



Owensville Historical Society

PO Box 743, Owensville, Ohio 45160
www.OwensvilleHistoricalSociety.com

Email: info@OwensvilleHistoricalSociety.com August 2010



www.Facebook.com/OwensvilleHistoricalSociety

Calendar of Events

Fall 2010

September

10 Friday 10:00 – Done
Work day at the museum and cabin
12 Sunday 1:00 – 5:00 County-
wide Museum Day
Open House at Museum & Cabin
17 Friday 7:00
Clermont County Historical
Society meeting at Owensville
Museum
18 & 19 Sunday
Village-wide yard sale
28 Tuesday 11:00-2:30
Senior Services Picnic at Gauche
Park (see pg. 2 for details)

October

10 Sunday 1:30
House Tour (Meet at the shelter at
Gauche Park at 1:30 to carpool to
the houses.)

November

14 Sunday 1:30
Speaker Dave Warman, Vietnam
Veteran & Election of Officers
(Held at the Owensville
Commons)

December

5 Sunday 1:00
Christmas Luncheon at Jackson
Township Hall



From the President

Howdy Folks;

The Clermont County Fair is over, and the crowd for the week was good. The folks that worked in the Historical booth did a fine job. On Saturday evening Ruth Ann and I closed it up. There was lots of interest in Sharon Alsdorf's display on the traction line through Owensville and the old pictures of Owensville School. Several people knew lots of the pictures of by-gone days. As always it is special to have Rick Crawford there to answer questions for people.

The Varick gals were at the fair with their craft items and I had the opportunity to visit with them. They also had cakes and pies in the auction. We put some garden items in the floral hall and Ruth Ann put some crocheted baby items in. Now you may wonder why she did this. Well, by golly in October we will be Great Grandma and Great Grandpa. This is exciting, so with the Good Lord watching over our granddaughter, this will be great.

Due to conflicts, the picnic had to be canceled; maybe it will be set up for another time. The Clermont Senior Services have contacted us to help with a picnic at Gauche Park on Sept. 28th for the area seniors. We will help with this and have the cabin and museum open for them to visit.

God Bless all.

George Rooks, president



The dog show at the fair these days is part of the 4H program for kids. This image seems to suggest that it was once a show for the “bigger kids”. When was this and what can people tell us about this picture?

Seniors Community Picnic – Tuesday, Sept. 28

Hosted by the Owensville Police Department

Sponsored by the Clermont Senior Services, CNE Lions Club, and the Owensville Historical Society

Owensville senior citizens are invited to a community picnic Sept. 28 in Gauche Park (11:00 – 2:30).

Enjoy a free picnic lunch (11:30), entertainment by the Golden Bells from the Williamsburg Lifelong Learning Center (12:30), and a tour of the Owensville Historical Society’s museum and cabin (1:00).

RSVP to Officer Sarah Crocket at 732-1171.

If you can help with this event, please contact Shirley Shipley at 732-0081

The United States Census

by Jim Varick

The United States Constitution requires that the population be counted every ten years. The population consists of citizens, and both legal and non-legal visitors. The results are used to allocate congressional seats, electoral votes, and some government funding. The first census in the newly formed United States occurred in 1790. It cost approximately \$45,000 to count 3.9 million people or a little more than a penny a person. It was done by having census workers visiting each home and speaking with the head of the household. The 2010 census which is occurring now will cost approximately 15 billion dollars, which is about \$49 for each person counted. Those expenses include 2.5 million dollars for a television ad on the Super Bowl, and numerous ads and mailings to increase the return rate. Part of the reason for additional expenses is the need for the Federal Government to convince the public that the data will not be used in a way that could cause them harm.

The early censuses were required to be posted in a public place so that individuals could review the data collected and check for accuracy. At that time there was little concern about how the numbers might be used. As the years went by, the questions that were asked by census workers changed each year so that some years included questions about ethnicity and country of origin. While confidentiality is promised for a period of seventy-two years, The Roosevelt Administration repealed that protection in 1941 to allow the identification and internment of Japanese-Americans following the attack on Pearl Harbor. In 1980 under the presidency of Jimmy Carter, the FBI again attempted to collect data from the Census Bureau. This time the bureau refused to release the information; an action which was backed up by the courts. Some people assume that there are sufficient protections of their privacy written into the law, while others feel that those protections are subject to the whim of whoever happens to be making the laws at the time.

After census data is made public, it becomes a storehouse of information for genealogists and historians. The first censuses (up to 1840) only recorded the names of the head of the household and the numbers of people in their household in various age groups. Starting with the 1850 the census workers began to record the names of all household members (including slaves). These early censuses, some of which include information about people's ages, birth location, parents' birth location, and other information, are often the cornerstone for genealogists who are tracking down ancestors. While it is not practical for most people to view the actual census sheets, images of the census sheets are available on microfilm at many locations, and more conveniently, on the internet. The subscription site Ancestry.com has most of the early census data indexed, which allows you to look up ancestors by putting their name into a search engine. (Remember that the only names reported through 1840 were the heads of households. You can't search for children or spouses until the 1850 census.) If you are not interested in paying for a subscription to Ancestry.com (\$13-\$20/month), you can sign up for a free trial subscription for two weeks. You can also access the website for free at the Public Library. The staff is happy to assist in getting you started. Be sure to bring pen and paper to record what you find (and possibly a flash drive to save images of the documents that you find useful).



Thank you to the Chandler Family for donating this blanket and medicine bottle to the society. Does anyone have any stories to share about Dr. Rapp or memories that the blanket brings to mind? Share them on our Facebook page or by e-mail to info@OwensvilleHistoricalSociety.com.

Moving us Forward

I printed this list in our last issue of the newsletter and did not receive any responses. Please remember that our Society is completely run by volunteers like you who feel that it is important to preserve the memory and items of our past. There is a lot of fascinating work to be done! It can be a lot of work for a few people, or a little work for a lot of people. If you feel that the Society is providing a worthwhile service to the community, please consider lending a helping hand. Most opportunities to help do not require any specific skills or knowledge.

Opportunities to help and to learn:

1. For our museum to function efficiently we need someone to scan and index the pictures and documents entrusted to the Society.
2. Our community's history is the story of its people. We need someone to collect and organize genealogical histories significant to the history of the area.
3. There is a wealth of history stored in the minds of our current and former residents. We need people to record that history through video and/or audio interviews before we lose those resources.
4. We need teachers who are willing to develop and share course plans which will share our local history with the children of our community.
5. Someone to research the older buildings in the community using the resources available at the County Recorder's office.
6. Everything in our collection was once owned by an individual in our community. We need people who are willing to donate or allow us to scan their personal photos and documents relating to our community's history.
7. Since we rely solely on private donations and memberships to support our work, we would appreciate it if people would keep their memberships current.
8. We need people who have an interest in a specific area of our history (school, church, business, organization, etc.) to do some research and write a short article. We will publish these to our website and may be included in an updated history book.
9. We need people to meet at the museum and cabin on Friday, September 10 to clean and prepare for open houses and tours.

What is your passion and how can it be applied to preserving our history?

To get involved, please contact us at info@OwensvilleHistoricalSociety.com.

Share Your Story

Please fill in your remembrances on this page and return it to the Owensville Historical Society. Or, you can fill out this form online at www.OwensvilleHistoricalSociety.com/Tell_Us_About_It.htm or on [Facebook](#). Doing so will help preserve this part of our history. Feel free to use additional sheets. Thank you for doing your part.



This hill to the east of Owensville has traditionally been called “Texas Hill”. We’ve never had a definitive reason why. While working at the Fair Booth this year I had the opportunity to talk with Mike and Kathy Curry about this possible answer. Mike’s grandfather moved to Owensville from Texas sometime in the 1930s. “Tex”, as he was called, and his wife Clara rented the top of the two story home across from the Masonic Lodge at the top of this hill. Tex was a tinner for Lloyd Courtot at his barrel factory. Mike admitted that excitement tended to follow Tex and felt it would not be surprising if the hill was named for him. The 1930 census for Stonelick Township shows no one from Texas living in the township at that time, but Tex could easily have moved in after the census was taken. Does anyone have any other suggestions for “Texas Hill” or any of the other hills in the area? (jcv)

Membership Application

Individual (\$10/year)

Family (\$25/year)

Name: _____

Family Names: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail _____

Areas of interest and/or knowledge: _____



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