

Medina County Historical Society



John Smart House

206 N. Elmwood Medina Ohio 44256
 www.medinacountyhistoricalsociety.com
 mchs@zoominternet.net
 Established 1922



McDowell-Phillips House

2022 has started on brighter notes than the last several years. Our 100th anniversary programs highlighting subjects such as the Underground Railroad, Black History, and Transportation have been well attended. Board member Roger Smalley did an excellent job putting the programs together. We have several more programs planned for the year so watch your email and Facebook for details. Carole Feron has put interesting subjects out each week on email, Facebook and our website to highlight special events and people.

We just received the McKinley parade banner back from restoration. It is now framed and will be on display at the McDowell-Phillips house along with the Lincoln -Wide Awakes parade banner. Both of these treasures are rare and very special artifacts you must see.

John Smart House: Our first open house on March 6th had many visitors and several came from far away as a chance to see the area and enjoy a respite from cabin fever. Our next open house is Sunday April 3 from 1-4. We have a work day planned for Sat May 14th to clean up the yard, mulch and tackle other yardwork starting at 8:45 AM.

The McDowell-Phillips House: Work continues on woodwork and re-setting the museum rooms to improve flow and continuity of subjects. Outside we had some minor ice damage that will be repaired once warmer weather arrives. Unfortunately, after careful review by experienced carpenters, the larger barn is found to be beyond repair. It is a better use of funds to take it down and build a new barn for small gatherings and displays. We plan to work on the rear yard grade and driveway improvements soon, so it is likely the rear of the property will be under construction most of the spring/summer. We have applied for a grant from the state and hopefully it will help defray the capital expenses.

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2022 Officers	Board Members	Emeritus Members
Brian Feron-President	Mary Jo Palmer, Lila Lehrer	Joann King, Tom Hilberg
Mike Davanzo-Secretary	Pieri Levandofsky	Richard Clark
Carole Feron-Treasurer	Judy Davanzo, Roger Smalley	
	Mary Jane Brewer, Andrea Spickler	
	Chet Simmons, Beth Biggins-Ramer	

**P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E A N D
C A L E N D A R O F E V E N T S**

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We will have both museums open for the Dandelion Tour on Sunday May 22 from noon-5 pm.

The collection committee was busy all winter going through nearly 400 books found in the McDowell-Phillips house attic. Many volumes belonged to H.G. Blake (He wrote his name in every book he owned). The team carefully cleaned and cataloged the books we will keep. Other books and magazines will likely be sold at a future date at our yard sale or a special event.

Thanks to all who renewed their membership. We had nearly 90% of our members renew plus some included additional funds for museum operations. This is a significant source to keep the doors open. The Medina County Commissioners allocated \$20,000 this year - that represents about 40% of our budget. We definitely appreciate their support.

As always, if you have a special talent to share or just want to help, there are many projects and tasks that can use an extra hand. Just leave a message at 330-722-1341 or email mchs@zoominternet.net.

--Brian Feron, President

April 3, 2022	Sun	JSH Open House	JSH	1-4 PM
April 6, 2022	Wed	MCHS Board Meeting	JSH	7:00 PM
April 23, 2022	Sat	Historical Speaker Event	Medina Library	1:00 PM
May 2, 2022	Monday	Historical Speaker Program	Medina Library	6:30 PM
May 4, 2022	Wed	MCHS Board Meeting	JSH	7:00 PM
May 14, 2022	Sat	Work day at JSH	JSH/MPH	9-Noon
May 22, 2021	Sun	Dandelion Tour	MPH & JSH	Noon-5 PM
June 1, 2022	Wed	MCHS Board Meeting	JSH	7:00PM
June 5, 2022	Sun	Open House	JSH	1-4PM
June 13, 2022	Mon	Membership meeting-Birthday Party & Entertainment (Rain Date: Tuesday June 14)	MPH	7-8 PM
June 19, 2022	Sun	Open House	MPH	1-4PM

U P C O M I N G P R O G R A M S

Save the Date!

In celebration of our 100th birthday, a special Tea event will be held at the McDowell-Phillips House Museum. The program will feature the life of Cora Munson who donated her home as the first home for the Society. A tour of the Munson house, which is next door to the McDowell-Phillips House, will also be included. Saturday, August 6th, doors open at 11:30am. \$35 for members, \$40 for non-members. Seating is limited! Email registration details will be sent to membership May 1st. For those who do not have email, call Judy Davanzo at 330-592-0061 starting this date for reservations & any other info.

Save the Date!

Sssshh....it's a Speakeasy at the "**Phoenix Club**"!

In celebration of our 100th birthday, mark your calendars for Saturday, October 1st!
More info to come!!

Speaker's programs at Medina County District Library, Community Rooms A & B, 210 S. Broadway, Medina.

April 23rd, 2022, 1pm, "The History of Medina County Historical Society"

As the Medina County Historical Society celebrates our 100th year, come and learn about the early days of the Medina County Historical Society ; as it began, floundered, and finally found a firm foundation in the county. A slide presentation by Tom Hilberg will talk about the early challenges and the search for a permanent home. Joann King will relate tales of her days at the Munson House, early events, school tours and the big move to the John Smart House. The public is welcome. Admission is free! We will be following Covid rules.

Monday May 2nd, 6:30pm - " Underground Railroad in Medina County" Encore Presentation!

Roger Smalley will present an encore performance of this program due to the overwhelming response to the first presentation. It is about the stations on the Underground Railroad in Medina County as well as the role of Abolitionists and the African American population. The public is welcome. Admission is free! We will be following Covid rules.

Monday June 13, 7pm - MCHS 100th Birthday Celebration

We will have cake & ice cream to celebrate the Society's 100th Birthday! This will be held at the McDowell-Phillips House museum on the front yard. This is a members only event!

Follow us at:

www.MedinaCountyHistoricalSociety.com

or on Facebook

VICTORIAN FEAST

For almost 40 of our 100 years in existence, the Historical Society has raffled off the opportunity to win an elegant dinner with friends at the historic John Smart House. This year was no exception.

Three lucky winners were seated with guests at tables for four on the evening of February 19th for a five-course dinner prepared by Chef Richard Clark and his number one assistant, Susan McKiernan. Following a tour of the museum led by retired curator Tom Hilberg and Society President Brian Feron, guests were seated in three different rooms.

Trustee Mary Jo Palmer had prepared the tables with lovely linens, silverware, a lighted candle, fresh flowers, and antique china and crystal to set the mood for the feast.

Tomato bisque was followed by a salad with dried cherries, walnuts, and maple dressing. Guests then had the opportunity to cleanse their palates with lemon sorbet served in a crystal goblet and garnished by a slice of blood orange. The main course consisted of Chicken Marsala, risotto, and green beans with caramelized shallots. A delightfully rich dessert of flourless chocolate cake with Ganache, raspberry coulis and whipped cream topped off the meal.

The raffle has served as a major fundraiser for the Society for all of those years. Tickets for next year's feast will be mailed to members and will be available for sale at the museum and at public events beginning in July. The winners will be chosen and notified in December.

(this article originally appeared in Cleveland.com)



NORTHROP AWARD RECIPIENTS

Mary Jo Palmer - for her work on the collections committee for many years. Mary Jo spent many hours preserving and repairing articles in the museum collection in addition to her volunteer efforts with the society and a board member for many years.

Gloria Brown - for her authoring books on Medina history and volunteer efforts with preservation of articles in the McDowell-Phillips House. Gloria has presented programs on local history and transcribed numerous historical letters for MCHS archives.



Gloria Brown receiving award via Zoom

BEST RESIDENTIAL REHABILITATION AWARD

On January 27th, Main Street Medina held its Annual Meeting at Williams on the Lake. Because Covid-19 necessitated the cancellation of a 2020 Annual Meeting, yearly awards were presented for both 2020 and 2021.

The Medina County Historical Society was the proud recipient of the Best Residential Rehabilitation Award for 2020 for its renovation of the McDowell-Phillips House, 205 S. Prospect St. Society President Brian Feron accepted the award from Main Street Executive Director Matt Wiederhold.



NEW MEMBERS

Welcome

Bill & Nancy Elligott

Courtney Farnsworth

Elizabeth Street Casella

Lilla Richardson

Cindy Siepker

Bob Finnan

Mark & Annie Shibata-Orlandi

Caleb Parker

Richard Dargan



Ted & Jean Gulyas

Rick & Kim Wuescher

Lisa Rienerth

Joanne Johnson

Jean Baliga

David Arbogast

Marilyn Stano

Dale & Nancy Weygandt

Suzette Saadeh



Jim Gowe

Audrae Georgia Shy

Member Exclusive Benefits

Receipt of Quarterly MCHS newsletter

Discounts to some special events

Discounted admissions to museums

Special programs for members only

LOOKING BACK



Here is a look at the present Medina County Administration building on North Broadway when it was the Medina High School, circa 1940's. Note the brick North Broadway street. This is a recent addition to our postcard collection.



Please remember to notify us if you have recently moved, changed your phone number (land or cell), or your email address, so we can adjust our records. We get a notice from the Postal Service for address changes, but it costs us \$\$.

Have a few hours to spare during the week? We can always use help at the John Smart House or the McDowell Phillips House.

A HORSE AT LAST

Back in 2016, Miriam and Drew Phillips, then owners of the McDowell/Phillips house, donated a sleigh and carriage to the Historical Society. The vehicles had been stored in an old outbuilding on the property at 205 S. Prospect for at least 100 years and were both desperately in need of repair and restoration.

In the next year, and close to \$15,000 later, they were restored, beautiful and ready for display. The Albany Cutter sleigh had been restored by late Society member Larry Prebis, and the carriage by the Woodlyn Coach Company in Mt. Hope. In the years since, the Historical Society has purchased and restored the house, as well as the barn in which the vehicles had been stored.

The restored phaeton wicker carriage circa 1880 – a two seater with a fringe on top, was unveiled on the front lawn of the McDowell/Phillips house in 2017. At the time, Sun reporter Ann Norman wrote about the event. Norman included as part of her story, “The only thing missing was a horse.”

The horse has finally arrived! In December, 2021, volunteers Patrick and Karen Feron and Paul Wood traveled to Mt. Hope with Feron’s large trailer and lots of packing materials to pick up the Historical Society’s latest acquisition. Because the Woodlyn Coach Company is soon to close, they were eager to sell a beautiful black life-sized Fiberglas horse that has been part of their display area for years. The Society was eager to purchase the animal.

As Brian Feron stated, “The horse will be great for displaying our carriage and sleigh. Best of all, we’ll have no feed or vet bills, and no manure.”

Feron’s friend Ruth Etta Tender has offered to donate harness riggings so the horse will look authentic when on display.



HISTORY OF TRANSPORTATION



The Medina County Historical Society presented a program on the History of Transportation on March 12, 2022 at the Medina Public Library.

The 1:00 PM presentation covered everything from Indian trails to the first airplane appearance.

The room was filled to capacity and Roger Smalley presented an excellent program with assistance from the Show Biz company to portray the development of trails, roads, railroad and inter urban systems.

This was one of the programs produced by the Society to highlight its 100th anniversary.

A. I. Root in a Wright Flyer at the Fair



VICTORIAN DOLLHOUSE AUCTION

We have a unique offer for you or someone you know who appreciates artistic crafts such as this beautiful dollhouse. The previous owner donated it to MCHS when she was moving and felt someone would like to have it and also benefit the museums.

We are offering it first to our members in an auction format. The opening bid is \$500 and its value is well past \$1500. The accessories and house are ready to go with many options to decorate and design your special collectable. Several volunteers cleaned the dollhouse so it is "move in ready". see the attached photos of this 3 story dollhouse with amazing features.

If you would like to make a bid, please email it to mchs@zoominternet.net. We will keep this option open until April 15, 2022. If no bids are received we will offer it to the general public.

If you have any questions or would like to view it, you may call Brian Feron at 330-310-7584 or leave a message at the museum 330-722-1341 and we'll arrange a visit.

This beautiful doll house was donated to MCHS and includes many accessories including furniture, rugs, holiday decorations, books lamps and much more.

The dimensions are:

Width 40"

Depth 21"

Height 33"

The house is wired for lighting. Doors and windows operate.

The set also includes a helpful book to design your special dollhouse.

It is in very good condition and currently at the McDowell-Phillips House Museum.

Thank you to Kathy LeMar for this donation to the
Medina County Historical Society



COUNTYWIDE SCAVENGER HUNT

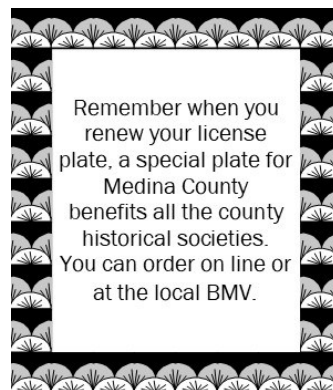
As a part of the Society's Centennial celebration, we have invited local historical groups from around the Medina County to participate in a history scavenger hunt. Each group was asked to send a photo of an item, historic or unusual, near their home office and write a short clue on how to find it.

On May 1st you can go to the Society's website where our members and the public can see the items and the clues and find out about the contest. Yes, there will be prizes! A drawing will be held among all correctly completed, timely submitted contest answers with prizes awarded to the top five drawn.

At this point we do not know how many history groups will respond but we plan to have 15 to 20 items for you to seek. All final entries must be received by September 30th of this year.

We hope you will enjoy the hunt and also have a chance to visit the many other wonderful local history sites in our county.

Good hunting!



SHOPPING ON AMAZON TO SUPPORT MEDINA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

When you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. Good news is, that you may now choose the Medina County Historical Society. If you would like to participate, simply click on the link below and follow the prompts.

Every item available for purchase on www.amazon.com is also available on AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com) at the same price. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages. Any time you shop on AmazonSmile, you will be benefiting one of your favorite non-profit organizations!

For more information about the AmazonSmile program, go to [AmazonSmile](https://www.amazon.com/amazonsmile)

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.MEDINACOUNTYHISTORICALSOCIETY.COM

Membership Categories:
Membership Year is Jan 1st – Dec 31st

Student/Senior	\$10.00	Organization	\$30.00
Individual	\$20.00	Patron	\$50.00
Senior Family	\$20.00	Corporate	\$100.00
Family	\$25.00	Life	\$300.00 (one time payment)

Medina County Historical Society
1922-2022
100 years of History

206 North Elmwood St.
Medina, Ohio 44256

MEDINA COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY