

Greater Milford Area Historical Society

NEWSLETTER

October-December 2016

President's Message – October 2016

Submitted by: Ken Waeber

It is the fall - the trees are losing their leaves, the weather is turning cooler, the days are becoming shorter - all signs that winter is approaching. It is also a time to think about our accomplishments for the past year and the things that we wanted to do, but 'didn't quite make it'.

For our accomplishments, I think of numerous repairs that we did on Promont: adding the 'little library' in front of the house, cutting down many trees that were dead or dying and removing many of the old stumps around the grounds, repairing the veranda floor, updating the fire alarm system, incorporating the beautiful corner cabinet given to the Society by Jim Rogers, attaching the lattice work that had been falling down on the front porch and veranda, painting the old metal furniture on the veranda, etc. The list goes on.

Art Affaire was a great success this year. We had more vendors, great entertainment, a poster contest, great leadership and super volunteers, a beautiful day (not under our control, but we are thankful for the blessing). Not sure about the proceeds, but we expect Art Affaire to be our biggest fundraiser of the year, as it has been in the recent past.

We had a great year sponsoring our formal teas that are held at Promont. There are a dedicated group of volunteers who run these teas, and if you haven't been to one, you should stop by sometime during one and see all the yummy food and the beautiful way the house is decorated. It's a treat.

We have also been fortunate to be able to be a venue for several weddings this year. The weddings are a good fundraiser, give us good visibility in the community, and best of all, provide a beautiful spot for a couple to 'tie the knot'. We had one large outdoor wedding a few weeks ago with the ceremony performed under the gazebo and a large tent used for the reception. The house and grounds were all spiffed up for the event and all of the wedding plans worked out great.

Finally, we have held several special events at Promont, to be used as membership drives. These included a beer tasting and a game night. More special events are planned. Increasing the membership is a high priority for the board of trustees both for financial and for volunteer help reasons. These events resulted in several new members. We are hoping for more, however, and we are refining these events to recruit even more members.

So, on the 'we missed it side', I would put a few things that are related to planning. GMAHS was very fortunate this year to be the benefactor to a financial donation given to us by Jim Rogers. Jim was a long-standing supporter of GMAHS and when he died this year, he gave a large portion of his inheritance to GMAHS. This is tremendous and we are very fortunate. On the negative side, we must now be good stewards of this money and think critically about how it should be spent. To do this, the board of trustees intends to do some strategic planning, to help us decide where best to spend the money. As often is the case, this year has felt like 'the important is the hostage of the immediate'. Hence not much effort was spent on strategic planning. We will do our best to focus our attention on our planning activities the

rest of this year and next and hopefully have more to report to you in the coming months. Also on the planning side is a goal to update our constitution and by-laws to show some evolution in how the society currently operates and to reflect changes to our mission and goals. The latter will be identified in our strategic planning meetings.

Overall it has been a good year, with some work left to do. That's OK. The year is not over.

When you get a chance, come up to Promont to see the house. It looks beautiful.

Thanks for your continued support.

Membership Matters

Submitted by: Virginia Rapp

The leaves are beginning to turn, the weather is cooling off, Art Affaire is behind us & it's time to start gearing up for the up-coming Holidays.

It looks like I missed a new member from the May timeframe. Please welcome, Carli Good – single, and our new members since July; Patricia Craft - single, Andrew & Rachelle Dickerson - Family, Roberta Hair – Patron Family, Mike and Sara Huseman – Patron Family, Shirley King – Patron Family, Lori Pegg – single, and John Seeck – Patron Single.

GMAHS has cleaned up the membership roster and have 141 current members. Some delinquent members were moved to an archive file for reference. November and December is renewal time for many members, please take this opportunity to review your membership and submit a renewal as soon as possible, and remember you can take advantage of the on-line options to pay dues and/or make donations using your credit card. Be sure to include your Name, Address, Telephone and E-Mail. Reminder letters will be going out in early November and December, help us save on postage.

The *Thirsty 4 History* event in July was a great success. My thanks to great volunteers,

and membership support, I couldn't have done it without you. We hosted over 100 people on a warm sunny afternoon enjoying good company, good food and good beer. Not sure all the above new members were a result of this event, but I'm sure some were. Thank You. All reports say "it was a fun event". Watch for the 2017 *Thirsty 4 History* date to be announced.

On November 12th, GMAHS will host another card playing night. Tables will be set up for Euchre, Bridge, Bid 500 and a special table for Domino Train. Of course you can play any other games, just bring them along. The most important thing to remember **this is a membership event. Bring a guest** you feel would enjoy being a member, enjoy great atmosphere, various activities, and of course a sense of community pride and self-satisfaction in helping preserve our local culture. Just knowing that you are making a difference and you're part of an on-going legacy.

February 2017 is a possible month for a Murder Mystery dinner party. Good inside activity for a chilly February evening.

Hope to see you at Promont soon.

Virginia Rapp

Please renew your membership for 2017 when you receive your notice. ***Membership Matters!***

CEMETERY WALK 10/30 1-3PM

All all-star cast s set for the Greenlawn Cemetery Walk Sunday, October 30, 2016 – Gary Knepp, Dr. Charles Dillard, James Houston, Sue Grone and Brian Wykoff.

Cost \$10 payable at event. Rain or shine. Wear your walking shoes and dress for the weather.

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE



See Promont in Holiday splendor on Sunday, December 18th 1 to 4PM. FREE admission. Light refreshments. Last chance to purchase Vintage Quilt raffle tickets - \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Drawing at 4PM on 12/18.

Volunteers

Submitted by: Marti Kleinfelter, Volunteer Coordinator

Art Affaire - Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers that helped to make Art Affaire a huge success. It takes many people to make this event come together. We had over 80 volunteers to help with this event. Some people worked before Art Affaire by getting sponsors, selling raffle tickets, staffing our community tent, filling all the spots on the streets with artists, putting up signs, promoting the event and filling swag bags. Many people also helped the day of the event by helping the artists set-up and take down their booths, direct traffic, answer questions and other duties as needed (including emptying trash cans and refilling toilet paper!) Of the 80 volunteers, half were members of the Greater Milford Area Historical Society and the others were community people such as Literacy Council of Clermont and Brown county, TruCraft Construction Company, Milford Mayor, Laurie Howland; students fulfilling service hours and friends of the committee. Art Affaire could not happen without our volunteers.

House Tours - Thank you all who have made it possible to keep Promont open for tours. Having three people in the House seems to make it easier for everyone.

During the holidays Promont will be open our usual hours with the addition of Friday Nov. 25th. This will be during Home Town Holidays in Milford. A request will be going out in the

near future for help during the holiday season. Even if you are not presently volunteering as a greeter, gift shop person or docent, please consider helping out. Stop by any day when Promont is open and see what the volunteers do.

On Sunday, December 18th, we will have our annual Holiday Open House from 1-4. This is usually a very busy day since there is no admission. We will have our Vintage Quilt Raffle at 4PM on that day. Tickets are available now in the Gift Shop.

Promont will be closed the months of January and February. **Starting March, 2017 the House will be open for tours on Friday and Sunday from 1-4.** This is a change from our present schedule. In order to promote Promont as a destination in Clermont County, we must have consistent hours. Also, it is difficult to change dates when the House will be closed. We have many teas on Saturdays and the teas are a great revenue source for the Society, so we will use Saturdays as our primary tea event day. After the first of the year, you will be contacted about selecting a day (Friday or Sunday) and the week that works best for you. (First, Second, Third, Fourth or Fifth Friday or Sunday.)

THANK YOU !!

CONNECT CLERMONT



For those of you receiving this newsletter electronically, please consider responding to this request. Clermont County is working with recreation providers to better understand what recreational opportunities residents of our county would like to see available to them. Please complete the brief survey at this link by Monday, October 31, 2016:
<http://www.egovlink.com/miamitownship/action.asp?actionid=18038>

GMAHS' participation in this survey will help keep awareness of historical sites and activities in Clermont County.

Tea Events

Submitted by: Mary Ann Benoski, Tea Coordinator

CONGRATULATIONS LADIES OF THE TEA COMMITTEE!!!! "AFTERNOON TEA AT PROMONT IS # 1" again on Teamap.com website

I actually learned of this move from third to first in the state of Ohio by the former number one - *D's Victorian*, in Bellbrook, Ohio. The owner, Darlene Ficke, has been a very good friend to Promont by booking three of her own parties with us in the last two years.

Fall and Winter Tea events:

We are having a good year even with all the traveling our committee has done and will do. We have two good sized events for October.

We will be starting Christmas decorating during the first and second week of November and should be completed by Nov. 16th. Our first Tea is Nov. 17th.

December Tea dates are all filled: "Progress Club of Milford" will start our season off on December 1st, then four more full house events, ending with Dec. 14th for the "Eastside Welcomers", another group that has supported us in the past.

Thanks again to the Williamsburg Garden Club for allowing us to serve them for their 80th Anniversary party. It was our honor to be a part of such a milestone.

Clermont Sun 11/31/16

Garden club celebrates 80th anniversary

Twenty-three members and friends of the Williamsburg Garden Club recently celebrated the Club's 80th Anniversary at the historic Promont House in Milford.

The afternoon included a program "The Garden Club in Pictures," created by member Kristin Kissinger, a four-course tea and concluded with a guided tour of Promont. A wonderful afternoon by enjoyed by all who attended.

The Club belongs to Region 4 of the Ohio Association of Garden Clubs. New members are welcome. For additional information, call 513-734-7676, visit the Club on the web at www.williamsburg-garden-club.org or like the Club on Facebook.



Partnership With Heritage Village

Our first partnership event with Heritage Village, the "Singular Focus" art show was very successful for a first venture. We are looking forward to working with Heritage Village next summer on a still to be determined event to be held in Milford/Miami Township in 2017.

Invitation to Rookwood Pottery's Holiday Open House

Our Holiday Open House is scheduled for Friday November 18th and Saturday November 19th. On Friday we release new seasonal items. On Saturday we have a gas kiln opening which could yield some striking glaze effects. We will also have 3 tours each day.

Schedule of Events October – December 2016

| Date & Time | Event | Details |
|--|--|---|
| October 2016 | | |
| Month of October | House Tours | Tours 1-4PM Sat & Sun <i>unless</i> Private Event scheduled for that day. Last tour begins at 3 |
| October 4, 6:30PM | History Readers at Promont | “The Heretic’s Daughter” by Kathleen Kent |
| October 6, 6:30 dinner 7pm meeting/speaker | GMAHS Membership meeting Sibcy Cline Office/Mulberry Square | Clermont County Convention and Visitors Bureau will discuss events in Clermont County |
| October 12, 6:30PM | GMAHS Board of Trustees Meeting | Promont |
| October 26, 7pm | <i>GMAHS Collectors’ Club</i> | Firefighting Collectibles |
| October 30, 1-3 | Greenlawn Cemetery Walk | \$10, all-star cast of historians |
| November 2016 | | |
| Month of November | House Tours | Tours 1-4PM Sat & Sun <i>unless</i> Private Event scheduled for that day. Last tour begins at 3 |
| November 1, 6:30PM | History Readers | “The Redbird Christmas” by Fanny Flagg |
| November 3, 6:30 dinner 7pm meeting/speaker | GMAHS Membership meeting Sibcy Cline Office/Mulberry Square | Millie Henley, Historical Connections “Broken Country, Broken Families, Broken Hearts: Divided Families of the Civil War” |
| November 9, 6:30PM | GMAHS Board of Trustees Meeting | Promont |
| November 12, 6:30PM | <i>Memembership Matters</i> Card Party Night | Bring a non-member to Promont as your guest and invite them to join GMAHS! |
| November 25, 1 – 4 PM | Thanksgiving weekend | Special House Tour hours available |
| December 2016 | | |
| Month of December | House Tours | Tours 1-4PM Sat & Sun <i>unless</i> Private Event scheduled for that day. Last tour begins at 3 |
| December 1, 6:30PM Holiday Party | GMAHS Membership meeting | Special evening planned at Sibcy Cline location! Christmas reading of “A Christmas Memory” by Truman Capote. Read by Jennifer Hostetler |
| December 6, 6:30PM | History Readers | “The Children’s Blizzard” by David Laskins |
| December 14, 6:30PM | GMAHS Board of Trustees meeting | Promont |
| December 18, 1-4PM | Holiday Open House | FREE admission, beautiful decorations, vintage quilt drawing |
| December 24 and 25 | Christmas | Promont CLOSED |
| December 31 and January 1 | New Year’s Eve/Day | Promont CLOSED |

Mark your 2017 calendar:

 **Sweetheart Tea**
February, 11, 2017 1-3PM

Murder Mystery Dinner (T) February 25, 2017 6:30PM. This event will be by invitation only

