened here and the children's lifestyles of those present were different from those other children who grew up in Greenville. Many locals believed that most children here were orphans. Sadly, love was the most important thing that was missing.

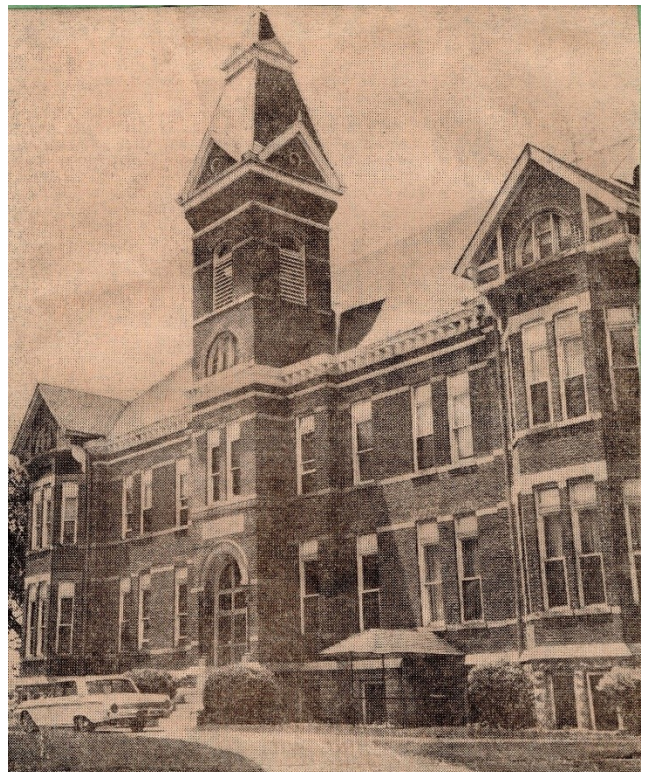
As Ollie Riegle once said, "It was hard to make this house a home."

In 2023, a former resident of the Home who has always lived in Greenville, summed up the experience this way: "As bad as we thought we had it, we learned a lot of valuable life lessons at the Home, and we were safe, clean, and had good food. I believe a facility like the Children's Home would benefit children who are in dangerous situations even today."

*View of the site in now. It is used for the Darke County Highway Department.
The Joint Vocational School was not built here, 50 years later in 2023:*



*Later views of the building:
1950 (below) and 1964 (right) >>>*



Historical Timeline of the Greenville Schools and Greenville Public Library

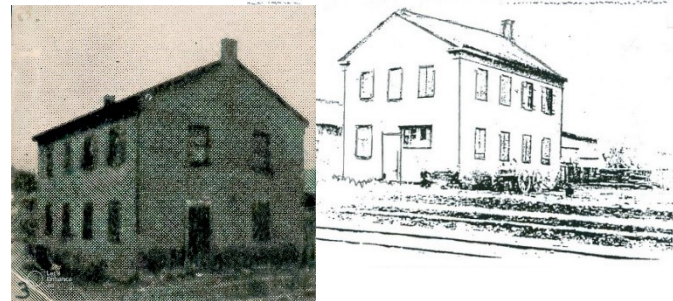
1808 – First known school in the city was located in the rear yard of the present location of the St. Mary’s Catholic Church, on Elm Street near the alley. Greenville was founded as a city in 1808 and **John Devor** received a land grant of 320 acres and he erected a one-story log building. This was deeded to the Commissioners of Miami County in 1816, and then to the Darke County Commissioners when our county was formed in 1817.

1821 – The **School Association Society**, or the **Greenville School Society** (forerunners to the current **Board of Education**), was formed by the County Commissioners to use the log structure for educational purposes.

1829 – The school was moved around the corner to where the house at 218 West Fourth Street is at present. Logs from the original structure were moved to this location. This house does not look that old but has the original wooden foundation in its basement, with later added brick veneer exterior added about 1900. The school was located here for twelve years. It has been used as residential duplex for the past 80 years. Here is a more recent photo of that building. (above, right)

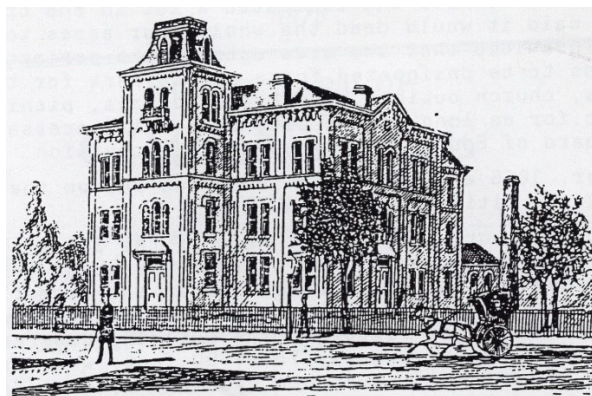
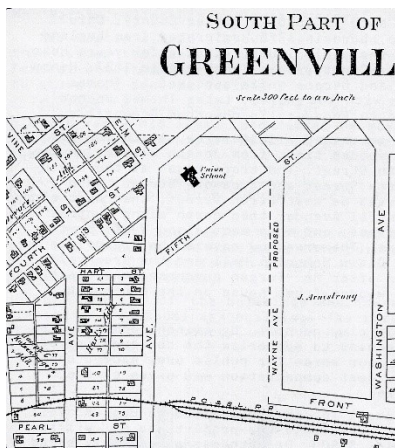


1840 – With the great need for more classroom space, Directors called for a new, larger school house. By 1830, plans were being made to build another school. In 1840, a new two-story structure was finished on the east side of Walnut Street between East Third and East Fourth Streets, approximately where the Firestone Store is now (built in 1967 at 417 Walnut St.). Note the dirt street and the Dayton and Union (D & U) Railroad tracks on Walnut Street in front of the school, which was installed in 1851.



Old photo and front sketch (above)

1868 – The City Council deeded a four-acre wooded tract occupying the block on West Fourth and West Fifth Streets between Sycamore and Central Avenue to the Board of Education. The building was located nearer Fourth Street at 215-217 West Fourth Street, then the current Memorial Hall, and the remainder of the block was designated to be a public park. It was called the Greenville Union West School. The brick building was completed in the summer of 1868, was three stories, and had 17 classrooms, and contained 700,000+ bricks. Site map showing position of the school and an architect’s rendering of the proposed (1868) school building:





1912 and 1906
Post cards
West School
Built 1868



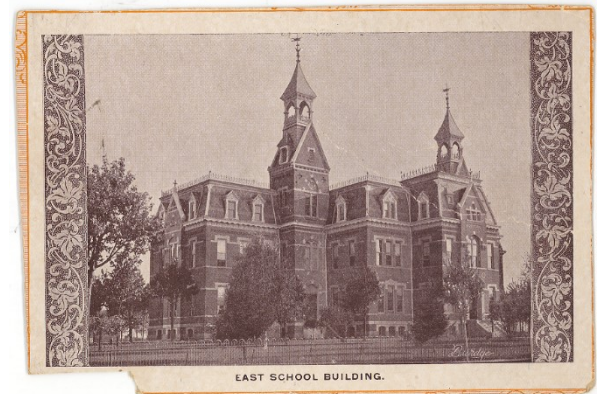
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1869-1870 – The High School was organized for the first time in this building with only three teachers, and this became the High School. The first Commencement class was 1873.

1884 – The School Board purchased land from the railroad of the block between Green and Montgomery Streets along East Fifth Street in 1882, to build additional facilities that were needed in Greenville. The new, larger school, with twin spires, was East School and was completed in 1884. It was an architectural masterpiece at the time. This became the new High School due to more conveniences than the previous West High School building. The West School became an elementary school.



East School
1910 and
1900
Built 1884

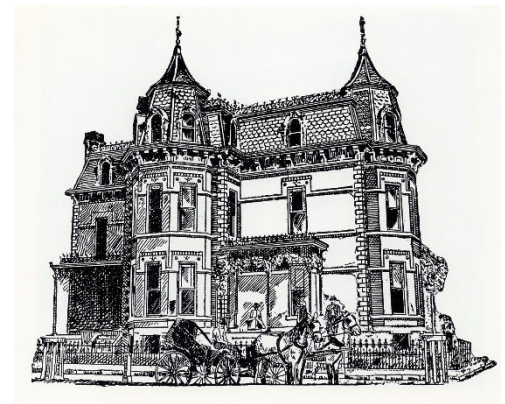


1889 -The first Library was established February 22, 1889, at the East School building by Superintendent **F. Gillman Cramer**. Either the school building became too full of students, or the Library was expanding too fast, the location of this library had to be moved.

1894 - Prominent Greenville businessman **Frank McWhinney** offered a possible location in 1894 to be in his house, at 118 West Fifth Street, a white brick structure which still exists. The first Librarian was Miss **Josie Ford**. McWhinney owned the corner where the Wayne Theater is at present and built an impressive mansion on the corner site on Broadway. This left his former residence to be the home of the Greenville Public Library.



Library 1894-1903
118 West Fifth St.
<<< (at left)
New McWhinney
mansion where the
Wayne Theater is now
(at right) (1894-1920)

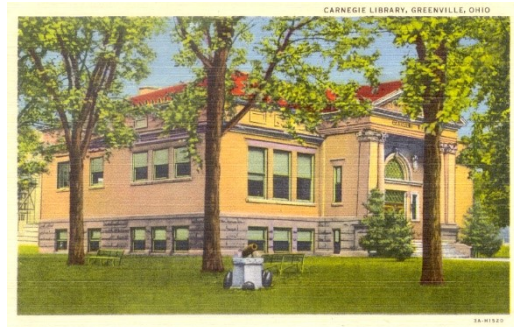


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1901 – A community committee headed by **D.L. Gaskill**, GHS 1880, approached the steel magnate **Andrew Carnegie** for financial help to build a new Library. Carnegie originally approved a grant of \$15,000 and this was later increased by a supplemental grant of \$10,000. The cornerstone was laid October 30, 1901. Construction costs were \$36,000 with the remaining funds coming from the School Board and Greenville local wholesale grocer **Henry St. Clair**.

1903 – When the collection of books was moved from the location on West Fifth Street, Greenville students lined up from one building to the new Library building, and handed the books down the line from one student to the next. This is a 500-foot distance but we do not know how many students were in the schools at that time or how many students helped in the “book line”. The first book to enter the new Sycamore Street home was the Holy Bible, which was carried in by the Head Librarian, **Lucy Gard Arnold**.

1903 – The building was dedicated 120 years ago, March 19, 1903. Additional money for furnishing the new building in 1903 was supplied by Henry St. Clair and the School Board. An interesting twist is that the old West School which was changed to an elementary school after 1884 because East School was better equipped, was once again designated the High School in 1903 because the nearby resources of the Library made its location proper to be the High School. East School then became an elementary school for the rest of its life until torn down in 1948 and replaced with the new one-story East building (1949-2016).



The above post cards are from 1910 and 1915, along with a 2005 photo before the additions.

1940s – The basement was originally designated as a museum and housed hundreds of artifacts. This museum was eventually moved to the Garst Museum in the 1940s when the Library needed more space.

A recent photo showing the new additions, from the Fall of 2022, and a 2015 night-time view (below):



2006 - 2008 – A major expansion added symmetrical wings to the north and south ends of the original building. The full modernization of this finished structure makes our Library one of the finest in the country.

HEAD LIBRARIANS

- 1894 - Josie Ford
- 1903 – 1909 Lucy Gard Arnold (*at new building*)
- 1909 – 1945 Minnie Bertram (*longest serving*) >>>
- 1945 – 1947 Martha J. Rupp
- 1947 --1950 Bernice Merritt
- 1950 – 1961 Kathleen Moore
- 1961 – 1968 Robert Blevins
- 1968 – 1971 Virginia Nieport
- 1971 – 1973 Irene Hall
- 1973 – 1980 Susan Allen
- 1980 – 1981 Virginia Nieport (*interim*)
- 1981 – 1983 Paul Weber (*from Hillsboro, OH*)
- 1984 – 1989 Stephen Richmond
- 1989 – 1991 Sarah Uible
- 1991 - 2019 John Vehre
- 2019 - Susi Halley



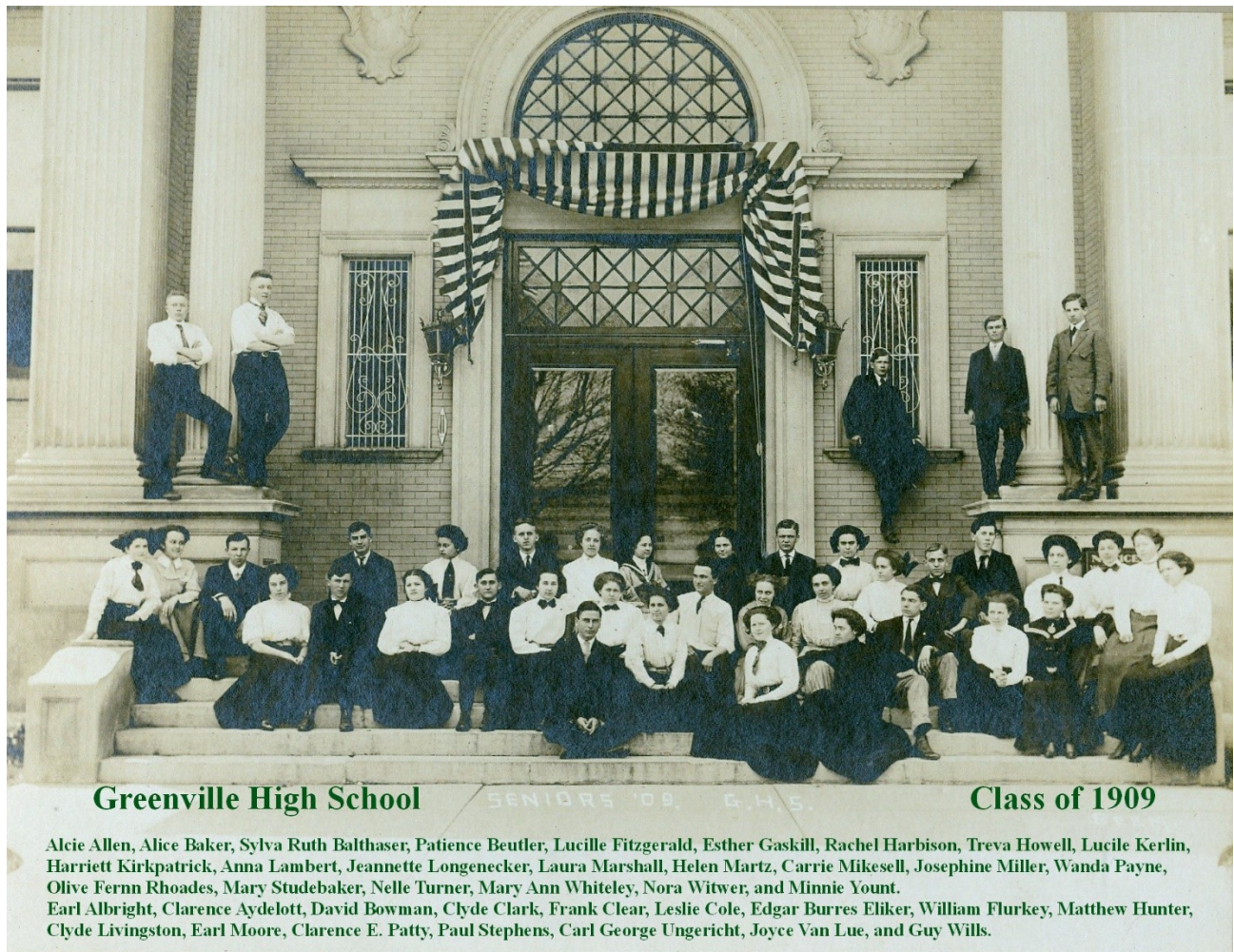
A rare photo from the Library archives shows a shadowy lineup of students in early 1903, passing books from one student to the next, and from the Library’s former location at 118 West Fifth Street to the new Sycamore Street site. This 500-foot line from door to door would have kept 300, or so, students busy for quite a while. Passing books one book at a time would have been easier for the workers than carrying boxes of books over the same distance.

This is the earliest photo we have seen of the Library, just prior to its March 19, 1903, opening. >>>

This year celebrates the 120th anniversary of the opening of the Library, 1903 – 2023.



An early photo of the Library's entrance shows the GHS Class of 1909 at Graduation. The Seniors names are listed here but not identifiable by position in the rows:

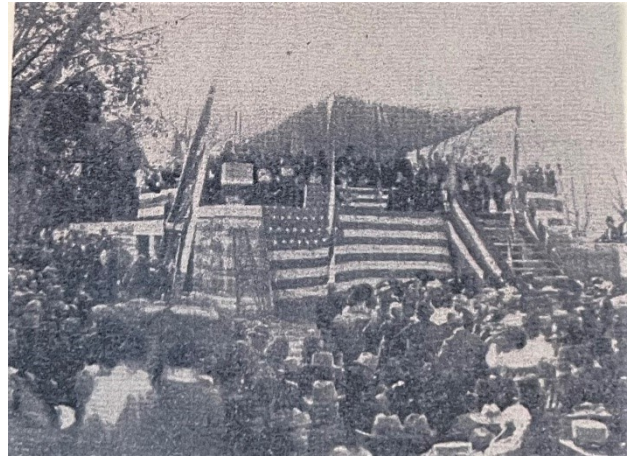


A Tale of Two Library Cornerstones

When the Library was originally constructed, a cornerstone was placed in a special ceremony. A similar ceremony took place during the addition of the two wings to the Library 100+ years later. Both events were conducted by the **Freemasons** as a public service to our community. These ceremonies symbolically use the tools of the operative Mason to bring the special message of faith in the craftsmanship of a new building, and is a wonderful way to begin the building's use. The cornerstone ceremony is an ancient tradition and has been popular in the United States since colonial days. On September 18, 1793, **President George Washington**, a Freemason, laid the cornerstone of the United States Capitol building. This mural depicts that ceremony:



The **Greenville Masonic Lodge No. 143** has been a part of the community since 1847. They participated in the cornerstone ceremony for the original Library construction in 1901 and the new addition in 2007. **Rita Arnold**, Past Worthy Matron, Arcanum Chapter No. 429 Order of the Eastern Star, found in her research of the history of the Greenville Masonic Lodge, that the original cornerstone was placed October 30, 1901. She found this photo from that ceremony in a 1933 local newspaper. Her diligence in finding out this local history led directly to the concept for a second Masonic Ceremony for the new addition. The program for the second cornerstone event would not have taken place without her research.



Here is a rough picture of that 1901 ceremony. >>>

On September 23, 2007, a procession of Masonic dignitaries marched several blocks along Sycamore Street to the beautiful sounds of bag-piper **Delbert Braund, Jr.**, and a color guard provided by Greenville High School's Navy Junior ROTC. Hundreds lined the street and the yard and watched this impressive event with local and state dignitaries participating, with the destination being the Greenville Public Library. The GHS High School Band under the direction of **Brian McKibben**, GHS 1994, provided music. Photos from 2007 march are below:



The ceremony was conducted by Past Masters of the Lodge 143, pictured here: **Phil Stickel**, GHS 1957 (left), and **James "Jim" Henby**, GHS 1955 (right), along with the Grand Master of the Masons of Ohio, **Michael Himes** (center), and along with the actual new cornerstone in the Library front yard. >>>



A building's cornerstone (or foundation stone) is the first stone set in the construction in a masonry foundation. All other stones will be set in reference to this stone, thus determining the position of the entire structure. The policy in Freemasonry is to place this in the northeast corner of the construction as a visible foundation stone. This placement location is to signify the unity of the North associated with darkness and the East associated with light.



<<< The 1901 Cornerstone

Front northeast corner shows
both cornerstones >>>



<<< The 2007
Cornerstone



120 Years of serving Greenville, never looking better, and sharing the Lamp of Learning.



Editor's Note: A special Thank You to the following: the current Head Librarian Susi Halley (GHS 1966), the historical book, "A Brief History of the Greenville City Schools" book by Ted Williams (GHS 1935), the former 45-year GHS teacher, Eugene Phelps' book of historical school records housed at the Garst Museum, the Garst Museum Genealogy Department files and input from Karen Besecker and Phyllis Crick, the Greenville High School Alumni Association's historical files maintained by Dick Brown (GHS 1964), and noted local historians Rita and Mike Arnold (Mike-GHS 1964) for their cornerstones history and the Masonic Lodge involvement.

GHS 2023 Prom was a Resounding Success

For the 16th time, Romer's Banquet Center near the City Traffic Circle was host to the GHS Prom on Saturday evening, May 6. This event began with a buffet-style dinner and lasted from 6:00 pm to 11:00 pm, followed by an After Prom held in the High School gym from 11:00 to 2:00 am. There were minimal decorations and a photo booth run by **Jacob "Jake" Snyder** GHS 2014. The disk jockey and sound system was provided by **Caleb Custer** GHS 2012. The Junior Class organizing committee planned and decorated for this event. The Junior Class President was **Jayden Hicks** and the class Co-Advisors are **Erin Eberwein** and **Mary Lee Moore**, both high school secretaries. 296 Prom tickets were sold to GHS Juniors and Seniors and their guests.

The **Queen Candidates** were: **Queen Tessa Fine**, parents **Tiffany Bowman Fine** GHS 1997 and **Jeremy Fine**, grandfather **Randall Bowman**, "Mr. Green Wave Sports" (Gettysburg HS), sister **Addie** GHS 2027, is attending Findlay University to study Physical Therapy and participate in Track and Cross Country. **Ellasyn Bruner**, parents **Todd** and **Dr. Jillynn Bruner**, siblings **Devan** GHS 2010, **Landon** GHS 2011, **Calen** GHS 2014, **Carson** GHS 2016, **Laikyn** GHS 2022, and **Maelyn** GHS 2025, will attend Anderson (IN) University and study Education, either Math or Science, and is a Valedictorian. **Josie Camacho**, parents **Matt Camacho** and **Amber Camacho**, sister **Lilly** GHS 2025, is attending Edison College and studying Nursing. **Kelly Combs**, parents **George Combs** and **Teresa Combs**, sister **Kaitlin** GHS 2025, and will study Health Sciences at Sinclair College. **Kylie Hamm**, parents **Jennifer Hamm** and **Dennis Hamm**, was a four-year star softball player, and is attending Kenyon College. **McKenzie Pressnall**, is a four-generation GHS family, parents **Todd Pressnall** GHS 1986 and **Tammy Armacost Pressnall** GHS 1986, grandparents **Bev Stauffer Pressnall** GHS 1966 and **Mike Pressnall** GHS 1966, great grandfather **Harold Stauffer** GHS 1940, and will study Exercise Science at Bluffton University. **Gracie Thacker**, parents **Shereea Alexander** GHS 1984 and **Marvin Thacker**, grandmother **Sue Hangen Barnette**, GHS 1965, siblings **Zac Melling** GHS 2009 and **Emily Melling Wagner** GHS 2005, and will be studying Early Childhood Education at Edison College.

Front Row Queen Candidates:

Josie Camacho, Ellasyn Bruner, McKenzie Pressnall, Kylie Hamm, Tessa Fine, Gracie Thacker, and Kelly Combs.

Back Row King Candidates:

Lukas Francis, Mason Shuttleworth, Carson Pope, Noah Stevens, Cole Royer, A.J. Shaffer, and Caden Lecklider.

Pictured at the Prom, at right >>>



For the first time in history, there was a tie for the position of Prom King. **King Candidates** were: **Co-King Carson Pope**, parents **Chris Pope** and **Carrie Pope** and stepmother **Tiffany Meckes Pope** GHS 1995, step-grandparents **Mike Meckes** GHS 1963 and **Shelley Lowder Meckes** GHS 1970, siblings **Callie** GHS 2025 and **Charlie** GHS 2025, is a class officer and will attend West Virginia University to study Forensic Chemistry. **Co-King Cole Royer**, parents **Sarah Wills Royer** GHS 1996 and **Tony Royer** GHS 1991, brother **Jack** GHS 2025, and plan on entering the workforce in an undecided field. **Lukas Francis**, parents **Shellie Vore Francis** GHS 1996 and **Craig Francis** GHS 1997, grandparents **Craig Francis** and **Lisa Baumgardner Francis** GHS 1979 and **Joyce Christian Vore** GHS 1973 and **Neal Vore** GHS 1972, brother **Cole** GHS 2021, and will study Civil Engineering at the University of Toledo. **Caden Lecklider**, parents **Matt Lecklider** GHS 1991 and **Julie Lecklider**, grandparents **Diane Dynes Lecklider** GHS 1965 and **Philip Lecklider**, sister **Kiera** GHS 2026, plans on pursuing a career in Engineering but had not decided on a school as of the time school was out. **A.J. Shaffer**, parents **Aaron Shaffer** GHS 1995 and current GHS Athletic Director, and **Jess Shaffer**, grandparents **Rhonda Clark Fisher** and **John Hess** GHS 1978, sister **Lizzie** GHS 2027, and is planning on studying Education at Marian University (Indianapolis). **Noah Stevens**, parents **Michelle Ponchot Baker** GHS 1997 and **Jeramie Stevens** GHS 1993, grandmother **Teresa Garland Plessinger** GHS 1974, brother **Gabriel Stevens** GHS 2021, and is studying Mechanical Engineering at the University of Toledo. **Mason Shuttleworth**, parents **Joe Shuttleworth** GHS 1996 and **Heather Wintrow Shuttleworth** GHS 1996, grandparents **Jim Shuttleworth** GHS 1961 and **Evelyn Powell Shuttleworth** GHS 1963, sister **Cloe** GHS 2027, and is attending Harvard University (Cambridge, Mass.), majoring in math, music and philosophy.

With the unexpected occurrence of having two Kings, the school was not prepared for a second crown. A make-shift, last second decision, was to use two crowns from a local fast food restaurant to show equality.

*King Tony, Queen Tessa, and King Carson
(below)*



*The Homecoming Chief Green Wave Ryan Crampton and
Queen Samantha "Sami" Frens, Prom King Cole Royer,
Prom Queen Tessa Fine and Prom King Carson Pope
(below)*



Letter to our Alumni Association:

Oh, how I would love to come back to GHS again! I haven't been back to Greenville for the '54 reunion since before 'COVID'!

My memory escapes me but the School doesn't! My most memorable teacher was **Mr. Bob Hawes**. I never heard anyone state a bad word about him. He was the shop teacher for me. I have been back a few times to the class of '54 reunions and thoroughly enjoyed the time. What a great time and I so remember our Principal "oh, what was his name"!!.. dang old age!! I can remember going to his office and asking for release from School in the 12th grade "to quit"! I wanted to get a job! He approved with one condition! He said, "You go out and find a job within two weeks and if you do not find one, you must come back to GHS and finish out your HS degree"!!

Two weeks later, I was back in his office and asked him one question, "Did you call every business in town and ask them not to hire me? No one wanted to hire me." He said nothing, and to this day, I would swear that he called every business and asked them not to hire me!! He saw something in me that I never would have realized and who knows where I would be today. And now, "the rest of the story".....

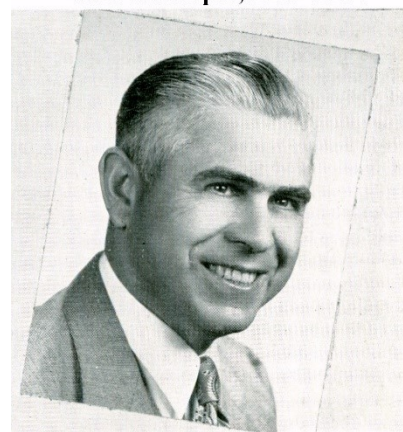
I continued School and got my High School diploma from GHS in 1954. I am forever grateful for that act of kindness!! Without his insistence, I would not have gone into the Marine Corp and, after basic training, I ended up in an office position. Which prepared me for my future and after that going to work for a railroad out of Chicago. Long story short, I worked for the Railroad for thirty years ending my career as a Regional Director in Illinois and a very nice pension! So, I must say "thank you to my Principal" for giving me that chance and who saw something in me that I did not see myself and saw to it that I received my HS diploma. Without that "degree" I really don't know where I would be today..... **Richard Davis**, GHS 1954

Editor's note: The Principal who did this good deed was **Paul Warner** and who was Principal at GHS from 1929 through 1954. He also graduated from GHS in 1914.

GHS Principal, 1929-1954

From 1954 Yearbook (below), and from 1950 Yearbook (right):

RICHARD DAVIS



Principal Paul C. Warner

Mr. Warner, a graduate of Greenville High School, started college at the College of Agriculture at Ohio State University. He received his Bachelor of Science Degree in 1918 from Ohio State. Following a lapse of two years he returned to Greenville where he began to teach in the high school. He taught chemistry, biology, and agriculture for nine years. In 1929, he became principal and has continued in this capacity for the past twenty-one years. He completed his Master of Arts Degree in 1931.

Britley Ritz returns to Channel 7 as an On-Air Meteorologist

A 2009 graduate of Greenville High School, **Britley Ritz**, made a return to her home area to work at Dayton’s WHIO Channel 7 TV as a freelancing meteorologist this summer. She has worked as morning and noon meteorologist this summer. After GHS, she attended Ball State University and majored in Meteorology and Climatology. She has always been interested in the science of weather. She first became interested at age seven when she lived near Greenville, when she experienced her first tornado. She has always loved storm-chasing across the Midwest Plains, which she participated in while at Ball State.



July
11-12,
2023



Her first job after graduation was in Duluth, Minnesota, as a broadcast meteorologist. She moved next to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and then to West Palm Beach, Florida. Next, she was hired to work for *The Weather Channel* in Atlanta. In August, 2022, she moved to her next position at the *Cable News Network, CNN*, advancing her meteorology career. These last two jobs were in Atlanta, where she still considers to be her home. Her return to Channel 7 is due to her friendship with former Chief Meteorologist **McCall Vrydaghs**, who Britley worked with as an intern during her summers while in college. She was hired for full time work at Channel 7 in August, 2023, covering the weather reporting for the weekdays from early morning until noon.

At GHS, Britley was a member of the National Honor Society, the Art Club, the Spanish Club, the Track team, the Cheerleading team, and was a member of the Homecoming Court during the Fall of 2008.

Some photos from her Senior year at GHS:
Senior Photo (far right) and
Photos from Homecoming, 2008



More views of our Open House 2023:



Pictured above:
Sharon Doss Wintrow GHS 1962,
Randy Lear GHS 1978,
Doug Fries, Superintendent of Schools,
Jim Sommer GHS 1962, Board of Education member.

Below: **Marilyn Wills Gruber** GHS 1959
Stephani Frye Wampler, GHS 1977
Barb Hayes Fletcher, GHS 1971
Roxanne Wampler Willman, GHS 1971
Mayor Steve Willman, GHS 1971



Chief Greenie Green Wave
appeared in the
1967 Chief

Above: **Susie Harless Halley** GHS 1966
And **Mara Jekabsons Cox** GHS 1959.
Below: **Mike Buell** GHS 1982, **John Buell** GHS 1967.



ALUMNI OPEN HOUSE 2023