



Columbia Historical Society Newsletter



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Volume: July 2015

President's Message

Written By: Karen Richards, President



From Karen's Tree Stump -- Congratulations to Kenneth W. Roth our 2015 Columbia Township Citizen of the Year. It was very deserved with all the work he has put in to the many projects the historical society has completed and hope to complete, and all he does for the community. It has been a neat journey to

be able to be a part of this honoring him with his wife, Gloria, and all the others of Columbia Township.

Homecoming was awesome, even with the rain. All of you should be proud of the support and the hard work you put into it. I thank you for the chance to get to know so many of you! I truly enjoy hearing and learning of the history and the families of this area. Again, I thank members and interested nonmembers for your support with all the latest events including Homecoming and hope to see you all at the next meeting on Sept. 1st at the Columbia Town Hall at 7 PM with refreshments provided. Shared yummys for the meeting are much appreciated! We are still working on the program but expect to have it nailed down very soon.

The Bronson House Museum's open houses have had very positive comments and have helped some information seekers get what they were looking for in family history and cemetery info they were seeking. We also had several donations to the museum of articles, so it is always interesting to be there and check out what is new. The thorough cleaning that the Bronson House Museum received sure has been noticed! The herb garden looks great and shows how much love and care it has received from Dot MacIntyre and others including the trimming of tree limbs and bushes by Debi Hitchcock and Ron Krisko.

We have some fundraisers coming up with the rummage sale on the 18th of July. The donations for the sale will be received on the 17th, and hopefully the weather cooperates! On the 18th of Oct., we are planning a Tea and Fashions fundraising event at the Columbia Town Hall. Sharon Waldecker and Gloria Roth are co-chairing this committee and will keep us posted as to what is needed. There are other fundraisers in the making so keep checking for info at meetings, in emails, and on our website.

Our next Open House is on Aug. 2nd and will spotlight Salt and Peppers!

We have a few more Columbia Block House Cat's Meows left so when they are gone, we will be starting on a new design for the next one in the series.

Every Tuesday I try to be at the museum working on cataloging. Please feel free to stop in if you want to chit chat or lend a hand.

Projects and programs you would like to see can be suggested to any of the officers. We have received a couple of suggestions we are working on and appreciate any help in this area. Thank you and hope to see you at the next event!

Upcoming Calendar of Events

Written By: Sharon Waldecker, Correspondence Secretary
08/02/15 -- 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.

09/01/15 -- Columbia Historical Society Membership Meeting at 7:00 PM (social time) and 7:30 PM (program) at Columbia Town Hall. Program includes: TBD. Open to the public.

09/12/15 -- Columbia Block House Day event at Lorain County Metro Park's Columbia Reservation from 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM. Program: Historical reenactors, tomahawk throwing demonstration, pioneer cooking demonstration, pioneer children's games, real musket and cannon firing demonstrations, and many more family-friendly historical programs. Open to the public.

10/13/15 -- Columbia Historical Society Membership Meeting at 7:00 PM (social time) and 7:30 PM (program) at Columbia Town Hall. Program includes: TBD. Open to the public.

10/18/15 -- Tea and Fashions event fundraiser at Columbia Town Hall from 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM. Program & Tickets: TBD. Open to the public.

11/10/15 -- Columbia Historical Society Membership Meeting at 7:00 PM (social time) and 7:30 PM (program) at Columbia Town Hall. Program includes: Veteran's Day Speaker TBD. Open to the public.

12/08/15 -- Columbia Historical Society Membership Meeting at 7:00 PM (social time) and 7:30 PM (program) at Columbia Town Hall. Program includes: Christmas Ornaments of Yesteryear, Potluck Dinner, and Annual Board Elections. Open to the public.

In Memoriam

Written By: Sharon Waldecker, Correspondence Secretary
We remember fondly the following members who have passed away from Jan. 1st - June 30th: Elane Martin.
If you are aware of a member or past member who has passed, please let Sharon know.

2015 Homecoming Booth Raffle Winners

Written By: Ronald B. Krisko, Treasurer
The 2015 Columbia Historical Society's Columbia Homecoming Festival booth raffle winners are:
Winner to be Drawn on 09/12/15 -- Longaberger® Large Americana Wall Flag; Pam Andrews; Betty Gricar; Geli Valli; and Donna Lanning. Thank you to everybody for their support and congratulations to all of our winners!



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Treasurer's Update

Written By: Ronald B. Krisko, Treasurer

The society's annual federal IRS 990-N and State of Ohio tax filings have been completed and filed along with the Ohio Secretary of State's filing every 5 years. The society's Ohio sales tax filing will be completed and paid within the next few days. End-of-year financials will be shared with the membership via our website so stay tuned for further information. As of 07/01/15, the society has about \$3,829.37 in all of our checking accounts and \$29,016.98 in all of our savings accounts for a total of \$32,846.95 so every new membership, renewed membership, book or item sold, or unrestricted donation really counts. The society made \$153.75 on its rummage sale on 07/18/15, and \$204.00 in raffle sales at the Columbia Homecoming Festival booth along with \$246.95 in promotional item sales. The society received an unrestricted memorial donation in memory of longtime member Elane Martin. If your envelope contains a RED dot next to your name, then your membership has not been renewed for 2015. We currently have 63 paid members, of which 2 are new Lifetime Members: Debbie Brassell and Wayne Brassell. Thank you for your trust and support of this society and its mission!

CORRECTION: New Lifetime Members: Robert (Bob) MacIntyre, Dorothy (Dot) MacIntyre from the last newsletter.

Bronson House Museum Repair Update

Written By: Ronald B. Krisko, Treasurer

The officers have compiled a fairly extensive and detailed list of repairs that are needed and some that are possibly wanted within the Bronson House Museum. To date, the slates on the roof have been repaired by Benedict Roofing, and the painting of the outside of the museum is being completed by Cottom Painting while rotted wood outside is being replaced by Competitive Contractors Inc. We will keep you updated as more items are completed.

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

Written By: Mary Ellen Jenkins

"Part of Mastodon Tusk is Found in Columbia"

So read the headline for this article found in Florence Putt's 1952-1953 scrapbook. (Exact date and newspaper undetermined.)

A large piece of bone found in a pit on W. River Rd. in Columbia last week has been "almost certainly" identified as part of a mastodon tusk with an estimated age of 15,000 years.

It was the second historic find within recent months in Columbia, where earlier an Indian bowl estimated as 600 years old was turned up when a new bridge was being built.

The latest discovery was made on the farm of Ray Petch, near the edge of a small pond. Measuring 28 inches long, 8 inches wide and 1 inch thick, it probably was from a tusk about 10 feet long,

according to Dr. Thomas Surrarer, professor of biology at Baldwin-Wallace College.

A similar fragment was dug up near the same spot in September, Petch said, but he thought it was petrified wood. He did not identify it until last week when a neighbor, Dale Hummon, remarked that it looked like a piece of ivory which he had. Further digging produced more specimens.

"There have been some 200 finds reported in northern Ohio," Dr. Surrarer remarked. "The find of the tusk does not necessarily mean that the rest of the animal is on the same site, though this is probable.

"The age of the mastodons recovered in Ohio and accurately analyzed has fallen within the period of the last 15,000 years. Thus the expectation is that this one may fall within that range. It is probable that it is not older.

"The proboscis-bearing mammals like the elephant were among the most widespread of the Cenozoic Era mammals. This great geological era occupies a span of recent time of 60 million years. The evolution of the elephant-like mammals began as a small form in the Oligocene, which is within the first 30 million years of the Cenozoic era. The mastodon probably originated in the Pliocene within the last 12 million years of the Cenozoic era but they have continued down to rather recent time. Probably as recent as 6000 years ago."

Interested in reading more? We Remember Stories of Columbia Township (Volumes 1, 2, & 3) are available for purchase for \$20 from the Columbia Historical Society and make a nice birthday or holiday gift.

Technology Update

Written By: Ronald B. Krisko, Treasurer

The society continues to utilize technology to communicate with our members and nonmembers who are interested in society's activities. We are working on a redesign of the current website so you will see a slightly new look in the next few months. 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 share more information more quickly with you and stay in compliance with state and IRS regulations concerning non-profit transparency.

Officers and Board of Directors

Karen Richards, President Kenneth Roth, Vice President
Ronald B. Krisko, Treasurer Blanche Nemeth, Recording Secretary
Sharon Waldecker, Corresponding Secretary
TBD, Director of Technology
Mary Melnyk, Director of History