

# LOGAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Newsletter

Volume XXIII Issue 5

SEPTEMBER—OCTOBER, 2011

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Logan County Historical Society's  
**October Membership Meeting at  
 Hansen's Stoneyfield Farm Orchard**  
 Sunday, October 9th 2:00 pm  
 At Bonnie & Dwight Hansen's farm,  
 4267 St Rt 47 E, Bellefontaine (see story & info pg 3)

### !!PLEASE NOTE!!

1- October Membership meeting date has been changed to the 9th  
 2- Bus trip has been cancelled.

Don't Miss our  
**Halloween  
 KidFest  
 2011**

Saturday October 29  
 1-4:00 pm  
**Costume Contests**  
 2:30 & 3:00 pm  
 (See info pg 3)



## Logan County Museum Luncheon & Antique Appraisal Show Open House

**Saturday, October 15**

**Spaghetti & Meatballs Luncheon 11:00-12:30**

**Antique Appraisal Show 1:00-4:00 pm**

**PLUS**

**Logan County Transportation Museum Addition Mock Up  
 11:00 am—4:00 pm**

**11:00 am to 4:00 pm**— We will have a full scale mock up of the upcoming addition staked out on its future location at the rear of the current facility. Visitors will be able to see the “first floor” showing each space in the addition as well as photos of the artifacts that will be exhibited in each space.

**11:00 am to 12:30 pm**— The Museum will host a luncheon of Spaghetti & Meatballs served in the museum's Presidents' Room. (Proceeds will go to the Logan County Transportation Museum Addition Fund). Cost of the lunch will be by donation.

**1:00 pm to 4:00 pm**— The Logan County Museum, in conjunction with the Logan County District Library, will host an **Antique Appraisal Show** in the Logan County Museum. Ralph Wood, owner of *Autumn Years Antiques*, 120 W. Columbus Ave. Bellefontaine, and other local experts, not yet confirmed at the time of this printing, will be available to appraise your antiques or family heirlooms.

There will be a **limit of two items per person and a donation of \$5.00 per item** is requested, with proceeds again going towards the Logan County Transportation Museum Addition Fund. The appraisal show is open to the public, so please tell your family and friends about this exciting and possibly surprising afternoon of antique appraisal!

Open to the public. Free Parking. Call 593-7557 for further information.

## CURATOR'S CORNER

Even though David Wagner is writing a piece about Allan Eckert for this newsletter, I would be remiss if I did not also talk about the passing of Allan. Over the years I have written several Curator's Corner articles that discussed Allan's influence on me. I was five years old when I first saw his outdoor drama *Tecumseh!* and immediately fell in love with the play and Tecumseh – the person. Seeing the play actually changed my life at the tender age of five. I knew that in some way or another Tecumseh would become a major part of my life. I have lost count on how many times I have seen the play, suffice to say it is an annual summer event for my family and when possible extended family and friends. I still get goose bumps whenever I see the play no matter how hot and humid it is.

As a teenager I read The Frontiersmen, which only increased my interest (some may say obsession) with Tecumseh. I have also lost count how many times I have read that book and Allan's biography of Tecumseh A Sorrow In Our Heart. When I was in high school I wrote a letter to Allan telling him how much he and Tecumseh have meant to me. I also sent him a poem about Tecumseh I had written. There are some moments in your life that you will never forget. I had one of those moments in college when my dad called me and said that I had received a letter from Allan Eckert. As my dad read me the letter I half-fainted/half-sat in a chair, barely comprehending that one of my heroes actually wrote a letter to me. In the letter Allan said that he appreciated my letter and poem and was placing both of them in his collection at Boston University. I have Allan's letter and my poem framed and in my office.

When I first became Curator/Director David promised me that he would take me someday to meet Allan. David came through with his promise and took me to Allan's office in his home. Allan met us in his bare feet and greeted me like I was a lifelong friend. That was the first of several times that I would get to meet with Allan. We, the Logan County Historical Society, were very fortunate to have Allan do several booksignings for us in addition to a talk at Bellefontaine High School. There were several times I had to pinch myself to make sure I was not dreaming that I was sitting next to Allan at a booksigning or having dinner with him. I am also very fortunate to have Allan's desk in my office. Although I know I will never be able to live up to the accomplishments he made while using that desk, I am honored that I can sit behind the same desk as someone as talented and interesting as Allan W. Eckert – my hero.

*Todd McCormick*



## Artifact Donations- Thanks!

June 22 – August 10, 2011

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Bob MacDonald</b> – Logan County postcards   | <b>Mary E. Wagner</b> – Sleeping bag of Edward Heizer   |
| <b>Charles Rice</b> – booklet "The Schools Are Yours" Bellefontaine City Schools information in 1947    | <b>Patricia Allen</b> – Indian Lake postcards   |
| <b>Greg &amp; Patty Miller</b> – lady's 1950s dress and 1960s hat                                       | <b>Judy Snyder</b> – 1930s toys, barber razors  |
| <b>Marsha Roberts</b> – 1940 Railroad timebook  | <b>Bob Wallace</b> – Derby hat belonging to Leo Clark Steinle (1882-1958) of Bellefontaine  |
| <b>Ron Ricketts</b> – Dr. L.E. Traul medicine bottle  | <b>Ray &amp; Linda Stamm</b> – Dessert dishes/bowls from Chloe Orr (daughter of William & Alice Orr)  |
| <b>Henry Weisz</b> – Program for Donovan A. William piano recital at the College of Music of Cincinnati | <b>Logan County Agrarian Club</b> – Scrapbook of club members' obituaries   |
| <b>R.B. Lame</b> – Local business ephemera  | <b>Donald Corwin</b> – Big Four Railroad lantern, booklet "The Challenge of Space Exploration" NASA publication for school children, bottles from Indian Lake Water Management, 1930s |
| <b>Robin Hesson</b> – Satan's Angels memorabilia, wedding dress   | <b>Mabel Smith</b> – Crotched bedspread made by donor's great-grandmother   |
| <b>Robert &amp; Cyndi McClure</b> – Indian Totem Pole from Lakeridge cottages at Indian Lake            | <b>Marilyn Boblitt Blanchard &amp; Ed Boblitt</b> – Logan County postcards  |
| <b>Sharon Smith</b> – Wedding dress, 1960s.   | <b>Sheila Cron</b> – Campbell family land deed in Pleasant Township   |
| <b>Barbara Powell</b> – A.J. Miller photos, local church & school photos, from Robert Goldsmith         | <b>Doug &amp; Mickie McGowan</b> – Lock & Key from the Bellefontaine Hotel  |
| <b>B. Joann (Yoder) Nelson</b> – Cow Bell from the Christian Yoder farm in West Liberty                 | <b>Charlie Patrick</b> – Ridgeway Street Dance ticket, EKG tape (donated in memory of his mother Alice Patrick who was a LPN at Mary Rutan's ICU)                                     |

## Logan County Historical Society Membership Meeting

October 9th, 2:00 pm at

### STONEFIELD FARM ORCHARD

The story begins with us in search of a large country property to build a home and to live in a rural setting. Since we both come from country backgrounds and Dwight from a large turkey farm operation, it is hard to leave the farm life forever. We discovered this property for sale in 1997 and began to ask questions. We saw the property on Thursday evening and had a pending offer on the table on Friday. The next thing we knew, we were the owners of 72 acres east of Bellefontaine, and we now had a farm! Then there was the purchase of a tractor and a mower.

We decided that we would build and live on the farm. Next, what are we to do with all this property? Lots of dreams, plans, and ideas were discussed. We put them all together and the result was a timberframe home and a barn with future plans to start an apple orchard.

Construction on the house began in 2002 and we moved the next year in November. Also in the summer of 2003, we planted 970 dwarf apple trees. We knew nothing about running an orchard! We did know that there was only one other orchard still in business in the county. Dwight did not want the risk of raising livestock and having to be tied to them on a daily basis. The barn would serve a multi use for a wood shop, equipment storage and a retail setting for the apples.

We have had many challenges with the orchard, which takes only 3 of the acres. Flooding, standing water, 17 year locusts, frost damage, deer damage, and fireblight have been the major challenges. Despite the challenges, we have been marketing 16 apple varieties, apple butter, and last year began the sale of cider. Even with the many costs involved, profits have helped us to install a walk-in cooler and a big labor saver—an apple washer line with a sorting table.

This year we have suffered from the heavy and continuous rains this spring and may only have a few bushels of apples to sell. That's farming! We still must continue to maintain the orchard, control weeds, and prune the trees.

We have planted 100 more trees this year and another 130 trees will be arriving next spring. We continue to learn and grow. We look forward to better production in 2012. See you October 9<sup>th</sup>!

Dwight and Bonnie Hansen

# Halloween KidFest

Saturday, October 29

from 1:00-4:00

For kids ages 4-12 \$2.00 each

MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT (free)

at the Logan County Museum,  
521 E Columbus Ave., Bellefontaine

Enjoy

\* Spooky Museum Trick-or-Treat

\* Lots of Games & Activities

\* 2 Kids' Costume Contests-

4-7 year olds at 2:30;

& 8-12 year olds at 3:00

Categories:

Scariest, Cutest, Most Original, Best Overall





David Wagner, President

### *The President's Message:*

## A Life That Touched an Untold Number of People

Allan W. Eckert died July 7, 2011, at the age of 80. He endeared himself to us during his time living in Bellefontaine, with visits to the Logan County Museum and by his numerous book-signings.

By any standards, he was a prolific writer. Sometimes it pained him to think just how prolific. He once told me that he'd amassed 1,147 rejection slips before his first successful publication. Fortunately, this failed to deter him.

My first knowledge of Allan came when I was 24 or 25. I was in the Air Force PX in Japan and, looking for something to read, picked up his first published book, *The Great Auk*. Reading it had a profound effect on me, awakening a sense of respect and responsibility for the world around us and the creatures therein.

Then, in 1967, came *Wild Season* and *The Frontiersmen*. I eagerly devoured *Wild Season*, and a friend told me that much of the action in the *Frontiersmen* took place around Zanesfield, home territory. At first glance, however, I doubted whether this could be the same author, so different were the subject matters and writing style. Realizing that it was, indeed, the same person was all I needed to set him on my list of must-read authors. The rest, as they say, is history.

But not quite!

Allan has said that he started out to write a biography of Simon Kenton, but soon found it incomplete unless he gave Tecumseh equal attention. By the time he finished what was to become *The Frontiersmen*, he'd trekked hundreds of miles just in Logan County. The research for this one book led him to subsequent works in the *Winning of America* series.

Over the years of our friendship Allan knew, however, that his books on nature held the most appeal for me. His prologue to *Wild Season* is perhaps the best piece of prose I've ever encountered. Those of you who attended the session at Bellefontaine High School may recall him reading it aloud - at my insistence. This extraordinary book should be part of every school curriculum.

The Eckerts had visited Bellefontaine in 1983 for a book-signing at Marty Varian's book store on north Main Street. By the time they came for a repeat visit a few years later it was almost a foregone conclusion that this was to be their next home, a decision claimed by his loyal wife and agent/bodyguard, Nancy.

I was just getting settled into my new career as a journalist when I learned that I might actually interview Allan for the *Examiner*. Trying to disguise what by that time lay somewhere between awe and worship on my part, I'm sure I must have begged Gene Marine for the assignment.

Before meeting Allan, I was prepared to be totally intimidated. Yes, he was every bit as remarkable as I could have predicted. Here sat the man who'd won an Emmy for one of my favorite TV series, *Wild Kingdom*, author of almost 40 books, seven-time nominee for the Pulitzer Prize in Literature, Honorary Doctor of Letters, etc., etc.

But what I was not prepared for was how gracious and at ease he was; no pretenses, easy to talk to, never boring and above all, patient to a fault. He more than once confided that he was not at all fond of book-signings, but knew them to be a necessity. It was just that he couldn't help but see meeting the public as intruding into time better spent writing or even doing that very tedious research.

Allan escaped death on more than one occasion earlier in his life. He spent summers from his early teens hitchhiking alone across the country amassing much of the knowledge and observations he'd need later as an author. These travels frequently put him in danger. On a trip later to Africa, he barely survived being bitten by a poisonous snake. He conquered cancer several years ago. But close calls such as these made him aware of his mortality yet also allowed him to face his ultimate demise with his eyes fully focused.

Allan may have left the mortal world on July 7, but his writings will continue expanding the horizons of everyone who opens the pages of any one of his many unique works.

Naught left to say but "Adieu" Allan.

You will be remembered fondly and with the greatest respect.



Allan W. Eckert in Orr Mansion

David Wagner

# YOUNG HISTORIANS 2011-2012

The start of school also means the start of the Logan County Historical Society's Young Historians. This will be the 10<sup>th</sup> year for the Young Historians! The 2011-2012 theme will be *Logan County and the Civil War*. Over the next nine months the group will be looking at different aspects of the Civil War like what it was like to be a soldier, how it changed the lives of children and many more things. We will be doing a variety of activities that will be fun but also educational.

We will once again be making decorations for the Young Historians' Christmas tree at the Museum's Christmas open house. We will also have our annual Christmas party and our end of the year party. The Young Historians is open to first grade students on up. We meet once a month on alternate 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays and Tuesdays from 6:00-7:00, with a few exceptions for holidays, museum functions, and school events.

The following is the tentative schedule for the 2011-2012 Young Historians:

- September 26<sup>th</sup> (Monday) – 6:00-7:00 in the Presidents' Room of the Logan County Museum
- October – No meeting but members are invited to attend or help with the Logan County Museum's Halloween KidFest on October 29<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-4:00.
- November 15<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) – 6:00-7:00 in Presidents' Room – Make Christmas tree decorations. *Note that this is the third Tuesday due to the Thanksgiving holidays the following week.*
- December 12<sup>th</sup> (Monday) – 6:00-7:00 in the Presidents' Room – Christmas Party. *Note that this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday due to the Christmas holidays later in the month.*
- January 24<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) – 6:00-7:00 in the Presidents' Room
- February 27<sup>th</sup> (Monday) – 6:00-7:00 in the Presidents' Room
- March 20<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) – 6:00-7:00 in the Presidents' Room
- April 23<sup>rd</sup> (Monday) – 6:00-7:00 in the Presidents' Room
- May 22<sup>nd</sup> (Tuesday) – 5:30-7:00 in the Presidents' Room – End of the year Pizza Party

Dates, times and subjects of meetings may be subject to change. If you have any questions please call Todd at 593-7557 or email at : [logancomuseumtodd@embarqmail.com](mailto:logancomuseumtodd@embarqmail.com).

## New Members 2011

July– Soudra Elliott-Kennedy, West Mansfield  
August– Irma Davis, Arizona  
**WELCOME!**

### !!PLEASE NOTE!!

- 1– OCTOBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING DATE HAS BEEN CHANGED TO THE 9TH
- 2- BUS TRIP HAS BEEN CANCELLED.

## LOGAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY WELCOMES YOU!!

*NOTICE: You can now pay your dues on our website at [www.logancountymuseum.org](http://www.logancountymuseum.org) using either PayPal or your credit card!*

NEW MEMBER \_\_\_\_\_, RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_

Dues: Single - \$15, Family - \$20, Business - \$25

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

I can help with (check as many as apply):

- Adult tours docent \_\_\_\_\_,
- Student tours docent \_\_\_\_\_,
- Regular open hours tours docent \_\_\_\_\_,
- Young Historians Club assistant \_\_\_\_\_,
- Open house docent/volunteer \_\_\_\_\_,
- Tent at Fair \_\_\_\_\_,
- Indian Lake Festival booth \_\_\_\_\_,
- Halloween KidFest \_\_\_\_\_,
- Christmas decorating of museum \_\_\_\_\_,
- Christmas Open House docent/volunteer \_\_\_\_\_,
- Building Committee volunteer \_\_\_\_\_,
- Gift Shop Committee volunteer \_\_\_\_\_,
- Programs Committee volunteer \_\_\_\_\_,
- Newsletter Committee volunteer \_\_\_\_\_,
- Docent Committee volunteer \_\_\_\_\_,
- Photography volunteer \_\_\_\_\_,
- Fundraising Committee volunteer \_\_\_\_\_,
- Other, explain \_\_\_\_\_.

PLEASE SEND YOUR DUES AND/OR DONATIONS TO:  
LOGAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
521 E. COLUMBUS AVE.  
BELLEFONTAINE, OHIO 43311-2401

### 2011 HISTORICAL SOCIETY OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

David Wagner	President
Karen Beasley	Vice-President
William McCormick	Treasurer
Steve Skidmore	Assistant Treasurer
Patty Farrow	Recording Secretary
Pat Ortli	Corresponding Secretary
Chris O'Connor	Trustee (2011)
Bonnie Hansen	Trustee (2011)
Dan Bratka	Trustee (2011)
David Pennington	Trustee (2012)
Mary Mortimer	Trustee (2012)
Charlie Patrick	Trustee (2012)
Doug Chamberlain	Trustee (2013)
John Tucci	Trustee (2013)
Nikki Smith	Trustee (2013)

### 2011 Museum Hours

*Nov 1—Apr 30*  
Friday, Saturday & Sunday 1:00-4:00 p.m.  
*May 1—Oct 31*  
**Wednesday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday**  
1:00-4:00 p.m.

### Curator's Office Hours

(in basement of Mansion)  
Monday—Friday 8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.  
Phone 937.593.7557  
Email: [logancomuseum@embarqmail.com](mailto:logancomuseum@embarqmail.com)  
OR [logancomuseumtodd@embarqmail.com](mailto:logancomuseumtodd@embarqmail.com)



Logan County Historical Society  
521 E Columbus Ave.  
Bellefontaine, OH 43311

2011

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

24- Sat- Genealogical Society Banquet in Presidents' Room  
26- Mon- Young Historians 6-7:00 pm  
28- Wed- Christmas Committee Meeting 1:30

OCTOBER

7- Fri- Office **CLOSED** for staff OLHA conference  
**PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE FOR SOCIETY MEETING**  
9th - Sun- (NOT -16th) **Society Meeting**, Stoneyfield Farm Orchard, 2:00 p.m.,  
at Bonnie & Dwight Hansen's, 4267 St Rt 47 E, Bellefontaine  
15- Sat- **OPEN HOUSE** (see info on front page)  
16- Nov 3- **MUSEUM CLOSED** to decorate for **Kidfest**  
29- Sat- **Halloween Kidfest** 1-4:00 (Costume contest 4-7 year olds at 2:30 and 8-  
12 year olds at 3:00)

NOVEMBER

5- Sat- **Christmas TREE Setup Meeting** 8:30  
10- Thu- **Trustee Meeting**, 7:00 p.m.  
12- Sat- **DAR Meeting** 10:30 am, Presidents' Room  
12- Sat- **Genealogy Meeting** 2:00 pm, Presidents' Room  
23-25- **Office & Museum CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY**  
26- Sat- Private party in Presidents' Room

DECEMBER

3 & 4, 10 & 11- Sat & Sun- **CHRISTMAS AT THE ORR MANSION**  
**OPEN HOUSE** 1-5:00 pm  
7- Wed- **Society Christmas Meeting**, with "Finger-Food" carry-in, 6:30 p.m.