

# HISTORICALLY SPEAKING

December 2011

The Newsletter of the Pioneer & Historical Society of Muskingum County

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Members,

I would like to wish you a Happy Holiday Season. The year has seen us move forward in many areas. The repainting of the Stone Academy has been completed and has enhanced the look of the building a great deal. We are very pleased with the results. Work continues on the Mathews House - the roof has been repaired, the wooden shingles that were damaged have been replaced and all the windows have been removed and are undergoing restoration rather than replacement. We hope the building will be air tight and dry when the renovations are completed. The Pioneer and Historical Society of Muskingum County owes a large debt to our members and the Friends of P and H who have supported our efforts to refurbish and preserve the Mathews House for future generations. Our volunteers have donated many hours of work in maintaining our grounds and museums and acting as guides. We simply could not do what we do without you. So, many thanks to all our members, the Friends of P and H, and our supporters throughout the community, the State of Ohio, and the nation.

The next year should see even more progress in many areas. We hope to see improvements continue in the physical structure of the Mathews House as progress is made. The lawn should look better as someone has agreed to provide the Mathews House with professional lawn care during the summer of 2012. Another benefactor has agreed to have the steel railing around the back of the house and at the front door refurbished and restored.

Jim Geyer has worked relentlessly to secure funding in the form of grants and has

worked hard to oversee the work in both buildings throughout the summer and fall. He secured membership for us in the National Underground Railroad Association. This took considerable research, phone calls, and numerous emails with the federal employees that coordinate this organization. Most of our success in the last few years is a result of his continuing dedication and hard work. Mitch Taylor is doing an outstanding job as he continues to maintain and expand our collection of artifacts as curator. He knows where everything is and its history. No small task for our thousands of artifacts.

As we welcome the new year, we feel it will be a positive one for our society and our museums. We are glad we made the decision to move ahead with repairs on the Mathews House without any public assistance at the state or local level. The economy has certainly made it difficult for these bodies to function. Our generous members have helped despite the economic difficulties.

Once again, thank you, to all of you who continue to support the Pioneer and Historical Society in our efforts to maintain our heritage for the future. I wish you a Happy New Year and hope 2012 will bring progress in all areas throughout our area and nation.

Sincerely yours,

*Bob Jenkins,*

PRESIDENT PIONEER AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MUSKINGUM COUNTY

**MUSEUMS OF THE PIONEER &  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
OF  
MUSKINGUM COUNTY**

**The Stone Academy**

115 Jefferson Street  
Zanesville, Ohio

Closed for the winter, will reopen in  
April

**Dr. Increase Mathews House**

304 Woodlawn Avenue  
Closed during the fall and winter, will  
reopen in June

To schedule a group tour please contact  
us through our website.

The Historical Society office is  
located at the Stone Academy  
740 454-9500

[www.muskingumhistory.org](http://www.muskingumhistory.org)

Like us on Facebook

**MUSEUM SEASON COMES TO A  
CLOSE WITH CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE**

The museums of the Pioneer and Historical Society have now closed for the winter. Last year the Board of Trustees decided that due to low visitation in the winter along with high utility bills, the Society must follow the lead of most county historical societies and close its museums from late fall until spring. Arrangements for group tours can still be made by using the Contact Us feature on the Society website.

Being closed does not mean that work stops. The Director is able to use his time in the continuing pursuit of elusive grant money and in increasing our visibility locally, statewide and nationally. In 2011 the Society received recognition from Ohio's Hill County Heritage Area and the National Park Service. In the case of the Park Service, this

prestigious recognition came as a result of many hours of research and writing. The Director is now working to add other buildings in the Putnam Historic District to the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. As weather permits, the rehabilitation work on the Dr. Increase Mathews House will continue and will occupy the Director's time.

The Curator continues the work of cataloging artifacts in the Society's collection and is currently rearranging the Society library to make it more user-friendly. When the library project is completed he will move some of the Society's spinning wheels and other textile-related artifacts, currently in storage, to the Mural Room at the Stone Academy.

The year came to a close with something we had not seen for several years, a Christmas Open House at the Increase Mathews House. Nancy Ragias and Dale Schwartzmiller headed up a committee that dressed the museum for the season using decorations that were from the Society collection and loaned by friends along with wreaths and garlands from Imlay Florists, Florafino's, and Hilltop Florists. Refreshments were provided by members of the P&HS, Friends of the P&HS and *In Good Taste Bakery*, our neighbor in the Putnam Historic District. Entertainment was provided by the *La Ti Da Quartet*, the *Barbershoppers* and violinist *Kara Mitchell Shockling*.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

First, let me wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Your continued support of the Society is much appreciated. A special thanks to all who volunteer; your service is essential to our success. It has been an honor to serve as Director.

The Mathews House Improvement Project is about 75% complete. Most of the windows and two doors were removed and restored off-site. Exterior wood trim was repaired or replaced on-site, as was the wood-shake siding. To date, three sides of the building have been painted. Roof repairs are complete but work on the chimneys and spouting is not. Work not

completed this year will be finished early in the spring. If you have any questions just call the office (454-9500) or send me an email ([phsomc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:phsomc@sbcglobal.net)).

In 2011, the Stone Academy underwent a makeover of its own. All of the exterior wood received a fresh coat of paint. More significantly, thanks to the National Park Service and *American Heritage* magazine, the building's status was elevated from **local landmark** to **nationally recognized historic site**.

A look at **Our Year in Review: 2011 by the Numbers\*** should give a clearer picture of what the Pioneer & Historical Society of Muskingum County is about:

- In 2011, our "customers" totaled 4383. (Website visits are included in this number, Facebook followers are not.)
- Stone Academy visits totaled 888.
- Mathews House visits totaled 693.
- Programs presented by the Society at off-site locations attracted 152 persons.
- Our website, [www.muskingumhistory.org](http://www.muskingumhistory.org), hosted approximately 2650 visitors. We began tracking website activity in early March and estimated the activity for the first two months of the year.
- Over 200 attended the Christmas Open House events at the Dr. Increase Mathews House.
- School tour totals were 192 at each museum.
- Motor Coach and other "tours by appointment" at the Mathews House totaled 125 visitors; at the Stone Academy, 199 visitors.
- Our Facebook Page had 41 visits this week. This number is typical. We are new to this medium and hope to use it more effectively in 2012.
- All budget and financial numbers will be available at the Annual Membership Meeting in April, or by contacting the Director.

\*We make every effort to keep track of our "customers". Exact counts of some activities, like the Christmas Open House, are difficult, so estimates are used.

Programming for 2012 will be planned early in 2012 and reported to the

membership in the March issue of *Historically Speaking*. During the winter months, when the office and museums are closed, the best way to contact us is to send an e-mail ([phsomc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:phsomc@sbcglobal.net)). Phone messages will be checked weekly.

*Jim Geyer*



No Christmas Open House is complete without a visit from Santa Claus.

## OHIO COMPANY SETS STANDARD IN CHARITABLE GIVING

Several of our members have responded to our request to designate the Pioneer and Historical Society as the recipient of Kroger Community Rewards and as a result, in 2011 we received \$137.28. We thank our friends but we also need to thank the Kroger Company. According to a Yahoo Finance article from December 5, the Kroger Company was the only American corporation to give more than 10% of its previous year's profits to charity in 2010. The company gave away \$64,000,000 through its charitable giving program. This Ohio based company is doing more than its share to support non-profit organizations. If you want the P&HS to get a larger share of the \$64M, go to your Kroger Plus Card profile on your computer ([www.Krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.Krogercommunityrewards.com)) and edit the Community Rewards tab to select 80971 as the recipient of Community Rewards.

## NOW I KNOW HOW A LOBSTER FEELS

When you are fighting a cold or the flu a good, hot bath can open up the head and relieve some of the aches and pains. But what type of hot bath? In *The People's Common Sense Medical Adviser In Plain English, or Medicine Simplified*, R. V. Pierce, MD listed eight major varieties of baths, given in order of increasing temperatures and fourteen specialized baths. The following excerpts are from 21st edition printed in 1889 and found in the P&HS library.

**The Cold Bath**, used at a temperature of from 30° to 60° Fahr., is powerfully sedative, and is employed for its tonic effects...if the individual remains in it too long, the reaction is slow and its effects injurious.

**Cool Bath**, at a temperature of from 60° to 75° Fahr. If, in any instance, the reaction is slow, we

recommend the...

**Temperate Bath**, at a temperature of from 75° to 80° Fahr.

**The Tepid Bath**, the temperature of which is from 85° to 92° Fahr., is generally used for cleansing the body.

**The Warm Bath**, at a temperature varying from 92° to 98° Fahr., is always agreeable and refreshing.

**The Hot Bath** at a temperature of



Dr. Hasenpfeffer assured Maude that Calvin's only hope for restored vigor was a "Sulphur Bath."

from 98° to 110° Fahr., is a powerful stimulant. It excites the nerves, and through them the entire system.

**The Russian Bath** consists in the application of hot vapor, at a temperature varying from 112° to 200° Fahr. The patient is first subjected to a moderately warm temperature, which is gradually increased as he becomes inured to it, the head being surrounded by cloths wet in cold water. Upon emerging from it, the bather is plunged into cold water or receives a cool, shower bath.

**The Turkish Bath** is a dry, hot-air bath. The bather is passed from one apartment to another, each one being of a higher temperature than the preceding. He undergoes a thorough shampooing, and, although the person may be scrupulously clean, he will be

astonished at the amount of effete matter removed by this process. The bather then returns through the various apartments, and, upon emerging from that of the lowest temperature, he experiences a delightful sensation of vigor and elasticity.

In addition, to these common baths, Dr. Pierce explains the wonders of the following baths: the **Sprit Vapor-bath**, **Sea Bathing**, the **Shower Bath** [not the kind you take at home, this is a cold water shower from a hose], the **Douche Bath** [not what you think, it "consists of a stream of water, dashed or thrown upon the patient from a moderate height or distance, with considerable force], the **Sponge Bath**, the **Foot Bath** [the hot water "may be made stimulating by the addition of salt, mustard, ginger or cayenne pepper"], the **Sitz Bath**, the **Head Bath**, **Medicated Baths**, the **Alkaline Bath** "prepared by dissolving half a pound of carbonate of soda in sixty gallons of water", the **Acid Bath** "is prepared by adding two pounds of muriatic or hydrochloric acid to sixty gallons of water", **Scott's Acid Bath** "is composed of nitro-muriatic acid and water. It should be prepared in a wooden tub, and a sufficient quantity of acid used to give the water a sour taste", the **Iodine Bath**, the **Sulphur Bath**, and lastly, the **Sulphur Vapor-Bath**. The description of the latter comes with warning that "if the gas is inhaled in large quantities it causes irritation of the respiratory passages, and suffocation." On the bright side, Dr. Pierce says it is a good treatment for syphilis.

Two other temperature-dependant medical treatments are **Fomentations**, in which woolen cloths rung out of hot water are placed on the body and on the other end of the temperature spectrum, the **Wet Sheet Pack** in which the patient is wrapped in a cotton sheet soaked in cold water. The doctor assures us that "after the first shock of the chill is over, the pack is very pleasant and refreshing, and the patient should go to sleep, if possible." Your editor has also heard that freezing to death is a pleasant experience. He is as likely to voluntarily submit to one experience as to the other.

## NO LONGER BIG BOOKS ON BOTTOM, LITTLE BOOKS ON TOP

Locating books in the Dale Moore Curry Local History Library at the Stone Academy has been more of an art than a science. There are many good reference materials but the filing system has made finding the desired volume more difficult than finding Blackbeard's treasure. The most recent realignment, now nearing completion, should make it easier for researchers to locate the books for which they are searching.

Five histories of Muskingum County were printed between 1882 and 1950. The original copies of the first three first three of these are showing their age and must now be considered archival materials rather than everyday reference books. Fortunately, they have all been reprinted. The Pilot Club of Zanesville sponsored a reprinting of J. F. Everhart's 1882 *History of Muskingum County, Ohio* in 1974 and the Muskingum County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society reprinted the Goodspeed Publishing Company's 1892 *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Muskingum County* in 1979 and J. Hope Sutor's 1905 *Past and Present of the City of Zanesville and Muskingum County, Ohio* in 2000. The Historical Society has copies of the reprints of Everhart and Sutor but does not have a reprint of the Goodspeed history. We would like to add this book to the library for the use of researchers so that the original can be preserved in an archival box, as are the originals of Everhart and Sutor. **If you can donate a copy of the reprinted Goodspeed history, please call the Society office or email us.**

Each of the compilers of Muskingum County history relied heavily on the books that went before them, usually without giving credit to their source. This can cause one error to multiply to the point that it is accepted as gospel. In the preface to his book, J. F. Everhart thanked Elijah Hart Church for making available his research. Unlike later writers, Church was a Muskingum County pioneer having been born in Zanesville in 1809. He used his own experiences or the reminisces of older

pioneer that he had known personally to write weekly history articles for the *Zanesville Courier* from 1874 until 1880. Jeff Carskadden did a great service to local history by compiling and printing these articles in book form in 1986. We would also like to add this book to our library. **If you have a copy that you can donate, please let us know.**

By expanding our library and making it user-friendly we can make the Stone Academy more than just a place to look at a few artifacts on a rainy day, it can become a destination for the serious study of the history of Muskingum County and southeastern Ohio. If you have any books that you would like to donate to the Historical Society please use the "contact us" feature of our website. To avoid duplications or books that fall outside the scope of our library, all offered books will be considered by the library committee before being accepted.

## WHAT WOULD BEN FRANKLIN THINK?

This newsletter and *Muskingum Journal* are victims of the US Postal Service's death spiral as it tries to stay in business by cutting service and raising prices. Mail from the Zanesville post office is now sorted in Columbus which means the Historical Society has lost its local delivery discount on bulk mail. The increase in price is not great but is just one factor in the trend by organizations to move their newsletters online. The last several issues of *Historically Speaking* have been available at our website soon after they were mailed to our members. If you have never seen the online version you should visit our site at [MuskingumHistory.org](http://MuskingumHistory.org). The first thing you will notice is that some of the pictures are in color. Because of some problems with format changes there are some other slight differences but overall the online newsletter is more attractive and it gives readers the opportunity to enlarge type and illustrations to make them easier to see.

This increase in postage has caused the Board of Trustees to move forward with an

idea they have considered in the past. We will gradually move our newsletter to an online publication. We realize that some of you might not have access to the internet or might prefer to receive your newsletter in the present printed form. As we reduce the number of printed copies we need, we will be able to photocopy the newsletter on the Society's copier. We will drop below the minimum number of pieces needed for bulk mailing but we anticipate that the copies mailed will be few enough that there will be no increase in the amount we spend on postage.



The Society and its mailing committee will benefit from lower costs in postage and printing and less paper shuffling but how will this change benefit you? We have not worked out the details but this could mean that you would receive more, but shorter, newsletters, which would allow us to get news to you in a more timely manner. It could become possible for us to post upcoming activities at other historical organizations in the area and we might be able to post reader questions and answers that would allow you to become more involved in the preservation and interpretation of our history. As mentioned above, we will be able to use color in the newsletter, which will be a great visual improvement.

The change will not come over night. First, we must collect email addresses from our members. Many of you gave us your address when you renewed your membership but our Life Members did not have this opportunity. **We are asking all of our members who have not yet done so to please give us your email addresses by visiting our website and clicking on the**

**“contact us” button.**

On thing that studying history tells us is that change is inevitable. Who would ever have thought that we would see the demise of the postal system but then a few years ago who would have thought that the Detroit auto makers would be on the brink of collapse or that it would be cheaper to ship raw materials to China and ship finished products back than to manufacture them here? Our devotion to preserving our history remains intact but we must find new ways to accomplish that task by using the latest technologies available to us. If you have any comments on our move to digital information sharing please contact us via the Society website or by telephone.

**THE PRESERVERS OF OUR HISTORY**

The day to day work of our historical society is done by the director, docents and volunteers but the people who have kept us in existence for over one hundred years are you, our members. We thank all of you who have renewed your Historical Society membership. Your dues are an important source of income for the Society and the act of renewing is taken as a sign of support for the work we are doing. Many of you have given donations in addition to your dues including:

Paul Fisher, Brent & Susan Stubbins, Rhea Huff, Sandy Turner, Susanne Ray, J William Barrett, Nancy Ragias, June Straker, William Brown, Shirley Henderson, Ann Decherd, Pete & Trudy Brailey, Barb & Drew Hansen, Mary Jane Cain, Edith Moyer, John Taylor, Paul Smith, Carolyn Spencer, Alan King, Charles & Marcy White, Jane Cooper, J W Straker, Ardath Danford, Milman Linn III, Wayne Estep, Rob & Lynn Moehrman, Tina Wickline, Don Moody, Jan Cleek, Phyllis Mast, Steve & Cindy Buck,

**We thank the following LOCAL HISTORY PARTNERS:**

Century National Bank Janet James  
Jim & Mary Ann McDonald  
Jim & Linda Geyer  
Gene & Betty MacDonald

**We welcome three new LIFE MEMBERS:**

Sandy Turner John B Mast III  
Elizabeth Reeb.

Life Member dues are added to the endowment where they continue to help support the Society in perpetuity.

A few members who sent in their dues late in the year but before the renewal notices were sent out may have received the renewal letter. We apologize and ask you to consider this a “crossing in the mail” even though the time lag might have been a couple of months. The membership program and its operator are not the most sophisticated in the world but they do their best.

**PIONEER & HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MUSKINGUM COUNTY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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If you have any questions or suggestions regarding the activities of the Historical Society, contact any member of the Board.



Pioneer & Historical Society  
of Muskingum County  
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Zanesville OH 43701

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Cover of a booklet of poems sent to "Louise Stewart from Helen, Christmas 1888."

OUR NEW YEAR  
by Ralph Smith Mershon

We greet the glad New Year  
with joy,  
We bid the Old farewell  
with sighs;  
Let us the past our hearts  
annoy,  
Though cheerless  
memories arise.

Let us all resolve that  
each New Year  
Prove what true hearts  
and hands can do,  
To mend what faults lurk  
every near,  
And shun vain errors, old  
and new.

Strive, with the aid of  
heavenly grace,  
To guard alike our  
hearts and hands;  
Lest idle thoughts and  
deeds displace