

THE FIRELANDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Inc
MUSEUM MESSAGE.....

September 2008 Norwalk, Ohio Vol. 24 No 3

**Everyone's getting back into the swing of the Fall Season.
Mark your calendars and join us.**

Wednesday, September 17, 2008 7:00 PM Laning Young Research Center

Christopher Gillcrist earned both his undergraduate degree and his Master's degree in history at John Carroll University. He is ABD at Case Western Reserve University's PhD program in Social Policy. He has served as instructor of history at Ursuline College and Assistant Professor of History at Notre Dame College of Ohio. In 1998, Gillcrist was employed as Executive Director of the Lake County Historical Society in Mentor Ohio where he served for two years. In 1999, the Great Lakes Historical Society hired Gillcrist as Executive Director. Gillcrist has served on numerous professional boards and associations including his current position as President of the Association of Great Lakes Maritime History. Tonight's topic will be: The Anthony Wayne: Fact and Fiction

The Anthony Wayne, a side wheel steamer that sank off Vermilion in 1850 was recently re-discovered. This presentation will cover the history of the steamer, the stories that grew during the intervening years, and her discovery. Most importantly, we are using archeology and historical research to debunk some of the myths that have grown over the years. The Great Lakes Historical Society has started a 2-3 year project with Texas A&M University to uncover all the mysteries surrounding this almost 160 year old shipwreck.

Wednesday, October 15, 2008 7:00 PM Laning Young Research Center

Grant Thompspon, park manager and senior naturalist for the Lorain Metro Parks, oversees the Wellington and Charlemont Reservations of approximately 1400 acres. His topic will be:

Joseph Swift House or Mansion was a wonderful Greek Revival architecture home built in 1840-41 by farmer Joseph Swift in the Vermilion River Valley. The remnants of the house are often mistaken for the Orphanage of the Light and Hope otherwise locally known as the "Gore Orphanage." This presentation covers the early pioneer spirit which came to the Connecticut Western Reserve and carved out a niche in the wilderness. It is the story of Joseph Swift and his beautiful home he called "Rosedale."

Wednesday, November 19, 2008 7:00 PM Laning Young Research Center

Indians of Ohio presented by Thomas Neel, director of the Ohio Genealogical Society Library in Mansfield, Ohio and member of the FHS.

Neel will identify which Indian tribes were in Ohio and where they settled, which pioneer groups influenced the Native Americans prior to the removal, and what treaties and military actions were involved in the migration.

Mary Carabin, Program Chairman

MUSEUM HOURS: Remember we are open on weekends in the Fall Season.

Visiting the Society's museum and research center is a fabulous walk back into history.

We have so much to offer for those interested in a wide variety of collections, artifacts and materials.

September and October – Saturday 10-3 Sunday 12-4

Thanks to All for Another Fabulous Garden Tour

Over 150 people participated in the Garden Tour this summer. We raised over \$1500!
Thank You for your participation and look for the date next summer

Volunteer Opportunities

*There is always a project you can dig into at the Society – Ohio's Oldest Museum!
Please give the museum office a call to see how you can help.*

Memorial and Special Giving

When it comes time to give a gift "in memory of" or "in honor of" – don't forget the Firelands Historical Society. Established in 1857, we continue to serve our patrons, guests and the community in many different areas. Thank you to these friends of the Society for giving generously to keep our history and heritage alive in the Firelands.

From Henry & Marty Timman:

In memory of Eugene Pflieger

In memory of Frank A. Ruffing

In honor of the Paul & Pat Douglas wedding

Annual Christmas Tour of Homes

Mark your calendar for the last Sunday in November: November 30, 2008

Tickets \$15 5-7 Homes to tour

Look for ticket information in our November Newsletter

NEW On the Web...www.firelandsmuseum.org

We are putting new information and pictures on our website each quarter. Please check us out.

We hope you find the following description of the front hall and parlor of our museum interesting:

Samuel Preston, the builder of our house museum, was a carpenter by trade. Therefore it is reasonable to assume that he assisted in the building of the beautiful original staircase. Ironically Mr. Preston died in 1852 after falling on the stairs and hitting his head. The mural, visible from the upstairs landing once extended down the stair wall and into the foyer.

The parlor of the Wickham home was originally the master bedroom where all 13 Wickham children were born. As the family grew and needed more room, bedrooms upstairs were made available and the front room became the parlor.

Charles Wickham was struck by an auto in 1925. A bed was made up for him downstairs, and he asked that his bed be moved to the parlor so that he could die in the same place he had been born 90 years earlier.

Do you have a story?

The editor welcomes special stories, memories or historical information from our members for publication. Please send information to Linda Bersche, Firelands Historical Society, PO Box 572, Norwalk, OH 44857-0572. We reserve the right to edit.

Firelands Museum Patriotic Display

held at the
Norwalk Public Library
in July



This uniform was worn
by Ellen Little. After
being allowed leave
from Cornell University

(where she worked) she
served as a YMCA
volunteer during WWI
in France. Little lived at
128 East Main Street
in Norwalk



Firelands Historical Society, Inc.
4 Case Ave.
P.O. Box 572
Norwalk, OH 44857-0572

The Firelands Historical is proud to be a member of these fine organizations:

Chamber of Commerce, Norwalk, Ohio
Firelands Council of Historical Societies
Lake Erie Firelands Tourist Council
Ohio Association of Historical Societies & Museums
Ohio Genealogical Society
Ohio Historical Society

Inside!
**Fall Season Programs
& Information**

Firelands Historical Society Officers:

Matthew Burr, President
Henry Timman, Huron Co Vice President
Linda Bersche, Erie Co Vice President
Mary Carabin, Secretary
John Elmlinger, Treasurer

Marilou Creary, Curator
Research Center phone: 419.663.0392
Museum phone: 419.668.6038

Annual Membership dues:

Individual - \$12
Husband and Wife - \$20

Life Membership dues:

Individual - \$250 (or contribute \$25 annually for 10 yrs)
Business - \$500 (or contribute \$50 annually for 10 years)

Send correspondence to:

The Firelands Historical Society
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