

The Niles Register

The Niles Historical Society
 PO Box 368 Niles, Ohio 44446
 President: Fremont Camerino

Nov—Dec 2010

OHIO ASSOCIATION OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES & MUSEUMS

Membership/Subscription Fee

We have a membership drive at the end of each year because our fiscal year runs from January to January. Please keep this in mind, your membership fee is the main source of income for us to continue the job of preserving the history in Niles. Our staff is all volunteer, providing untold hours in maintaining the buildings, grounds and content of the museum. Cost of maintenance is forever rising, as you know.

Membership in the Niles Historical Society provides you with the bimonthly subscription to the “Niles Review” for **One Year**. When you send the money for the yearly dues, we place an asterisk (*) on your label which is then placed on your newsletter. This is to remind you that you are a member in good standing. Please check your address label.

Our membership/subscription fee is \$15.00 for a single \$25.00 for a family and \$100.00 for a business. **However** if you donate \$500.00 for a membership, your name is placed on our “**Life**” member list, eliminating paying yearly dues repeatedly..

Enclosed is a membership renewal card to return to us with your donation for another year. Please respond as soon as possible. If you have any questions about your membership, please call the office. 330-544-2143.

“Endowment Fund” Policy.

The Endowment Fund for the Niles Historical Society was established in 1988 by a vote of the membership. The fund is available for individuals to place a monetary amount in “memory” of a loved one or “in honor” of a person. All donations are noted in our permanent record.

Acknowledgements are sent to the donor and the family/person that you wish to honor when an address is provided.

The Endowment Fund is designed to grow with prudent investment. Original donations are **Never** used and only the interest gained from the donation, may be used. Donations are a thoughtful way to honor people while also helping with the preservation of history.

The creation of an Endowment Fund was suggested by *Attorney Clair Westenfield*. He was the founder of the Niles Historical Society and forever encouraged people to take an interest in the preservation of history. He would be proud to see the Ward-Thomas Museum today and learn of the growth of the society since its founding.

During 2010, donations to the Endowment Fund were received from:

- Janice Corbett*..... in Memory of *Lloyd Orwig*
- Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Straight*.... in Memory of *Mary Straight*
- The Clayman Family*..... in Memory of *William B. Clayman*
- Tony Magliro*..... in Memory of *Mrs. Teresa Flanigan*, 1940 graduate NHS
- Tony Magliro*..... in Memory of *Arthur Mougakos*
- Mary & Don James* in Memory of *Don Shivley*
- Donations..... from *William Bauman estate*
- Donation from *Estate of Dr. and Mrs. Charles Mathias*

Membership Involvement

Membership meetings are held on the first Saturday of every month at 10:00 am. These meetings are the real central core of the organization and important for its survival. During those meetings, decisions are made as to the future of the museum and the maintenance of the buildings. Also members learn of items recently donated to the museum and current events and activities at the museum.

The meetings are short and the fellowship with other members interested in the preservation of history is very enriching. Niles has a very interesting history and the little things that make its history become alive and bring a warmth of memories, are better when they can be shared with others. We invite you to attend the meetings and share your thoughts and memories too.

Some people are afraid if they attend a meeting, they will be asked to do some work, well, that isn’t the case here. We already have a volunteer staff. And they are worth their weight in gold...they clean the museum, shine the silver, catalogue the collection, answer the phone, organize tours and serve as docents, plant the garden flowers in the spring and care for the plants in the greenhouse all winter long. The staff tend to the large varieties of trees, cleans the sidewalks of snow in the winter, organize and mail newsletters, and the list goes on and on. Of course, if you want to work, I’ll find a job for you...

Again, this is your invitation to attend and become an active member of the society which meets on the first Saturday of each month at 10:00 am in the Westenfield Room at the museum. Hope to see you there..

New Docents Trained

Docents are members of a specially trained group who guide both school children and adults through the museum. Recently eight more members have taken the training to become docents for the museum. We are proud of the new inductees who are interested in the preservation of history and sharing the history with visitors to the museum.

2010 Docents are: *Suzanne Larsen, Donna Nellis, Sandy Bilovesky, Patricia Burgess-Fisher, Victoria Gombos, Elizabeth V. Whitney, Pat Pfeifer, and Thelma Snyder.*

We also would take a moment to thank all the other docents who so faithfully have donated their time for helping with the school tours, monthly “Open House” events and private tours. *Your volunteerism is greatly appreciated.*

Very Special Thanks to “Special Members”

As long as we are talking about volunteering this month, it is prudent to mention a special thanks to all who donated their money & time to various needs that we have had through the years...

For instance lately, the donation of a new cemetery stone which recently replaced the worn one of Anna Allison, grandmother of President McKinley. The donation was received immediately upon learning of the need. Thanks also go to the people who prepare our tax report every year and keep everything legal. For several years the printing of the newsletter has been paid for by another member. In the winter months, our driveway and parking lot is cleared of the snow by another member. Others donate to the flower fund each year and some buy extra stamps, sending them to us.

These people are all members and a special group of very dedicated members who never hesitate to help us out. And we appreciate every thought of kindness that goes with it. They also wish to remain anonymous, and we respect that. Page 2

Christmas Display



In preparation for the Christmas season this year, we will be having a very special display.

Father Fred E. Trucksis from Niles has donated his entire collection of "Department 56" buildings to the society. These are ceramic buildings that have been kiln-fired and hand painted with the greatest of care. Every detail, windows, shutters, doors and other architectural features are meticulously formed. Most have lights inside to accentuate the charm of the building. Over 200 pieces have been cataloged in the collection.

Father Trucksis, semi-retired pastor, is currently serving as Administrator of St. Joseph in Warren. He started his collection in 1990 when a friend gave him a "Department 56" church as a gift. He has purchased most of his collection at *Adamas in Boardman*, adding five or six every year. He also has enjoyed showing his collection to the members of the church and the community throughout the years and recently decided to donate them to the Niles Historical Society. They will be on display during the Christmas Open House, December 5th and January 2nd. 2-5 pm



Teacher, Mary Ann Mahon & her class

Nearly 250 students and their teachers visited the Ward-Thomas Museum last week.. The students toured the 14

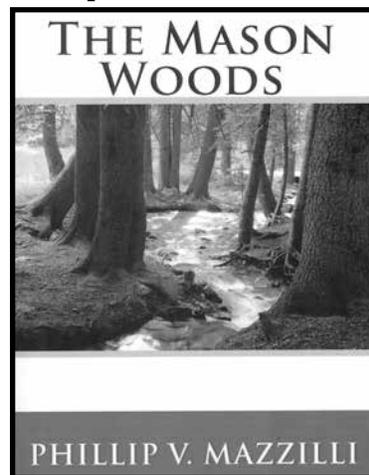
room museum and also listened to a presentation about the development and the history of our town.

The museum docents that volunteered during that week were *Roselyn Watson, Carol Souders, Sue Larsen, Thelma Snyder, Marilyn DeCeaser, Betty Whitney, Jessie Scott, Marilyn Rankin, Garnet Smith, Lynn Gombos, Angela Kaercher, Patty Burgess-Fisher, Pat Pfeifer, Donna Nellis, Sandy Bilovsky, and Nancy Malone.*

Everyone agreed it was fun to see the children and they enjoyed answering their questions. For most children, the size of the museum alone was an adventure, for most had never been in a home that large, but to see the many items on display was a real thrill. Of course the girls all liked the beautiful Presidents Wives Gowns, and the boys found plenty to keep their interest too.

We feel showing the items and telling the stories behind them will help a child remember the history better. We are grateful for an opportunity to share the stories and we are looking forward to seeing the third grade students again next year. In the mean time, we hope the students will bring their parents back with them to visit the museum and share the excitement they have experienced.

Phillip Mazzilli new book "Mason Woods"



Phillip Mazzilli was raised in Niles and has written a non-fiction book that takes place in the late 30's and early 40's in Niles. The book documents some of the hardships of the new immigrants in America and the adventures of young boys growing up in a small town.

He writes about *Police Chief Ross* and why he bought the boys "skyscraper" ice cream cones from Isalys.

It is easy to read and has 191 pages. (9x6).

If you wish to order one, write the check out to "Niles Historical Society" and send \$20.00 to cover cost of the book and postage to:

Niles Historical Society
P.O Box 368
Niles, Ohio 44446.

Visit our Website: www.nileshistoricalsociety.org
 and check out the Photos and Stories links.

Monthly Calendar

Public Open House

The first Sunday of each month 2-5 p.m.

Private tours may be scheduled by calling:
 The office 330.544.2143

Membership meetings – 10:00am

The first Saturday each month

Executive meeting – 9:30am
 prior to membership meeting.

Trustees:

Fred Kubli, Jesse Scott, Roselyn Watson

Officers:

Fremont CamerinoPresident
 Patricia Nelson Vice-President
 Nancy Malone Recording Secretary
 Betty Whitney Corresponding Secretary
 Ruth Van Huffel.....Treasurer
 Frank Burke Assistant Treasurer

Anne Townley Program Editor
 Audrey John Research Editor
 Nancy Malone Education Editor
 Ralph Tolbert.....Technology Editor

Donated Picture



A recent donation from *Bill and Arleen Fischer* was a picture of “Bert Street School” later named Monroe school. It was located on what is now Belmont Ave., near Olive Street. It was built in 1905 and had only 4 class rooms with grades 1-4 . Teachers were *Helen Schuller, Marilyn Swift, Marie Hofius* and *Effie Clark*. Pupils would go to Jefferson School when they left fourth grade at Bert Street School.

The school was built by Bill’s grandfather, *Adam Fischer*. There is a name plate over the door that reads “Bert Street School”.

The picture is a prime example of a treasure we need for our files since we did not have a clear picture of that school. “Thanks” to Arlene and Bill for their donation. Anyone know when it was torn down? Why was it called “Bert Street” when it was located on Belmont Avenue? I find the more I know about the history of Niles, the less I know...

Do You Have Any Treasures To Contribute?

This treasure is not about money, it is about digging up priceless memories of days gone by in the form of old photographs of family, special events, houses where you grew up, and places where you worked and the stories that bring history about Niles — your community. Think what history would be lost if *you* don’t ask your neighbors, friends, family, or co-workers to help save our history; think as *you* look at the following images we do have. Times are a ‘changing’ now.

Hoffman’s Fire 1962



Great Books Make Great Gifts.

The Pictorial History of Niles Ohio

First published in 1976 and is in its sixth printing. It has 245 pages all filled with black and white pictures of the Niles area. 8” x 10” index - spiral softbound..... \$25.00

Walk Down Memory Lane in Niles, Ohio

William Raymond Gilbert’s stories were published in the Niles Daily Times during the 1940’s. Contains 80 stories of early 20th Century Niles., 302 pages. 8” x 10” index – softbound. \$20.00

Dustin’ The Cobwebs in Niles

Collection of articles Grace Allison wrote for the Niles Daily Times. Published in 1996. Contains over 100 stories. 332 pages. 8” x 10” index – softbound..... \$25.00

Memoir of Rev. Joseph Badger

First itinerate minister in Ohio Western Reserve. Written in 1851 and reprinted in 1997. Stories of the people who settled the Western Reserve. 6” x 9” 169 pages \$15.00

Breaker Boys

The NFL greatest team and the stolen 1925 championship. Story of the Pottsville Maroons & fledging National Football League. Russ and Herb Stein from Niles, played on that 1925 team. by Dave Fleming, senior writer for ESPN Magazine. 9 ½” x 6 ½” Hardbound 311 \$25.00

“The Story of My Life”

Mr. Louis Tabor Sr. 1921~2009

Mr. Tabor’s speech, given on 4/8/07 was transcribed. Size 9” x 11 ½” 13 pages \$5.00

“History of Niles, Ohio”

Contains history of Niles 1755-1943. The Niles Centennial History Club. First published in 1934 & reprinted in 2009. Some pictures. Size 8 ½” x 11” 20 pages \$10.00

Barn Stories

“Mostly true stories told by barns” by Paul Whipple. Contains pictures and stories about barns across Ohio. 8 ½” x 11” 101 pages..... \$15.00

“Mason Woods”

Adventures of young boys growing up in Niles. Phillip Mazzilli, 191 pages 9x6 \$15.00

Shipping and handling costs are \$5.00 for each book ordered. Send your name, address and phone number. and check to cover costs to:

Niles Historical Society
P. O. 368
Niles, Ohio 44446.

We will ship you the book(s) by mail.

Thank You



Changes occur all the time, Mayor Edward P. Lenney in the ‘50s, Hoffman’s Fire, GE plant closing, these events are part of our need to preserve the history of Niles through photographs that are borrowed and carefully scanned, then returned. Your Niles Historical Society will maintain a digital record. Page 3



Remember State Street and Central Park and the businesses? Already, school memories of walking to Roosevelt are fading. In 25 years, who will remember Washington School?

Please help preserve and share those memories for the following generations and it won't cost you a penny!



Ladies Luncheon

A ladies luncheon was held September 25, 2010 in the Westenfield Room. Shirley Griffin from Salem, Ohio presented a motivational talk and showed various styles of aprons. Winners of the door prizes were Julie Miscevich of Cortland and Doris Imburgia from Warren.



According to the latest trends, aprons are getting to be quite popular again.

Here are some thought sure to bring back memories....

I don't think today's children know what an apron is. The principal use of Grandma's apron was to protect the dress underneath. It was easier to wash aprons than dresses and they used less material.

Aprons served as a potholder for removing hot pans from the oven. It was wonderful for drying children's tears, and occasionally wiped a dirty face.

From the chicken coop, the apron was used for carrying eggs, fussy chicks and sometimes half-hatched eggs to be finished in the warming oven.

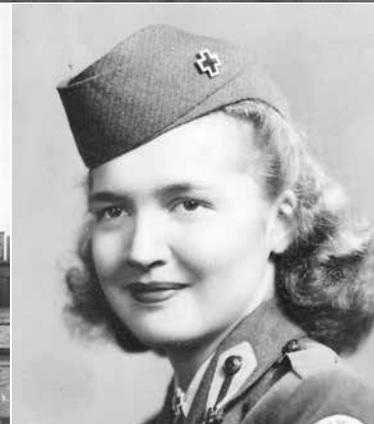
When company came, those aprons were ideal hiding places for shy kids, and when the weather was cold grandma wrapped it around her arms.

Those big old aprons wiped many a perspiring brow, as Grandma bent over the hot wood stove. Chips and kindling wood were brought into the kitchen in that apron. From the garden, it carried all sorts of vegetables. After the peas had been shelled, it carried out the hulls.

In the fall, the apron was used to bring in apples that had fallen from the tree. When unexpected company drove up the road, it was surprising how much furniture that old apron could dust in a matter of seconds.

When lunch was ready, Grandma walked out onto the porch, waved her apron, and the men folks knew it was time to come in from the fields to eat. It will be a long time before anyone invents something that will replace that "old-time apron" that served so many purposes.

Scientists would go crazy now trying to figure out how many germs were on that apron, however I know I never caught anything from an apron... Author Unknown Page 4



The new bike path will change the Iron Bridge, The Mall adds new stores, Urban renewal destroys and rebuilds, fires destroy buildings and churches, football memories fade with time, recollections of events and people's faces fade, businesses change, move away, or are replaced. Yes, we need your diligence to talk to business owners, relatives, church members, sports buddies, young and old and ask!

Scanning a photograph does not hurt the picture and preserves your past memories through the Niles Historical Society. Make the effort and call: 330-544-2143