

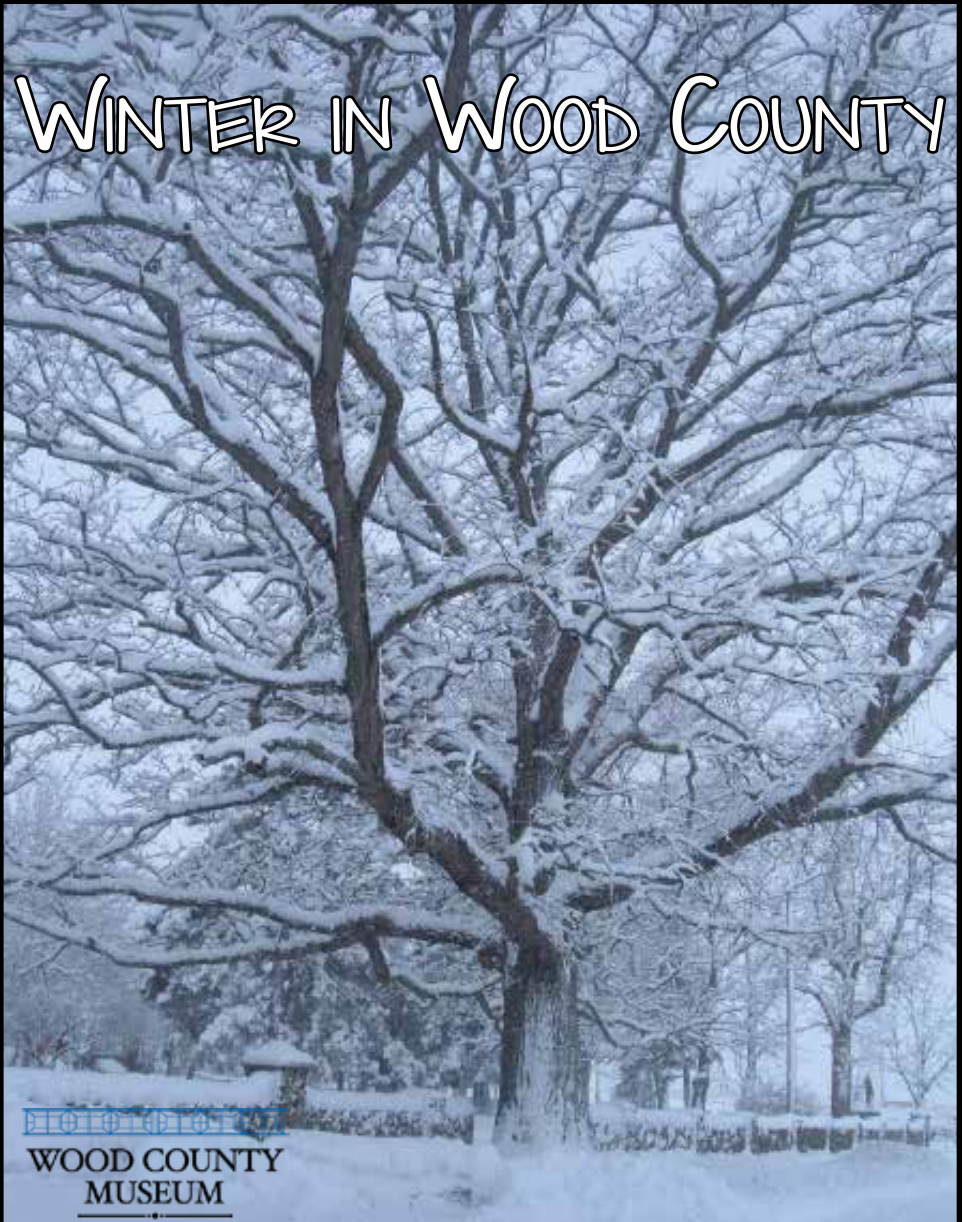
WINTER 2021

Black Swamp

CHANTICLEER

The Newsletter of the Wood County Historical Society

WINTER IN WOOD COUNTY



WOOD COUNTY
MUSEUM

Story page 5, "The Great Museum Bur Oak"



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The CHANTICLEER
NEWSLETTER is published
quarterly by the Wood County
Historical Society

NEW YEAR'S TRADITIONS

by Lynn Wineland, WCHS Member

Happy New Year To You!

As one who is continually interested in the origin of things, I enjoy learning about why we do the things we do.

The festive occasion that draws loads of people to New York City to watch a BALL DROP at the stroke of midnight fascinates me. It all started in 1907, as shooting off fireworks to celebrate in the years before caused numerous fires in the city. So, the editor of The New York Times suggested dropping a lighted ball with 100 25-watt light bulbs at the midnight hour instead. We all know how that has evolved over the century. Personally, I have no clue who all those entertainers are anymore.

Are you very successful at keeping your RESOLUTIONS for the upcoming year? Every year I resolve to quit smoking. I've never even tasted a cigarette. So my success rate is 100%. The idea of resolutions started in ancient cultures where people would swear allegiance to their Country's Ruler for the upcoming year. In the 1740's, the Methodist churches started offering renewal services that gave people a chance to look back on the year that passed and renew their commitment to God. In the current day, we "resolve" to "turn a new leaf" and hopefully change various aspects of our lives.

The singing of AULD LANG SYNE was sung in the 1700's at British and Scottish funerals, farewells, and group celebrations. The literal translation is "Old Long Times" or the equivalent of "Once Upon A Time." It didn't become a New Years Tradition in America until 1929 when played by the Guy Lombardo Orchestra at a New York Hotel.

As you eat Pork and Sauerkraut, may you have good luck, and as many riches as the shreds of cabbage. ♣

From the Director

Kelli Kling

museum@woodcountyhistory.org



I'm pleased to share with you in this issue the Wood County Museum 2020 annual report. Like many, I would like to put 2020 behind me and never look back, but despite this historically confusing and tumultuous year, there were some amazing positives.

Even with the museum closure, dwindled attendance, and the cancellation of most events, our organization was able to end the year with a balanced budget due to donations and memberships from you, the folks that value what we do. We also had a little help from the state, and I shared my gratitude with our state legislatures for supporting the Ohio Humanities and Ohio History Connection, both of which were poised to provide emergency funding to museums like ours across the state. If you have a moment, let our state legislatures know that you are grateful for their actions and support too, by writing a letter or email.

Often in the museum industry, we hear people say, "why can't we go back?" -- to simpler times, the good ol' days, or just a time before COVID-19 where we were free to visit and travel. And each time I heard it, I found myself singing the Tim Tegge song "Why Can't We Go Back."

This song has become my anthem. "Why can't we go back, when we drank our coffee black." I admittedly have used

coffee as my crutch these past few months, but during this COVID year, nostalgia became as warm and comforting as that cup of coffee. The museum has received a tremendous response to *People, Places, & Things*, an impromptu exhibition of over a thousand photos from the Society's collection, which can be seen in full at the museum or in small nuggets weekly through our social media. Each nugget contains so much interesting information, and our Facebook followers have shown their gratitude.

To bring you that nostalgia, the museum has to move forward, and because of your support, we can. We will invest in technology and resources to bring our collections, exhibits, and programs to you in creative ways. This spring and summer, we will again have rotating outdoor porch exhibits and will develop new outdoor signage to tell the Wood County story so you can utilize the site at your convenience. We will offer virtual programming with a series of educational (and most interesting) talks until we can safely get together again. It's a learning curve for us all, and we hope you follow along to give feedback on how to improve... or the praise we need to know we are doing the right thing.

So Tim Tegge, why *can't* we go back?
At our place, you can. ❀

By the way, "Why Can't We Go Back" was released in 2014 by local musician Tim Tegge with a humorous video directed by Jack O'Hare and starring many of our local "celebrities." Part of the video was filmed on location at the Wood County Museum, several of our members and supporters make up the cast, and the "star" vintage coffee pot came from the museum too! You gotta check out this song for yourself. It's available on YouTube, Amazon, ReverbNation, Broadjam, TikTok, Apple Music, and more.

2021 WCHS Board

President: Michael Sibbersen (19-21)*
 VP: Hal Brown (17-19)(20-22)
 Treasurer: Frank Butwin (18-20)(20-23)+
 Secretary: Michele Raine (19-21)

Lois Bowlus (21-23)
 Gordon Bowman (20-22)*
 Denise Brennan (20-22)
 Biff Geer (16-18)(19-21)
 Sandy Gill (19-20)(21-23)
 Corinne Gordon (20-22)+
 Scott Gross (21-23)
 Mary Hinkelman (19-21)
 Rebecca Mancuso (21-23)
 Chris Ostrowski (20-22)

* *Board of County Commissioners appointee*
 + *Wood County Park District appointee*

Museum Staff:

Kelli Kling, Director
 Holly Kirkendall, Curator
 Michael McMaster, Education
 Marissa Muniz, Marketing & Events
 Nick Wallace, Maintenance

MISSION:

The Wood County Historical Society is a community organization that makes connections between our past, present and future by capturing stories and cultivating memories of Wood County, Ohio, and the County Home.

The Wood County Museum is managed jointly by the Wood County Commissioners
 Doris I. Herringshaw, Ed.D. - President,
 Craig LaHote - Vice President,
 & Dr. Theodore H. Bowlus - Member;
 the Wood County Historical Society;
 and the Wood County Park District.

WELCOME, New Board Members

We welcome to the Wood County Historical Society board of directors, our newly elected members:

Lois Bowlus
 Sandy Gill (Incumbent)
 Scott Gross
 Rebecca Mancuso

The Society's Board of Trustees consists of fifteen members, who reside or work in Wood County, ten of whom are elected each November by the membership, three appointed by the Wood County Commissioners, and two appointed by the Wood County Park District. Board members serve one 3-year term and are eligible for a second term, but must step down for at least one year after serving two consecutive terms.

It is with much gratitude that we thank the out-going board members that have served the Society and Museum with dedication for many years: Ken Frisch, Rhonda Hogrefe, September Killy, & Nick Pavlik.

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#WoodCountyMuseum

FREE FIRST FRIDAYS

Free Museum admission on the



First Friday
of each month

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BG CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

LEARNING *about* HISTORY



Michael McMaster • education@woodcountyhistory.org

The Great Museum Bur Oak

The giant Bur Oak tree that grows in front of the Museum is so large and old that Frank Brandeberry, and the men at the County Home, left space for it when they built the stone wall in the 1940s. The Museum's Great Bur Oak is a slow growing variety of oak tree that was common on the oak savannahs that dotted the Great Black Swamp hundreds of years ago. To estimate the age of our Bur Oak, a measurement at 4 feet 6 inches from the base was taken yielding over 14 feet in circumference! The diameter of the tree at that height is about 54 inches; multiply that by a growth factor of 6.5 (specific for Bur Oaks) and the estimated age of our tree is just shy of 350-years old! However, our region's state forester stated that this Bur

Oak probably grew very slowly at first in competition in a forest, but when the forest along the Portage River began to be cleared, it probably grew faster, thus our Bur Oak is probably not 350-years old. Even deducting 50-years from this estimate puts the Museum's Bur Oak at almost 300-years old.

If you would like to learn about the history of our land, by the life of the Great Museum Bur Oak, tune in to my Facebook series, posted every Friday on the Wood County Museum's Facebook page! If you are interested in a virtual talk for your group/organization, please contact, Education Programs Coordinator, Michael McMaster at the Wood County Museum. ❖

NEW MEMBERS

Nancy G. Andrew
Heather Bloom
Lois Anne Bowlus
Linda & George
Crews
Sharon DeMuth
Betty Duquette
Fundamentals
of Bright Minds
Daniel Gill
Ruth & Lary
Hasselmann

Allen Myers
Dianna Nevius
Dwight Osterud
Nicole Perry-Young
Evelyn Roth
Carole Sarkan
Patricia Smith
Nancy Vanderlugt
Todd Waggoner
Karen Young

IN MEMORY

**Our members who passed
in 2020:**

Elaine Cheney
Dick Conrad
Maxine Hudson
Joy Hobson
Karen Landrus
LaVerne Patten
Jim Thomson
Earl Witzler



TECH TALK

Daniel Hergert • technician@woodcountyhistory.org

COMMUNITY SERVICE "QUOTES"

We greatly appreciate all the men and women who come out to help us at the museum. The building would not be as pristine as it is without them. That being said... occasionally a statement is made or a question asked that we can't help but chuckle at.

- "So this place was like a plantation?"
- (Pointing at the ice pond) "Is that the great black swamp everyone has been talking about?"
- "What's a walnut?"
- "This is the first time I have had to dust, normally the maid did it for us."
- (Pointing at a woodchuck) "You guys have beavers living under your porch!"
- (Asked what their offense was) "I was drunk and threw a roll of toilet paper in a microwave at a hotel and pressed start to see what would happen. I got an arson charge."
- (Offense) "I borrowed my neighbors truck without asking... while drunk..."

and I may have wrecked it."

- "Are barns outside or inside? I have allergies and can't work outside."
- "I can't sweep the asylum, it's too haunted."
- (At the teas) "I didn't know what a doily was and now I don't know why people want them."
- (Tea) "That's too many teapots."
- (In the middle of an event) "Could you fill out a survey for my class when you get a minute, it would really help me out."

Those are some of the best comments I can remember while I have been out here. I have had a lot of fun working with community service at the museum and with the staff and volunteers. I have had a good time all around I am sorry to say this is my final article as the Technician. I will be starting a new job by the time you read this. Thank you all for reading! ♣



Thank You!

RAISED

\$11,380.00

2020 Virtual Gala Fundraiser

We would like to give a big THANK YOU to all of our supporters, donors, and sponsors of the 2020 Gala Fundraiser!

With your help, we raised over \$11,000, which will go towards creating more award-winning exhibits and educational programs in Northwest Ohio.

Renew Your Membership

Check all that apply:

- NEW MEMBER**
 RENEWAL
 DONATION
 VOLUNTEER

I've enclosed a

I'd like to

Name: _____

Business or Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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Please select your MEMBERSHIP LEVEL

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(made payable to *WCHS*)
- Credit Card/PayPal

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Date: _____

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- Annual Campaign:
 - \$100
 - \$150
 - \$250
 - OTHER

Endowment

TOTAL: \$ _____

Donations are tax-deductible

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Christie Weininger
in honor of Edie Olds 80th Birthday
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Portage Lions Club

Bach Exhibit

Anonymous

Mike & Terri Marsh

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in memory of Alicia

The Cocoon

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Hal Brown

Wood County Historical Society

Utopia Exhibit

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Wood County Historical Society

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Ohio Humanities Council

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Wood County Historical Society



CURIOUS CURATOR

Holly Kirkendall • curator@woodcountyhistory.org

Living In The Past

Fellow Gemini and admirable work comrade Kelli Kling drew inspiration for her Chanticleer article from a song. It is not uncommon for music to act as an extension of our feelings. Connecting to Tim Tegge's song "Why Can't We Go Back" reminds us all that COVID-19 turned our world upside down and this local history museum offered comfort in a familiar and romanticized interpretation of the past.

Kelli's connection to music made me think of Jethro Tull's 1969 song "Living in the Past." Lead singer and author of this song Ian Anderson reflected on the revolution of the 1960s Vietnam era. "Let us close our eyes, outside their lives go on much faster. Oh, we wont give in, we'll keep living in the past."

Why would anyone want to live in the past?

Living in the past is less about "living" and more about emotional connections using memory. People rarely want to remember the negative emotions connected to something, like a pandemic, and are inclined to feel connected to objects, like photos found in our current exhibit "People, Places, & Things," because the photo allows a person's mind to be transported to a happier time. As we mentally teleport to the past, using the objects as triggers, we run into people, usually loved ones, filling our psyche with happy thoughts. Psychologically, people are prone to

push out the sadness and welcome happier times thus romanticizing history.

It is true that museums offer solace when the present seems so bleak, but, believe it or not, museums, especially museum operations, cannot live in the past. We have to look to the future in order to grow. Our job is to analyze the cause and effect of the past and apply what we know to modern situations and museums are more effective when what we create is relative to our visitors. If we face the emotional rollercoaster supplied by the pandemic there is a greater appreciation for the hard times faced by our ancestors. But all work done by museum professionals comes with a price tag.

The only place people can really "live in the past" is in one's mind; however, with your help, the museum offers beautiful illustrations. ♣



▲ Jethro Tull "Living In The Past" Album

People, Places, & Things

*These photos are featured in our exhibit, "People, Places, & Things - On Display Now!
To know the history of these photos - follow us on Facebook & Instagram*



▲ Portage Sky-Lite Drive-In Theatre was located on St Rt 25 north of Portage



▲ WWBG radio station - was located on Dirlam Rd. outside of Bowling Green



▲ This building currently houses Swig in Downtown Perrysburg



▲ Bloomdale Fire Department



▲ Ft. Meigs during a Fourth of July Celebration



▲ Main Street, Cygnet OH circa 1910



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