Breckenridge/Wheeler Area Historical Society
Celebrating 25 years of service to the community

October Newsletter

25th Anniversary Celebration

On August 11, we celebrated our 25th anniversary with an afternoon of music and ice cream. Ray Brown sang and the Broken Glass String Band played dulcimers and other stringed instruments for an audience of 50 people. The Plank Road Arbor of the Gleaners provided the ice cream, sponsored the musicians, and donated $750 to the Society. The crowd was smaller than we would have liked, but it was a very enjoyable afternoon.

Thank You to our Generous Contributors

The Breckenridge/Wheeler Area Historical Society Fund at the Gratiot County Community Foundation is now a fully funded endowment. This is thanks to many contributors including the following individuals who donated $500 or more for this cause – Dorothy Stellow, Bonnie Briggs, Gene Wigglesworth, Nancy Shankel, Larry and Nancy Sensabaugh, and Joel and Diane Colbry. This fund will now be an income source for the Society starting next year when we are eligible to withdraw earnings from that fund, if we wish. We sent out a plea in the August Newsletter and within two weeks, we had the necessary funds to reach the $10,000 minimum. Thank you to all who contributed!

History at the Howe

Mark your calendar for October 21. On that evening, at 6:30, the Society and Howe Memorial Library will join forces to offer the first History at the Howe event. For our first evening, we will be discussing the history of the village of Wheeler. Many local residents plan on coming for a round table discussion of the downtown businesses that were once in Wheeler complete with photos from our archives. Come to see Howe Library’s new back room and participate or just listen and learn.
The Elvis Dinner Show was a great success. Jake Slater put on a great show, Linda Chapin and her kitchen crew prepared a wonderful dinner, and we got a lot of help from National Honor Society students, many Society members and other community volunteers. Thank you to all who helped! We raised just under $2,000 for the Society from this event. We are planning on doing another dinner show this spring with a country-western theme featuring Colin Dexter. Watch for the next newsletter for details.

Annual General Membership Meeting

The annual general membership meeting was held on September 25. After a business meeting, elections were held and the results are as follows:
Board members elected were – Carrie Schaub, James Gillis and Linda Chapin. They will serve three-year terms ending in 2022. Lorri Tupica was elected secretary and Dave Briggs, Glenda Bloomquist and Linda Chapin were re-elected to their positions as president, treasurer, and vice-president.

We want to thank Joel Colbry for serving on the Board for about 20 years and Frank Gotts for serving a 3-year term. We also thank Karen Giles for serving as secretary.

The Board now consists of 10 members. They are – Dave Briggs, Linda Chapin, Glenda Bloomquist, Lorri Tupica, Carrie Schaub, Jim Gillis, Mike Federspiel, Sheila Rummer, Karen Giles, and Kathy Wardell.

Upcoming Events

October 20 @ VFW in St. Louis – St. Louis Historical Society is hosting a spaghetti dinner at 5 PM. If you are interested in going, contact Glenda Bloomquist.

October 21 @ 6:30 PM at Howe Memorial Library - History at the Howe
The round table topic will be the Village of Wheeler

December 2 @ 5:30 – 7:00 Christmas in the Village in Breckenridge
The Plank Road Museum will be open – Come and see us!
Living Landscapes, a pond business from Hemlock, Michigan, owned by Mark and Patti Walter updated the pond at the Drake House by installing a double stream-bed waterfall. This waterfall feature will be a needed improvement to the pond and be a great help in aeration and will help to keep the pond free of hair algae. This will also allow us to maintain a fish population. The funds for this installation were almost entirely paid for from sales of excess inventory at the Drake House. The excess inventory were items that had no connection to the Drakes and were items not needed for displays. The waterfall is a very attractive addition to the landscape at the Drake House and adds a wonderful sound when you are in the back yard.

On September 27, the Society hosted nine students and one teacher from Germany. They toured the Drake House, the Doctor’s Office, and the Plank Road Museum. The students were very interested, spoke good English, and were very polite. We certainly enjoyed having them here. Joel Colbry showed the doctor’s office, Sheila Rummer led them through the Drake House and Dave Briggs and Glenda Bloomquist showed off the Plank Road Museum. The students are here for two weeks and will return to Germany on October 7.