



# Columbia Historical Society Newsletter



P.O. Box 983, Columbia Station, OH 44028, 440-879-8188, columbiahistoricalsociety@gmail.com  
www.columbiahistoricalsociety.org www.facebook.com/columbiahistoricalsociety www.twitter.com/columbiahistosoc

**Volume: February 2016**

## **President's Message**

Written By: Karen Richards, President



Here we are into the new year with promises of better weather and can see some improvements in that direction. I hope this winter was good to you and not too eventful in a nasty way. Our officers will be meeting and I hope to give a partial schedule of the coming year. I do know we have February meeting to look forward to and we do have a guest speaker. Mary Melnyk arranged for Chandra Blazek to present a program "Oh No They Didn't -- Debunking Common Myths About History". We will meet as before at the Columbia Township Town Hall with snacks and conversation at 7 PM and then the meeting will start right after the program. If it snows, we are doing as before (i.e. No school no meeting). Some Valentine messages may be displayed also.

News worthy projects have been slowly pursued and some accomplishments have been made. The dehumidifier had to be shut off until we reach temps of 41 degrees or more. The sump pump is working and a minor pipe separation occurred but has been remedied, and the basement is drier thanks to Ron Krisko's diligence and also a bit warmer now thankfully to the application of some insulation plugging some of holes in the basement. Thank you, Ron. There is a small electric heater down there to help keep the ice from forming like last year and so far the weather has been good to us. As long as we can see above the 32 degree mark, it helps keep the moisture situation on an improved level.

Again, I want to thank all of you for the support and volunteering you have given the society for it shows how many hands can make light work of any event or project.

## **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

02/09/16 -- Columbia Historical Society Membership Meeting at 7:00 PM (social time) and 7:30 PM (program) at Columbia Town Hall. Program includes: Oh No They Didn't -- Debunking Common Myths About History by Chandra Blazek. Open to the public.

03/08/16 -- 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. Open to the public.

04/12/16 -- 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. 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 TBD. 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: TBD by TBD. 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. 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. Open to Columbia Historical Society members and accompanying friends only.

## **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 new all-weather Bronson House Museum sign purchased by the society has been installed near the road by Ken Roth. The ground hog situation underneath the "L" section has temporarily subsided due to winter hibernation, but we don't have proof yet that the ground hog has left for good. The ground hog definitely left behind much damage outside and even inside the "L" section. The new dehumidifier and the new deeper sump pump hole helped to alleviate the standing water issue that the museum has had in the past in the basement. We will keep you updated as more items are completed.

## **2016 Annual Elections Update**

Written By: Ronald B. Krisko, Treasurer

Elections for the 2016 society officers took place at the December 2015 meeting and the following individuals were elected: Karen Richards, President; Kenneth Roth, Vice President; Ronald B. Krisko, Treasurer; Blanche Nemeth, Recording Secretary; Betty Gricar, Corresponding Secretary. Thank you for volunteering and congratulations to all of the new 2016 officers.



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## **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 02/01/16, the society has about \$2,208.28 in all of our checking accounts and \$24,102.95 in all of our savings accounts for a total of \$26,311.23 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 are due in February 2016. Postal mail reminders will be sent out in early February to all non-Lifetime members. In 2015, we had 65 paid members. An IRS 1099-MISC filing was created, filed, and sent to the IRS, State of Ohio, and the vendor for a 2015 payment. The Ohio Sales & Use Tax filing was paid and filed in January 2016. A 990-N IRS filing and State of Ohio yearly filing will be completed and submitted within the next couple of months. Thank you for your support of this society and its mission!

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

Written By: Mary Ellen Jenkins

*"The History of the Quarries by Leon L. Allen"*

Quarry No. 3 -- Westview

Now back to the quarry. After the block of stone is placed on the bank or top ground. Four or Five laborers, now, called quarry men, proceed [sic] to wedge off the corners of the big block making it shaped like a horse shoe, the reason for this is so that it will have a large base to rest on when it is placed on a little but strong car to be placed under the gang of saws, which are ribbons of steel about 1/8 inch thick, 4 inches wide and about 16 feet long. (no saw teeth)

These are procured [secured?] to a big frame made of wood sides, and Extra heavy ends, and made taut or tight by means of metal wedges.

Two or three big blocks of stone are placed in a vertical position on this car and run forward until properly placed, under this gang of saws. With the aid of large pitmans & a crank shaft this gang is set in motion by a bolt & line shaft, powered by a large engine it travels [sic] back and forth much like a cradle.

Water & sand are pumped by pressure on these saws while in motion, this process is known as stone sawing. The saw is extra hard and together with the water, causes the sand stone to wear away, under these blades of steel. Later years some one discovered by adding crushed steel to the sand and water the speed of sawing was doubled. This crushed steel is very hard and about the size of coarse ground coffee. A bag the size of [a] 10 lb sugar bag will weigh about 100 lbs

After the stone is sawed down & thru it is removed and laid flat. And is made round like a circle with a 4 inch square hole, called

an eye, in the center, it is then placed on a square shaft and made to rotate about 20 Revolution[s] every minute.

Men with tempered steel bars, hold against the stone and true it to shape, it is then called a grind stone, about 5 & 1/2 feet in diameter, various thicknesses from 6 to 12 inches, and weighs upward of 1 ton. The quarry hole is around 100 feet deep after the stone is all removed. A Red shale lies below the sand rock this is know[n] as Bedford shale. About 150 men used to work at Clough Quarry in Boom Days, during the summer months. Their time of day was called Quarry time and compared with the time, now called daylight savings time, but with Quarry time it was continuous [sic] the year round. The whistle blew at 7 o'clock in the morning, at 12 noon, for 1 hr lunch, again at 1 o'clock until 6 P.M. One long toot, one med length toot & two short toots. Three short toots was for [a] telephone call. No 3 quarry. This called the book keeper where ever he was to get on the phone, this was back in 1900.

The average wage for Common Labor was about 1.50 per day for 10 hrs work. My father worked for the Stone Co as Engineer for over 50 years. His wages averaged about 65.00 per mo.

The reason the quarries closed down, competition was the main factor. Carborundum for grinding wheels, and cement block for building purposes led to their down fall.

*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

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. Unfortunately several of us have been and are still handling double and triple duties beyond our regular officer duties. 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 more information more quickly with you this way.

## **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