



# Columbia Historical Society Newsletter



P.O. Box 983, Columbia Station, OH 44028, 440-879-8188, columbiahistoricalsociety@gmail.com  
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Volume: November 2016

## President's Message

Written By: Karen Richards, President



I don't have to tell you that this year has gone very fast, and I am seeing beautiful colors everywhere reminding me that the cold is almost here. My move is still waiting on the sale of my Century home, the Beebetown Schoolhouse. The history of this home is very interesting, and I hope to find someone that wants to make it their own. With that said, I have been busy organizing at the Bronson House Museum whenever I can. The files are coming along and there is an index now for the family tree folders. If you want to add to that drawer, it will be easier and a welcomed addition. Pictures are all protected either in books or in sleeves that are all archival type materials. I also made a list of the books in the collection but have not completed that yet. The woodchuck and other animals have been constantly offered hot sauces and Habanero is the sauce of choice! The skunk does not care! I am looking forward to sealing the Bronson House Museum's basement from wind and trying to keep the foundation from collapsing. Many spiders have been removed but many still exist. I think they have relatives in my house!

It has been a wonderful educational term for me, and I thank you for allowing me to get involved. I will always be connected and appreciate the love and kindness you have shared with me. Thank you from Karen, a History Buff.

## 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](mailto:betty.gricar@gmail.com) or 440-236-5372.

## Upcoming Calendar of Events

Written By: Ronald B. Krisko, Treasurer

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: Military Medals Identification and Meaning by Paul Kaparoff. Society officer and director nominations for 2017 will be closed and presented to the membership. Please bring any military medals that you would like help in identifying. Free and open to the public.

12/13/16 -- Columbia Historical Society Membership Meeting, Elections, and Potluck Dinner at 6:30 PM. Potluck dinner is followed by a short meeting and annual elections at Columbia Township Town Hall.

## 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. The officers looked for three quotes from local vendors to investigate tuck point services for the Bronson House Museum's basement walls to try to prevent the wind from literally blowing through the basement walls. Two vendors responded, and one was chosen to perform the repairs. Also, some of the basement windows have rotted away, broken, or simply shifted out of place due to settling so a local vendor has been contacted to fix and replace those basement windows to help seal up the basement from wind, water, and animals. The groundhog continued to cause additional damage to the "L" section of the museum this summer despite our efforts to encourage it to go elsewhere so a more permanent solution and fix will need to be investigated in 2017.

## 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 11/01/16, the society has about \$616.64 in all of our checking accounts and \$24,003.34 in all of our savings accounts for a total of \$24,619.98 so every new membership, renewed membership, book or item sold, or unrestricted donation really counts. Please remember that all non-Lifetime membership renewals for 2017 will be due in February 2017 so if not renewed, then you may be dropped from the membership list and mailings. We currently have 11 non-renewed members and 58 paid members. 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 barely have begun working on a redesign of the current website, but hopefully we will have a chance to finish and publish it in the near future using our new available website tools. Unfortunately, some 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.

## 1812 Columbia Block House Day Update

Written By: Ronald B. Krisko, Treasurer

This year's 1812 Columbia Block House Day event was very poorly attended, probably due to the weather predictions that it would be storming all day when in fact it did not until after the event was completely over. We did have very good reenactors and speakers on hand with great pioneer cooking demonstrations, which was enjoyed by all. Thank you to all who attended or helped to put together this event.



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## Officer and Director Duties Descriptions

Written By: Ronald B. Krisko, Treasurer & Karen Richards, President

In order to help get more volunteers involved, we have put together simple, yet not all inclusive, lists of various society officer and director duties so that members know better what each position requires so that members can nominate themselves or be nominated to fulfill these positions. Nominations are open from now until the start of the meeting on 11/15/16. Many helping hands make the work quicker and easier for all involved. Simply contact the Nominations Committee Chairperson, Dennis Ross, at 440-236-5132 in order to nominate yourself or somebody else.

**President:** First and foremost the president is responsible for conducting the regular officer and membership meetings using Robert's Rules of Order (Revised) as a guide in conjunction with the society's bylaws, constitution, and various approved policies and procedures. Prepare the officer and membership meeting agendas. Review and provide feedback on officer and membership meeting minutes. Work with the officers to determine the calendar for 12 months and help to set the programs, open and close the meeting building location, and help the speakers set up their presentations. Regularly check on the Bronson House Museum, note any maintenance needed, and bring those items to the officers for discussion and then the membership if not an emergency. Represent the society at all official events and those of other societies or groups or designate an alternate representative. Create committees, assign committee chairpersons, assign duties committees, and support the committees when needed. Be the primary signatory on all society contracts with vendors with the Treasurer as a secondary after approval of contracts by the officers. Help to protect and preserve the society's museum, collection, and the society in general. Ensure that the society always conducts its business in accordance with federal, local, state, and IRS 501(c)(3) laws and regulations. Have society's phone number forwarded to their number in order to have somebody able to answer society telephone inquiries. Act as an officer and voting member of the Executive Board.

**Vice President:** Act as a backup for the Present in all duties if the President becomes unavailable to perform their duties. Assist the President and other officers in the management of the society and its membership as requested by the President. Assist the other officers, directors, and committees as needed. Act as an officer and voting member of the Executive Board.

**Treasurer:** Act as the primary fiscal officer for the society and conduct all financial dealing, filings, and records in accordance with federal, local, state, and IRS 501(c)(3) laws and regulations. Annually send out membership renewals. Collect and record all membership payments, monetary donations, and item sales within Quickbooks, and issue donation receipts for memberships and donations. Track and record all in-kind donations in Microsoft

Excel spreadsheets and issue in-kind donation receipts to donors. Pay required Ohio Sales Tax (UST-1) in January and July each year on society items sold. Prepare and file annual IRS 990 federal tax filings along with the required Ohio Attorney General's Charitable Registration Annual Report filing. Present all tax and financial filings to society officers for review and approval before filing. Present overview of society's financial status and accounts at all officer and membership meetings, and provide detailed information as required and requested. Maintain and secure the society's checkbook. Provide reimbursements to members for purchases made on behalf of the society after a written receipt is turned over to the Treasurer. Maintain a current membership list with renewal dates and levels of membership for each member. Ensure that all financial information, records, contracts, and receipts are either recorded electronically or scanned/saved into PDF files and placed into the society's Google Drive for access by all officers along with onto the society's laptop, which is then backed up regularly onto another external device. Review and be a second set of eyes and signature for all society contracts with vendors after approval by the officers on contacts is given. Ensure that the society's two money boxes are accounted for, audited, and filled and emptied of monies before and after society events. Obtain three quotes on insurance coverage, present to the officers, and pay for the annual insurance D&O and Liability coverages. Keep a printed binder per year or all society transactions, receipts, bank statements, contracts, in-kind donations, etc. Assist the other officers, directors, and committees as needed. Act as an officer and voting member of the Executive Board.

**Recording Secretary:** Create accurate written record of all officer and membership meetings, and present those minutes for review and approval at the next meeting. Keep a book of the approved meeting minutes. E-mail the meeting minutes to those members who requested electronic updates and provide the PDF file of the minutes to the Director of Technology to put onto the society's website for non-profit transparency. Keep and maintain an accurate and up-to-date Board Book of current approved policies and procedures and other items for each officer and director. Assist the other officers, directors, and committees as needed. Act as an officer and voting member of the Executive Board.

**Corresponding Secretary:** Notify all officers of upcoming meetings and all members of upcoming membership meetings. Send out various thank you, get well, sympathy, or other cards on behalf of the society. Maintain a current and complete listing of the society's upcoming calendar of meetings, events, and speakers, and provide that information electronically to the Director of Technology to publish on the society's website and other electronic notification sites. Act as the editor and creator of the quarterly membership newsletter by gathering information from the other officers and directors and putting it all together into a newsletter. Print and postal mail the newsletter to those paid



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members who requested a printed newsletter, e-mail the newsletter to those members who requested an electronic newsletter, and provide the PDF file of the newsletter to the Director of Technology to put onto the society's website and other electronic media outlets. Assist the other officers, directors, and committees as needed. Act as an officer and voting member of the Executive Board.

**Director of History:** Preserve, protect, and organize the society's collection both inside and outside of the museum, since some items are not currently located within the museum's walls. Be the primary contact for family and historical inquiries from member and outside entities. Maintain a list of all society collection items not currently housed within the Bronson House Museum including their current location and share it with the Executive Board. Maintain the catalog of the society's collection located within the Bronson House Museum. Assist the officers, other directors, and committees as needed. Is not a voting member of the Executive Board.

**Director of Publicity:** Publish and promote the society's upcoming meeting and events to the society's website and 14 other print and electronic media outlets. Assist the Director of Technology with maintaining the society's website and e-mail meeting calendars, events, meeting minutes, and newsletters. Assist the officers, other directors, and committees as needed. Is not a voting member of the Executive Board.

**Director of Technology:** Maintain and update the society's website, Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn sites with current and upcoming information. Maintain a complete listing of the society's upcoming calendar of meetings, events, and speakers on the society's sites. Maintain a complete set of current and past society electronic files on the society's laptop and Google Drive. Maintain, apply updates, apply patches, and backup the society's laptop regularly. House and store all of the society's technology products including but not limited to its laptop, printer, external backup drives, and LED projector at their home due to the unregulated conditions within the Bronson House Museum. Maintain and update the society's electronic on-line storefront. Publish the approved meeting minutes on the society's website. Publish the society's newsletter in PDF format on the society's website and e-mail it to the members. Maintain current approved policies and procedures on the society's website for non-profit transparency. Maintain the society's Google and Network Solutions e-mail accounts. Maintain the society's phone number forwarding account. Assist the officers, other directors, and committees as needed. Is not a voting member of the Executive Board.

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

Written By: Mary Ellen Jenkins

### *"Early Columbia School Buses by Dorothy Betts"*

Dorothy Betts (Sept. 19, 1921 – Jan. 25, 2001) drove a Columbia school bus from 1953 to 1983. Her father, Harry Stinchcomb (June 26, 1893 – Nov. 30, 1985) started driving in 1924, the first two years with his red Model T Ford panel truck. Harry retired in 1961, after thirty-seven years of faithful duty. Jeanne Boey, Dorothy's daughter, tells us that her mother wrote the following for her family when she retired. It is with such little sketches that a family's history is preserved. Jeanne says that both her grandfather and mother had accident-free careers.

Years ago there were one room school houses in every corner of town. My mother, Elsie French Stinchcomb taught in the one on North Boone Rd. Her Morgan bred horse got her to her job from Jaquay Rd. where she lived. In 1916 she was married and only did substitute teaching after that. Children walked to school or were brought to school in inclement weather by parents or friends in buggies, wagons, etc.

The side roads were dirt. West of east River, [they] were half cinder and dirt.

After the completion of the brick building, Mr. Merrill Squires with his big team of horses pulled a carriage-type with many windows, window in front of the driver where the lines went through to keep the weather away from passengers. My sister Donna, who started school in 1924, was one of his passengers.

In 1925, Mr. Harry "Pop" Stinchcomb drove a 1924 Model A Ford panel truck, sliding front doors, hand windshield wipers, no heaters to warm your footsies. It was dark red in color, black trim, was nicknamed the "baloney bus" by older kids.

In the summer he converted it back to a produce truck by taking out the padded length-wise seats which faced each other, and put in his sliding racks to hold the vegetables and fruits for the Westside and Terminal markets.

The so-called baloney bus held around twenty students, smaller ones sitting on the laps of bigger riders. I rode my Dad's red bus for several years.

*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.*

## **2016 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