



Columbia Historical Society Newsletter



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www.columbiahistoricalsociety.org www.facebook.com/columbiahistoricalsociety www.twitter.com/columbiahistosoc

Volume: April 2015

President's Message

Written By: Karen Richards, President



From Karen's Tree Stump ---- The weather is getting better and I can say that makes everything want to spring up and so here we go! This month will need lots of helping hands and bodies! The Bronson House needs a good cleaning, which is scheduled for 10 a.m. on the 11th of April!

I am bringing my bag of tricks to move those spider tracks and touch the dust so please join me for many hands make light work. If we have not been able to sparkle and make the spiders scam that day we will give it another try on the 18th at the same time. Now those that are more inclined to know flowers from weeds and will work on the outside are sure to enjoy the birds singing and hopefully the sunshine too! I know that the meeting on the fourteenth will be a chance to figure out what more needs to be done before the NEOIMC meeting on the 21st. This is our time to shine (sorry for the pun), but any and all the members that enjoy history as I do have to be proud we have this opportunity to share with others.

Our meeting this month will be a short program about Ukrainian eggs and other eggs of history. After the program we will have our regular meeting with NEOIMC's dinner check off list given a second look. Also during this meeting, I will entertain any volunteer or suggested person to replace our Technology Director, Barb Hitchcock, who has resigned from this position. It is a very important position to replace, for our team relies on technology heavily and it is a little more time consuming than an officer should bare and do their work also. She will be missed for she not only kept the technology available but also was a wealth of good ideas in all our meetings.

Please if there are any projects or programs you would like to see in this year, give me a call and it will be considered in our officers' meetings, and we welcome your ideas! I am learning every day what and where your history came from and is growing here in this community by leaps and bounds! Thank you for this opportunity to enjoy the love of history and our genealogy!

Hope to see you at the meeting at the Columbia Town Hall on the fourteenth.

Upcoming Calendar of Events

Written By: Sharon Waldecker, Correspondence Secretary

04/11/15 – Spring Cleanup at the Bronson House Museum and Columbia Block House from 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM with a secondary date on 04/18/15, if needed. Volunteers needed!

04/14/15 -- Columbia Historical Society Membership Meeting at 7:00 PM (social time) and 7:30 PM (program) at Columbia Town Hall. Program includes how to create Ukrainian Easter eggs and what the various symbols mean. Open to the public.

04/21/15 – Northeastern Ohio Inter-museum Council (NEOIMC) Meeting and Dinner at Whitehall. Program: Columbia Historical Society hosts the NEOIMC members for a tour of the Bronson House Museum and Columbia Block House starting at 5:00 PM, and of Whitehall Columbia starting at 6:00 PM before sharing a meal together at 6:15 PM and then sharing meeting updates from each organization present starting at 7:15 PM. Tickets must be purchased ahead of time and will not be sold at the door. Meeting flyer can be found on the society's website.

05/03/15 – Bronson House Museum open house from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM. Special display includes: Native American Dolls presented by Karen Richards. Open to the public.

05/12/15 -- Columbia Historical Society Membership Meeting at 7:00 PM (social time) and 7:30 PM (program) at Columbia Town Hall. Program includes: Flowers Around Bronson House Museum presented by Columbia Garden Club. Open to the public.

06/01/15 -- Columbia Historical Society's historical presentation to the Copopa Elementary 3rd Grade Classrooms. Closed to the public, however, volunteers are needed.

06/02/15 -- Columbia Historical Society's Bronson House Museum tours to the Copopa Elementary 3rd Grade Classrooms. Closed to the public, however, volunteers are needed.

06/06/15 -- Bronson House Museum open house from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM during Columbia Engine Show. Open to the public.

06/09/15 -- Columbia Historical Society Membership Meeting at 7:00 PM (social time) and 7:30 PM (program) at Columbia Town Hall. Program includes: Historical Textiles from OSU Museum presented by Lori Bolton-Richards. Open to the public.

06/27/15 – Bronson House Museum open house from 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM during Columbia Homecoming Festival. Open to the public.

06/27/15 – Columbia Historical Society Fireworks Pot Luck Gathering from 9:00 PM – 11:00 PM. Open to the society members only.

07/16/15-07/19/15 – Columbia Community Garage Sale throughout Columbia Township including at the Bronson House Museum. Open to the public.

09/02/15 – Bronson House Museum open house from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM. Special display includes: Salt and Pepper Shakers presented by Karen Richards. Open to the public.

09/12/15 – Columbia Block House Day event at Lorain County Metro Park's Columbia Reservation. Time and program: TBD. Open to the public.



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1812 Columbia Block House Project Grant Update

Written By: Ronald B. Krisko, Treasurer

The state has released our approved state grant monies for the 1812 Columbia Block House Project, and we have deposited the \$28,000 in reimbursement funds into our account on 04/07/15. This has been a very long process, but it has all been worth it! We offer a special thank you again to the Lorain County Metro Parks for their help along with Senator Gayle Manning for her help in getting us this grant.

Treasurer's Update

Written By: Ronald B. Krisko, Treasurer

Over the next month, I will be working on completing and filing our annual 990 IRS tax return, registration with the State of Ohio, and end-of-year financials to share with the membership so stay tuned for further information as it becomes available. As of 04/01/15, not counting the grant monies deposited on 04/07/15, the society has about \$3,876 in all of our accounts so every new membership, renewed membership, book or item sold, or unrestricted donation really counts. We currently have 78 members, of which 8 are new Lifetime Members: Robert (Bob) McIntyre, Dorothy (Dot) McIntyre, Karen Richards, Dennis Ross, Kenneth (Ken) W. Roth, Helen Stone, Sally Stone, and Sharon Waldecker. Thank you for your trust and support of this society and its mission!

Excerpt from We Remember Stories of Columbia Township (Volume 3) Book

Written By: Mary Ellen Jenkins
The April 11th Tornado

Those old enough will perhaps remember the Palm Sunday tornado that raced through the township on April 11th 1965, causing such damage. But does the reader know that on that exact date, fifty-six years earlier, another tornado struck Columbia? It was the year 1909, and at the time, the old [Elyria] Evening Telegram told the story:

George Wietzel lost a good horse recently. Pres. G.A. Harrold of the Telephone association is hustling these days to find material and laborers to repair the damage caused by the tornado.

Columbia never before experienced so destructive a tornado and may never have another. But to be on the safe side, many insurance policies will immediately have a clause added insuring against damage from cyclones and tornados.

Columbia was unfortunately in the path of the tornado of April 11 and thousands of dollars worth of property was destroyed. Passing through town from southwest to northeast, it left desolation in its

wake. All telephone communication was cut off during the storm by the destruction of the poles between the center and Copopa including the cable entering the exchange. The loss to the association is placed at \$500 or more. A cable will replace the numerous wires over this part of the line. It is expected that operations will be resumed in about three weeks.

Without the telephone it is impossible to get a complete list of the losses.

Beginning in the west, C. Noble, just over the Eaton line, had a barn demolished, a span of horses were pinned to the ground, but escaped unhurt. The front porch was torn off the residence of C.L. Weeden, and on the Everett farm the damage is placed at \$1,000. The brick residence was completely unroofed, the [indecipherable word] wing wrecked and scattered to the four winds, the barn unroofed and a farm implement shed blown down.

At F.D. Churchward's a barn was unroofed and at Mrs. Goodman's a new horse barn was moved partly off the foundation. A.H. Osborn suffered the loss of a large implement house together with many of the implements stored in the building. The rear part of his house was also blown off the foundation and nearly all of his fruit and shade trees uprooted.

The school house in district No. 4 was unroofed and the wind mills on the farms of N.N. Cole and Wm. Brokaw were blown over and wrecked. An implement shed attached to the barn on the Boone farm was scattered about an adjoining field. Paths were cut through the forests by the gale on the east part of town, and small loses too numerous to mention are reported.

Interested in reading more? We Remember Stories of Columbia Township (Volume 3) is available for purchase from the Columbia Historical Society for a nominal price.

Technology Update

Written By: Ronald B. Krisko, Treasurer

The society continues to utilize technology more and more like many other museums and non-profit organizations, including our new Twitter account. Remember, you can "Like" us on Facebook in order to receive Facebook posting updates in your Facebook account or "Follow" us on Twitter to receive updates via your Twitter account. By continuing to utilize technology, we can better communicate with you while reducing our printing and mailing costs for some items.

Officers and Board of Directors

Karen Richards, President Kenneth Roth, Vice President
Ronald B. Krisko, Treasurer Blanche Nemeth, Recording Secretary
Sharon Waldecker, Corresponding Secretary
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