

# HISTORY MATTERS

Summer Issue 2016

Making *History* Come Alive!

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## SOCIETY MEETINGS



### **Wednesday, August 17 at 7:00 p.m.**

The next Logan County Historical Society membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 17th at 7:00 pm. We will be watching a film taken of various places and events in Bellefontaine during the late 1930s. In conjunction with ComStor we had the film digitized so it will be safe to watch the movie without further damaging the nearly 80 year-old film. It should be a fun "home video" to watch. We will meet in the AcuSport Room on the 2nd floor of the Transportation Museum. Light refreshments will be served. NOTE: THIS TOPIC WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR THE APRIL SOCIETY MEETING BUT WE DID NOT RECEIVE THE DVD OF THE MOVIE IN TIME.

### **Wednesday, October 19 at 7:00 p.m.**

The October Society meeting will feature Bellefontaine native John W. Guy talking about his book *Into the Ditch*. The book is about Mr. Guy's time working in labor relations at the Chevrolet plant in Flint, Michigan during the 1960s and the interaction and conflict between management and the UAW. Mr. Guy will also discuss his time growing up in Bellefontaine, including his memories of his uncle Clarence Wissler. The meeting will be at 7:00 pm in the AcuSport Room of the Transportation Museum.



**Public Welcome!**

**All society meetings are free and open to the public.**

***America's Oldest Concrete Street - The 125th Anniversary was recently celebrated. See inside for photos and stories.***

LCHC  
LOGAN COUNTY  
HISTORY  
CENTER

# LCHC

## LOGAN COUNTY HISTORY CENTER

**Logan County History Center Includes:**

- The Orr Mansion
- The Logan County Museum
- The Transportation Museum
- Logan County Historical Society
- AcuSport Meeting Room
- Presidents' Meeting Room

### HISTORY CENTER HOURS

Wednesday through Sunday  
1:00-4:00 p.m.  
ADMISSION BY DONATION

## CURATOR/DIRECTOR

**K. Todd McCormick**

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dan Bratka	President
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Nadine Tussing	Trustee (2017)
G. Bruce Norris	Trustee (2018)
Brian Harmon	Trustee (2018)
Jim DeLong	Trustee (2018)

### SOCIETY'S OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Friday 8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

### LOGAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

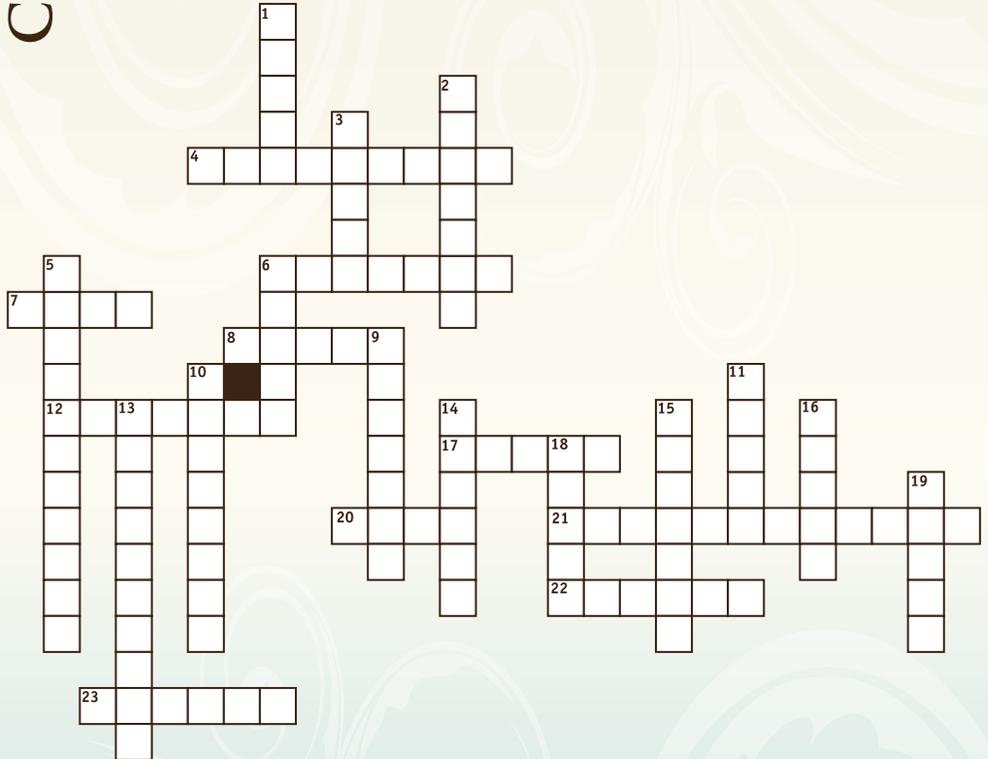
521 E Columbus Ave.  
Bellefontaine, OH 43311-2401  
937-593-7557  
historycenter@loganhistory.org  
tmccormick@loganhistory.org  
www.loganhistory.org

## CURATOR'S CORNER



Todd McCormick

In lieu of my regular Curator's Corner I thought I would reprint this Famous Logan Countians crossword puzzle that we created a number of years ago. If you can't figure out one of the clues, come visit the Logan County History Center and check out the Famous Logan Countians exhibit, where you should find all the answers.



### Across

4. economist scribe
6. "Spanish Dancing Girls" creator
7. a.k.a. White Eagle
8. investment genius
12. "Abe Martin" creator
17. Women's baseballer DesCombes' nickname
20. Blind Man Eloquent
21. airplane engine maker
22. Pulitzer Prize nominee
23. gauntlet survivor

### Down

1. She was a clever doctor
2. an Indian princess
3. singing siblings
5. concrete king
6. the consummate politician in good weather or bad
9. He's only a little confused
10. Helped found American Red Cross
11. liniment maker, library builder
13. a.k.a. Weh-yah-pih-ehr-sehn-wah
14. baseball hall of famer
15. aircraft designer
16. trading post entrepreneur
18. Wyandot principal chief
19. a positive thinker

## VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

### Monthly \$20 Gift Certificate Drawing

<b>March Winner:</b>	<b>Janet Blank</b>
<b>April Winner:</b>	<b>Bob Mitchell</b>
<b>May Winner:</b>	<b>Marty Marine</b>



*Save the Date!*

# Halloween KIDFEST

**Saturday, October 22nd from 1:00-4:00**

**For kids ages 4-12**

**MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT**

**ADMISSION is 1 non-perishable food item per person for local foodbanks**

**at the Logan County History Center**

521 E Columbus Ave., Bellefontaine

**Enjoy: \*Spooky Museum Trick-or-Treat  
\* Lots of Games & Activities**

**PLUS- Kids' Costume Contest for 4-12 year olds at 3:00  
Categories: Scariest, Cutest, Most Original, Best Overall**

## LEAVE YOUR LEGACY

It is never too early to plan ahead and to consider your gift to the Logan County History Center. Whether you think of yourself as rich or poor, or somewhere in between, your gift can make a difference. Even a small amount can have a big impact over time.

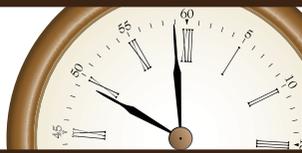
Consider a planned gift for the Logan County History Center if you want to:

- ☛ Celebrate Logan County's heritage
- ☛ Provide ongoing support after your lifetime
- ☛ Reduce your estate taxes
- ☛ Feel positive about the impact you have on your community's history

Planned gifts come in all shapes and sizes. Some of the most common legacy options include a bequest in your will or trust, gifts of securities such as stocks, and gifts through life insurance, IRA designation or charitable remainder trusts. You can leave money to both your family and to your favorite charity. You do not have to choose between one or the other. You can do both, plus charitable gifts may actually save your family money by decreasing inheritance taxes.

If you would like to preserve a part of your life forever by sharing with the entire community, please consider donating. If you have any questions please contact Todd at (937) 593-7557 or email at [tmccormick@loganhistory.org](mailto:tmccormick@loganhistory.org).

# 2016



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### JULY

NO Building Committee Meeting

**11-16** Logan County Fair- Visit us at our booth!

**14** Thu Trustee Meeting 7:00 p.m.

### AUGUST

**06** Sat Building Committee Meeting 8:30 a.m.

**17** Wed Society Meeting- 1930s Bellefontaine Movie 7:00 p.m.

### SEPTEMBER

**3** Sat Building Committee Meeting 8:30 a.m.

**8** Thu Trustee Meeting 7:00 p.m.

### OCTOBER

**01** Sat Building Committee Meeting 8:30 a.m.

**19** Wed Society Meeting, *Into The Ditch* by John Guy 7:00 p.m.

**17-23** MUSEUM CLOSED for decorating and KidFest

**22** Sat Halloween KidFest 1:00-4:00 p.m.

### NOVEMBER

**05** Sat Building & Christmas Committees Tree Setup 8:30 a.m.

**10** Thu Trustee Meeting 7:00 p.m.

### DECEMBER

NO Building Committee Meeting

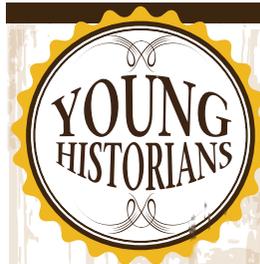
**3&4 and**

**10&11** Christmas at the History Center Open House 1-5:00

**07** Wed Society Christmas Carry-In Dinner Meeting 6:00 p.m.

**Dec 22-**

**Jan 1-** CLOSED-History Center & Society Office-CLOSED

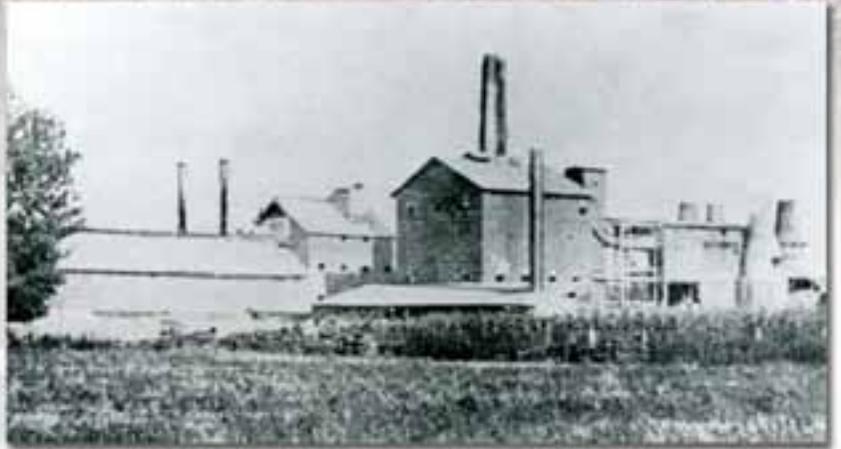


The Young Historians completed the 2015-2016 school year with a pizza party on May 24th. This year the Young Historians learned about immigration by packing their covered wagon for a trip from Virginia to their new home in Logan County. Beth Marshall, LCHS archivist/asst. curator told them stories her ancestor's told her about what it was like for them to emigrate from Hungary to the U.S. The Young Historians then experienced their own "trip" from the old country to America.

It was another fun year for us. The Young Historians will be starting up again this fall. The schedule and theme will be in the next *History Matters* newsletter. The Young Historians is open to children 1st grade on up. If you have any questions please call Todd at 593-7557 or email at [tmccormick@loganhistory.org](mailto:tmccormick@loganhistory.org).



Early Main Street, Bellefontaine pre-concrete cobble street.



Buckeye Cement Plant, 1941.



America's Oldest Concrete Street, a road traveled.



Repairing the concrete on East Columbus Street about 1909. Note the early auto parked beside the Court House.

# THE STREET IN AMERICA

AMERICA'S OLDEST CONCRETE STREET



125th Anniversary



Marl City Cement Plant storage silos near Bellefontaine, the source of cement used in making America's First Concrete Street.

2016 marks the 125th anniversary of George Bartholomew's innovative contribution to the world of transportation – concrete pavement. In 1891 Bartholomew made a deal with the Bellefontaine City Council to pave a test section on Main Street with his formula of concrete, made in Logan County at the Buckeye Portland Cement Company in Marl City near Rushsylvania, which he guaranteed would hold up to the horse & wagon traffic of downtown Bellefontaine. By 1893 council members were convinced, and along with the business owners and the county commissioners, contracted to have the streets around the Courthouse paved with Bartholomew's concrete. Court Avenue remains the oldest concrete street in America, with around 60% of the street still paved in Bartholomew's original concrete.

On April 25th the Logan County History Center was honored to be one of the stops for a consortium of representatives in the concrete industry during the group's visit to Bellefontaine to see Court Avenue and tour the LCHC Transportation Museum. More than fifty members traveled on bus and by car from a national concrete convention in Columbus to Bellefontaine to see first-hand Logan County's vital role in transportation history and the history of concrete.

Several members came to LCHC Archives prior to the celebration to research Mr. Bartholomew, the Buckeye Portland Cement Co. and Court Avenue. The archives proved to be a wealth of resources for them. The staff and volunteers in archives were a great help to the researchers. Don Corwin, who volunteers in the archives and is the pre-eminent local historian on Marl City, was an especially important resource to the researchers. In addition to helping with their research Don also started to reorganize all of our "Oldest Concrete Street" and Marl City information in the archives to make it easier for future researchers. Thanks Don!



Court Avenue, Oldest Concrete Street. Photo ca 1954 courtesy of Portland Cement Association.

# OLDEST CONCRETE STREET STORIES IN THE NEWS

# The Builders Exchange

of Columbus

THE STORY OF AMERICA'S OLDEST CONCRETE STREET

SPRINGFIELD NEWS-SUN, SPRINGFIELD, OHIO.  
SUNDAY, JUNE 1, 1941.

## SPRINGFIELDER HELPED IN LAYING CONCRETE PAVEMENT IN BELLEFONTAINE IN 1891

BELLEFONTAINE, O.—What grew into Bellefontaine, Ohio, was in the first concrete pavement laid in America, for which a Golden Jubilee will be held here by the Junior Chamber of Commerce, June 15.

This was the revelation here today of Charles H. Fisher, civil engineer and surveyor of Springfield, O., who as a lad of 17 worked on Bellefontaine's pavement 20 years ago as extra on the force of City Engineer Wilbur Allen Glass. Mr. Fisher revealed conditions that gave rise to its construction.

Crucial of great were saved from destruction, the gully came in a back and ate up the residence of gun-boppers, threatening the lives of the struggling Norman settlement, and this paved here before the Logan County Courthouse square 20 years ago, as that they stopped deep holes in the street—deep mud holes.

If it hadn't been for these mud holes, George Bartholomew, cement manufacturer and father of the first concrete pavement, would not have had the accident of a street he witnessed, comparing it to one he witnessed in Philadelphia, where he saw the actual pavement of that city marked with deep mud pits of holes. He had seen Bellefontaine a few days before with necessity of holes standing half way to their knees in mud holes.

Bartholomew returned to Bellefontaine equipped with the ingredients of a concrete street, in which holes could neither be seen nor felt. Mr. Fisher said he believed Bartholomew donated the cement with which the first two half blocks of pavement were laid, on the west side of Main street, and added that it was constructed "by means of mud on which had been the mud-pit."

"The old mud and gravel," Mr. Fisher explained, "became a series of holes when the holes passed, and stopped while fighting them would there were plenty of them to fight. And the slab was constructed on the effect in exactly this had condition."

"It proved so satisfactory that it was suggested that the streets surrounding the courthouse be paved with concrete. I do not know who first made the suggestion. I believe Wilbur Allen Glass was city engineer when the first two half blocks were laid. But Mr. Bartholomew, who came to Bellefontaine and established the cement factory at Hart City, five miles northeast of Bellefontaine was very much interested in the coming cement business and doubtless had as much to do with the proposition of it as anyone."

"As a boy of just 17 I was taken on the force of Mr. Glass as an extra in August 1891 but do not remember of working on the first two half blocks constructed. I have a very clear recollection of seeing the continuous mud holes for taking the aggregate in operation on Court st. just north of Columbus st., opposite Dr. Wilcox's office, and in a very few days the continuous mud holes were filled out of operation, as not mixing out of application, along thoroughly."

"The aggregate was all tan gravel and most have been carefully selected but not washed. Something must have been good, for the pavement lasted fifty years and is still good. At the time it was thought best to use just enough water so that when the concrete was well tamped, the water would come out on the surface."

"I believe W. T. C. Snyder (Alphabet Snyder as he called him) was the contractor in charge. He had been building sidewalks and the pavement was in his job."

"The pavement was made in two courses, as the top finish was put on with rubber mauls and finished. Then in place a footpath for horse shoes they ran a roughcast iron roller over the pavement as soon as troweled and put on the joints or striations which are still prominent and visible near the side of the street where the traffic has not worn them smooth."

"As I recollect it James C. Woodcock, county engineer, had charge of the construction of Columbus square and Main street. I hear this on the fact that I transmitted my association with Glass in November 1891 and began street work with Mr. Woodcock, and continued in his employ until January 1894. And I have a distinct recollection of carrying the level and down into the deep street trench on Columbus street which was in gravel, and dangerous. These streets were put in prior to the pavement construction."

"Mr. Bartholomew, a very likable New Englander, came to Bellefontaine and lived in the house at the southeast corner of E. Columbus st. and Main street. He had just headed from Rich Creek Lake and placed in his woodshed along the sidewalk and I remember at the time what they were doing with that gray mud filled with shells. He did his experimenting and made his tests and they established the Buckeye Portland Cement plant. I know him well and he offered me employment at the plant."

"He issued an advertising booklet to promote the use of cement. I remember it showed pictures of cement work done by Warren C. Glass, assistant, at Woodbury in Champlain County, Vermont constructed the iron cement figures, the statue and the obelisk standing in front of Memorial Hall at Bellefontaine. Both I believe in 1893. I believe I am correct in stating that the model for the obelisk was Tom' Chabon, son of Warren C. Glass, who now lives in Woodbury, Ohio."

"I recall working for James Woodcock, county engineer, some years for the construction of Pennsylvania street which was in use last about which runs under Memorial Hall. Governor McKinney was present at the dedication of Memorial Hall."

"The first concrete pavement was constructed in blocks five feet square with transverse and longitudinal joints."

"Steel bars or rebar and supports followed these longitudinal joints and set deep into the pavement making it dangerous if the wheels got over in the rut. In 1912 when I was acting city engineer in the presence of Clair J. Lewis, city engineer, we removed city engineers, we removed these rebar to end the

edges of the rut square and 6000 to paving brick and gravel over it. Since steel bars have been superadded by rubber tires are on 20/8."

"I have seen slabs of this pavement taken up when the traction line was constructed in 1906 and the slabs were taken over a lot of frost and broken with rickles and the fracture would show the joints broken clean and the mortar holding fast. The cement must have been good, and the joints clean."

"This proof of cement quality may not be of much value but I am glad to give what I can. It may be of interest to know that the concrete work around the court house was constructed about 1907-1908 with James C. Woodcock, county engineer. Harry K. Deily of Bellefontaine who is now with the State Highway Department at Athens, Ohio was Mr. Woodcock's assistant on the work."

## Fair Management Objected To Weight

TWO BLOCKS OF BELLEFONTAINE'S CEMENT PAVEMENT WERE EXHIBITED IN CHICAGO IN 1893.

Two blocks of the Bellefontaine cement pavement were taken up, with consent of the Council and on suggestion of W. M. Stamata, and sent to the Columbian World's Fair in Chicago in 1893.

Mr. Stamata, who recalls many interesting items concerning the street, built while he resided in Bellefontaine, states that the Fair management was furious at the weight of the exhibit sent them. They vowed it should have gone into Lake Michigan, where Mr. Stamata says, it actually did go, after the Fair was over.

But at the World's Fair, domestic cement from the Buckeye plant at Bellefontaine, made history. In competition with concrete made of cements from great foreign companies, the Buckeye product proved it had the strongest tensile strength and superior wearing quality. The blue ribbon, the World's Fair first prize, was brought back to Bellefontaine.

Little brickettes shaped like a figure eight but wider in the middle, were carried by Mr. Stamata to Chicago for these tests. The blocks of the pavement were for exhibition only. For years Mr. Stamata kept a square heavy grip designed for that purpose. Full of those prize brickettes. They are all gone now, but Mr. Stamata still uses the grip to hold silverware.

The oldest concrete street in America is Court Avenue in Bellefontaine, Ohio. It was built in 1893 as part of a program in which the four streets around the Logan County Court House were paved with concrete—the first concrete streets in America.

Two years earlier, in 1891, a strip on the west side of Main Street 2 ft. wide had been built and proved remarkably successful. Blocks from it were removed in 1893 and were exhibited at the Chicago World's Fair. Also in 1893 business men who owned stores fronting on the streets around the court house petitioned to have the entire four blocks paved. The paving of Court and Opera streets was completed that same year. In 1894 Columbus Avenue and the remainder of Main Street were paved.

In 1891 a golden anniversary celebration was staged in Bellefontaine and a monument to the builders of the old streets was erected on the court house lawn. Cement used in making the concrete for the old pavement was produced by the Buckeye Cement Company which was established in 1887 by George Bartholomew. The plant was located at Hart City, about 5 miles northeast of Bellefontaine. A native marl was pulverized and blended by a wet process and burned into a clinker which was then finely ground. Round flint stones imported from Ireland were used both to pulverize the raw material and to grind the final product.

The paving project of 1891 was done by the city street commissioner under Mr. Bartholomew's direction. Paving of Court and Opera streets in 1893 was contracted by the cement company. A contract for the 1894 paving was awarded to William T. S. Snyder, a Bellefontaine road builder who then became America's first concrete paving contractor. In that day the material was called "artificial stone" since the term "concrete" had not come into use.

In building the old pavements, sand, gravel and cement were hauled by teams and wagons and dumped in piles at the site. Materials were mixed by hand on a 20x20-ft. platform and shoveled into forms 3 ft. square. Concrete was given a thorough tamping. The surface was then scored to give better footing for horses. Many of the scorings on Court Avenue are still visible.

Tests and samples from the old pavement show that remarkable durability was achieved. Much of the concrete tests at a breaking strength of around 8,000 psi. Also, it contains billions of minute air bubbles, thought to have been introduced as the cement was ground. It was not known then, as was learned some 25 years later, that air-entrainment protects concrete from surface scale resulting from alternate freezing and thawing.

Practically all of the deterioration of the old pavement has been due to settlement of the underlying gravel or to breakups at joints. Main Street, on the west side of the Court House, was covered with a bituminous surface about 1925. The old pavements on Columbus Avenue and Opera Street remained in service until 1950 when they were resurfaced after a broken water main caused them to be undermined.

Court Avenue which is still in service, is to be restored to first class condition prior to a celebration scheduled for August 24 and 25, 1963.

Concrete Street basic history-The Cincinnati Constructor



Oldest Concrete Street along back side of Court House, 1941.

Oldest Concrete Street article in Springfield News-Sun, 1941.

Newspaper article about the Oldest Concrete Street exhibit at the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago.

*Thank You*

We would like to thank the Task Force on Preservation of Historic Concrete Pavement Artifacts for its very generous donation of \$500 to the Logan County Historical Society. It was an honor to host the group as part of its celebration of the 125th anniversary of the Oldest Concrete Street.

March 15, 2016



May 31, 2016

**Don & Susan Corwin**

wood plane, army items, Corwin's Shell Service receipt book, Buckeye Local School Varsity Letter, political buttons, Rushcreek Twp Fire & Squad artifacts, paintings by local artist Faye Rarick

**Ruth Fawcett Estate**

Huber's Men's Wear hanger

**Beth Marshall**

First Presbyterian Church, Bellefontaine commemorative plate, glass spoon bowl

**George & Diana Wackerman**

Ice crusher tool, Better Homes & Gardens "Barbeque Book" magazine, 1956

**Hubbard Family**

Kin Hubbard books, scrapbooks, letters, photographs, Tom Hubbard hat

**Marsha King Carter**

Local one-room school programs

**Shawndel Wilson**

Air Force stationary, documents from the Blinn Electric of Bellefontaine

**Peg Riley**

Cloth measurer used at the old JC Penney in Bellefontaine

**Linda Postmus**

paintings by artist Elizabeth M. Longfellow who was originally from Bellefontaine

**Pat Allen**

Lakeview Volunteer Fire Chief Badges of Carroll Allen

**Jean Leininger**

Government books

**Tabor L. Tullis**

Sam Dowell BHS diploma, football photos, Sam Dowell champion cyclist photos, Logan County postcards, Marriage Certificate, Indian Lake aerial map

**Lloyd Corwin**

taxidermy Muskie fish

**Willis Brown**

Telephone company test equipment

**Peggy Barlup**

School slate board used by her father Harry Tully

**Leanna George**

Buckeye Girls' State booklets

**Everett Culp**

post-WWI airplane wheels

**William Woodruff**

WWII books belonging to Albert & Harold Keller of Bellefontaine. American Legion hat of Harold.

**Genita Patrick**

Bennett & Bramble (B & B) Shoe Store of Bellefontaine advertisement

**Jack Carle**

Photo of Miss Bellefontaine Elizabeth Gregg at beauty pageant at Indian Lake. Gregg became Miss Ohio.

**National Concrete Consortium**

T-Shirt "Oldest Concrete Street in America April 25, 2016 Bellefontaine, Ohio

**Bill McCormick**

Kodak Pocket Instamatic 30 camera.

**The Fortnightly Music Club**

Club minutes, programs & scrapbook

**Florence A. Macaluso**

1985 Bellefontaine City Directory

**John W. Guy**

Book Into the Ditch: A '60s Portent of the U.S. Auto Industry Demise written by author

**Dave Keller**

Photo of Belle Center fire truck "Fire King"

**Mary Cost**

Indian projectile points and other stone tools

**Ken Lego**

The DIVCO News magazine with article by the donor about dairy delivery trucks in Bellefontaine using photos from LCHC photo archives

**Rose Huber Haning**

Photograph of the Bellefontaine Chapter of the D.A.R.

**Pat & Dick Ortl**

Star Adding Machine

**Lucile Lusby**

McGuffey Readers, "Tis the Last Sad Farewell" sheet music written by Madison Bullard & Edouard Hesselberg both of Bellefontaine

**Loans**

*We would like to thank all of the individuals and all the local safety service departments who loaned artifacts and vehicles for the Salute to Safety Service open house and exhibits.*



**NEW MEMBERS  
April 2016 - June 2016**

**BELLEFONTAINE**  
Kathryn & Timothy Sherer

**RICHMOND HILL, GA**  
Candace Mitchem

**RUSSELLS POINT**  
Wayne Stevenson

**LOGAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY WELCOMES YOU!**

ALL MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE JANUARY 1ST!  
NEW MEMBER \_\_\_\_\_ RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_

**DUES:**  
Family - \$30  
Business - \$50  
Senior & Student - \$15  
Individual - \$20  
Individual Lifetime - \$300



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**I can help with (check as many as apply):**

- Adult Tours docent
- Student Tours docent
- Reg. Open Hours tours docent
- Young Historians Club assistant
- Open House docent/volunteer
- Fair Booth
- Halloween KidFest
- Christmas decorating of museum
- Christmas Open House docent/volunteer
- Building Committee volunteer
- Gift Shop Committee volunteer
- Programs Committee volunteer
- Newsletter Committee volunteer
- Docent Committee volunteer
- Photography volunteer
- Fundraising Committee volunteer
- Other, explain \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTICE:**  
You can pay your dues on our website at [www.loganhistory.org](http://www.loganhistory.org) using either PayPal or your credit card.

**PLEASE SEND YOUR DUES AND/OR DONATIONS TO:**  
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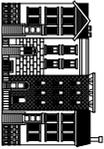
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Kim Kress

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# LCHC

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED