

The Columbia Historical Society meets on the second Tuesday of each month (other than Jan., Jul., & Aug.) either at the Columbia Town Hall or at the Bronson House Museum.

The Bronson House Museum is open during the Columbia Homecoming Festival each year, by appointment, and various times throughout the year. Please check our website for a complete listing of open times.

For more information about programs, meetings, tours, donation of artifacts, or historical information about Columbia, contact the society at:

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BRONSON HOUSE MUSEUM



Columbia Historical Society

Registered 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Charity

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SALLY BRONSON HOUSE MUSEUM

The Bronson House is located at 13648 West River Road (one block west of Route 252) just north of Route 82 (Royalton Road) on the grounds of the Columbia Middle School.

MOMENTS FROM COLUMBIA'S HISTORY

First Settler	1807
First School Class	1808
First Election	1808
First Church Service	1809
First Blockhouse	1812
First Post Office	1817
First Church Building	1830

The Bronson House is so named because it was the last residence of Sally Bronson, the first permanent settler west of the Cuyahoga River. She lived in this house in her later years with her daughter and son-in-law, Sally and Willis Beebe. She died here in 1865.

In 1849, Sally and Willis Beebe bought parts of original lots 14, 23, and 65. The land came to seventy and a half acres, which cost them \$540.00! Their original home was a log cabin, which stood behind the present house. This house was built in the early 1850's. Many of the timbers were probably hewn from the woods which stood behind the house. Clapboards, doors, and windows were probably brought out from Cleveland. The home was damaged by fire in the 1880's, and repaired by Joseph Osborn, whose father, Andrew Osborn, had purchased it from William Squire. William Squire had bought it from the Beebe family.

SALLY BRONSON

Sally Bronson was somewhat of a heroine before she even reached Columbia. She had walked nearly 90 miles to reach Cleveland, and carried her seven month old son. She was the only woman in the first party to come out from Cleveland, and has long been honored as our first settler. She, and other members of the Waterbury Land Company, reached their land in Columbia on December 7, 1807.

There are many "firsts" connected with the name of Sally Bronson. She was not only our first settler, but also chose Columbia as the name for the new settlement. She was the first teacher in the area, having set up a school in her log cabin in the spring of 1808. Her first husband, Bela Bronson, died in 1811, and she remarried to Benoni Adams. The dining room of the Bronson House contains two actual photographs of Sally. One was taken not long before her death, and the other much earlier, with her second husband, Benoni Adams.