

# HISTORICALLY SPEAKING

September 2018

The Newsletter of Muskingum County History

## MUSEUMS OF MUSKINGUM COUNTY HISTORY

The Stone Academy Historic Site & Museum  
115 Jefferson Street  
Zanesville, Ohio

Dr. Increase Mathews House Museum  
304 Woodlawn Avenue  
Zanesville, Ohio

Both museums are open Wednesday-Friday 1:00-4:00  
and Saturday 10:00-4:00 from May through September.

Thus museum are open to groups at other times by  
appointment. Call the museum office at the Stone  
Academy at 740 454-9500 or contact us through our  
website

[Muskingumcountyhistory.org](http://Muskingumcountyhistory.org)

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2018

As the summer season winds down, the Board of Trustees would like to thank all who have visited our museums, The Stone Academy built in 1809 and the Dr. Increase Mathews House built in 1805, as well as our website. Our Underground Railroad exhibit is gradually coming together thanks to the tireless work of our Director, Jim Geyer. This exhibit will highlight Muskingum County's significant involvement with and contribution to the Underground Railroad. The Ohio Anti-Slavery Society, after all, was founded at the Stone Academy in 1835.

Starting September 24, 2018, at 7:30 pm, the Civil War Roundtable meets for the first time starting the 2018-2019 season. The Civil War Roundtable meets the fourth Monday of every month except for June, July and August at 7:30 pm at The Stone Academy. All are welcome so if you are interested in Civil War history-battles, events, people, etc.-please feel free to attend.

Please visit Muskingum County History at our website or on Facebook. Thank you for your support and we look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at our museums.

*Peter N. Cultice,*

PRESIDENT MUSKINGUM COUNTY HISTORY



## REWARDS RENUMERATION

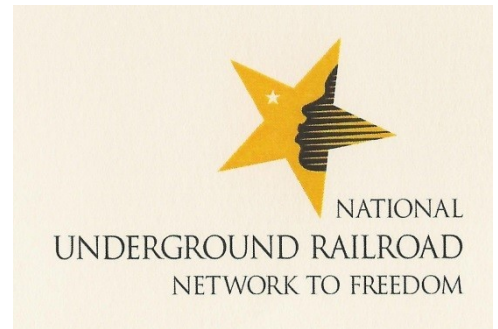
If you are one of our members or friends who have linked your Kroger Plus Shoppers Card to our organization through the Kroger Community Rewards program, please note that we have been assigned a new number. When you must re-enroll your card please use number FF309.

If you shop at Kroger but have not yet named our historical society as a recipient of community rewards, please consider doing so. We receive a donation based on the amount of your purchases and there is no cost or loss of discounts to you. We do not receive any information regarding your name or purchases, just a quarterly donation that goes toward paying the bills. To enroll, go to <https://www.kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow/>, and when asked for the organization you wish to support look for us under "Pioneer & Historical Soc. Muskingum Co." or use number FF309.

# UPDATE: UGRR Project

Jim Geyer, Project Director

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The Putnam Underground Railroad Interpretive Center Project, funded by an applied research grant from the National Park Service (NPS) and featuring **a new interpretive exhibit at the Stone Academy**, is nearing completion. Research documenting abolitionist and Underground Railroad activity in Putnam, ongoing since 2011, has resulted in five buildings in Putnam being accepted by the NPS as National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom (NTF) sites.

The centerpiece of the new exhibit will be a permanent component in the front hallway that tells about each of the six local NTF sites: the Stone Academy, the Putnam Presbyterian Church, the A.A. Guthrie House, the George Guthrie House, the Major Horace and Lucinda Belknap Nye House in Putnam, and the Nelson T. Gant Homestead on West Main Street.

Another exhibit element is a series of 10 interpretive panels that will be displayed on easels in the meeting room. The panels provide additional information about the NTF sites, feature stories about other local UGRR operatives, and document visits to Putnam by nationally prominent figures like Frederick Douglass, Harriet Beecher Stow, James G. Birney, and John Rankin. This component can be taken down or relocated to other parts of the museum when there are programs or other special events in the meeting room. The panels can also be displayed at other venues for presentations and/or special events.

The new exhibit is scheduled to be fabricated and installed later this month (September). But, as of this writing, lots of details still need to be worked out and final approval received from the NPS. Limited floor and wall space in a 209 year old building, combined with lots of information to share, have presented unique challenges.

The Interpretive Center will provide educational programming, include a library with resource materials and a video display, and actively continue local UGRR-related research.

Xpressive Graphix (XGS), our neighbor on Muskingum Avenue, is designing/fabricating/ installing the new exhibit. The content is based on work assisted by a grant from the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), funded by the Department of the Interior, National Park Service.

## LARGE CROCK ON DISPLAY AT STONE ACADEMY THROUGH END OF YEAR

The production of stoneware crocks and jugs was a major industry in Muskingum County in days past and Ohio Stoneware in Zanesville continues to make them today. Many different sizes have been produced from ones small enough to can a mess of beans to larger ones used in making sauerkraut and spiritous beverages. The smaller crocks can be found in modern kitchens, in antique shops and in the museum shop at the Stone Academy but the larger sizes are not as common. Their large size and weight limits how they can be used in our modern culture, storage is a problem and just by virtue of taking up so much space they are susceptible to breakage.

From now through the end of the year we have one of the large crocks, a 25-gallon, 24 inch tall giant, on exhibit at the Stone Academy through the generosity of Mr. Brad Booth of Mansfield. The crock on display is stenciled "JAS. BENJAMIN WHOLESALE STONEWARE DEPOT ZANESVILLE. O." Mr. Benjamin was a jobber, not a potter, that is he served as a middleman, collecting crocks and jugs from small shops which operated year-round or from "bluebird potters", farmers who made pottery during the winter or between planting and harvest, when agricultural demands on their time lessened. Jobbers would sell to stores who then sold the ware to consumers. In early days jobbers would load up flat boats and take pottery down the Muskingum, Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. When canals, the National Road and railroads came to the area, they served as means of distributing the ware.

James Benjamin (1821-1909) had been a farmer in Newton Township but by the 1860 census he was a stoneware merchant in Putnam. In the 1870 census he was listed as a stoneware merchant in Covington, Kentucky, but by 1880 he was back in Putnam as a wholesale stoneware dealer. The 1900 census lists him as a grocer.

We have had a jug on loan from a local collector displayed on the second floor of the Stone Academy that is stenciled "Jas. Benjamin/Wholesale/Stoneware/Depot/Cincinnati, O." The crocks marked *Cincinnati* are more common than the crocks marked *Zanesville*. The use of Zanesville rather than Putnam on the large crock would indicate that it was made after 1872 when Putnam was annexed by Zanesville.

An illustrated Remember When column in the September 4, 1949, *Zanesville Times-Signal* has a crude drawing of a building and a caption reading, "Fifty-five years ago [1894] Jim Benjamin's Goose Creek Grocery and feed store was located at [the SW corner of] Harrison and Putnam. Mr. Benjamin operated the store along with his other interests of barging pottery down the river to New Orleans. Old timers will recall the store's delivery wagon with the big goose painted on the side. Next to the store was Clark Wilbur's little shack on wheels in which he made and sold clay pipes for two cents each." The store was named for the stream which runs under Harrison Street to the river.

The crock on display is not notable for its artistic merit, the decoration is stenciled, not applied free hand, but Benjamin crocks marked "Zanesville" are not common and the large size definitely sets it apart. The crock will only be on display through the end of the year. Our museums will close for the season at the end of September but we will be open Saturdays in December from 1:00-4:00. Check our website for information on December hours or call the office at 740 454-9500.

Some information for this article came from Jeff Carskadden and Richard Gartley's excellent book *James L. Murphy's Checklist of 19th-Century Bluebird Potters and Potteries in Muskingum County, Ohio*.



## DRESDEN NEWS

### Clippings from Aunt Mag's Scrapbook

*From back when weddings were treated as news*

#### YOUNG PEOPLE MARRY

The Bride's Mother Goes After the  
Necessary Document

Charles Richard Lacey, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lacey, of Cass township, and Miss Mina Gilmore, of Dresden, were married Thursday afternoon in Zanesville, at the parsonage of the German Evangelical church on South Seventh street, by the pastor, Rev. H. Kamphausen.

The mother of the bride gave her daughter's age as fifteen. When told a license could not be issued under sixteen she said she would have to give up the hope of getting the documents. She changed her mind, however, and swore that the young lady's age is sixteen, and the necessary paper was therefore issued.

[January 16, 1902]

**MARRIED**—J. Herbert Ogle and Miss Altha M. Hoy, Sunday afternoon, August 4<sup>th</sup>, by Rev. A.H. Ellis at the Ellis home on West Eighth street. Mr. and Mrs. Ogle have gone to housekeeping in apartments in the Shore property on Main street, adjoining the Ogle barber shop. The newly-weds were treated to a belling long and loud, Monday evening. The Knights of Pythias boys with their grind organ will add the finishing touch soon.

[1912]

William Dingman and Miss Rose Donaker were married last Monday afternoon in Zanesville by Justice of the Peace Griffiee. William has been stepping high ever since the momentous occasion.

[Sept 25, 1902]

#### Prominent Lady Married.

The marriage of Mrs. Eva C. Johns and A.L. Click was solemnized by Rev. A. M. Courtenay, of the Grace M.E. church, Zanesville, Wednesday evening at the church parsonage in that city.

The groom is a traveling salesman

for the American Tobacco company and makes his headquarters in Dresden, and the bride is one of the grocers of our town.

The Transcript and the entire community congratulates Mr. and Mrs. Click and wishes them much health, happiness and prosperity.

[April 12, 1911]

Mr. John W. Alloways, Sr., and Mrs. Margaret A. Akeroyd were united in marriage last evening by Rev. James Hickling. The groom being one of Dresden's oldest business men almost the entire business portion of the town turned out and gave the happy couple one of the old time bellings.

[Sept. 29, 1892]

There was a very pretty wedding at the home of Mrs. M.G. Farson Christmas eve. The bride was the beautiful and popular granddaughter of Mrs. Farson, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Love, and the groom was Mr. Thomas Taylor, of Columbus, but recently of Dresden, and more recently of Newnan, Ga. Miss Velma Love, the bride has for sometime been the very successful organist of the M.E. Church, and as one of our most popular young ladies she will be missed very much. The wedding ceremony was performed by Rev. Benj. A. Stubbins. The wedding march was played by Miss Katharine Burch while the bride and groom entered the parlor with their attendants and took their places beneath the mistletoe and laurel, when they were made one as husband and wife together after God's ordinance and the ritual of the Church.

[Dec. 24, 1902]





# FALL PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

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## SEPTEMBER 15<sup>th</sup>: Ohio Open Doors

According to Burt Logan, executive director and CEO of the Ohio History Connection, "Ohio Open Doors shares stories of important landmarks right in our backyard, highlighting the history and unique nature of some of Ohio's most treasured historic places." The Stone Academy and Dr. Increase Mathews House are two such sites and both will hold special Open House events on Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 to 4:00. Two other local landmarks, the Nelson Gant Homestead (11:00 – 2:00) and the Alvah Buckingham House (TBA), are also having Open Doors events that day.



**ZANESVILLE CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE:** September 24<sup>th</sup>, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, November 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm

Muskingum County History is honored to again host our local Civil War Roundtable at the **Stone Academy** on the fourth Monday of the month at 7:30 pm. CWR programs are open to the public free of charge.

**THE FRIENDS OF MUSKINGUM COUNTY HISTORY:** September 17<sup>th</sup> and October 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm at the Stone Academy

Membership in our museum auxiliary group is open to all. Anyone interested in local history is invited to attend. Meetings feature a program of historical interest, refreshments, and good conversation.

**THURBERVILLE: AUTHOR TALK AND BOOK SIGNING WITH BOB HUNTER,** Sunday October 21<sup>st</sup> at 2:00 pm at the John McIntire Library Auditorium

This program is about James Thurber; his wit, intelligence, and humor, his Columbus neighborhood, and the Zanesville girl who was the love of his life. A *Thurberville* Book Club is being formed for anyone interested in reading the book prior to the program. A limited number of reduced-priced books will be available to MCH members who would like to participate. Let us know if you are interested – [info@muskingumcountyhistory.org](mailto:info@muskingumcountyhistory.org) or (740-454-9500).

**HERE WE COME A-CAROLING:** Saturdays in December at the Stone Academy, 1-4 pm

We're planning a new format for our Storybook Christmas Open House. This year's event will feature the Stone Academy and the opening of the new Underground Railroad exhibit. More details will be announced in November.



## CHRISTMAS IS COMING – ARE YOU READY?

Even though our museums will close for the season at the end of September you will have a few more opportunities this year on Saturdays in December to visit the Stone Academy, see the new Underground Railroad exhibit and purchase Christmas gifts from our shop. Items suitable for gift-giving include:

**COMMUNITY MONTAGE:** An 18" x 24" print with drawings of Zanesville landmarks and people both past and present. The print looks great framed and matted or can be displayed as is. The usual price of the print is \$15 but as a mem-



ber benefit, members of MCH pay only \$10 with entire the amount going to support the work of the organization.

**CROCKS:** We have a limited number of crocks made by Buckeye Stoneware and decorated with drawings of the Stone Academy by either Leslie Cope or Vici Taylor. By the end of this year our stock of both crocks will likely be exhausted.



**MUSKINGUM JOURNAL:** We have 24 years of back issues of our semiyearly journal of the history of Muskingum County and Southeastern Ohio. Prices will be discounted so you will be able to put together a bundle of issues that address topics of interest to you or your recipient.



**BOOKS, MAPS AND DVDs:** We have a small selection of books related to Muskingum County including Norris Schneider's *Muskingum County Men and Women in World War II* (copies been donated to us to be sold, other copies are maintained in our archives), *My Home Zanesville and Muskingum County* and assorted booklets, Chuck Martin's *Veterans of War*, Tom Brown's one and one-quarter hour long DVD *Zanesville in the Great Flood of 1913*, reprints of the 1833 map of Muskingum County and many other titles.

**ARCHITECTURAL MATERIALS:** For the truly hard to shop for we have roof slates from the Stone Academy and Zanesville-made patterned sidewalk pavers.

Every gift that you purchase will bring enjoyment to the recipient and will help fund the preservation of the history of our community.

### MUSKINGUM COUNTY HISTORY

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