



Columbia Historical Society Newsletter

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Volume: April 2016

President's Message

Written By: Karen Richards, President



It is spring and we have flowers with snow but don't give up. I love the display of color popping and the contrast of white but what was not my favorite thing was the freeze! So getting past that, I have a new journey ahead of me. My plans were delayed with the freeze, because loading my POD will happen when I am sure of the

temperature.

I have a great bit of sadness to share with you all but some may be happy about this so I should not say it is sad. It is necessary for me to move and as soon as my house is sold I will be heading to the Columbus area to be near my kids and grandkids. It is another step in my journey and a huge undertaking. I will come up and visit of course. I want to thank everyone for being so supportive and always eager to see improvements to an educational and historic society with the preservation of our artifacts and ancestral memories.

I have been given so much love and have learned so much that I feel that you all have blessed me with more than I can return. We have some fantastic events coming this year and will need those super helpers.

Our first event will be clean-up day on April 16th and a second one on the 23rd, if needed. Open house will be on May 1st and in June we hope to have a program about Old Glory. In July we are looking at a possible Rummage Sale, and in August we are planning an outing including the Bronson/Hoadley cemetery. We then have Blockhouse Day on Sept. 10th. In October will hope to see a second Tea Event Fundraiser and some possibility of a Spirit Walk. November is the nominating meeting and in December the Pot Luck and elections. We have a very busy event calendar. Hope you all will continue to enjoy all of this exciting fun.

Thank you again for your support and continued active involvement. With my love and support, Karen.

In Memoriam

Written By: Betty Gricar, Correspondence Secretary

If you are aware of a member who is ill or a member or past member who has passed, please let Betty Gricar know at betty.gricar@gmail.com or 440-236-5372.

Upcoming Calendar of Events

Written By: Betty Gricar, Correspondence Secretary

04/16/16 & 04/23/16 -- Bronson House Museum Clean-Up Days from 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM at Bronson House Museum. We will be cleaning up the grounds outside (i.e. flower gardening, tree and bush trimming, gutter cleaning, etc.) along with doing cleaning inside the museum (i.e. dusting, sweeping, windows, organizing,

etc.). If you can lend a helping hand, it would be greatly appreciated.

05/01/16 -- Bronson House Museum open house from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM. Special display includes: TBD presented by TBD. Free and open to the public.

05/10/16 -- Columbia Historical Society Membership Meeting at 7:00 PM (social time) and 7:30 PM (program) at Columbia Town Hall. Program includes: TBD by Ralph Pfingsten. Free and open to the public.

06/14/16 -- Columbia Historical Society Membership Meeting at 7:00 PM (social time) and 7:30 PM (program) at Columbia Town Hall. Program includes: Flag History and Care by TBD. Free and open to the public.

06/23/16-06/25/16 -- Columbia Homecoming Festival and Historical Society Booth. Require volunteers to work the booth during these days. More information will be coming. Free and open to the public.

06/25/16 – Bronson House Museum open house from 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM. Special display includes: TBD presented by TBD. Free and open to the public.

06/25/16 – Columbia Historical Society Fireworks Pot Luck Gathering at Bronson House Museum's lawn from 9:00 PM – 11:00 PM. Free and open to Columbia Historical Society members and accompanying friends only.

08/09/16 -- Columbia Historical Society Membership Meeting at 7:00 PM (social time) and 7:30 PM (program) at Bronson-Hoadley Cemetery. Program includes: TBD by TBD. Free and open to the public.

09/10/15 – Columbia Block House Day event at Lorain County Metro Park's Columbia Reservation. Time and program: TBD. Free and open to the public.

10/11/16 -- Columbia Historical Society Membership Meeting at 7:00 PM (social time) and 7:30 PM (program) at Columbia Town Hall. Program includes: TBD by TBD. Free and open to the public.

11/15/16 -- Columbia Historical Society Membership Meeting at 7:00 PM (social time) and 7:30 PM (program) at Columbia Town Hall. Program includes: TBD by TBD. Free and open to the public.

12/13/16 -- Columbia Historical Society Membership Meeting at 7:00 PM (social time) and 7:30 PM (program) at Columbia Town Hall. Program includes: Pot Luck Dinner and Board Elections. Free and open to the public.



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Bronson House Museum Repair Update

Written By: Ronald B. Krisko, Treasurer

The officers are constantly updating the list of repairs that are needed and wanted within the Bronson House Museum. Since the last newsletter, the society received several months of very large electric bills that we cannot explain and are trying to get an electrician to look into for us, because the electric company has checked the meter and told us that it is working correctly in their opinion. We will keep you updated as more information becomes available.

Treasurer's Update

Written By: Ronald B. Krisko, Treasurer

End-of-year financials will be shared with the membership via our website so stay tuned for further information. As of 04/01/16, the society has about \$2,768.85 in all of our checking accounts and \$24,103.3 in all of our savings accounts for a total of \$26,872.20 so every new membership, renewed membership, book or item sold, or unrestricted donation really counts. Please remember that all non-Lifetime membership renewals for 2016 were due in February 2016. Postal mail reminders were sent out in early February to all non-Lifetime members. A 990-N IRS filing and State of Ohio yearly filing will be completed and submitted within the next month. We currently have 17 non-renewed members and 49 paid members, of which 3 are new Lifetime Members: Pamela (Pam) Andrews, Betty Gricar, and James (Jim) Hitchcock. Thank you for your support of this society and its mission!

Technology Update

Written By: Ronald B. Krisko, Treasurer

Due to other duties and time constraints, we have not begun working on a redesign of the current website, but hopefully we will have a chance to start work on it sometime in the near future using our new available website tools. The society's website and domain name service provider has been successfully changed last month with assistance from Mark Hantel and Ron Krisko. Unfortunately several of us have been and are still handling double and triple duties beyond our regular officer duties, therefore, progress has been slow on several technology efforts. 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. We can share information more quickly, easily, and cost effectively with you this way.

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

Written By: Mary Ellen Jenkins

"Memories of Pat Garman Keyse"

Inquiries about Garman's Store elicited the following email sent to Shirley Grills from Pat Keyse

I have been asked to contribute what I know about my father's [Herb Garman] store, which used to sit between the Baptist Church and a weeded field when I was young. Later the first fire department was built in that field. The store building was the original town hall for Columbia. I do not know what year it was built but I know it was OLD. My grandfather (Ray T. Howard) owned and ran the store before my family. In about 1938 my father and grandfather decided to change residences and we became attached to the store. My father had the store open from 9 to 9, six days a week and 9 to 6 on Sundays, but anyone could get anything if they knocked at the back door. As a kid I remember the store stocked with penny candy, hand-dipped ice cream, notions (thread, needles, buttons, etc.) barrels of nails, which sat around the pot-bellied stove. There were rubber boots, men's sweaters, spot lights for cars (every cool young man had to have one), flash lights and batteries and bulbs for the same.

Of course there were groceries, (not the amount we have today), meats, large square boxes of cookies with a glass lid. I remember my brother and I throwing individual rolls of toilet paper to each other to put them on the top shelf—no 6 or 24 packs. Around 1945, my father modernized the store, took out the nail barrels, etc., and got a TV around 1948 or—9, so customers could watch baseball games. I think there were programs from around 2 p.m. until 11 p.m.

I noticed on the officers [list] for the Historical Society the number of Hitchcocks. My grandfather and Charlie Hitchcock were 1st cousins. Clarrissa Peachey, Ray's mother was sister to Emeline Hitchcock, Charlie's mother. Charlie was, of course, Jim's grandfather. [Jim Hitchcock is the recording secretary of the Columbia Historical society. As of 2011, Debbie Hitchcock was the corresponding secretary and Barbara Hitchcock was our webmaster.] Charlie and Ray, when they were speaking, which wasn't all the time, would sit by the pot-bellied stove and tell stories. Both men used rather flowery language and sometimes the story-line would be lost for their swearing. It was rather comical to listen. My father didn't allow swearing in our house, but I guess it was in the store.

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.

Officers and Board of Directors

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