

Pathways: Morrow's Past, Today

The Official Newsletter of the Morrow Area Historical Society

Winter 2014

VOLUME I, ISSUE 1

Meet the Founding Members of the Morrow Area Historical Society

Judy Warman-Neal, President

I am a lifelong Morrow resident. My husband, Roger, is a disabled Vietnam veteran. We have one daughter, Nellie. I am a veteran of the United States Army. I was an intelligence analyst and served most of my tour of duty in South Korea. After the military, I attended the University of Toledo and graduated with a BA in History. After my family, history is the love of my life. I am currently employed by Warren County Metropolitan Housing where I have after school tutoring for the students at the East Ridge housing complex. My other activities include being the current Commander of Morrow VFW Post 8202, lay leader of the Morrow United Methodist Church, a member of the Morrow Progress Club, and was just re-elected to Morrow Village Council.

John W. Poe, Vice President

John W. Poe serves as the founding Vice President of the Morrow Area Historical Society. John and his wife Jan own Miranda's Old Time Ice Cream Shop in Morrow. John was just elected to Morrow Village Council.

Marlene Schwartz-DeBoard, Secretary

My name is Marlene Ruth Schwartz-DeBoard. Age? Well, I was born in 1931, but can't possibly be that old, so I will just say you are as old as you feel. I was born and reared in Morrow. My parents were Fred and Thelma Estell Schwartz. I attended Morrow School for 12 years and then worked as a school secretary for 18 years. Also, worked for 7 years in the Warren County Health Department Prenatal. Both jobs were fulfilling. I married a great man at the age of 21. He was in the

Army and then the National Guard for 28 years. His name was Clive DeBoard and he was from Harveysburg. We had three daughters. We lived out of Morrow on Maineville Road for 34 years near the farm on which I was raised, in a house we built. Wanting a smaller yard and house, we moved to Clarksville in 1992. Clive passed to the Greater Land on 5 Feb 2004. I have six grandchildren and six great grandchildren. I have written a book (three volumes) "The Graduates of Morrow High School 1881-1956." This is the period when it was Morrow School. I'm now working on a book on the Veterans of the Morrow area with the same time frame. I work in my flower beds, sew, make quilts, am an amateur photographer and make greeting cards from my pictures. Was more than delighted when asked to be on the founding board of the Morrow Area Historical Society. A dream come true. I hope I can contribute wisely and be a benefit on this board.

Jerri Short, Treasurer

Hello, my name is Jerri (Mengle) Short and you must be interested in local history too! To me local history is a huge mystery with more questions to be answered. Being a lifelong resident of Morrow, with family ties going back to the settlement of Hopkinsville I am always interested in finding more pieces of the puzzle. What a joy to be part of this new organization and an asset for the community both now and for the future. When not tracking local history my days are shared with my husband Bob, children Jane and Kyle, grandchildren Everett and Lydia and day to day as the Director of the Salem Township Public Library.

Rod Smith, Immediate Past President

I am thrilled to be a part of this organization. It is my hope that the appreciation of Morrow's rich history will spread throughout our community. My family has deep roots in Warren County dating back several generations and I feel fortunate to be a part of an organization whose purpose it is to preserve Morrow's past for future generations. I am honored to serve on this Board as well as serving as Village Administrator for the Village of Morrow.

Did you know...?

Paul Herdman owned the theatre in Morrow during the 1950's. What was the name of the Theatre?

Answer: Miami Theatre.

Chalk Dust

A column by Marlene Schwartz-DeBoard containing History of the Morrow School and its graduates

School History by W P Harford, written in 1899 tells us ---
“For more than thirty years during the early pioneer history of this part of Ohio, the school houses were generally rude log structures such only as the contributed labor of a neighborhood could erect. These primitive buildings of unhewed logs, puncheon floors, and clapboard roofs were usually build by the united efforts of the early settlers and required not more than two days in their construction. The opening between the logs was filled with clay mud instead of mortar. The stone in the fireplaces which occupied at least half of one end of the buildings was laid in the same material, and the chimneys were frequently topped out with sticks and plastered inside and out.



The windows were made by cutting out two logs, thus making an opening about two feet high and eight feet long. These apertures were at first covered with oiled paper, thereby rending them only semitransparent. Glazed sash was not generally used until a later period. The roof boards were weighted down with poles extending the entire length of the building. Nails and screws were not always required in these old time structures. Even hinges and door latches were made of wood. Thus in the long-ago, while the ax and maul may have been used, the sound of hammer and chisel was not

Continued in Next Column

heard in building the early school houses, which arose up the hills and amid the forest of our ancestors. The seats or benches were made of logs with one faced surface and supported by wooded legs inserted into the opposite or lower side. The writing desks were mere shelves resting on wooden pins driven into the logs, which formed the walls of the building. This completes the description of the school house and school furniture of the pioneer past.”
In a book, “Memoirs of the Miami Valley” written in 1919 there is a chapter on building schoolhouses by the pioneers. I will just quote several lines. “After the site was chosen, the pioneer settlers, on a day agreed upon, turned out with axes, crosscut saw, broadaxe, plow and some augers. They convened early in the morning at the school site. Some went to felling the tall trees overshadowing the site, other cutting logs nearby in the woods, others felling a large oak for clapboards, and still others cutting a sightly blue ash tree for puncheons, benches and writing desks.” It also says, “Window styles to which newspapers were pasted and oiled by “coon” grease to render them transparent in order to afford light for the scholars. No nails or window glass was connected with the structure. “

If any of our readers would like to see either of these books, please contact Marlene DeBoard at 937.289.3533 or marlene.deboard@yahoo.com.

Look for more *Chalk Dust* in the next Pathways.

Did you know...?

What year was the Little Miami Railroad issued a charter from the State of Ohio?

Answer: 1836

Membership Update

Current as of November 20, 2013

The Executive Board of the Morrow Area Historical Society would like to extend our appreciation to the following for their membership in our organization and for their commitment to helping preserve the rich history of Morrow and the surrounding areas.

Honorary Lifetime Members

Frank & Mary Goodlander (November 20, 2013)

Private Members

Patron Members - \$250

Robert L. Barnett & Marie T. Barell

Sustaining Members - \$100

Marlene Schwartz-DeBoard · Avery W. Foster
Joyce Bowling-Demitt · Rex Parker
Thomas E. Coler, Jr.
C. Michael Kilburn · Robert Donald Whitacre

Family Members - \$50

Robert & Jean Miranda · Roger & Judy Warman Neal
Rod & Susan Smith · John & Jan Poe
Bob & Jerri Short · Diana & Michelle Toller
Eldon & Ruth Ellen Badertscher · Doris Osborn-Kusler
Dale & Betty Rae Berger · James & Patricia Schuchter
Gerald Martin · Howard & Sandy Hale · Roberta Grice
Brooks & Marlyn Holtzclaw · Paul & Mary Beth Burns
Michael & Caroline Whitacre Para

Individual Members - \$25

Elaine Markesbery · Charlene Schwartz · Myron Lay
Lori Viox · Terry Howard · Agnes McIntosh
Paul J. Zorn · Joyce Wirth · Lee LaFollette · David Lay
Tressie F. Conner · Sue Binder · Donna Curran
Carol Ray Raya · Charles W. Lay · Adrian Achterman
Ellen Faye VanHouten · Kathy West Hartsock
R. Heath Kilburn · Joyce A. Black · James M. Dare
Anna Jane DeBoard · Emilie Freeland · Marty Snyder
Judy Todia · Donna R. Straight · Dr. Bruce Barnett
Julia Hayes · Michael Erwin · Larry W. Spradlin
Sylvia A. Wirth · James Staley
Jean Rayl · Joey Hansted

Membership Update continued

Corporate Members

Sustaining Members - \$100

Stine-Kilburn Funeral Home



Small Business Members - \$50

Lebanon Citizens National Bank – Morrow
Bobbie Jo's Dance Studio · Best Realty, Inc.
Salem Township Public Library
Harlan Township Fire & Rescue

Businessman Members - \$25

Village Hair Salon · Angilo's Pizza

Donations & Contributions

Historical Item Donations

Judy Warman-Neal · Marlene Schwartz-DeBoard
Warren County Historical Society · Ken Fox
Nick & Maureen North · Ellen Faye VanHouten
Glen Harper · Wesley & Emilie Spradlin Freeland
Lee LaFollette

Financial Contributions

William & Barbara Thompson - \$25

Condolences

The Morrow Area Historical Society regrets to inform you of the death of one of our first members,
Tressie Frances Conner.

Our sincere condolences go to the family.

Founding Members & Executive Board

Judy Warman-Neal, President
John W. Poe, Vice President
Marlene Schwartz-DeBoard, Secretary
Jerri Short, Treasurer
Rod Smith, Immediate Past President

Ice Cream Social Follow Up

Thank you to everyone who joined us at the Ice Cream Social on October 17, 2013. A very special thank you to John & Jan Poe, owners of Miranda's Old Time Ice Cream Shop, for graciously hosting this event.

Frank & Mary Goodlander were honored as Lifetime Members of the Morrow Area Historical Society by the Executive Board on November 20, 2013 for their commitment to the preservation of the Morrow area's rich local history.

Winter 2014

Classified

Since finishing my three volume work on "The Graduates of Morrow High School 1881-1956," I am beginning a new quest for a book entitled, "Veterans of the Morrow Area: Spanish American War, World War I, World War II, Korea." I am in need of pictures of the fellows and gals in uniform, where they served and when, decorations received, why, when, etc. Please contact Marlene DeBoard at 937.289.3533 or marlene.deboard@yahoo.com.

VOLUME I, ISSUE 1



Please visit us on the web at
www.MorrowHistory.org

Morrow Area Historical Society
c/o Morrow Municipal Building
150 East Pike Street
Morrow, Ohio 45152