

*In Honor of the 50th Anniversary of the
Mercer County Historical Museum, 1959-2009*



**Mercer County, Ohio's
Oldest Family Businesses &
Mercer County Historical Society, Inc.**

***"Providing Economic & Cultural Development,
Our Past, Our Present, and Our Future"***

By
Joyce L. Alig, President
Mercer County Historical Society, Inc.

**PASSPORT TO HISTORY SERIES, BOOK XIX
September 2009**

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PREFACE

By Joyce Alig



The "PASSPORT TO HISTORY SERIES," is a passport to Mercer County's past, with the reader as the guest traveler of the Mercer County Historical Society, Inc. The 1980's "Passport to History Series," led the reader to tour Mercer County with "Mercer County, Ohio History" and three Sesquicentennial History books about Celina, Saint Henry, and Coldwater.

The 1990's *Passport to History Series* took the reader to early Mercer County: "Native American and Early Settlers;" "Those Magnificent Big Barns of Mercer County, Ohio;" "Mercer County's Centennial Buildings;" "Ohio's Last Frontiersman Connecticut Mariner Captain James Riley," and "Mercer County's Courthouses, Celina, Ohio."

Ohio's Bicentennial Celebration inspired the reader to appreciate his heritage: "Mercer County, Ohio: Map History of the Land between the Saint Marys Wabash River Valleys." Four Post Card books of Mercer County, Celina, Rockford, and Grand Lake followed. "Old Gold Rush to Alaska Diaries of 1898-1900," helped the reader join the Gold Rush! "Mercer County's Fair," took the reader to the Fair! Part of a Series, Six Township Bibliographies of Historical Resources provided research opportunities for future historians.

"Mercer County, Ohio's Oldest Family Businesses & Mercer County Historical Society, Inc." brings the reader home to the **Mercer County Historical Museum, The Riley Home**, back where he belongs.

Welcome back!

Title: **Mercer County, Ohio's Oldest Family Businesses & Mercer County Historical Society, Inc.**
"Providing Economic & Cultural Development, Our Past, Our Present, and Our Future"

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Mercer County Historical Society, Inc.

Executive Board of Directors, 2009



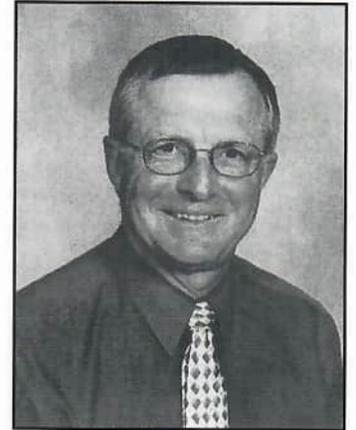
David McNeilan



Elizabeth M. Riley



Frank Snyder



William Vondrell



Joyce L. Alig
President



Philip Naumann
Vice President



Marjorie Pierstorff
Secretary



Fran & Mary Lou
Guibault
Treasurer & Asst.
Treasurer

**The Mission of the Mercer County Historical Society is
-To Preserve Mercer County's History;
-To Educate the Public about that History.**

INTRODUCTION

By Joyce L. Alig, President

PART I: Mercer County, Ohio's Oldest Family Businesses

In Honor of the 50th Anniversary of the Mercer County Historical Museum, the Mercer County Historical Society is preserving the History of the Economic Development in Mercer County with the histories of the Oldest Family Businesses in Mercer County. With Economic Development comes Cultural Enrichment. The Mercer County Historical Museum is one of the fine Cultural Institutions in Mercer County, which is supported by Businesses, as well as Public and Private support.

In Honor of the 50th Anniversary of the Mercer County Historical Museum, the Mercer County Historical Society is acknowledging the Hard Work, the High Standards, the Strong Educational and Religious Beliefs of our Forefathers who settled in Mercer County and established its communities.

PART II: Mercer County Historical Society, Inc.

In Honor of the 50th Anniversary of the Mercer County Historical Museum, the Mercer County Historical Society is preserving the history of this Mercer County Historical Museum, under the care of the Mercer County Commissioners and the Mercer County Historical Society, Inc. by printing this book, Mercer County, Ohio's Oldest Family Businesses & Mercer County Historical Society, Inc.

In Honor of the 50th Anniversary of the Mercer County Historical Museum, with the help of the Mercer County Commissioners, and the public, the Mercer County Historical Society has planned and implemented the Mercer County Historical Museum, its permanent and temporary exhibits, and its public educational programs, for fifty years, 1959-2009.

In Honor of the 50th Anniversary of the Mercer County Historical Museum, the Mercer County Historical Society has printed over two dozen local history books, to preserve local history and to educate the public about history, as well as to provide this educational resource to future generations.

In Honor of the 50th Anniversary of the Mercer County Historical Museum, the Mercer County Historical Society has planned and implemented a successful Educational Institution in the Mercer County Historical Museum, which will enable future generations to know how Mercer County came to be a fine place to do business and to raise a family.

PART I:

Mission Accomplished today, with hopes for Family Businesses' future.

PART II:

Mission Accomplished today, with hopes for the Mercer County Historical Museum's future.

In Honor of the 50th Anniversary of the Mercer County Historical Museum, will the County and the Public continue to support the Museum. . . or will it close before its Centennial in 2059?

Four Generations of the Bubp Family Community Leadership with The Fort Recovery Lumber Company Fort Recovery, Mercer County, Ohio

Brian Bubp and Chris Moeller, are the Fourth Generation owners of the Fort Recovery Lumber Company.

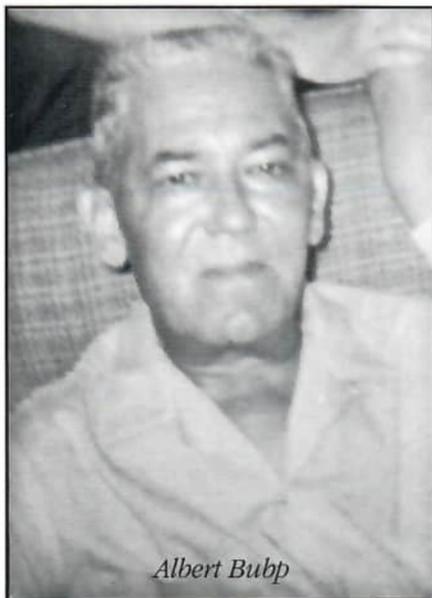
The First Generation, Louis Moeller, Great Grandfather to Brian Bubp and the wife of Chris Moeller, was President and General Manager of The Fort Recovery Lumber Company, when it was founded in 1915. This company has provided economic development for this Mercer County Community.

The Second Generation, Albert Bubp and Wm. Knapke, sons-in-law of Louis Moeller, worked with the company in the 1930's and became Directors of the Company in 1941. In spite of the 1949 fire, the company rebuilt and continued in business.

The Third Generation, James and David Bubp, sons of Albert Bubp, joined the Company, and James became Director in 1969. In 1980, James and David Bubp became owners of the Company. That year, the entire operation of Fort Recovery Lumber Company moved to 2550 Wabash Road.

The Fourth Generation, Brian Bubp, son of James Bubp, and **Chris Moeller**, son-in-law of David Bubp, became owners of the Company in 2004.

The Fort Recovery Lumber Company, Inc., serves a large area, specializing in residential and agricultural construction. The Company not only serves the construction needs of the community, but also provides employment to local citizens, and the continued economic development of Mercer County.



Albert Bubp, 1960's



Chris Moeller, David Bubp, Brian Bubp, James Bubp

Three Generations of the Dick and Hellwarth Family Community Leadership with the W. H. Dick & Sons – Hellwarth Funeral Home Mendon and Celina, Mercer County, Ohio

Mary Jo (Dick) Hellwarth and Carol Dick are the third generation of owners of the W.H. Dick & Sons – Hellwarth Funeral Home, at Mendon and Celina, Mercer County, Ohio.

The First Generation, Walter H. Dick, and Fred Lutz, Walter's brother-in-law, founded the Funeral Home at Mendon in 1913. An additional Funeral Home was opened at Celina, in 1937; in 1968, a new Funeral Home was constructed at Celina. In 1973, they constructed a new Funeral Home at Mendon. At Walter H. Dick's death in 1974, his sons became owners.

The Second Generation, Hubert and Charles (Cy) Dick, sons of Walter Dick became owners of the W. H. Dick & Sons Funeral Home in 1974.

The Third Generation, Mary Jo (Dick) Hellwarth, and her sister Carol Dick became owners of the W. H. Dick & Sons – Hellwarth Funeral Home, in 2002.

Three Generations of the Dick - Hellwarth Family have served the Mercer County Community, for nearly a century.



W.H. Dick



Cy, Walter, and Hubert Dick



Walter H. Dick, 1917

Gagel Hardware Company 1917 – 2009



Michael 1874-1923



Aloys 1903-1964



Thomas 1971 - current



Paul 1971-1995



Todd 1995 - current



Brian 1995 – current

Michael H. Gagel, Jr., who would go on to found a successful business that still bears his name, came to Mercer County, Ohio from his native Germany in 1892. He became a citizen on July 27, 1897, and his first jobs were with a local lumber company and the Maria Stein Spreader Works.

In 1917, at the age of 43, Michael Gagel founded the business that would become a popular and respected member of the Mercer County business community. Michael lived long enough to see the business launched. He died in 1923. The task of keeping the business operating fell to his wife Catherine and her sons. Catherine died in 1937. The business was purchased by the oldest son Ollie. His younger brothers Bill and Jim worked for the company. Then, as now the teen-age family members of the family, spent after school and summers helping at the store.

The business began as a small store selling tools, automobile tires, household instruments, and even those "miracle" appliances of the day, motorized washing machines. An important service to farmers of the area in the '20's and 30's was the installation of hay track and repairing windmills and pumps. After the depression of the early 30's, some measure of prosperity was returning and with the advent of the Rural Electrification Act, the business expanded to include electrical, plumbing and heating services, floor covering, appliances and a full range of hardware and house wares.

In 1937, Ollie married Marguerite Hickey of Versailles. With the increase in business lines it became necessary to hire additional employees from the local community. Notable among them, Lee Knapke with over 40 years of service, Richard Overman and Paul J. Niekamp, both with over 30 years of service.

In 1950 a new modern building was erected to house the business. In 1957, the old structure was demolished and a new addition was added to the existing building. In 1967 the old Knights of St. John hall was purchased for more warehouse space.

Ollie Gagel died in 1964 and ownership passed to his wife, Marguerite. Tom and his Uncle Jim managed the business for the next seven years.

In 1971 Tom and Paul purchased the business from their mother. They expanded the business and added air conditioning and water conditioning to the list of services available. In 1995, Tom, with sons Todd and Brian, purchased Paul's interest of the business. Computer sales and service was added to the mix of products available.

Today, 90 years later, the business is thriving. The computer business has kept the company on the cutting edge of products available to the general public. The Gagel Family is proud to be serving their customers of Maria Stein area and the surrounding communities.

Five Generations of the Hull Family Community Leadership with Hull Brothers, Inc. Fort Recovery, Mercer County, Ohio

The First Generation, John Hull started working in the Farm Equipment business in 1896, selling Osbourn Farm Equipment in the area. In 1906, John formed a partnership with his brother **Manuel**. Both of the partners put in a total of \$750.00 capital.

The Second Generation, Norman Hull entered the business. John Hull died in 1934 and in the same year, Norman Hull, (John's son) and Manuel became partners. Norman thus became the Second Generation. Manuel Hull died in 1941 and Norman became the sole owner of the company.

The Third Generation, Richard and Norman Hull, Jr. entered the business. In 1951 Richard Hull (Norman's second oldest son) came into the business. Richard became the Third Generation in the business. Norman (Buzz) Hull, Jr. joined the business in 1960.

Hull Brothers was incorporated in 1966. Norman Sr. died in 1974. Rich and Buzz ran the company until Rich retired on 12/31/2006 and Buzz retired 12/31/2007.

The Fourth Generation, is now managing the business. Rich Hull has one daughter, Joyce who works in the office and a son-in-law, Paul Evans, who is in Sales and Management. Buzz Hull has two sons, Bob (his oldest) and Tom (his youngest) working at Hull Brothers.

The Fifth Generation is entering the business. Paul Evans has two sons, John and Mike, working the Parts Department. Tom Hull has his oldest son Terry helping with deliveries. Bob Hull's daughter Jessica began working at the business in 2008.

Hull Brothers is one of the oldest International Harvester (now known as CaseIH) dealers in the country and is the second oldest Maytag appliance dealer.



John Hull (striped bibs and straw hat) gets ready for a Parade in 1906.

John Hull



Paul Evans, Tom Hull, Bob Hull



Norman "Buzz" Hull and Richard Hull

Five Generations of the Ketcham-Ripley Family Community Leadership with Ketcham-Ripley Funeral Home Rockford, Dublin Township, Mercer County, Ohio

Marcia Nelle Ripley is the Fifth Generation of Embalmers and Funeral Directors, of the Ketcham-Ripley Funeral Home, in Rockford, Ohio.

The First Generation, R. Ketcham owned the Ketcham Furniture Store in Mercer, and manufactured coffins and served as undertaker, prior to 1884.

The Second Generation, William Ketcham, Sr., son of R. Ketcham, and his partner Samuel Cotterman moved the business to Rockford in 1884. In 1896, they occupied a two story business, at 197 South Main, which served the furniture business and the funeral business. (At that time in history, deceased were shown in their homes, with funerals conducted at their church.) Later, most visitations and many funerals were conducted at the Ketcham residence, 111 West First Street.

The Third Generation, Ralph G. Ketcham and Thomas R. Ketcham, sons of William Ketcham, and Thomas' wife Ethel took over the two Rockford businesses, after the death of William in 1920. Tom and Ralph were both funeral directors and embalmers. Ethel not only helped in both business, but also kept the books.

The Fourth Generation, Lucille Ketcham, daughter of Thomas Ketcham, became a licensed embalmer in 1945, having been graduated from the Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science, and she received her Funeral Director's license. She married Carl Ripley who also acquired both licenses in 1949.

The Fifth Generation, Marcia Nelle Ripley, daughter of Carl and Lucille Ripley, after graduating from The University of Cincinnati, entered Mortuary College, and received her licenses as an embalmer and a Funeral Director, in 1975. After her parents passed away, Marcia was responsible for both businesses. On June 30, 2005, the Ketcham's Furniture & Floor Coverings Business was closed. Today, Marcia Nelle Ripley continues the family tradition at the Ketcham-Ripley Funeral Home, at 11 West first Street, next to the Ketcham home. Marcia has one daughter Devon Stansbury. Perhaps, a sixth generation will continue the heritage that began so long ago.



Thomas R. Ketcham



Ethel Ketcham



Carl Ripley



Lucille Ripley



Marcia Nelle Ripley

Three Generations of the Leugers Family Community Leadership with Leugers Insurance Maria Stein, Mercer County, Ohio

Three Generations of the Leugers Family of Maria Stein, have provided insurance service to Mercer County.

First Generation Herman Leugers, began the insurance business in 1914, when he drove his horse and buggy around the county, selling Automobile Insurance. As his business grew, he added Life Insurance, and other Companies to his business.

Second Generation Henry Leugers, son of Herman Leugers, joined the business, after World War II. Due to their expanding business, they built a new Office in 1948. In 1970, the Leugers Insurance Agency was incorporated with Henry Leugers being the sole owner. The Office was doubled in size to accommodate the increased business. Two employees, Kenneth Kremer and Ted Bertke, bought into the Agency in 1976. In 1977, the building was enlarged the third time.

Henry Leugers has been very active in preserving Mercer County's history, including serving on the Board of Directors of the Mercer County Historical Society. Henry Leugers authored two history books, "*St. John Church, Maria Stein, Ohio*," and "*Pictorial History and Early Scenes of Maria Stein, Ohio*."

Third Generation Robert Leugers, son of Henry Leugers, joined the Agency in 1978. Along with his business partner Ted Bertke, they have expanded their Property and Casualty business adding locations in Celina and St. Marys. They have also developed a Life and Investment operation that includes 20 agents in a 7 county area.



Henry Leugers, 2000

Three Generations of the Montgomery Family Community Leadership with Celina Insurance Group Celina, Mercer County, Ohio

Celina Insurance Group has had the leadership of three generations of the same family, making it one of a select number of Mercer County businesses to enjoy this distinction.

Edgar Jacob (E.J.) Brookhart founded The National Mutual Automobile Association in Mercer County in 1914. Brookhart, married to Dora Montgomery, knew lower rates for insurance could be offered to the rural community by a small-town insurance company. Growth continued. In 1916, the new charter was issued to The National Mutual Insurance Company. In 1919, the Celina Mutual Casualty Company was created to handle liability exposures. E.J. guided the companies through two World Wars and the Great Depression.

C.M. (Chad) Montgomery, brother of Dora, joined the organization in 1923. C.M. was a key person in the growth of the companies. Montgomery was elected General Manager and Secretary of both companies, at Brookhart's death in 1950. On C.M.'s watch, the current-day headquarters was built in 1962.

Don W. Montgomery, C.M.'s son, joined the company as general counsel in 1953. A graduate of DePauw University and Columbia University's Law School, he was an Assistant Ohio Attorney General as well as Mercer County Prosecuting Attorney. Don was elected President in 1963. Today (2008) he serves as Chairman of the Board. Don was instrumental in the creation of a local community college, medical center and YMCA.

William W. (Bill) Montgomery, Don's son, joined the company in 1988. Bill is a graduate of DePauw University and Ohio Northern University College of Law. He served two terms in the Indiana House of Representatives and was a member and later chairman of the Indiana Public Service Commission. In 1990, Bill was elected President of the company. In 2007, Bill spearheaded a local effort to upgrade Celina's main baseball diamond, complete with a state-of-the-art synthetic playing surface. In return, the city named the ballpark, "Montgomery Field."

The Company marked a milestone in 2004 when it celebrated its 90th Anniversary. The same year it was honored as the Mercer County Business of the Year by the Chamber of Commerce.



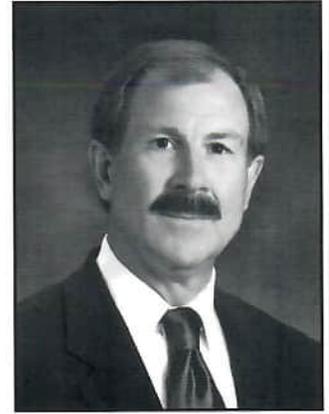
E.J. Brookhart



C.M. Montgomery



Don W. Montgomery



William W. Montgomery

Three Generations of the Myers Family Community Leadership with Myers Law office Celina, Mercer County, Ohio

Dan Myers, Celina, is the third generation of the Myers Law Office.

The First Generation, Burl Myers, opened Myers Law Office in 1909, having been graduated from University of Michigan that year. His brother, Orel Jacob, joined the firm in 1912, and the firm's name was changed in 1912 to Myers and Myers. Orel remained with the firm, until he was drafted in 1918. In 1912, Burl was elected Prosecuting Attorney for Mercer County and continued through a second term. Burl died of a heart attack in 1947.

The Second Generation, Burl Myers' sons, James, David, and Don joined the firm.

James Myers was graduated from Notre Dame Law School in 1938, and joined the firm in 1939 and stayed until 1976 when he became Judge of the Celina Municipal Court. James died of a heart attack, December 10, 1979.

David Myers was graduated from Ohio Northern University in 1948, and joined his brother in the firm that year. David died of cancer September 26, 1996.

Don Myers was graduated from Marquette University, BNS, in 1946, and from The Ohio State University College of Law in 1949, and joined the firm in 1950. Don died in an automobile accident, October 5, 1985.

The Third Generation, Dan Myers, son of David Myers, joined the firm in 1976. At that time, the Office was located at 324 East Market Street, in the First National Bank Building. In the mid 1980's, the firm moved to the Legal Arts Building, 90 North Ash Street, in Celina. Dan has managed the firm since his father's death.

July 17, 2009, the Myers Family held an Open House to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of this firm.



Burl Myers



Dan Myers

Five Generations of the Romer Family Community Leadership with The Saint Henry Bank Saint Henry, Mercer County, Ohio

Five Generations of the Romer Family have served the banking needs of St. Henry and Mercer County, Ohio.

The First Generation J.H. Romer and Henry Romer, brothers, were a part of the original founders of the Bank. This was a new venture for St. Henry because the southern part was practically without direct bank service.

The Second Generation William H. Romer and Elizabeth Romer, brother and sister, both worked for the bank for many years. During their term a new building was constructed and is still in use today (2008).

The Third Generation Leo Romer, son of William Romer, became president in 1951. The Bank became the first bank in Mercer Co. to have computerized checking accounts.

The Fourth Generation John F. Romer, son of Leo Romer, took over upon his father's death. During this time, the Bank installed its own in-house computer system.

The Fifth Generation David J. Romer, son of John Romer, is the current President (2009). Karla M. Clune, daughter of John Romer serves as Cashier. Technology is constantly changing, but the Bank is serving its customers on the principles on which it was originally founded.



John H. Romer



Henry Romer



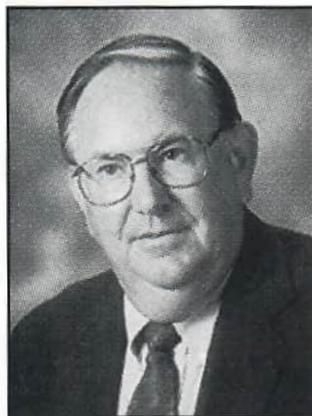
William H. Romer



Elizabeth Romer



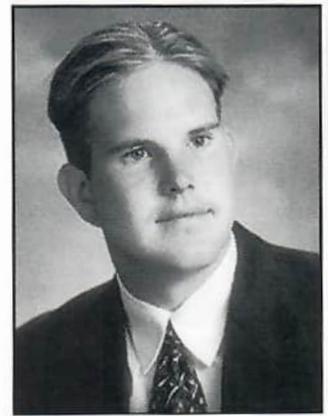
Leo E. Romer



John F. Romer



Karla Romer Clune



David Romer

Four Generations of the Snyder Family Community Leadership with The Daily Standard Celina, Mercer County, Ohio

The Daily Standard newspaper, Celina, Ohio, has been owned and administered by four generations of the Snyder Family.

The weekly Western Standard, predecessor to today's Celina Daily Standard was established on August 4, 1848 and sold to W.L. Blocker and Seth Snyder, both of Bellefontaine. Seth's younger brother A. P. J. joined him in Celina on March 17, 1851, buying out Blocker's portion in 1854 when Blocker became a judge.

In 1904, A. P. J. Snyder's son, Frank A. Snyder heard in a barbershop that a paper largely controlled by the Democratic party organization was opening a daily paper, but had lost its shipment of paper in a rail car. On two days notice the Daily Standard was begun as an in-town experiment, even though it was composed in hand-set type. To his surprise, some farmers bought the daily paper and in 1909, their first Linotype was purchased.

Frank A. Snyder's children, Parker and Joy, continued the family ownership and operation starting during the depression and WW II until the next generation.

Today, Parker Snyder's children Adele Smelser, Lillian Keefer, Jacob and Frank M. are all associated with the daily operations as the longest family-owned and operated newspaper in America, The Daily Standard, at Celina, in Mercer County, Ohio.



A.P.J. Snyder



**Front Row L to R: Frank M. Snyder, Lillian S. Keefer
Back Row L to R: G. Adele Smelser, Jacob Z. Snyder**

Four Generations of the Valentine-Salway Family Community Leadership with the Rockford Hardware Rockford, Mercer County, Ohio

Ralph Valentine began working at the Rockford Hardware in the late 1920's. He eventually became an owner, along with his wife Helen and son David. David Valentine was honored at an HWI Awards Ceremony in 1970.

The Valentine children spent many hours there, with Craig coming into the business full-time, until the Hardware was sold in 1982.

In late 2007, Nancy (Valentine) Salway and her family established The Olde Rockford Hardware within their existing business of D & L Classic Woodworking, LLC on 166 Main Street, Rockford.

As of 2009, there have been four generations of the family who have been involved with the Hardware business.



Dave Valentine, 1970

Five Generations of the Wangler Family Community Leadership with the Wangler Hardware Fort Recovery, Mercer County, Ohio

Mike and Patti (Wangler) Minor are Fourth Generation owners of Wangler Hardware. The business is located in Fort Recovery, Mercer County, Ohio.

The First Generation, Erhart Wangler moved his hardware business from New Riegel, Ohio to downtown Fort Recovery, establishing Wangler Hardware in 1916. Along with three of his children, Erhart operated his business. After 28 years he turned the reins over to his son Cletus.

Second Generation, Cletus Wangler, along with son, William (Bill) became owners in 1944 and expanded inventory to serve the rural farm community. Two of Bill's sisters, Eileen and Ruth, also worked in the business.

Third Generation, Bill Wangler became the owner of Wangler Hardware when Cletus retired in 1963. Bill managed the business with his sister Eileen, and the help of his own children, Gary, Patti and Mark.

Fourth Generation, Patti (Wangler) and her husband Mike Minor purchased Wangler Hardware when Bill retired in 1977. Consumers wanted more product selection than the small downtown building would hold, so in 2001 the business was moved to a large new building, at the edge of Fort Recovery, 85 years to the day, of the original opening.

Fifth Generation, Megan, Matt and Marisa all have worked in the family business. Although none of them are currently employed there, the option would be open to them if they chose to continue the tradition.



Wangler Hardware

Three Generations of the Wellman Family Community Leadership with the Wellman Bros. Inc. Coldwater, Mercer County, Ohio

Three Generations of the Wellman Family have served the construction needs of Coldwater and Mercer County, Ohio.

The First Generation William Wellman, Sr. started the construction business in 1921, when he took on the task to build the St. Mary's Catholic Church at Philothea, Ohio.

The Second Generation, Bernard and Bill Wellman, sons of William, joined him in this construction business, and continued the business as "Wellman Bros. Inc."

The Third Generation includes Dan Wellman, son of Bernard Wellman, and Roger Wellman, son of Bill Wellman, who carry on the family business. Other Members of the Wellman family have worked with this Company, in addition to additional employees from the community.

Wellman Bros., Inc. have contributed not only to the economic development of Ohio, but also the artistic and cultural environment of Ohio. Today, the company is known as "maintenance contractors for churches and public buildings." Wellman Brothers were widely known for "steeple work" and have built a trademark of quality workmanship throughout Ohio.



Wellman Family

**Four Generations of the Willke Family
Community Leadership in the Family Practice of Medicine
Maria Stein, Mercer County, Ohio**

First Generation: **Dr. Alois J. Willke**, born in Cincinnati, Ohio, opened an office for the general practice of medicine in Maria Stein on October 1, 1893 after purchasing the practice of Dr. Renneker. Dr Alois Willke married a Minster woman, Caroline Vanderhorst. They had 10 children and 3 became physicians,

Second Generation: **Dr. Gerard (George) Willke** took over the practice in 1922 when his father, Dr Alois Willke, retired. After eight years he left Maria Stein and moved to Cincinnati. For a year the practice was continued by Dr T.H. Will, who then moved to Minster, Ohio.

Dr Edgar J. Willke, another son of Dr. Alois Willke, took over the practice in Maria Stein in July 1931. He was married to Alfrida Kleinhenz from nearby St. Rose, Ohio. They had 4 children. The oldest daughter, Marilyn, married Donald Schwieterman from nearby New Bremen, Ohio.



1916 Office

Third Generation: **Dr. Donald Schwieterman**, Dr. Edgar Willke's son in-law, joined him in July, 1959 and the two-man partnership continued until the total retirement of Dr. Edgar Willke in 1984 . After that Dr. Don Schwieterman continued in solo practice for 7 years. Dr. Don and Marilyn had 5 sons and 3 became physicians.



1970 Office

Fourth Generation: **Dr. James Schwieterman**, third son of Dr. Don Schwieterman, joined his father in 1991 and remains in the family practice until the present time. He is married to Theresa Brown of Minster, Ohio.

Dr. Thomas Schwieterman, fifth son of Dr. Don Schwieterman, joined the practice in 1996 and remained in the office practice until 2007. He is married to Maria Albers of Coldwater, Ohio.

Dr. Don Schwieterman retired from the practice of medicine in 1997. In February, 2007 Dr. Heather Kleinhenz, a relative of Alfrida Kleinhenz Willke and a native of nearby St. Henry, joined the firm and she continues in the practice of family medicine with Dr. Jim Schwieterman.

The original two-room doctor's office was built next to the frame home of Dr. Alois Willke on State Route 119. Over the years there were a number of additions and remodelings and in 1950 the building was moved to a new location several hundred feet to the west at 8381 State Route 119. There have been several more additions since then but the original office of Dr. Alois Willke is still a part of the present day structure and may be the oldest doctor's office building in the state in continuous use. In addition the practice itself is thought to be one of the oldest family practices by a single family line in continuous service to one community in the State of Ohio.

**The Mission of the Mercer County Historical Society is
-To Preserve Mercer County's History;
-To Educate the Public about that History.**

INTRODUCTION

By Joyce L. Alig, President

PART I: Mercer County, Ohio's Oldest Family Businesses

In Honor of the 50th Anniversary of the Mercer County Historical Museum, the Mercer County Historical Society is preserving the History of the Economic Development in Mercer County with the histories of the Oldest Family Businesses in Mercer County. With Economic Development comes Cultural Enrichment. The Mercer County Historical Museum is one of the fine Cultural Institutions in Mercer County, which is supported by Businesses, as well as Public and Private support.

In Honor of the 50th Anniversary of the Mercer County Historical Museum, the Mercer County Historical Society is acknowledging the Hard Work, the High Standards, the Strong Educational and Religious Beliefs of our Forefathers who settled in Mercer County and established its communities.

PART II: Mercer County Historical Society, Inc.

In Honor of the 50th Anniversary of the Mercer County Historical Museum, the Mercer County Historical Society is preserving the history of this Mercer County Historical Museum, under the care of the Mercer County Commissioners and the Mercer County Historical Society, Inc. by printing this book, Mercer County, Ohio's Oldest Family Businesses & Mercer County Historical Society, Inc.

In Honor of the 50th Anniversary of the Mercer County Historical Museum, with the help of the Mercer County Commissioners, and the public, the Mercer County Historical Society has planned and implemented the Mercer County Historical Museum, its permanent and temporary exhibits, and its public educational programs, for fifty years, 1959-2009.

In Honor of the 50th Anniversary of the Mercer County Historical Museum, the Mercer County Historical Society has printed over two dozen local history books, to preserve local history and to educate the public about history, as well as to provide this educational resource to future generations.

In Honor of the 50th Anniversary of the Mercer County Historical Museum, the Mercer County Historical Society has planned and implemented a successful Educational Institution in the Mercer County Historical Museum, which will enable future generations to know how Mercer County came to be a fine place to do business and to raise a family.

PART I:

Mission Accomplished today, with hopes for Family Businesses' future.

PART II:

Mission Accomplished today, with hopes for the Mercer County Historical Museum's future.

In Honor of the 50th Anniversary of the Mercer County Historical Museum, will the County and the Public continue to support the Museum. . . or will it close before its Centennial in 2059?

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

11-53-57 "RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS" 7642

January 28, 1958, Roscoe D. Riley, President; Carleton C. Reiser, Vice-President, and C.A. Stubbs, Secretary-Treasurer, Mercer County Historical Society, met at 3:00 P.M. at the Citizens Commercial Bank, at Celina, Ohio.

Motion by Carleton C. Reiser, seconded by C.A. Stubbs, that the following resolution be passed.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Mercer County have informally been meeting with Roscoe D. Riley, Carleton C. Reiser, and C.A. Stubbs, and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Mercer County have asked Roscoe D. Riley, Carleton C. Reiser, and C.A. Stubbs to start a Mercer County Historical Society for the purpose of preserving Mercer County's history, through public education and the collection of historical items for a County Museum, and

WHEREAS, the Mercer County Historical Society is a County Historical Society of Mercer County, Ohio, and

WHEREAS, the Mercer County Historical Society is a Society incorporated not for profit under the laws of the State of Ohio, and

WHEREAS, the Officers duly called this meeting the 28th day of January 1958,

WHEREAS, funds are necessary for the establishment of the Mercer County Historical Society, and the Mercer County Commissioners have encouraged the Officers to apply for funds for this Society,

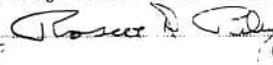
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Application be duly made to the Board of Commissioners of Mercer County, Ohio under the provisions of Section 307-23 of the General Code of the State of Ohio, and that the Commissioners appropriate for the use of the Mercer County Historical Society funds in the amount of \$ 4000.00.

All members present voted in favor of the motion.

There being no further business before the meeting, on motion of

Carleton C. Reiser, duly seconded, the same adjourned.

Attest:



 _____ Chairman



~ 21 ~



Roscoe David Riely, President
Founding Officers of
Mercer County Historical Society, Inc.
January 1958

Minutes cont'd. May 16, 1958

IN THE MATTER OF AUTHORIZING COUNTY AUDITOR
 TO PAY APPROPRIATED FUND TO MERCER COUNTY
 HISTORICAL SOCIETY. : : RESOLUTION # 342

Mr. Davis moved the adoption of the following

RESOLUTION

Whereas, It is deemed necessary that County Funds appropriated in January 1958 by authority of Section 307-23 of the Ohio Revised Code to the Mercer County Historical Society be paid to said Society, therefore be it

Resolved, That J. A. Gilberg, Auditor of Mercer County is hereby authorized to pay to said Mercer County Historical Society, C. A. Stubbs, Secretary, the amount of Four thousand and 00/100 (\$4000.00) Dollars from County, Code 14 A 4, Historical Societies.

Mr. Hartings seconded the resolution and the roll being called upon its adoption the vote resulted as follows:

Mr. Suhr, Yea; Mr. Davis, Yea; Mr. Hartings, Yea.

Mercer County Historical Society buried a Cylinder, September 8, 1959, to be opened September 8, 2009. The Daily Standard, Celina, Ohio. September 9, 1959.

A birth and old age, at once, were the points of celebration Tuesday afternoon as the Mercer County Historical Society honored the 125th anniversary of the founding of Celina with the opening of their new museum.

Those celebrating the event met at the museum on the second floor of the Richardson Building at Main and Fayette Streets at 2 p.m. and later converged on the lawn of the Mercer County Courthouse. There they watched the burial of a brass cylinder containing 500 names of the society's members, names of city and county officials, and historical information about 1959. The cylinder is to be opened 50 years from now in 2009.

FEATURED SPEAKERS at the museum dedication were J. Richard Lawwill, Director of the Anthony Wayne Parkway Board, Dr. James H. Rodabaugh, historian of Ohio; and Robert L. Damm, field representative of the Ohio Historical Society. The speakers were introduced along with special guests and officers of the Mercer County society by Master of Ceremonies Carroll Stubbs, secretary and treasurer of the county organization.

Lawwill spoke on the past and how it links the present and future together. The historical society, he said, provides continuity for the ideas of various generations and ages. In this way, the most worthy ideas and cultural objects are preserved.

THE RESPONSIBILITIES of any historical society were reviewed by Dr. Rodabaugh. He said that, although the programs and work of different groups vary, there are two main responsibilities for all. Societies must make a contribution to the community and its culture through maintaining its history and its knowledge.

They must also consider the larger community and its history. This larger community is made up of surrounding counties, the state, the nation, and the world. "No single community exists in a vacuum," Rodabaugh said, "it is a part of the larger group."

Damm noted that he had been present when the Mercer County society was organized, and was pleased to see the development and growth of the group in the past 14 months as well as the founding of the museum.



Bronsart Gilberg, 1959
"Curator of Exhibits."

Author: "Horse & Buggy Tales."

-Board of Directors did Administration of Mercer County Historical Museum, as volunteers. There was no Museum Director, until 1975.

Mercer County Commissioners passed Resolution # 164. "IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS GRANTING PERMISSION TO MERCER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO BURY RECORDS AND PLACE PERMANENT GRANITE MARKER IN COURTHOUSE LAWN ON SEPTEMBER 8, 1959:

"Mr. Davis moved the adoption of the following RESOLUTION:

"Whereas, the Mercer County Historical Society of Mercer County, Ohio was duly established in the year 1958, and

"Whereas, the Board of County Commissioners of Mercer County being Charter Members of said Historical Society, and

"Whereas, said Historical Museum is scheduled for its formal opening with appropriate ceremonies on September 8, 1959, and

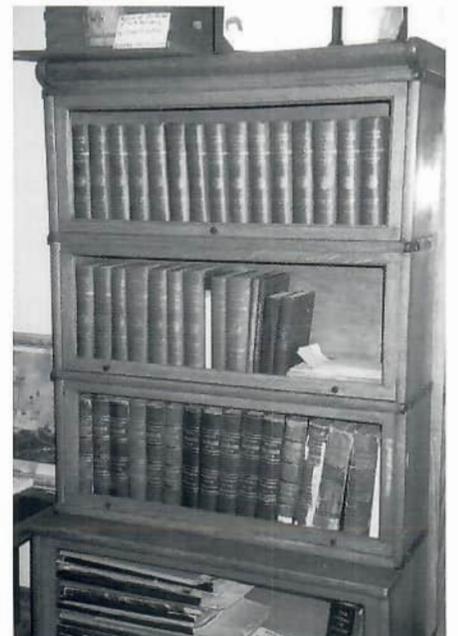
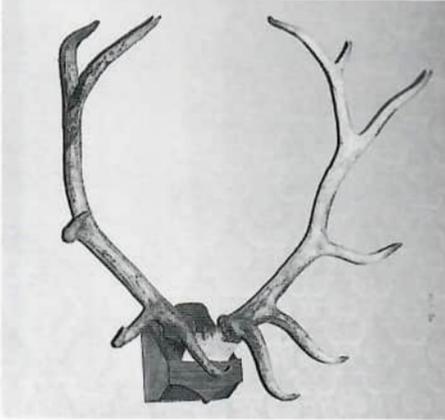
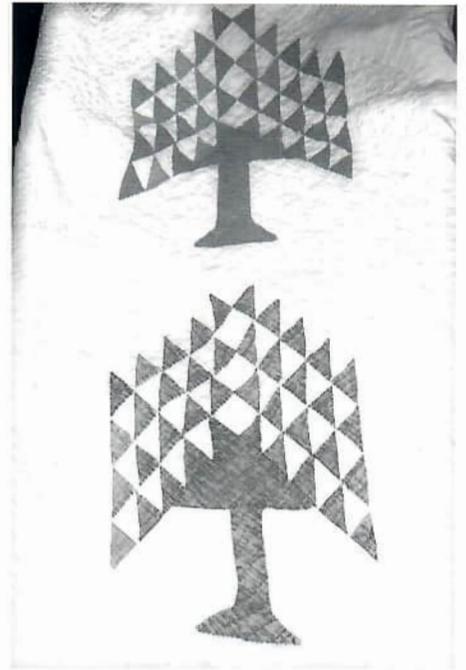
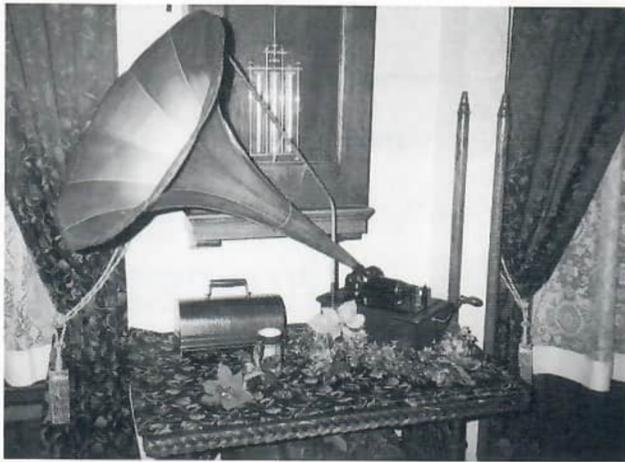
"Whereas, Said Board of County Commissioners has been approached and granted their permission to said Historical Society to bury a bronze time capsule containing records in said Court House lawn, same to be marked by a permanent granite marker, properly engraved, and

"Whereas, Said Board has recommended that the plat (drawing) showing the exact location of same be recorded in the Mercer County Recorder's Office, therefore be it

"Resolved, That permission be granted said Mercer County Historical Society to bury said bronze time capsule containing records and place a permanent granite marker, properly engraved, on said Court House Lawn;

"Mr. Hartings seconded the resolution and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. John R. Suhr, Yea; Mr. Lawrence M. Davis, Yea; Mr. Joseph Hartings, Yea."

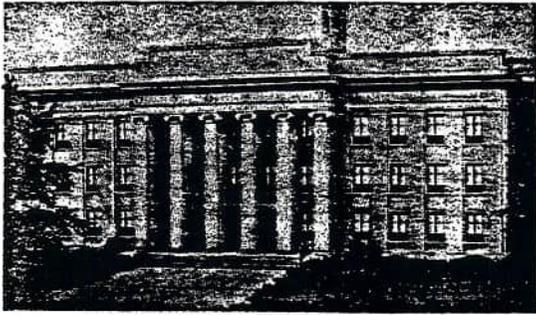




RALPH H. DICKE, Chairman

GEORGE J. BIHN

RALPH KLOSTERMAN



Board Of MERCER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JOAN JAMES, Clerk of Board

CELINA, OHIO 45822 December 21, 1976

NUNC PRO TUNC

IN THE MATTER OF THE MERCER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS :
APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF A HOME FOR THE MERCER : RESOLUTION # 438
COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY. :

Mr. Klosterman moved the adoption of the following

RESOLUTION

Whereas, It has been brought to the attention of the Board of Mercer County Commissioners, by President Joyce Alig, that a place is needed for the Mercer County Historical Society, and

Whereas, having discussed and duly considered the matter the Mercer County Commissioners have agreed to purchase the home on East Market Street, Celina, Ohio from David K. Riley and Barbara D. Riley at a cost of Twenty-one Thousand and No/100 (\$21,000.00) Dollars on May 27, 1975, Now therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Board of Mercer County Commissioners do hereby agree to purchase a home for the Mercer County Historical Society, located in Jefferson Township, Mercer County, Ohio, East Market St., Celina, Ohio from David K. and Barbard D. Riley at a cost of Twenty-one Thousand and No/100 (\$21,000.00) Dollars on May 27, 1975.

Mr. Bihn seconded the resolution and the roll being called upon its adoption the Vote resulted as follows:

Mr. Dicke, Yea; Mr. Bihn, Yea; Mr. Klosterman, Yea;

The undersigned, as Clerk of the Board of Commissioners of Mercer County does hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true and correct copy of the original resolution as passed by the Board on May 27, 1975 and posted in the Commissioners' Journal #39, Page 290

Clerk of the Board

Seven Generations of the Riley Family in Celina, Ohio The Mercer County Historical Museum, The Riley Home

First Generation Captain James Riley was appointed in 1819 by the U.S. Surveyor General to survey Northwest Ohio. Captain James Riley was the first Mercer Countian to serve as Representative to Ohio Congress, 1823/1824. Abraham Lincoln wrote that he was influenced against slavery, by reading Riley's "*Narrative of the Loss of the American Brig Commerce,*" about Riley's being held hostage by Arabs, after Riley's shipwreck off the coast of Morocco in 1815.

Second Generation James Watson Riley not only platted Celina in 1834, but also served as Mercer County's first Clerk of Courts, 1824-1840, before the Courthouse was moved from St. Marys to Celina. In 1841, Riley was appointed by President Wm. H. Harrison, to take charge of the U.S. Land Office at Lima, Ohio. In 1843, he was elected to the Ohio Legislature, and subsequently appointed Chief Clerk of the Ohio State Auditor.

Third Generation Calvin Riley served as Postmaster of Reservoir Station, and then President of the bank, which became the Citizens Commercial Bank. In 1896, Calvin Riley built the Riley Home, which became the Museum.

Fourth Generation Ashley Riley first received his degree in Pharmacy at Ohio Northern University. He entered the Bank, and later served as President of the Bank, which became the Citizens Commercial Bank.

Fifth Generation Roscoe Riley served as the next President of the Citizens Commercial Bank. Roscoe Riley served as President of Founding Officers of the Mercer County Historical Society, in 1958, at the request of the Mercer County Commissioners. Roscoe Riley, Carroll Stubbs, and Carleton Reiser, under the request of the Mercer County Commissioners, established the Mercer County Historical Museum in September 1959. Roscoe and Helen Riley raised their two children, Margaret (Mrs. Edwin Wertz) and David Riley, in Celina.

Sixth Generation David K. Riley served as the next President of the Citizens Commercial Bank, which is now (2009) First Financial. David Riley also served on the Board of Directors of the Mercer County Historical Society, Inc. In 1975, David and Barbara Riley made it possible for Calvin Riley's 1896 home to become the Mercer County Historical Museum, the Riley Home, under the ownership of the Mercer County Commissioners, and cared for by the Mercer County Historical Society, Inc. David Riley also served on the Board of Trustees of the Mercer County Civic Foundation. David and Barbara Riley raised Ashley Brian Riley and Elizabeth M. Riley-Newell in Celina.

Seventh Generation Elizabeth M. Riley-Newell now serves on the Board of Directors of the Mercer County Historical Society, Inc. After receiving a Master's Degree in English Education from The Ohio State University, followed by six years of classroom teaching, Elizabeth Riley-Newell returned to Celina where she has served as the Director of Children's Ministries at St. Paul's United Methodist Church. She has also served as the President of the Board for Creative Discovery Preschool in Celina. Erik Newell and Elizabeth M. Riley-Newell are now raising their children, Kennedy Elizabeth Newell and Nicholas David Newell, and reside in Celina, Ohio.



**Ashley Brian Riley, Barbara Riley,
Elizabeth M. Riley-Newell, David Riley**



**Kennedy Elizabeth Newell, Erik Newell,
Elizabeth M. Riley-Newell, Nicholas David Newell**

859 Meiring Road
Fort Recovery, OH 45846
June 17, 2004

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System
Attention: Robert Sayre
277 East town street
Columbus, OH 43215-4642

Dear Mr. Sayre:

I was proud to serve as Mercer County Commissioner, for twelve years, from 1965 to 1977. One of the many duties of Mercer County Commissioners was employing people who worked for Mercer County. I was one of the three Commissioners who employed Joyce Alig, as Director of the Mercer County Historical Museum, at Celina, Ohio.

I have known Joyce Alig, as Director of the Mercer County Historical Museum, since we hired her in 1975. I have known her family at Fort Recovery for most of my life. She has done well, in serving Mercer County, as Director of the Mercer County Historical Museum, at Celina.

As Mercer County Commissioners, we hired Joyce Alig, as a Public Employee. This is a matter of Public Record. Joyce Alig is entitled to the benefits of the Ohio Public Employee Retirement System.

I have worked as a Member of the Public Employees Retirement Incorporated. I have served as President for the Mercer County Organization of PERI. We work to serve the public employees of Ohio and protect their Retirement System of Benefits.

Sincerely,

George Bihn
Past Mercer County Commissioner
1965-1977

Long-Cherished Dreams Come True With
**The Opening Of The New
Mercer County Historical Museum**

1-4 p.m., Sunday, April 25 - 1976

The culmination of many years of "blood, sweat and tears," as well as dreams, will be presented to the public this Sunday afternoon when open house will be held at the new Mercer County Historical Museum, 130 East Market St., Celina.

A small group of dedicated Mercer Countians have moved the thousands of historical artifacts from the old museum above Male Fashions on South Main Street and painstakingly organized, arranged, displayed and labeled them. The result is a dramatically successful feather in the cap of Mercer County, sure to attract and impress visitors from a wide area.

The magnificent home is uniquely suited as a museum. Built

in 1896 by the son (Calvin E. Riley) of the man who platted Celina in 1834 (James Watson Riley), the home was for many years the dwelling place of the late Lena Riley, granddaughter of Calvin Riley, who saw that the home always was kept in near-perfect condition.

After Miss Riley's death in 1974, her cousin David Riley, 532 East Livingston, Celina, made it possible for Mercer County to purchase the imaginatively-designed three-story Victorian home.

Joyce Alig, R. 1, St. Henry, president of the Historical Society since 1973, has been named director of the museum.



Joyce Alig, Elected President of The Mercer County Historical Society, Inc. (1973-2009) and as President, she was Appointed as Director of the Mercer County Historical Museum, By Mercer County Commissioners, August 1975. She served as Director 1975-2004.

January 4, 1979

Ms. Joyce Alig, President
Mercer County Historical Society
130 E. Market St.
Celina, Ohio 45822

Dear Ms. Alig:

I am pleased to inform you that the Calvin E. Riley, Home, 130 E. Market Street, Celina, has been entered in the National Register of Historic Places by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, United States Department of the Interior.

The nomination was made in connection with a state plan to identify and document prehistoric and historic places in Ohio which qualify for National Register status under provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. All nominations are approved by the Ohio Historic Site Preservation Advisory Board.

Enclosed is information explaining the purposes and goals of the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,



Thomas H. Smith
State Historic Preservation Officer
Director, Ohio Historical Society

THS:cw

X. c: Mayor of Celina

Ohio Historic Preservation Office
Ohio Historical Center I-71 & 17th Avenue Columbus, Ohio 43211 (614) 466-1500

**IN RESPECT FOR THE MERCER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BY THE MERCER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS**



Mercer County Commissioners Jerry Laffin and Walter Schmiesing, were presented a plaque of Appreciation By Mercer County Historical Society President Joyce Alig, because the County Commissioners provide a large portion of Funds needed for the Mercer County Historical Museum, November 20, 1984



Mercer County Commissioners attended Open House, April 27, 1980, at the Mercer County Historical Museum: Mr & Mrs Ralph Dicke, Mr & Mrs. Walter Schmiesing, and Mr Ralph Klosterman.

Mercer County Commissioners attended Mercer County Historical Museum, April 1977



Mr & Mrs Walter Schmiesing



**Mr & Mrs Ralph Dicke
Mr. George Bihn**



While Museum Director Joyce Alig was editing the 1978 Mercer County History Book, the Mercer County Commissioners also requested that the Mercer County Historical Society Members prepare a Book on the Cemeteries of Mercer County, with the names and dates on the headstones, for the County Commissioners.

August 9, 1984, Mercer County Historical Society President Joyce Alig presented the book on "**Mercer County, Ohio Cemeteries,**" prepared by 35 Members of the Mercer County Historical Society, to the Mercer County Commissioners, and to the County Libraries.

Left to right: Commissioners Walter Schmiesing and Ed Osterholt, County Librarian Austin Schneider, President Joyce Alig, Wright State Librarian Al Pittman, and County Commissioner Jerry Laffin.

The Mercer County Commissioners own the building and grounds of the Mercer County Historical Museum. The Mercer County Commissioners and the Mercer County Historical Society Members have both funded building and grounds maintenance, since 1975. The County Men added Air Conditioning, and Porch Repair.

The following photographs are a few examples of the Museum being maintained:



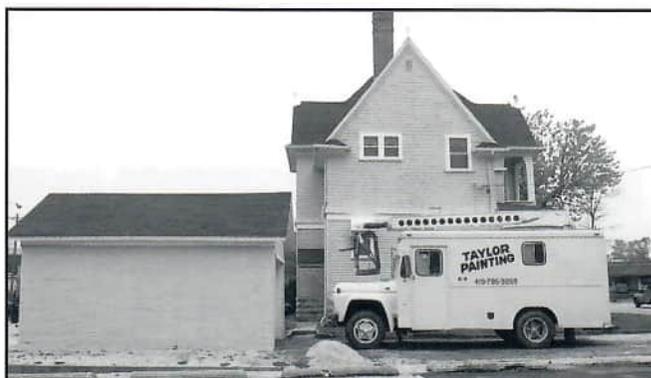
Tong Se Le, Darrell Willrath, Myron Hartings, Jim Bader, Dave Dorsten, Dennis Mescher, 1998.



Tom's Construction Company, 1984 St. Henry, Ohio. Kevin Huber and Tom Lange and two crew members, Repairing Museum Porch Foundation.



Marcelyn Meinerding and her brother's wife Mrs. Wilbur (Matilda) Meinerding, donated funds for new wallpaper in the Mercer County Historical Museum in memory of Wilbur Meinerding. 1987.



Mercer County Commissioners passed Resolution #27, January 8, 1998. The County would pay half the cost to Taylor Painting, to paint the Museum, if the Mercer County Historical Society Member Ruth Turner paid the rest.



A new roof for the Museum, 2003. Steve Kessler & Bill Wourms, Indiana Roofing Company; Joyce Alig, Museum Director; Myron Hartings, County Maintenance Department; Jim Zehringer, Tom Gagel, and Jerry Laffin, Mercer County Commissioners.



Mercer County Historical Museum's new Drapery, funded by Commissioners, and Mr & Mrs Jerry Meyer, Coldwater. Commissioners Jerry Laffin, Tom Gagel; Terrie Hoyng, Fine Decorator, St. Henry; Museum Director Joyce Alig, and Commissioner Ray Cron. July 2002.

JERRY LAFFIN, CHAIRMAN

EDWARD OSTERHOLT

RONALD PUTHOFF



BOARD OF
MERCER COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS

CELINA, OHIO 45822

JOAN BOLLENBACHER, CLERK/ADM. OF THE BOARD

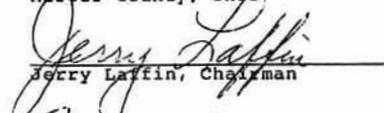
July 19, 1985

Mr. David Riley
2511 Harbor Point Drive
Celina, Ohio 45822

Dear Mr. Riley,

The Board of County Commissioners of Mercer County, Ohio want to "Thank You" very much for putting in new shrubs and landscaping the lawn at the Mercer County Historical Society Museum.

Sincerely yours,
Board of County Commissioners
Mercer County, Ohio


Jerry Laffin, Chairman


Edward Osterholt, Vice Chairman


Ronald Puthoff, Member



JL/jb
cc: Mercer County Museum, Joyce Alig
file

JERRY LAFFIN, CHAIRMAN

WALTER SCHMIESING

ED OSTERHOLT



BOARD OF
MERCER COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS

CELINA, OHIO 45822

JOAN BOLLENBACHER, CLERK/ADM. OF THE BOARD

August 23, 1983

IN THE MATTER OF THE MERCER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS :
APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF AN ALARM SYSTEM AT : RESOLUTION # 586
THE MERCER COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM. :

Mr. Osterholt moved the adoption of the following
RESOLUTION

Whereas, It has been brought to the attention of the Board of County Commissioners of Mercer County by Joyce Alig, Director of the Historical Museum that an Alarm System is needed in the Mercer County Historical Museum and

Whereas, The Historical Society Board would like to purchase an Alarm system for the Museum and they would like to have the Commissioners permission to install the system in the Museum, and

Whereas, the following proposal was asked for and received:

1. Mid-American Fire System, 543 W. Elm Street, P. O. Box 869, Lima, Ohio

Per your recent conversation with Rex Wooten and his survey of the Mercer County Historical Museum, we are please to submit the following quotation for an early warning detection system.

Minimum System:
1-Control Panel with Ditital Communicator
4-Door Contact Switches
1-Passive Infrared Detector
1-Horn
1-Remote Keylock
3-Smoke Detectors
1-Heat Detector
Purchase Price \$1,320.00
Monitoring Fee 18.00 per month
s/James Kostelac, President

Quotation is on file
Now therefore, be it

Resolved, To accept the above proposal that was submitted by Mid-American Fire Systems, 543 W. Elm Street, P. O. Box 869, Lima, Ohio 45802 and the Board of County Commissioners does hereby approve the purchase of the minimum Alarm System at the quoted price of One Thousand Three Hundred Twenty and No/100 (\$1,320.00) Dollars plus Eighteen and No/100 (\$18.00) Dollars per month for monitoring fee for the Mercer County Historical Museum.

March 18, 1973, Ray Eblen and the Mercer County Indian Relic Collectors hosted the First Prehistoric Artifact Exhibit at the former building of the Mercer County Historical Museum. At the current Mercer County Historical Museum, at 130 East Market, the Mercer County Indian Relic Collectors have hosted the Prehistoric Artifact Exhibit, on the last Sunday of June. June 28, 2009, they hosted the 30th Annual Prehistoric Artifact Exhibit. These photographs are examples of many Collectors for the past 30 years.



Ray Eblen, Organized First Prehistoric Artifact Exhibit



Paul Leasor, Coordinator of current Prehistoric Artifact Exhibits



IN THE MATTER OF THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO CODE :
 A 13 b 1, GENERAL FUND, EDUCATION, HISTORICAL : RESOLUTION # 551
 SOCIETY. :

Mr. Klosterman moved the adoption of the following
 RESOLUTION

Whereas, It is deemed necessary to transfer funds to Code A 13 b 1, General Fund, Education, Historical Society, Now therefore, be it

Resolved, That the sum of Two Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty and No/100 (\$2,750:00) Dollars be and the same is hereby transferred from Code A 17 a 1, General Fund, Unanticipated Emergencies to Code A 13 b 1.

Mr. Schmiesing seconded the resolution and the roll being called upon its adoption the vote resulted as follows:

Mr. Dicke, Yea; Mr. Schmiesing, Yea; Mr. Klosterman, Yea;

DECEMBER 12, 1978

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OFFICE

MERCER COUNTY, OHIO

The Board of County Commissioners of Mercer County met in regular session. Members present were Ralph Dicke, Walter Schmiesing and Ralph Klosterman, Commissioners. Also present was Joan James, Clerk of the Board.

The minutes of December 8, 1978 were read by the Clerk and on motion of Mr. Klosterman approved by the Board.

The following bills which have been filed and docketed in the Auditor's Office for at least five days prior to this date as required by law were presented examined and approved and on motion of Mr. Schmiesing ordered paid when due.

BILLS ALLOWED

Coldwater Oil Co

Coldwater Oil Co.	Gas	1,307.48
Acme Office Machines, Inc.	Rental	25.00
James J. Highley	Expense-Columbus	319.39
Mike Walter	Expense-Lima	64.84
Winkeljohn Printing	Stationery	16.75
Waunita R. Bollenbacher	Expense-Columbus	71.80
Celina Lumber and Supply Co.	Repairs	164.59
National Graphics	Supplies	56.11
National Graphics	Supplies	140.00
Verna G. Bihn	Expense-Columbus	72.95
Wilson Shoe Store	Boots	78.28
Tobin Insurance Agency	Insurance	16.00
Bock Printing Division	Supplies	79.85
Bradbecks Market	Groceries	552.97
Olding-Gebele-George	Bond	20.00
Ralph Beckstedt	Paint & Labor	565.00
Bock Printing Division	Stamp	4.95
Wolff's Tire Service Inc.	Repair	107.88
PERS	Employees Share	2,837.02
Celina Municipal Utilities	Electric	1,491.62
B. J. Trucking Co. Inc.	Garbage Collection	90.00
General Telephone Co. of Ohio	Service	255.67
Heckler Electric Corporation	Adult Activity Center	9,875.00
The Rockford Press	Title	266.72
Baker Electric	Repairs	24.55
Mercer County Joint Township Community Hospital	X-Ray	13.00
Heckler Electric Corporation	Repairs	50.00
Perry Corporation	Paper	230.32
Brown Drugs Inc.	Medication	37.73
Physicians Incorporated	X-Ray	39.00
Bergman Construction Corporation	Adult Activity Center	19,805.60
The Treaty Co.	Repairs	66.63
Hilemans Texaco Service	Gasoline	5.80
The Standard Printing Co	Auction	30.00
Richard B. Hays	Battery	4.72
National Information Data Center	Zip Code directory	19.95
William Lillienthal and Sons	Binders	518.00
Hall & McChensey Inc.	Editing	204.60
Van Dyne Crotty Inc.	File	75.00
Laywers Co-operation Publishing Co.	Supplement Book	10.30
Mercer County Historical Inc.	County History Book	1,250.00
One Hour Deluxe Dry Cleaners	Rags	3.00
Gertrude W. Donahey	Examing	1,043.73
IBM	Supplies	70.74
Winkeljohn Printers	Supplies	90.83
Xerox Corporation	Rental	62.03
Bock Printing and Office Supplies	Supplies	2.70
William Lillienthal and Sons	Supplies	744.75
Mercer County Historical Society	Local Superintendents Hisotry Book	1,500.00

Mercer County, Ohio History 1978



Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Mercer County, Ohio History 1978

Editor: Joyce L. Alig, Director
Mercer County Historical Museum

Publisher: The Mercer County Historical Society, Inc.
130 East Market Street, Celina, Ohio 45822

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Copyright: The Mercer County Historical Society, Inc.
Joyce L. Alig, President

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Editor Joyce L. Alig

Assisted in Final Layout by:
Carol Thees, Staff Secretary-Historian
Vera Speicher, Board of Directors Member
Florence Gause, Board of Directors Member
Helen Godfrey, Docent
Volunteer Members of The Mercer County Historical Society

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Steve White and Tom Keiss
Publications Consultants, Napoleon, Ohio

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1980 Executive Board of Directors, Mercer County Historical Society, Inc.

**Standing: David Riley, Ray Feltz, Donald Muhlenkamp, Ralph Schindler.
Seated: Secretary Marjorie Pierstorff, President Joyce Alig,
Treasurer Vera Speicher, Vice President Eugene Hirschfeld.**

Recognition for the Mercer County Historical Society, Inc.



Governor Richard Celeste appointed Joyce Alig to a three year term as Trustee of The Ohio Historical Society in 1984. Joyce Alig is congratulated by Mercer County Judge Dean James after her swearing in as OHS Trustee.



Nathan Wenning, Vice President of the United Steelworkers of America Local 5369, and Jim Hoyng, Huffy Corporation's Celina Bicycle, presented the last Bicycle made at Celina Plant to Museum Director Joyce Alig, August 7, 1998.



Jack Romer, Saint Henry Bank President, presented the first order for the Mercer County Historical Society's new book, "*Those Magnificent Big Barns of Mercer County, Ohio,*" to Joyce Alig, Director of the Mercer County Historical Museum, October 15, 1990.



In honor of the Bicentennial of the Indian Wars and Fort Recovery and Fort Adams, Miami Nation Chief Floyd Leonard, his son, Dr. Joseph Leonard, and grandson Wesley Leonard, presented Mercer County Historical Museum Director Joyce Alig with the Great Seal of the Miami Nation, and the Miami Shaw. October 16, 1989.

Local American Legion, VFW, Amvets, Vietnam Veterans of America and Sons of the Legion organizations donated the Gun Case, at the Mercer County Historical Museum. Left to Right: Linus Lefeld, St. Henry American Legion; Paul Anthony, Amvets; Donald Feltz, Coldwater American Legion; Joyce Alig, Director Mercer County Historical Museum; Tom Cummins, Celina American Legion; Lowell Warthman, Rockford American Legion, and Rick Poppe, Sons of American Legion. Also donating were Celina VFW, Fort Recovery American Legion, Fort Recovery VFW, Maria Stein American Legion, Coldwater VFW, and Vietnam Veterans of America. October 20, 2000.



The City of Celina and the Citizens of Celina, value their heritage. They have assisted the Cultural Institution, the Mercer County Historical Society. The City Government and the Citizens also use the Services of the Mercer County Historical Society, with many requests related to local history.

- The City of Celina passed Ordinance No. 32-83-0, August 8, 1983, to fund \$6000.00 to paint the exterior of the Mercer County Historical Museum, owned by Mercer County Commissioners.
- The City of Celina planned the Celebration of their 150 Anniversary in 1984. Joyce Alig, Museum Director, edited the book, Celina, Ohio Sesquicentennial, 1834-1984, in appreciation for Celina's Citizens.
- The Citizens of Celina host the Celina Combined Services Appeal, annually. The Mercer County Historical Society is one of the Service Organizations receiving funds from this Annual Combined Appeal.
- During Ohio's Bicentennial Celebration in 2003, Celina, with Mayor Paul Arnold, passed a Resolution, designating the City Parking Lot, adjacent to the Mercer County Historical Museum, as "**Founders Square, in Memory of James Watson Riley, Founder of Celina, 1834.**" This Marker was dedicated at the County Museum Lawn April 3, 2003, at the same event with the Ohio Bicentennial Sign's Dedication.



Planning Celina Sesquicentennial 1834-1984 History book, for Celina's 150th Anniversary: Terry, Terry's Photography; Randy Winkeljohn, Winkeljohn Printers; Joyce Alig, Museum Director and Editor of the Celina History book, and Jay Korte, Local Designer.



Celina Sesquicentennial 1834-1984 History book, edited by Museum Director Joyce Alig, for the Citizens of Celina, Ohio.



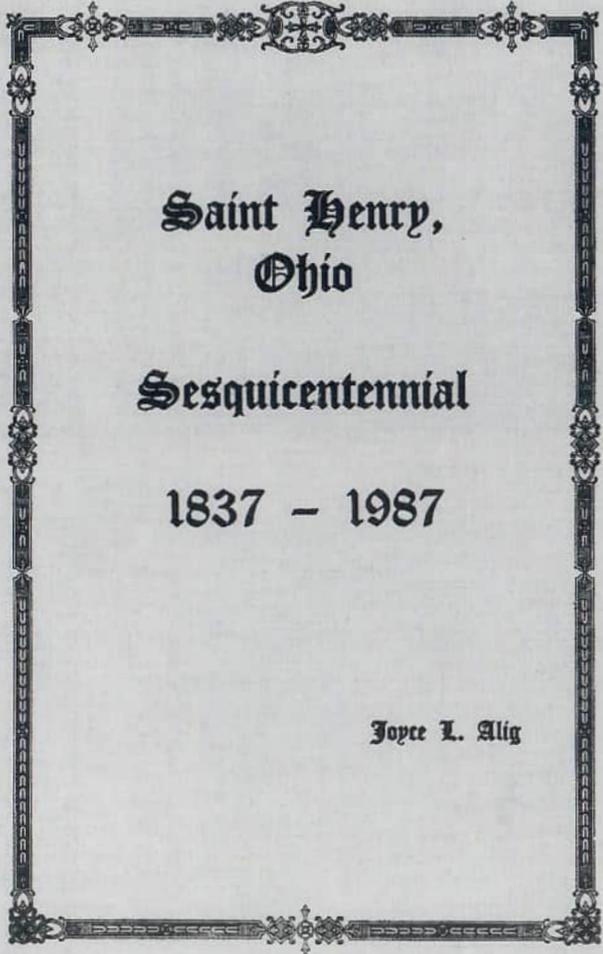
John Garman, Mayor of Celina, signed the Proclamation, that October was Celina Combined Services Appeal Month, in the presence of Joyce Alig, Service Organization Coordinator and Glenn Hamen, Vice President of the Celina Combined Drive. October 12, 1989.



***"Founders Square in Memory of James Watson Riley, Founder of Celina, 1834"* Dedicated April 6, 2003, Ohio's 200th. Joel Riley, Rob and Betty Riley, Susan Hubbard, Riley Olivia Hubbard, George Hubbard, and James Riley; descendants of James W. Riley.**

**COLDWATER
OHIO
AT
150**

Eugene Weber
Joyce L. Alig



**Saint Henry,
Ohio
Sesquicentennial
1837 - 1987**

Joyce L. Alig

**Mercer County Historical Society's Mission Statement:
 "To Preserve Mercer County's History and to Educate the Public About that History"**



The Mercer County Historical Museum hosted Guests from Celina's Sister City in Japan. September 2002.



Jane Diller, Camp Inquire Teacher at Lake Campus, and her Students toured the Museum to study Creativity in the History of Mercer County's citizens.



The Museum hosted Mercer County's Civic Leaders and Service Organization Directors For the Celina Combined Services Appeal & Combined Charities Drives, 1980's.



Mercer County Historical Museum Director Joyce L. Alig taught a series of Genealogy Classes for area 4-H Students' Fair Projects during the summers of 1980's.



Joyce Alig provided the Educational Programs, for the History of Mercer County and for the various Styles of Leadership of Mercer County's Historic and Current Leaders, to the Chamber of Commerce Adult Leadership Classes, from its first Year until her Retirement as MercerCounty Historical Museum Director in 2004.



Ann McDaniel, Teacher at Marion Elementary School, and her students toured the Mercer County Historical Museum, as an Educational Project for their Ohio History Class. They studied the early Settlers of Mercer County. Museum Director Joyce Alig also gave them an overview of the History of Mercer County, and how the Indian wars and the Treaty of 1795 influenced Settlement under the County's boundaries, and the influence of the Miami & Erie Canal on this Settlement.

**OHIO'S LAST FRONTIERSMAN
CONNECTICUT MARINER**

**CAPTAIN
JAMES RILEY**



By Joyce L. Alig

PASSPORT TO HISTORY Series, Book IV

Mercer County Historical Society, Inc., Celina, Ohio

*Old Gold Rush
to Alaska Diaries
of 1898-1900*

**Joyce L. Alig
Ohio Local Historian**

Passport to History Series, Book VIII

"Guests and Exhibits at the Mercer County Historical Museum"



**Jim Waechert and Brian Williamson
Museum of the Soldier, Portland, Indiana
9th Annual Antique Gun Exhibit, October 2008
at the Mercer County Historical Museum**



**Fran Guilbault, Treasurer for Historical Society, Dan Desch
with Grandmother Nancy Desch, Volunteer, and Marjorie
Pierstorff, Secretary, at the Military Exhibit at the
Mercer County Historical Museum, June 2002.**



**George and Marie Schroyer, Historical Society
Members, at the Antique Vehicle Exhibit during
Celina Lake Festival Weekend, July 1999,
at the Mercer County Historical Museum.
George served as Historical Soc. Treasurer.**



**Bill Vondrell, Volunteer with the Antique Tool
Exhibit at the Mercer County Historical Museum,
February 2001. Bill has served as Chairperson
for the Celina Combined Services Appeal.
Bill serves on the Historical Soc. Board Directors**



**Mr. and Mrs. Parker Snyder attended the First Open House
of the Mercer County Historical Museum, the Riley Home,
April 26, 1976. The Snyder Family donated Bound Volumes
of the old Newspapers and a Dehumidifier for the Museum, and
Captain Riley's Ship Ledgers of the 1830's.**



**Mrs. Roscoe Riley attended the April 26, 1976
Open House at the Mercer County Historical
Museum. Mrs. Riley funded new Wallpaper
for the Mercer County Historical Museum,
and Educational Programs for the Public
by the Mercer County Historical Society, Inc.**

The Mercer County Historical Society created, planned, and implemented the Antique Tractors and Trucks Exhibit, at the Founders' Square Celina City Parking Lot, adjacent to the Mercer County Historical Museum, as part of the Celina Lake Festival, for Twenty Seven Years, 1977-2003, until 2004, the year of Joyce Alig's Retirement as Director of the Mercer County Historical Museum.

In 2004, Celina Lake Festival Members hosted an Antique Tractor Exhibit at the Mercer County Commissioners' Parking Lot and the City of Celina posted signs for Handicapped Parking, at the Founders' Square Parking during Celina Lake Festival. These photographs are samples of 27 years of various Antique Tractors and owners.



Gary Fullenkamp, Gas Engines



Ron & Brian Gruss, Farmall F20, 1936



Bill Gamble, Oliver Standard 88



Don Hays, John Deere 1930 GP



Mr & Mrs Jim Sites, John Deere 1935 A



Alvin Alig, John Deere 1936 A



Jerry and Lucy Laux, F 20 Farmall, 1939



Doyt Stegaman, Allis Chalmers, WC 1942



April 11, 1986

The Board of Library Trustees met on the above date with the following members present: Mr. Ording, Mrs. McClurg, Mr. Watts, Mrs. Morrison, Mr. Huelsman, Mrs. Shaffer and Mr. Hone. Also present were Ron Puthoff, Edward Osterholt, Jerry Laffin, Roger Schwieterman, Jeff Ingraham and Austin R. Schneider.

After opening the meeting, the Library Board held discussion with the Mercer County Commissioners and members of the Mercer County Budget Commission relating to funding the Mercer County Historical Museum.

Mrs. Shaffer moved the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 2-86 Be it resolved by the Board of Library Trustees to accept partial responsibility for overseeing the operation and funding of a county historical museum.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Huelsman. A roll call vote resulted as follows: Mr. Ording-Yes, Mrs. McClurg-Yes, Mr. Watts-Yes, Mrs. Morrison-Yes, Mr. Huelsman-Yes, Mrs. Shaffer-Yes, and Mr. Hone-Yes. Resolution passed.

Mr. Huelsman moved to amend the previously-adopted resolution to specify that such museum should operate in an autonomous manner.

The amendment was seconded by Mr. Hone. A roll call vote resulted as follows: Mr. Ording-Yes, Mrs. McClurg-Yes, Mr. Watts-Yes, Mrs. Shaffer-Yes, Mr. Hone-Yes, Mrs. Morrison-Yes, and Mr. Huelsman-Yes. Resolution amendment passed.

After acceptance of the amended motion, the Board then revised the original motion to read as follows:

RESOLUTION 2-86 Be it resolved by the Board of Library Trustees to accept partial responsibility for overseeing the operation and funding of a county historical museum. Be it further resolved that such museum shall operate in an autonomous manner.

In review, the resolution roll call vote was as follows: Mr. Ording-Yes, Mrs. McClurg-Yes, Mr. Watts-Yes, Mrs. Shaffer-Yes, Mr. Hone-Yes, Mrs. Morrison-Yes, and Mr. Huelsman-Yes. Resolution passed.

Representatives of the Board would consult with Jeff Ingraham regarding contracting with the museum.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Minutes of

Meeting

National
Graphics

National Graphics Corp., Col., O. Form No. 1097-2

Held BUDGET COMMISSION MINUTES

August 15 1986

A motion was made by Robert King, seconded by Jeff Ingraham that Secretary Roger Schwieterman certify the percentages to the Ohio Department of Taxation for the calendar year 1987. Aye: Robert King. Aye: Jeff Ingraham. Aye: Roger Schwieterman.

LIBRARIES

Coldwater: They can request the Board of the Community Picnic to pay some of their improvement bill. Taking this into consideration, the Budget Commission decided they were going to stay with General operating expense only for libraries. Percentages set at 14.90%.

H. Recovery: Same as Coldwater - they had improvements last year. The need of their general operation percentage was set at 13.90%.

Rockford: Again the discussion centered on repair problems, but the Commission agreed on general operations instead of special projects. Their percentage was set at 13.90%.

Mercer County: They requested monies for extra help, new construction, and extra books. In 1986, they upgraded their help by 28%. The Board felt they should complete their new building before asking for monies for more extra help. The new construction was discussed, but again the Board turned this request down to stay only with general operations. Books will not be needed until they have completed their new building. Percentage set at 57.3%.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Board discussed the funding of the Mercer County Historical Society by the libraries. Mr. Ingraham felt that only the Mercer County District Library could contract with the Mercer County Historical Society, because they both are County wide organizations. The percentages set so far amounts to 96.2%. The balance of 3.8% would be added to the Mercer County District Library to fund the Historical Society.

A motion was made by Jeff Ingraham and seconded by Roger Schwieterman for the following percentages to be used for 1987 for distribution of State Library monies in Mercer County. Aye: Robert King. Aye: Jeff Ingraham. Aye: Roger Schwieterman.

Roger Schwieterman was ordered to notify the subdivisions and libraries by certified mail of the Budget Commission percentage for 1987.

There being no further business a motion was made to close the hearings for 1987 Budgets by Roger Schwieterman, seconded by Robert King. All in favor - Aye: Roger Schwieterman. Aye: Robert King. Aye: Jeff Ingraham.


Roger A. Schwieterman, Secretary
Mercer County Budget Commission

RONALD PUTHOFF, *Chairman*

HERBERT MUHLENKAMP

JERRY LAFFIN



**BOARD OF
MERCER COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS**

CELINA, OHIO 45822

Phone: (419) 586-3178 • Fax: (419) 586-1714

JOAN BOLLENBACHER, *Clerk/Adm. of the Board*

July 29, 1993

TO: Mercer County Library Board of Trustees
Mercer County Budget Commission

FROM: Mercer County Commissioners

RE: County Government Funding for a County Building
The Mercer County Historical Museum

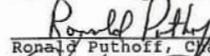
The Board of County Commissioners of Mercer County, Ohio appreciate the library funds for the Mercer County Historical Museum.

When the County received Revenue Sharing Funds, funding the county buildings and offices was easier. The County provided funds for the libraries, via Revenue Sharing funds, and was glad to do so, at a time when library funding was limited. Now, times have changed and county funding is limited and library funding has changed.

The Board requests that the Mercer County Budget Commission and the Mercer County Library Board of Trustees continue providing funding for the Mercer County Historical Museum.

The Mercer County Historical Society has proven to be a responsible organization in administering the Mercer County Historical Museum, a county building. The Historical Society Members volunteer their time and work hard to preserve Mercer County's rich heritage; they desire our support. Thank you for considering this request.

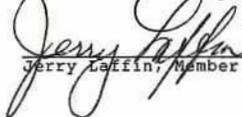
Sincerely,
Board of County Commissioners
Mercer County, Ohio



Ronald Puthoff, *Chairman*



Herbert Muhlenkamp, *Vice Chairman*



Jerry Laffin, *Member*

RP/jb
cc: file

~
44
~

JERRY LAFFIN, *Chairman*

RON PUTHOFF

RAY CRON



**BOARD OF
MERCER COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS**

CELINA, OHIO 45822

Phone: (419) 586-3178 • Fax: (419) 586-1714

MARK A. MILLER, *County Administrator*

JOAN BOLLENBACHER, *Clerk/Asst. Adm. of the Board*

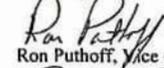
April 3, 1997

Re: Support of the Mercer County Museum

Dear Various Library Boards within Mercer County:

We would like to thank you for the support that you have provided for the Mercer County Museum. We continue to believe that the Mercer County Museum is a large asset to the citizens of Mercer County. Joyce Alig has and continues to provide a quality program. The historic preservation and dissemination of historic information helps retain the foundation of our existence. We will continue to support the program through continued maintenance of the facility. In the event the sales tax issue passes, we have more options of financially contributing to the operation of the museum. Thanks again for your continued support.

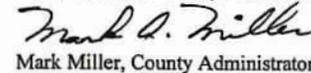
Sincerely,



Ron Puthoff, *Vice Chairman Mercer County Commissioners*



Ray Cron, *Mercer County Commissioner*



Mark Miller, *County Administrator*

cc: Joyce Alig

Board of

Mercer County Commissioners

Central Service Building
220 W. Livingston Street • Room A201 • Celina, Ohio 45822
Ph: (419) 586-3178 • Fax: (419) 586-1699

THOMAS GAGEL, Chairman
RAY CRON, Vice Chairman
JERRY LAFFIN, Member



April 28, 1999

Mercer County District Library
Board of Trustees
303 N. Main St.
Celina, Ohio

Re: Support of the Mercer County Historical Museum, a County Building

Dear Various Library Boards within Mercer County

We would like to thank you for your support that you have provided for the Mercer County Historical Museum. We continue to believe that the Mercer County Historical Museum is a strong asset to the citizens of Mercer county. Joyce Alig, as Director, has and continues to provide quality programs. The Historical Preservation, and the dissemination of historical information help to retain the foundation of our existence. The Members of the Society and the Members of the Board of Directors continue to serve the public as Volunteers in administering the Museum, and its public programs.

We, the Mercer County Commissioners, will continue to support the program through continued maintenance of the facility, its building and grounds. In 1998, we provided matching funds at 50% while a Member of the Mercer Count Historical Society provided 50% of the cost of scraping and painting the second story of the Museum.

We, the Mercer County Commissioners, Thank you in advance for your continued support of the county museum.

Sincerely,
Board of County Commissioners
Of Mercer County, Ohio

Thomas Gagel, Chairman

Ray Cron, Vice Chairman

Jerry Laffin, Member

TG/pw

cc: Mercer County Historical Society

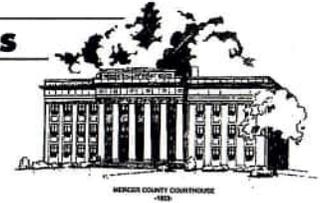
~ 45 ~

Board of

Mercer County Commissioners

Central Service Building
220 W. Livingston Street • Room A201 • Celina, Ohio 45822
Ph: (419) 586-3178 • Fax: (419) 586-1699
E-mail: commissioners@mercercountyohio.org

JERRY LAFFIN
RAY CRON
THOMAS GAGEL



May 7, 2002

Attention Board of Directors
Libraries of Mercer County:

RE: Libraries' Continued Financial Support of Mercer County Museum

The Mercer County Commissioners value the Libraries of Mercer County, and their support of the county institution, the Mercer County Historical Museum. This Museum preserves the heritage of all Mercer County communities and is a valuable asset to Mercer Countians.

With all of the funding challenges of the County offices, the Commissioners appreciate the Libraries and their help of this funding source for the County Museum. We ask that the Libraries, as they plan their 2003 budget, to continue with their financial support towards the Mercer County Museum, under the administration of the Mercer County Historical Society.

Thank you for considering this request.

Respectfully,

BOARD OF MERCER COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS

Thomas Gagel, Chairman

Jerry Laffin, Vice-Chairman

Ray Cron, Member

cc Joyce Alig
Coldwater Public Library
Mercer County Library
Ft. Recovery Public Library
Carnegie-Rockford Public Library

BOARD OF
MERCER COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS

Proclamation

Whereas: The Year 1987 Marks the 200th anniversary of the passage of the Northwest Ordinance and the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, The Governor of the State of Ohio has appointed an official Commission to plan and execute the State's 2-year-long celebration of the Bicentennials; and

WHEREAS, The Northwest Ordinance is one of the fundamental documents in American History, growing out of the libertarian spirit of the American Revolution and leading directly to the creation of the great states of Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, and part of Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, Its visionary and inspired principles became the basic document providing for all of the subsequent territories of the United States to enter the Union; and

WHEREAS, Ohio's role in the events associated with the Ordinance is unique in that it became the first state to enter the Union under the terms of the Ordinance, that the territory's first settlement was Marietta, and the first university established in the Northwest Territory was Ohio University; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution, as ratified, embodies the ideals of liberty under law and was designed to maintain our free government in perpetuity as a more perfect union and to secure the blessings of liberty by consent of the governed; and

WHEREAS, THE Constitution is the longest lasting written constitution in the world; and

WHEREAS, As Citizens of Ohio and Mercer County, by virtue of our pride in the doctrines espoused in these two documents, do choose to Commemorate and Celebrate the 200th anniversary of their creation; therefore, be it

WHEREAS, THE Constitution is the longest lasting written constitution in the world; and

WHEREAS, As Citizens of Ohio and Mercer County, by virtue of our pride in the doctrines espoused in these two documents, do choose to Commemorate and Celebrate the 200th anniversary of their creation; therefore, be it

RESOLVED THAT: The Mercer County Commissioners, Townships and Cities and Villages and the Mercer County Historical Society will establish The Mercer County Bicentennial Community Commission to establish a program which will educate the citizens about the meaning and significance of the U. S. Constitution and Northwest Ordinance.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, WE HAVE HEREUNTO SET OUR HANDS AND CAUSED THE SEAL OF THE MERCER COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S TO BE AFFIXED, THIS 13th DAY OF JANUARY, 1987.



Jerry Laffin
Jerry Laffin, Chairman

Ronald Puthoff
Ronald Puthoff, Vice Chairman

Herbert Muhlenkamp - Absent
Herbert Muhlenkamp, Member

ATTEST:

John Ballenbacher
Clerk/Adm. of the Board

Commission on the Bicentennial of
The United States Constitution

734 Jackson Place, N.W. • Washington, D.C. 20503
202/USA-1787

February 17, 1987

Warren E. Burger
Chairman

Frederick K. Biebel

Lindy Boggs

Herbert Brownell

Lynne V. Cheney

Phillip M. Crane

Dennis DeConcini

William J. Green

Edward Victor Hill

Cornelia G. Kennedy

Edward M. Kennedy

Harry McKinley Lightsey, Jr.

William Lucas

Betty Southard Murphy

Thomas H. O'Connor

Phyllis Schlafly

Bernard H. Stegan

Ted Stevens

Obert C. Tanner

Strom Thurmond

Ronald H. Walker

Charles E. Wiggins

Charles Alan Wright

Mark W. Cannon
Staff Director

Ronald M. Mann
Deputy Staff Director

Ms. Joyce L. Alig
Mercer County Bicentennial Commission
130 East Market
Celina, Ohio 45822

Dear Ms. Alig:

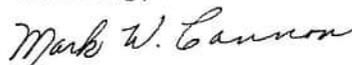
By authority of the Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution, I wish to inform you that Mercer County, Ohio has been approved and is hereby recognized as a Designated Bicentennial Community.

It gives me great pleasure to report to you on this action, and to extend to you our congratulations. By virtue of this recognition, your commission now may use the official logo and may approve use of the logo to non-profit sponsors and groups in your community.

We are committed to making the Bicentennial a meaningful and rewarding learning experience for all Americans. To this end, we look forward to cooperating closely with your commission in every possible way.

We wish you success in applying the necessary determination, creativity and resourcefulness to achieve a highly effective commemoration in Mercer County.

Cordially,



MARK W. CANNON

MWC:PC:ram
Enclosures

Dr. Charles Cole, Jr., Member of the Ohio Northwest Ordinance and United States Constitution Bicentennial Commission and Executive Director of the Ohio Humanities Council, presented Joyce L. Alig, Chairperson of the Mercer County Bicentennial Commission and Director of the Mercer County Historical Museum, with the Certificate of Recognition, in appreciation For the Mercer County Historical Society's distinguished service in the interest of Commemorating the 200th Anniversary of the Northwest Ordinance and the United States Constitution. October 16, 1989.



“Historical Society Members’ Projects at the Mercer County Historical Museum”



Tom Lightle, Cooper Foods Vice President, received His Membership in the Mercer County Historical Society, from President Joyce Allig. November 7, 1990.



Ray Feltz built miniature models of equipment for Exhibit at the Mercer County Historical Museum. Ray volunteered for over 20 years at the Museum.



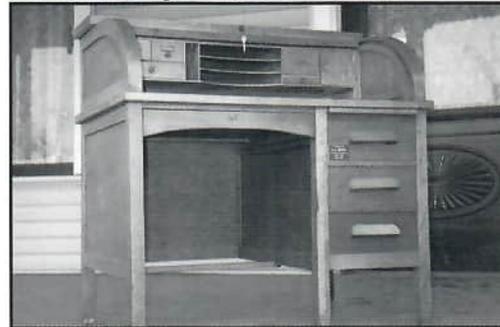
Celina Mayor Spangler is holding a Plaque of Appreciation to The City of Celina for their donation of funds to paint the Mercer County Historical Museum in 1984 for the County. Eugene Hirschfeld participated in the program.



Sports Writer Gordy Coleman and Art Ranly share baseball memories while looking at the Wally Post Baseball Memorabilia at the 1984 Mercer County Sports Exhibit at the Mercer County Historical Museum.



Uppie Berning, Phil _____, Paul Hosack, and Ralph Schindler are sharing their Stamp Collections at the Stamp Collectors’ Exhibit At the Mercer County Historical Museum in 1982.



Richard Kolter, former Rockford Resident, & Historical Society Member, had his father’s 1918 oak desk refinished, to present to the Mercer County Historical Museum.



Celina American Legion held the Flag Raising Ceremony at the 1982 Spring Open House, at the Mercer County Historical Museum.



In 2004, Donald Muhlenkamp played the Sleigh Bells, after Phil Naumann had read the Bible Story, at Party the Christmas for the Mercer County Historical Society.

THOSE MAGNIFICENT BIG BARNs

IN MERCER COUNTY
OF WESTERN OHIO

Director: Joyce L. Alig

PASSPORT TO HISTORY Series, BOOK II

Mercer County Historical Society, Inc., Celina, Ohio



Mercer County Centennial Buildings

PASSPORT TO HISTORY Series, Book III

Director: Joyce L. Alig



Mercer County Historical Society, Inc.

Celina, Ohio
1995

THE MERCER COUNTY FAIR CELINA, OHIO

1852 - 2002



Race Track, Fair Grounds, Celina, Ohio.

Mercer County Agricultural Society
& Mercer County Historical Society, Inc.
Passport to History Series Book XII

Native Americans And Early Settlers
The Meeting Of Cultures
1780's — 1980's



PASSPORT TO HISTORY Series, BOOK I

Mercer County Historical Society, Inc., Celina, Ohio
1989

Death/Memorial Card Collection of the German-American
Communities of Southern Mercer County Ohio (1885-2001)

Volume Two

By
Allen W. Bernard



Mercer County Historical Society Inc., Celina, Ohio
Director, Joyce L. Alig

Death/Memorial Card Collection of the German-American
Communities of Southern Mercer County Ohio (1884-1999)

*A Compilation of Data from Death/Memorial Cards
in the Mercer County Historical Museum*

By
Allen W. Bernard



Mercer County Historical Society Inc., Celina, Ohio
Director, Joyce L. Alig

BOARD OF
MERCER COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS

Proclamation

SEPTEMBER MERCER COUNTY HISTORY
AWARENESS MONTH

Whereas:

the month of September will be observed as Mercer County History Awareness month, to recognize the importance of the heritage of Mercer Countians, and

WHEREAS, the Mercer County Commissioners acknowledge the Mercer County Historical Museum, on the National Register of Historic Sites, as an educational institution which contributes to the cultural and economic development of Mercer County. and;

WHEREAS, the Mercer County Historical Society accepts the challenge, not only to preserve the artifacts and archival collections by administration of the Mercer County Historical Museum, but also to inspire and educate the public about Mercer County's rich heritage through public exhibits, tourism, Passport to History Series local history books, educational lecture series, educational programs for schools, and historical research for students and adults, and;

WHEREAS, the Mercer County Historical Society has contributed to the preservation of the Mercer County Courthouse, in recognition of its 75th Anniversary Celebration, through the book, Mercer County's Courthouses, 1824-1998, and;

WHEREAS, the Mercer County Historical Society's programs strengthen communities by encouraging pride in Mercer County's past, and the Museum teaches young people that ideas and inventions just do not happen, but can be created and implemented. The Museum teaches young people that problems can be identified and solutions sought. The Museum inspires people to help make Mercer County a better place to live.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, Ray Cron, Chairman, Jerry Laffin and Thomas Gagel, do hereby proclaim the month of September as

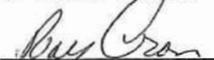
MERCER COUNTY HISTORY AWARENESS MONTH

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, to value the Mercer County Historical Museum and to encourage Mercer Countians to participate in the opportunities made available by the Mercer County Historical Society, to enrich their lives and increase their knowledge and appreciation of history.

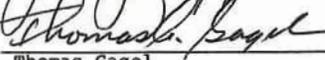
Page 2

IN WITNESS THEREOF, WE HAVE HEREUNTO SUBSCRIBED OUR NAMES AND CAUSED THE SEAL OF MERCER COUNTY TO BE AFFIXED AT CELINA, OHIO THIS 27th DAY OF AUGUST, IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD, ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND NINETY EIGHT.

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF MERCER COUNTY, OHIO


Ray Cron, Chairman


Jerry Laffin, Vice Chairman


Thomas Gagel



ATTEST:


Clerk/Adm. of the Board

MERCER COUNTY'S COURTHOUSES

*Celina, Ohio
1824-1998*



Joyce L. Alig

75th Anniversary 1923 Courthouse

**PASSPORT TO HISTORY SERIES, BOOK V
MERCER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.**



The 75th Anniversary Celebration Committee held the Rededication Ceremony of the Mercer County Courthouse, (1923-1998), on the Courthouse Lawn, September 6, 1998.

Front Row: Janet Gels and Kip Wright, Co-Chairpersons

Second Row: Secretary Anita Huber, Treasurer Jason Kaiser, Donna Grube, and Ken Rosengarten

Third Row: Nancy Desch, Mary Toms, Sue Heiser

Fourth Row: Joyce L. Alig and Betty Dilworth

Back Row: Bill Dilworth, Jim Chittum, Damian Dorsten, Honorable Jeffrey Ingraham and Mercer County Auditor Mark Giesige.

Absent: Eugene Weber

"Mercer County's Courthouses, Celina, Ohio, 1824-1998," by Joyce Alig, not only provides the histories of the Courthouses of Mercer County, and the History of the 1923 Mercer County Courthouse, but also describes the many activities of the 75th Anniversary Celebration Committee Members in 1998.

Board of
MERCER COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS

Proclamation

IN RECOGNITION OF
OHIO BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION OF MERCER COUNTY

WHEREAS: the Mercer County Commissioners and the Mercer County Historical Society recognize the importance of the heritage of Mercer Countians in this great State of Ohio, and

WHEREAS, the Mercer County Commissioners and the Mercer County Historical Society acknowledge the historic event of Ohio's Bicentennial, 1803-2003, and

WHEREAS, the Mercer County Commissioners and the Mercer County Historical Society encourage Mercer Countians to participate in the Ohio Bicentennial Celebration, by preserving Mercer County's heritage.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, Mercer County Commissioners, Jerry Laffin, Ray Cron, and Thomas Gagel, and Mercer County Museum Director Joyce Alig, do hereby proclaim the

OHIO BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION OF MERCER COUNTY

as the official organization to plan and implement Mercer County, Ohio's celebration plans, in honor of Ohio's Bicentennial Celebration in 2003.

In witness thereof, we have hereunto subscribed our names and caused the seal of Mercer County to be affixed at Celina, Ohio, this 14th day of September, in the year of our Lord, two thousand.

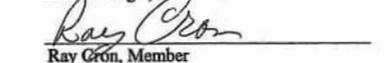
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
MERCER COUNTY, OHIO



Jerry Laffin, Chairman

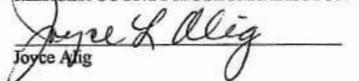


Thomas Gagel, Vice Chairman



Ray Cron, Member

MERCER COUNTY MUSEUM DIRECTOR



Joyce Alig

ATTEST:



Clerk of the Board



Signing the Proclamation: "Ohio Bicentennial Commission of Mercer County, Ohio." September 14, 2000

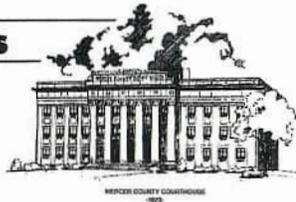
-Mercer County Commissioners, Ray Cron, Jerry Laffin, and Thomas Gagel.

-Mercer County Historical Museum Director Joyce L. Alig

Board of

Mercer County Commissioners

Central Service Building
220 W. Livingston Street • Room A201 • Celina, Ohio 45822
Ph: (419) 586-3178 • Fax: (419) 586-1699
E-mail: commissioners@mercercountyohio.org



RAY CRON, *Chairman*
JERRY LAFFIN, *Vice Chairman*
THOMAS GAGEL, *Member*

To: Steve George, Executive Director, Ohio Bicentennial Commission
From: Mercer County Commissioners, Celina, Mercer County, Ohio
Re: Ohio Bicentennial Legacy Grant Program
Date: October 2, 2001

The Mercer County Commissioners were proud to join with the Mercer County Historical Society, Inc., to create the Mercer County Ohio Bicentennial Advisory Council in 1999. We have worked for three years, in preparation for the Celebration of Ohio's Bicentennial in 2003.

We are honored to submit this Ohio Bicentennial Legacy Grant Program Application to the Ohio Bicentennial Commission.

We have used the same pattern of Grant Application Form, that we have used for the Grant Applications to the Ohio Humanities Council. We have respected the Rules of the Ohio Bicentennial Legacy Grant Program and agree to follow them, and implement this program. The Mercer County Historical Society, Inc., is the not-for-profit organization and its President and Director Joyce Alig has agreed to serve as Project Director. The Mercer County Ohio Bicentennial Advisory Council plans are well planned, and the plans will be implemented for Ohio's Bicentennial Celebration, in 2003.



OHIO BICENTENNIAL COMMUNITIES & BICENTENNIAL SIGNS

Mercer County Communities were recognized as Ohio Bicentennial Communities. May 23, 2003.

Front Row: Mendon Mayor Ron Griesdorn, Montezuma Mayor Charlotte Garman, Fort Recovery Village Janet McCain, Ohio Bicentennial Commission Beth Hansen, Chickasaw Mayor Virgil Puthoff, Celina Mayor Paul Arnold. Second Row: Museum Director Joyce Alig, Bicentennial Committee Monte Diegel, St. Henry Administrator Don Hess, Coldwater Mayor Vern Stammen, Burkettsville Mayor Jim Garke, Bicentennial Committee Gwen and Ken Taylor, Commissioner Jerry Laffin, and Celina City Sue Canary. Back Row, Commissioners Jim Zehringer and Tom Gagel.



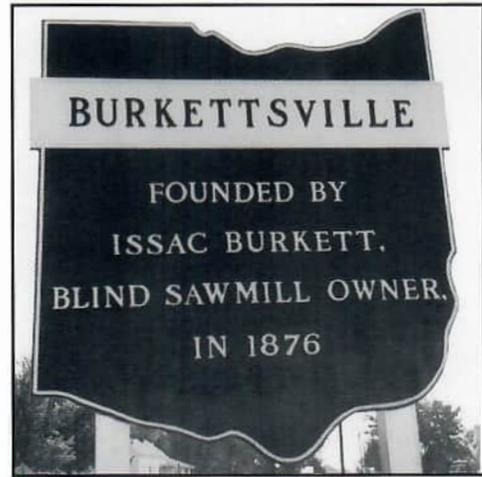
Mercer County's Ohio Bicentennial Barn, Dedication Ceremonies, July 18, 2001
 Todd Laux home, 7619 U.S. 127.
 Scott Hagan painted the Bicentennial Logo.



David and Laura McNeilan and Family donated one of ten Bicentennial Bells, Struck for Mercer County, to the Mercer County Historical Society, July 27, 2003.



Coldwater dedicated its Ohio Bicentennial Sign September 13, 2001.



Burkettsville dedicated its Ohio Bicentennial Sign in 2001, with a Community Celebration.

MERCER COUNTY, OHIO

***“History of the Land Between the
Saint Marys & Wabash River Valleys
Illustrated by Early Maps
1755 - 2000”***



1803 ♥ 2003

**In Commemoration of
The Ohio Bicentennial Celebration
1803 - 2003**

Joyce L. Alig, Editor

**Andrew R. L. Cayton
and Harrison Frech,
Essays on Maps**

*Passport to History Series, Book VI
Mercer County Historical Society, Inc.
April 2000*



Mercer County

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

JERRY LAFFIN ■ THOMAS GAGEL ■ JIM ZEHRINGER

Central Service Building
220 W. Livingston St.
Room A201
Celina, Ohio 45822
Ph: (419) 586-3178
Fax: (419) 586-1699
E-mail:
commissioners@
mercercountyohio.org

April 29, 2003

Attention Board of Directors
Libraries of Mercer County:

RE: Libraries' Continued Financial Support of Mercer County Museum

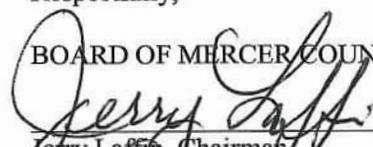
The Mercer County Commissioners value the Libraries of Mercer County, and their support of the county institution, the Mercer County Historical Museum. This Museum preserves the heritage of all Mercer County communities and is a valuable asset to Mercer Countians.

With all of the funding challenges of the County offices, the Commissioners appreciate the Libraries and their help of this funding source for the County Museum. We ask that the Libraries, as they plan their 2004 budget, to continue with their financial support towards the Mercer County Museum, under the administration of the Mercer County Historical Society.

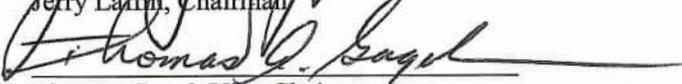
Thank you for considering this request.

Respectfully,

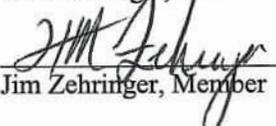
BOARD OF MERCER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Jerry Laffin, Chairman



Thomas Gagel, Vice-Chairman



Jim Zehring, Member

cc Joyce Alig
Coldwater Public Library
Mercer County Library
Ft. Recovery Public Library
Carnegie-Rockford Public Library

Agreement

This Agreement made by and between the MERCER COUNTY DISTRICT LIBRARY, whose main office is at 303 N. Main Street, Celina, Ohio, hereinafter referred to as the "First Party," and the MERCER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC., an Ohio corporation not for profit, whose main office is at Post Office Box 512, 130 East Market Street, Celina, Ohio, hereinafter referred to as the "Second Party."

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, first Party is a County District Library formed in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3375, as they may have since been amended since the formation of said library;

WHEREAS, the Second Party is an Ohio corporation not for profit organized for the purpose of maintaining and operating a museum in Mercer County, Ohio, among others; and

WHEREAS, the parties hereto do wish to enter into a contract by which the second party would establish and maintain a museum for the general use of the public located within the territory served by the First Party in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code Section 3375.402.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing and the mutual promises and covenants made herein, the parties hereto agree as follows:

1. Second Party does hereby agree to establish and maintain a museum for the use of the general public located within Mercer County, Ohio.
2. First Party agrees to loan books, periodicals, and similar matter belonging to First Party to Second Party for use in the museum as the Library Board may determine from time to time.
3. First Party will include in its annual budget for the year 2004 a sum not to exceed \$15,000.00, and upon the approval of the annual budget for 2004 pay to the Second Party monies it receives in accordance with its budget for payment to the Second Party, all for the maintenance of such museum. The first party reserves the right to make payment in one or several equal or unequal payments.
4. The parties mutually agree that each shall remain autonomous, and specifically Second Party shall have the right to determine the purpose for which monies it receives from First Party are spent; provided, however, Second Party agrees to spend such money only for the maintenance of the museum in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code Section 3375.402.
5. This Agreement shall be in full force and effect for the calendar year 2004.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed DUPLICATES of this agreement on the dates so indicated by the signatures of the representatives of the Board of each party.

[FIRST PARTY]

MERCER COUNTY DISTRICT PUBLIC LIBRARY

Thomas R. With Date: 12/10/2003
President
Anthony R. Schreiner Date: 12/10/2003
Director, Clerk-Treasurer

[SECOND PARTY]

MERCER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
Joice Kelly Date: 12-17-03
President

Secretary Date _____



Mercer County

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JERRY LAFFIN ■ THOMAS GAGEL ■ JIM ZEHRINGER

Central Service Building
220 W. Livingston St.
Room A201
Celina, Ohio 45822
Ph: (419) 586-3178
Fax: (419) 586-1699
E-mail:
commissioners@
mercercountyohio.org

January 13, 2004

Dear Mercer County Historical Society Board of Directors:

The Board of Mercer County Commissioners has tentatively set appropriations for 2004 and hope to adopt said appropriation the week of January 19, 2004. We have thoroughly reviewed the general fund accounts and made every effort to accommodate the requests.

First, we wish to assure you that the Board of County Commissioners have budgeted funds for routine building and grounds maintenance of the Mercer County Historical Museum. Last year, our maintenance expenses for the museum exceeded \$16,000.00, excluding maintenance personnel. Although there is no improvement projects scheduled in 2004 for the museum, we will continue general and preventive maintenance.

Over the past three years, the Board of County Commissioners has also contributed to the museum operations via supplementing revenue to meet the salary and benefits appropriated for the museum director. In 2003, the county's contribution for museum operations totaled \$14,773.75 (\$54,769.75 expenditures less \$39,996.00 revenue). Regrettably, funds are not available to continue to supplement museum operations. We will continue to honor the original agreement between the commissioners and the Historical Society Board of Directors whereby this is a pass-through account. In other words, expenditures will not exceed revenue received.

The Board of County Commissioners recognizes the importance of preserving our heritage and greatly appreciate the services you have provided. We are confident that you, the Board of Directors of the Mercer County Historical Society, will be able to utilize funds available to continue to operate the Mercer County Historical Museum.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF MERCER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Thomas B. Gagel
Thomas Gagel, Chairman

Jim Zehring
Jim Zehring, Vice Chairman

Jerry Laffin
Jerry Laffin, Member



Mercer County

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JERRY LAFFIN ■ THOMAS GAGEL ■ JIM ZEHRINGER

Central Service Building
220 W. Livingston St.
Room A201
Celina, Ohio 45822
Ph: (419) 586-3178
Fax: (419) 586-1699
E-mail:
commissioners@
mercercountyohio.org

February 20, 2004

Dear Mercer County Historical Society Board of Directors:

The Board of County Commissioners was agreeable to the establishment of a pass-through account for the museum director only if permissible by law. Our legal counsel has been diligently investigating the County's ability to place the director on our payroll for the purpose of allowing her to receive benefits. Only recently have we received a determination. Following is an excerpt of a letter faxed to us by the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System:

It is our determination that Ms. Ailig is not a public employee as defined in Section 145.01 (A) (1) of the Ohio Revised Code. She is an employee of the private non-profit Society. As such, OPERS contributions are not to be withheld and remitted. All contributions on file for this service are unauthorized and must be refunded as such.

The Board of County Commissioners sincerely regrets that they were unable to accommodate your efforts to provide benefits to your director. The temporary pass-through account will cease effective immediately. A detailed accounting of the funds received and expended to date in calendar year 2004 is attached. The county must be reimbursed for all of the outstanding director's salary and benefit amounts for the year 2004. Please let us know when the payment will be forthcoming.

We recognize that with the elimination of the pass-through account, there are many questions yet to be answered. We would be happy to meet with you and discuss in further detail.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF MERCER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Thomas B. Gagel
Thomas Gagel, Chairman

~ 60 ~

Date: MARCH 2, 2004

In the: THE MERCER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AUTHORIZING TO CEASE THE
matter of: USE OF A PASS-THROUGH ACCOUNT ESTABLISHED FOR THE
MERCER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM DIRECTOR

The Board of County Commissioners of Mercer County, Ohio met in regular session on the 2nd day of March, 2004, at the Office of the Mercer County Commissioners with the following members present: Mr. Jerry Laffin, Mr. Jim Zehringer, and Mr. Thomas Gagel. Also, present was Mrs. Kim Everman, Clerk/Adm. of the Board.

Mr. Laffin moved the adoption of the following:

RESOLUTION #04-222

WHEREAS, the Mercer County Historical Society provides funds for the Museum Director's wages and benefits and uses the county payroll as a pass-through account; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) has recently notified Mercer County that Mrs. Alig, the Mercer County Historical Society Museum Director, is not a public employee as defined in Section 145.01 (A) (1) of the Ohio Revised Code. Mrs. Alig is an employee of the private non-profit Society; and

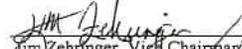
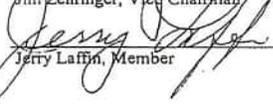
WHEREAS, Pursuant to this notice by OPERS, the Board of County Commissioners deem it necessary to cease the use of the county payroll as a pass-through account for the wages and benefits of the Mercer County Historical Society Museum Director.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of County Commissioners of Mercer County Ohio, hereby authorizes the cessation of said pass-through account established for the Mercer County Historical Society Museum Director effective February 29, 2004.

Mr. Zehringer seconded the resolution and the roll being called upon its adoption the vote resulted as follows:

Mr. Laffin, Yes; Mr. Zehringer, Yes; Mr. Gagel, Yes;

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS OF MERCER COUNTY, OHIO


Thomas Gagel, Chairman

Jim Zehringer, Vice Chairman

Jerry Laffin, Member

ATTEST:


Clerk of the Board

Board of Historical Society

DWYER-
MERCER COUNTY
DISTRICT LIBRARY

303 N. MAIN STREET - CELINA, OHIO 45822

January 26, 1989

Joyce Alig
Mercer County Historical Society
130 E. Market Street
Celina, Ohio 45822

Dear Joyce,

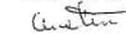
Happy New Year! I thought I would review the handling of your pass thru funds.

First of all we don't receive these funds until mid-month. Secondly, we only have checks signed every 14 days; so sometimes we will not be as prompt as other times.

However, as a maximum guideline, you should receive a check no later than the first 10 days of the following month that we receive the funds.

Should you not receive the funds within this time limit, please contact us to determine the situation.

Sincerely,


Austin R. Schneider

ARS/cb



CONSULTANTS TO MANAGEMENT
January 21, 2004

RECEIVED

FEB 19 2004

COMMISSIONERS
OFFICE

Ms. Kim Everman
Clerk to the Board
Mercer County Commissioners
220 West Livingston Street, Room A201
Celina, Ohio 45822-1671

Dear Kim:

As you requested, I am responding to your question of whether the person employed as the Museum Director is eligible to accrue sick leave. As was discussed during our recent telephone conversation, the recommendations provided are based upon the information which was provided to Clemans Nelson and, if any of the facts should change, the recommendation could be different.

It is my understanding that the Mercer County Historical Society is a private, non-profit corporation which employs the Museum Director. No elected official of Mercer County appoints, terminates, sets compensation, or makes any other personnel decisions involving the Museum Director.

It is also my understanding that the Mercer County Historical Society, through a verbal agreement with the Board of County Commissioners, provides funds for the Museum Director's wages, and uses the County payroll as a pass-through account. In other words, the Museum Director is paid by the Mercer County Historical Society, not by Mercer County and the Museum Director, therefore, is not a County employee.

Ohio Revised Code Section 124.38 reads, in part, as follows:

"Each of the following shall be entitled for each completed eighty hours of service to sick leave of four and six-tenths hours with pay:

(A) Employees in the various offices of the county, municipal, and civil service township service ..."

012104wmpLI OVER A QUARTER-CENTURY OF SERVICE TO EMPLOYERS
lmerbcslacrind 417 NORTH WEST STREET • LIMA, OHIO 45801-4237 • 419/227/4945 • FAX 419/229-8617
OFFICES IN: COLUMBUS • AKRON • CINCINNATI • ELYRIA • LIMA
www.clemansnelson.com

Ms. Kim Everman
Page 2
January 21, 2004

The Ohio Administrative Code Section 123:1-47-01 defines "County offices" as "those agencies, boards, commissions, departments, and elected offices of the county which are appointing authorities ..."

Since the Museum Director is an employee of the Mercer County Historical Society and not an employee of the Mercer County Board of Commissioners, and because the Historical Society does not fall under the definition of a county office, therefore, it appears the person employed as the Museum Director is not entitled to accrue sick leave.

Please call me if you have any questions or if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

CLEMANS, NELSON & ASSOCIATES, INC.

Cynthia K. Sreenan

Cynthia K. Sreenan, SPHR
Senior Consultant

012104wmpLI
lmerbcslacrind

OPERS Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

277 East Town Street Columbus, Ohio 43215-4642 1-800-222-PERS (7377) www.opers.org

April 12, 2004

Amy B. Ikerd
Mercer County Assistant Prosecuting Attorney
119 North Walnut Street
Celina, OH 45822

Dear Ms. Ikerd:

Re: Joyce Alig

This is in response to Joyce Alig's request for a review of the OPERS determination issued by Compliance Officer Bob Sayre on February 20, 2004, that Ms. Alig was a public employee for her service as Director of the Mercer County Historical Society for the period of July 1999, to February 2004.

Based upon review of the documents and additional information provided by Ms. Alig, we are reversing the February 20, 2004, determination and find that Ms. Alig was a public employee for the time period of July 1999 to February 2004. Specifically, Ms. Alig provided OPERS with a copy of a Certificate of Appointment issued by the Mercer County Commissioners that added Ms. Alig to the county payroll in 1999. In July 1999, Mercer County began remitting contributions for her again (see enclosure).

Pursuant to Section 145.561, Ohio Revised Code, the granting of an age and service retirement benefit vests a right to the benefit in the benefit recipient. As Ms. Alig applied for and is receiving an age and service retirement benefit, her right to the benefit has vested.

Ms. Alig's request that the retirement system determine whether she was a public employee

Amy B. Ikerd
Page 2 of 2
April 12, 2004

during the period of her noncontributing service with the Mercer County Historical Society from January 1980 to July 1999 has been referred to Compliance Officer Bob Sayre.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Julie Emch Becker
General Counsel

JEB/mld

Enclosure

pc: Joyce Alig
Mark Giesige, Mercer County Auditor

PASSPORT

Mercer County, Ohio History

GRANVILLE TOWNSHIP

Saint Henry, Burkettsville, Cranberry Prairie,
Himmelgarten Convent & St. Marys Novitiate

Annotated Bibliography for Ohio History Education
Centennial through Bicentennial Celebration Plans
Historical and Genealogical Research

By

Joyce L. Alig, President

Mercer County Historical Society, Inc.

Passport to History Series Book XIII

Mercer County, Ohio: Granville Township

Mercer County is located in northwest Ohio, on the International Treaty Line, drawn at the 1795 Treaty of Greene Ville, between Native American Tribes and the United States Government. This Treaty concluded the Indian Wars of the 1790's.

Ohio became a State of the United States of America in 1803. However, the land in northwest Ohio belonged to the Native Americans under the 1795 Treaty. After the War of 1812, the 1817 Treaty was signed at the Foot of the Rapids of the Miami of Lake Erie (Maumee), and the 1818 Treaty was signed at St. Marys, Ohio, between the Native American Tribes and the United States Government.

After the 1818 Treaty at Saint Marys, Ohio, Captain James Riley and other surveyors were appointed by the U.S. Surveyor General to survey north of this 1795 Treaty Line, for two purposes. One purpose was to determine a route for a canal in northwestern Ohio. The other purpose was to survey the government land, to sell to the public. In 1820, Mercer County was one of 14 counties created in northwest Ohio. In 1824 Mercer County was separated from Darke County. In 1848, Auglaize County was created, and eastern Mercer County villages of St. Marys, New Bremen, and Minster were made a part of Auglaize County. Parts of northern Darke County Townships, just south of the 1795 Treaty Line, were made a part of Mercer County in 1848. Mercer County's boundaries have remained, as of 1848.

Granville Township was organized by the Mercer County Commissioners, June 5, 1837, and an election for Township Officers was held June 26, 1837. Granville Township is bounded by Butler Township to the north, Marion Township to the east, Recovery and Gibson Townships to the west, and Darke County to the south. Granville Township's two incorporated villages are Saint Henry and Burkettsville. One unincorporated Village is Cranberry Prairie. In rural Granville Township, stood Himmelgarten Convent and St. Marys Preparatory Seminary, also known as the Novitiate.

St. Wendelin stands on three Townships, Granville, Gibson and Recovery, and is an unincorporated Village. The historic resources for St. Wendelin will be listed in **Passport to Mercer County, Ohio History**: Gibson Township.

PASSPORT

Mercer County, Ohio History

BUTLER TOWNSHIP

Coldwater, Philothea,
Philothea Station, Montpelier

Annotated Bibliography for Ohio History Education
Centennial through Bicentennial Celebration Plans
Historical and Genealogical Research

By

Joyce L. Alig, President

Mercer County Historical Society, Inc.

Passport to History Series Book XIV

INTRODUCTION

Passport to Mercer County, Ohio History, Butler Township, Passport to History Series, Book XIV is a resource for history of Butler Township, Mercer County, Ohio.

Passport to Mercer County, Ohio History, Passport to History Series, of books have been prepared for each of fourteen Townships of Mercer County. The purpose of this series is to provide an academic resource for Mercer Countians, Ohio History Teachers, University History Professors, Librarians, Archivists, Historians, Genealogists, and Historical Museums.

Resources are for Northwest Ohio, Mercer County, Townships, Villages, Schools, Businesses, Churches, Agribusinesses, Barns, Civic Organizations, Sports, Local Families, Cemeteries, Native Americans, Black History, Canals, Railroads, Frontier, Military, Cartography, Geology and Prehistoric Sites.

I have prepared these bibliographies from books and resources, which I have used in these past four decades in writing books about Mercer County's history, and in serving as Director of the Mercer County Historical Museum, Celina, Ohio, 1973-2004, and as Mercer County Historical Society President from January 1973 to the present.

Mercer County Courthouse Records, Butler Township Trustee Records, and Village Council Records are at their respective Government Offices. To find books and references listed, check with Libraries, Rare Book Stores, Historians, the Internet, and the Mercer County Historical Society.

The Mission of the Mercer County Historical Society, Inc., is to preserve Mercer County History, and to educate the public about this History. I invite you to become a Member of the Mercer County Historical Society, Inc., and help the Society preserve local history for future generations.

Joyce L. Alig, President
Mercer County Historical Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 512, Celina, OH 45822
hialig@bright.net
July 30, 2007

PASSPORT

Mercer County, Ohio History

HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP

Earley, Oregon Station, Eden Haven Park,
Stedcke, Stedeke, Stedke, Shively's Corner,
Striptown, Tama, Tamah, Tamah Station

Annotated Bibliography for Ohio History Education
Centennial through Bicentennial Celebration Plans
Historical and Genealogical Research

By

Joyce L. Alig, President

Mercer County Historical Society, Inc.

Passport to History Series, Book XVII

PASSPORT

Mercer County, Ohio History

LIBERTY TOWNSHIP

Brehm, Burrville, Chattanooga, Durbin,
Hinton (Pierstorff Store), Price, Scudder,
Skeel's Cross Roads, and Striptown.

Annotated Bibliography for Ohio History Education
Centennial through Bicentennial Celebration Plans
Historical and Genealogical Research

By

Joyce L. Alig, President

Mercer County Historical Society, Inc.

Passport to History Series Book XVI

PASSPORT

Mercer County, Ohio History

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP

Montezuma
Axe Country Supply Store
Lakefield Airport Authority
Mercer Co. Waterfowl Management Area
Landings, Businesses & Clubs on the South Shore of
Grand Lake Saint Marys

Annotated Bibliography for Ohio History Education
Centennial through Bicentennial Celebration Plans
Historical and Genealogical Research

By

Joyce L. Alig, President

Mercer County Historical Society, Inc.

Passport to History Series Book XV

PASSPORT

Mercer County, Ohio History

CENTER TOWNSHIP

Beery's Corners, Boetia Post Office,
Gadtown or Houts' Corner,
Neptune Post Office, Neptune, Ohio

Annotated Bibliography for Ohio History Education
Centennial through Bicentennial Celebration Plans
Historical and Genealogical Research

By

Joyce L. Alig, President

Mercer County Historical Society, Inc.

Passport to History Series, Book XVII

Our Post Card Past
**MERCER COUNTY,
OHIO**

*In Celebration of
Ohio's Bicentennial
1803-2003*

By

Joyce L. Alig, Director
Mercer County Historical Society

Passport to History Series, Book XI

OUR POST CARD PAST
ROCKFORD, OHIO



Artist: Ethel Pontsler

Shanes Crossing Historical Society
Mercer County Historical Society

OUR POST CARD PAST

**GRAND LAKE
SAINT MARYS
OHIO**

By

Joyce L. Alig, Director
Mercer County Historical Society, Inc.

Passport to History Series, Book VIII

Our Post Card Past
CELINA, OHIO

*In Celebration of
Ohio's Bicentennial
1803-2003*

By

Joyce L. Alig, Director
Mercer County Historical Society

Passport to History Series, Book X

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Top Ten Reasons why the Mercer County Historical Society is recognized as An Important Institution in the Cultural and Economic Development of Mercer County, Ohio

- The First Reason for the Museum to exist, is the Mission Statement of the Mercer County Historical Society: To Preserve Mercer County's History and to Educate the Public about that History. The Mercer County Historical Museum is celebrating its 50th Anniversary, 1959-2009.
- The Historical Society Preserves Mercer County's History at the Mercer County Historical Museum. The County Museum not only exhibits historical artifacts from the past, but also sets the exhibits in their historical context and identifies their use in Mercer County's History. Records are maintained, identifying the Families who donate these exhibits to be placed in the Museum.
- The Society's programs strengthen local history resources by promoting partnerships among libraries, museums, schools, universities, and civic organizations. The President of the Mercer County Historical Society gives Guided Tours for Educational purposes. The Society has published over two dozen local history books, with the purpose of Educating the Public about Mercer County's Past, with its ***"Passport to History Series of Books."***
- The Historical Society pays bills in order to take care of the Mercer County Historical Museum, and Society. The Society pays Utility Bills: heat, light, water, telephone and alarm system, computer and internet services. The Society pays for certain Office Equipment and Supply. The Society pays for printing and postage for sending Newsletters to Members. The Society and its Members have paid bills for painting the Museum Building, repairing the Porch Foundation, Insulation, New Drapery, Linoleum, Wallpaper, Installation of Alarm System, Lawn and Shrubbery. The Society has paid for Lawn Maintenance. The County Commissioners have also paid certain Office Equipment and Supply, Building and Lawn Maintenance bills.
- The Society President attends Regional, State, and National Historical Educational Programs at Museums in Ohio and across the United States, for the purpose of maintaining a professional Museum, with High Standards and Technology, in service to the Public, preserving Mercer County's Heritage. The President answers hundreds of email requests weekly, about Mercer County's History.
- The Society has served as the Leader with the Mercer County Commissioners, in establishing the County Committees for our Nation's Bicentennial, 1976; Bicentennial of the Northwest Ordinance, 1987; the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution, 1987; the 75th Anniversary of the Mercer County Courthouse, 1998; and Ohio's Bicentennial Celebration in 2003. The Society publishes local history books, with a Mission to preserve Local History within the context of State and National History.
- The Society's programs strengthen communities by encouraging pride in their heritage, in cooperating with Local Communities, for their 150th Anniversaries, e.g. published History Books for Celina, Coldwater, and Saint Henry. The 1978 Mercer County History Book provided History of Each Community, as well as the histories of the Businesses, Schools, Churches, Service Organizations, and Families. The book about Big Old Barns supports this Rural Heritage. The Society promotes economic and cultural development in Mercer County.
- The Society works to preserve the Heritage of Mercer Countians which includes the work ethic, and the principles of honesty, education and progress.
- The Society's programs promote public discourse and enrich citizens' participation in public affairs and thereby strengthen Democracy, the very principle upon which our Nation was founded.
- The Society's programs affirm the importance of values in our lives, and spark literacy, learning, and the lifelong growth of individuals.

Dr. Norman Vincent Peale: ***"Happiness will never come if it's a goal in itself; happiness is a by-product of a commitment to worthy causes."***

MERCER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC. & MERCER COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM FUNDS

COUNTY GOVERNMENT FUNDS: MERCER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The Mercer County Commissioners' allocation of funds to the Mercer County Historical Society, Inc. and/or to the Mercer County Historical Museum is not mandatory by the Ohio Revised Code, and is subjective by the three individuals who hold the position of Mercer County Commissioner, at any given time. In the Original Agreement, the Commissioners asked R. Riley, C. Stubbs, and C. Reiser, to found the Mercer County Historical Society and Mercer County Historical Museum, with an agreement to fund this County Institution, as recorded in the January 28, 1958 Minutes of the Mercer County Historical Society. At times, the Commissioners funded office furniture and supplies, and building and grounds maintenance. The Commissioners created and funded the Public Employee's Position of Director of the Mercer County Historical Museum, and appointed the President of the Mercer County Historical Society, Inc., to that Director's position in 1975, and saw that County Funding for the Museum Director's position, 1975-2004, until they ceased the Position in 2004. In many years, the Commissioners allocated funds to the Mercer County Historical Society. At the present, the Commissioners' Maintenance Staff maintain the exterior Museum building and grounds. At the present, the Commissioners make no allocations to the Mercer County Historical Society, and they do not employ a County Museum Director.

TOWNSHIP AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDS:

The Trustees of the Fourteen Townships, the Incorporated Villages, and the City of Celina have made allocations toward printing local history books, and local preservation projects to the Historical Society.

COMBINED SERVICES APPEAL AND COMBINED DRIVE FUNDS:

The Combined Drives from Communities in Mercer County provide funds for Museum Utilities, Office Equipment and Supplies, Newsletters, and programs to help meet the Mission of the Historical Society.

MEMBERSHIP DONATIONS

The Membership donations are used to serve the Mission of the Mercer County Historical Society: To Preserve Mercer County's History and To Educate the Public About that History.

PRIVATE RESTRICTED DONATIONS

Private Restricted Donations to the Mercer County Historical Society, Inc. include a variety of long term or short term projects, and are used only according to the donor's wishes.

ESTATE PLANS

Funds from Private Estate Plans make a long lasting contribution to the Preservation of Mercer County's rich history. Estate Plans give a family a long lasting Recognition for future Generations.

MERCER COUNTY CIVIC FOUNDATION:

The Mercer County Civic Foundation administers the Mercer County Historical Society Fund, whereby Donations and/or Estate Plans are Designated, whereby the Principle is invested through Financial Administration. The annual proceeds are given to the Society. David and Barbara Riley established this fund, and citizens have contributed to this fund. The Lois McNeilan Family, the Joel Riley Family, and Bob Heckman also established Memorial funds.



Joel and Ruth Riley established Dr. Robert and Addie Riley Fund Mercer County Historical Soc.

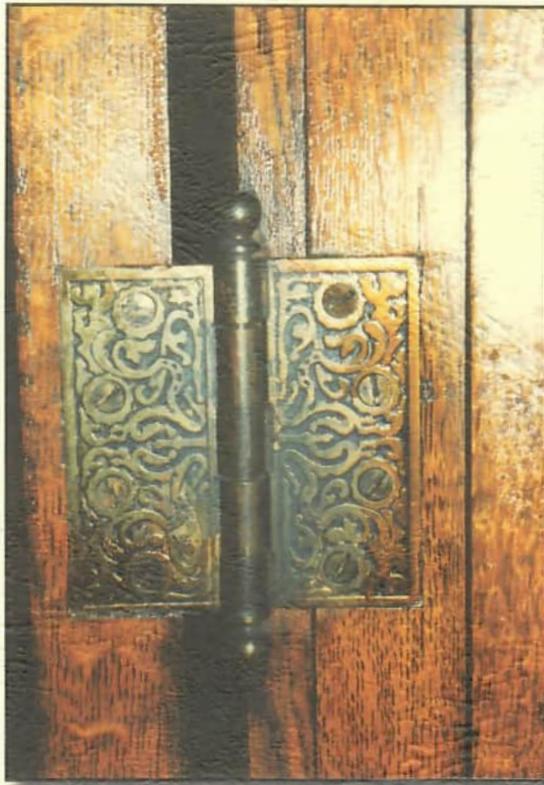


THE MERCER COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM, THE RILEY HOME
130 East Market, Celina, Ohio
THE MERCER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
P.O. Box 512, Celina, OH 45822

The Mercer County Historical Museum is about you, and your heritage. The Mercer County Historical Society, Inc. has a Mission: To Preserve Mercer County's History, and To Educate the Public about that History. The Future of the Mercer County Historical Society, Inc., and the Future of the Mercer County Historical Museum is up to You, Dear Friend. Help the Museum celebrate its 100th Anniversary in 2059.

ACTION STATEMENT:

- Have Passion; care about your Mercer County Historical Society and Museum.
- Become a Member of the Mercer County Historical Society, Inc. Dues are your choice.
- Elect County Government Officials who care about your Heritage and your County Museum.
- Read the Ohio Revised Code about Ohio Public Employees; County Commissioners, Township Trustees, and City/Village Government; County Libraries; County Schools, and Local Government responsibilities and/or opportunities for County Historical Museums and/or County Historical Societies. The Ohio Revised Code is available to you on the Internet: www.ohio.gov
- Talk with the County Commissioners about the importance of the County Building, the Museum.
- If County Commissioners make oral promises to Historical Society Officers, have them put their promises in writing, i.e. a Resolution or a contract. Empty Promises are unethical and worthless.
- Seek Professional, Academically-Educated Museum Directors for Museum Administration, and not just anyone who "loves history." Seek Directors who are Gifted Grants' writers and Fund-Raisers. Seek responsible and talented Directors who understand the importance of Scholarly Lecture Series. Seek Directors who are Scholarly Writers with Knowledge of Local History.
- Seek Board Members who are Community Leaders, who will protect and promote the Mercer County Historical Museum. Seek Leaders who understand the importance of promoting Estate Planning and the importance of supporting the Civic Foundations' Goals for the Society.
- Seek Historical Society Members at your Businesses, School, Church, and/or Civic Organizations.
- Educate your Family and Friends about Mercer County's Heritage; visit the Museum.
- Don't wait for *somebody* and/or *everybody* to do this; the result is that *nobody* will care.
- Stay the Course and Maintain the Future of your Mercer County Historical Museum.
- Having an Open Museum is a Privilege and a Responsibility. Never take it for Granted!



THE OLD BRASS HINGE

The Old Brass Hinge
Opens the Door to our Past
At our Mercer County Historical Museum.

Over 150,000 Guests
Have entered through this Portal
With Local History as their Quest.

The Museum is an Educational site, first Class.
To Educate the Public is the Society's Mission,
Which should not be stifled by Political Brass.

If polished and oiled, the **Old Brass Hinge**
Will continue to Open its Door for young Minds
To learn about the Treasures of their Past.

If ignored and forgotten
The **Old Brass Hinge** will Close the Door,
And Dispatch the Museum to History's Dustbin.

See the Museum's Centennial comes to Pass!
In 2059, will you open the Museum's Front Door
By this **Old Hinge made of Brass?**

By Joyce L. Alig, President, September 2009
Golden Anniversary
Mercer County Historical Museum