

Washington Township Historical Society
Newsletter #3 September, 2006

The Washington Township Historical Society of Stark Co., Inc., will resume their monthly meetings on September 26, 2006, at 7:00 pm at the township fire department.

We have some very interesting programs scheduled for the upcoming year. Mark your calendars. They are:

September 26, 2006	Underground Railroad
October 24, 2006	Researching the deed of your property
November 28, 2006	Barber Airport and Taylorcraft Airplane Mfg.
December, 2006	No meeting – Merry Christmas
January 23, 2007	President Wm. McKinley
February 27, 2007	Locals and their locale
March 27, 2007	Lowell Myers Go Cart Track
April 24, 2007	Indian Trails, etc.
May 22, 2007	Flags
June 26, 2007	Picnic
July and August, 2007	No meetings – enjoy the summer

Message from the treasurer

Our year runs from September 1 through August 31st so dues are due (no pun intended). They are \$10 per year for an individuals and \$20 per year for a family. Checks should be made out to the Washington Twp. Historical Society and can be brought to the next meeting.

Another Year

By Marleen Grant

Another year has gone by and the society has received lots of history about the township which keeps members busy filing. Our work nights are the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month. All help is welcome (it gives you a chance to really see what we have been given). We hope everyone has enjoyed our programs, the committee tries hard to bring township history to you.

Our two crocheted throws were given away at the dinner/car show in July. A young boy from the audience pulled the 2 names which happened to be ? Radabaugh and Susan Mani. Thanks to all who helped, these projects help purchase supplies that preserve the articles that we have.

When you clean out your closets or storage space remember us before throwing away the old clothing. We would appreciate some vintage clothing including hats, gloves, etc. What was worn is also a part of our history.

Marleen and Casey attended the Antram auction to see the coffin. It was a child's coffin and sold for \$300. We took a picture of it and that will do the job for us.

This coming year the society will do two Ruritan's breakfasts, the firemen's breakfast, visit the 3rd graders at the Wash. Twp. Elementary School and will place flags on the cemeteries for Memorial Day. We can always use help at any of these functions.

Thanks to all who baked cookies and made coffee which made for an enjoyable social time. It takes all of us working together to make history.

Our Land
by Dan MacIntyre

In the process of moving from the old house to the new I had occasion to look over the abstract for our property on Hartzell Ave. The abstract lists all of the owners of our land from James and Jane Douglass, the first owners, to Carl and Mary Ritschard, the previous owners before Louise and I. The new owners of our old farm house are our children, Christy and David.

The Douglass's received their deed to the land in 1809. It was issued at the Federal land office that was located at Fort Steuben now known as Steubenville, OH. (The history of how the territory of Ohio and subsequent lands were divided up is interesting and perhaps it could be a program some evening).

Douglass's land was transferred by the government of the United States of America, Thomas Jefferson, President, and described as the east half section of Section 28, Township 18, Range 6. The township had yet to be named. An acre of land was valued at a dollar an acre and was sold in quarter, halves or full sections.

The government had set aside certain sections for veterans of the Revolutionary War, who upon presentation of an honorable discharge from the Continental Army received a half section free. All of the owners listed on our abstract indicate they paid money to buy the land. There is no indication the Douglass's paid anything to acquire their half section. Can we assume he was a Revolutionary Soldier?

Settlers like the Douglass's traded along Indian Trails from the Ohio River to arrive in this area. Many carried their belongings on their backs and shoulders as they didn't have horse and wagon. Some of your ancestors came this way. The Douglass's and their fellow settlers built crude shelters for homes. They cleared the land to raise crops, raised live stock and of course children. Working together they established churches and schools and helped each other when there was a need.

Every so often I am heard to say "that nothing happened of any historical significance in Washington Township". After all Morgan and his Confederate raiders didn't get this far north during the Civil War and the British Fleet stayed up on Lake Erie during the War of 1812.

I am wrong though about nothing happening here. The people who came to Township 28, Range 6, Washington Township, Stark County, Ohio, brought with them the American Dream. Through their hard work they developed a peaceful and productive community. While it may not be exciting, it's a legacy to be proud of and a heritage well worth passing on to the next generation.

Cleaning and Crossing the Delaware
By Carolyn Caskey

On a recent drizzly Monday I decided to do some cleaning in my computer room. Now this room is also my sewing/ironing/ library/genealogy and many other things room. You never know what you are going to find in a room like this and I found things I didn't remember I still had.

Now you might wonder where the Delaware River comes into this and I will try to explain so you understand. I found a big envelope full of papers from when I went to the Ohio Genealogical Society Convention in Columbus in 1984. Yep, 22 years ago and I still had all the paperwork I brought home from there. I tossed most of it except a few sheets of general genealogical information.

On one genealogical society's handout they had a picture of Washington crossing the Delaware. The caption read "You don't have to cross the Delaware to make history". I sat there looking at that picture and thought "how true". You and I and everyone around us have made history and continue to do so every day. You might

think that you and your family have not done anything significant but you are wrong. If your family has always been in Washington Township or you just moved here, you are part of the township's history.

I also found a couple of other things. Years ago I had gone down to Paris and borrowed their cemetery records and was permitted to make copies of them. Not everyone buried there is from Paris, there are Washington Township people there also. Is there someone you have been looking for and they might possibly be there? These records will be taken from my room to the society's room.

The trustees have given us a lot of their old record books but I was reminded when I found the copies of a poll book from the 1850's that they had let me borrow the book many years ago. If you are trying to place someone in the township these records will definitely place him here. Remember the women couldn't vote then. With the copies we don't have to worry about the oil from hands when you are looking at the original book.

It is very important that we accumulate all the history about Washington Township that we can. You might have something in a box or a closet that you forgot about. I can't be the only pack rat that has lived in our township

So all this is heading, not across the Delaware, but in the direction of getting everyone involved in looking for, listening and talking to relatives and friends, and helping get our history known. You never know when someone will ask a question and you might have the answer. As the old saying goes "if you don't do it, who will?"

Losses

A couple of hundred years of history has gone up in flames in our township this past summer. Shafer's barn on Hartzell Rd. and Stall's Funeral Home on St. Rt. 183 were burned by the fire department at the requests of the current owners. There was an article in a local newspaper recently about an old house on Columbus Rd. that was going to be demolished if the local historical society or someone didn't move it. They didn't think they could come up with the money that was needed. When you are a small group with very limited funds it is virtually impossible to save some buildings. It makes it all the more important to get pictures and facts about the old buildings we still have. The barn project has never been completed. Would you be willing to help by going and taking pictures? You will be reimbursed for the film and processing.