



# Owensville Historical Society

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

Email: [info@OwensvilleHistoricalSociety.com](mailto:info@OwensvilleHistoricalSociety.com) January 2010



[www.Facebook.com/OwensvilleHistoricalSociety](http://www.Facebook.com/OwensvilleHistoricalSociety)

## Calendar of Events

### Spring 2010

#### February 14

##### Assignment (No meeting)

·Record your courtship memories for posterity. (*Home*)

#### March 21 – 1:30-3:00

##### Cincinnati Nature Center

·Jane Stotts will be giving a presentation of the history of the Cincinnati Nature Center. (*Owensville Commons*)

#### April 17 – 10:00

##### Work Day

·Clean the Cabin & Museum for school open houses.

#### April 18 – 1:30-3:00

##### County Recorder

·Debbie Clepper will speak on using the county records to trace the history of a property. (*Museum*)

#### May 16 – 1:30-3:00

##### Eastfork Lake

·George Rooks will share his knowledge of the history of Eastfork Lake. (*Owensville Commons*)



## From the President

Howdy Folks ;

The Owensville Historical Society will be busy when the weather breaks, so be prepared to lend a helping hand. We have a lot of plans for this year.

The Society has a new newsletter publisher. His name is Jim Varick. This family is so energetic and willing to step up and do different tasks. One of their daughters planted the garden by the log cabin and we are very proud that she took the time to do this. Their family is very busy and very concerned about the Historical Society and nature. They, like us, keep the feed out for the birds.

We put peanut butter on a board, and then cover it with bird seed, and as I write this article, a Downy wood pecker is feeding.

As I have written at different times, for folks that are unable to get out of the house, put a bird feeder by their window. Give them a bird book and pencil and paper to look up the different kinds of birds, then make a note on paper of the different kinds, this will help them pass the time and be exciting for them.

The Clermont County Fair will be here before we know it, as the time goes so fast, July will be here quickly.

God Bless All. George Rooks, President.



*The boys in the 1925 Owensville High School Class. Charles Ohmer at far right.*

An excerpt from JOHN & HERMINA OHMER FAMILY TREE  
(21 July 2009) by Mel Ohmer

## Some Memories of Charles J. Ohmer recorded on April 8, 1992

### Grade School

From 1913 - 1914 I went to Magee School on Benton Rd. This was a one room school. All eight grades went to this school. In the first grade I was the only kid. All eight grades only had 13 kids. In some grades there were no kids. I was the only kid in my grade. I was the dumbest and the smartest in my class.

From 1914 until 1921 I went to Mt. Zion School. This was down the hill over Stonelick Creek and up the hill to the other side to the school. There were approximately 20 in the school. Some years there were a few school kids more or less. When I went to Mt. Zion school there were two kids in the third grade, and I was supposed to be in the second grade. The teacher put me in the third grade with the other two kids. I went right along and passed with the other two kids to the fourth grade. In the eighth grade I was the janitor. At that time the teacher received \$100 a month. She gave me \$5 a month to sweep the floor once a day and come early in the morning and start the fire in the old pot belly stove which sat in the middle of the room. School was 8 months. By spring I had about \$35. I would go into the woods and get dead limbs and split them for kindling. The school board would buy coal and put it into the coal shed. If the cistern went dry, we would take a bucket on a 4 ft pole and go to the Hesse farm for water and carry it back to the school every day. Every kid had a collapsible drinking cup to dip into the bucket. Quite often the farm lady, Mrs. Hesse, gave us a couple of cookies to eat on the way back. (Albert Hess and his wife had four girls. According to Frank, Albert need some help farming so they approached John and Hermina Ohmer who had four boys and offered to adopt Charlie. They rejected the offer.) The school

grass was not cut all summer. So a farmer was hired to bring his team and a mowing machine and cut the weeds and hayclover. In the fall we would go barefooted and the stubble was hard on the feet. After a few weeks they would be worn down. There were two outside privies, one on each side of the school, one boys' and one girls'.

For arithmetic we went to the blackboard in the front of the school to work out our problems. On the left side of the school was a recitation bench for spelling and reading. Each grade would use the bench and blackboard. All other classes you stayed at your desk. All desks had inkwells and quill pens were used.

In the fall of 1922 I went to Owensville High School. We had a freshmen class of 22 kids, which was a large class for that time. The sophomore class had only three kids, one boy and two girls. There was only a choice of five subjects. I took Algebra, English, Bookkeeping and Civics. There were three rooms for the whole high school. After our sophomore year a new eight room school was built for the high school and the fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grades. Also an auditorium was built with a stage and a thirty foot by forty foot basketball court with bleachers. There was no running water. There was a well out in the backyard for drinking water. Also there were two toilets of brick built back of school which could be pumped out and trucked away.

In May of 1925, we graduated with the same 25 kids we started with. Our class motto was "Finished Yet Beginning". We sat on the stage for our graduation. Our class cost was \$7.85.



### Do you enjoy reading oral histories?

An important part of making history come alive for this generation are the oral histories recorded by previous generations. Would you like to have a recorded oral history from your parents, grandparents, or great-grandparents? Your children would be just as appreciative of a recording of your history. You can start by taking part in our Valentines Day Assignment on our 2010 schedule. Please participate for the sake of your future generations.

# Owensville Historical Society

## 2010 Schedule

*Check our website for any changes and additions.*

Meetings will be held at the Museum unless otherwise noted.

### **January**

5 Tuesday 3:00 – Trustees meeting

### **February**

14 Sunday 1:30 – No meeting, but an assignment! In honor of Valentines Day practice your oral history skills by recording your early courtship memories. (Homework will be checked!)

### **March**

21 Sunday 1:30 – Jane Stotts will be giving a presentation on the history of the Cincinnati Nature Center and its property. (Held at the Owensville Commons.)

### **April**

17 Saturday 10:00 – Work day on the museum and cabin to prepare for tours.

18 Sunday 1:30 –Debbie Clepper, Clermont County Recorder with a presentation on how to use the county records to trace the history of a house or property.

### **May**

9 Sunday – Mother's Day

16 Sunday 1:30 – Speaker George Rooks on the history of Eastfork Lake. (Held at the Owensville Commons)

### **June**

13 Sunday 1:00-4:00 – Open House

20 June – Father's Day

### **July**

25 Sunday through Saturday July 31 - Clermont County Fair

### **August**

8 Sunday 1:00 – Picnic & Sign up for Museum Days

### **September**

10 Friday – Work day at the museum and cabin

12 Sunday 12:00 – 5:00 County-wide Museum Day

19 Sunday – Village-wide yard sale

### **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 – Dave Warman, Vietnam Vet & Election of Officers (Held at the Owensville Commons)

### **December**

5 Sunday 1:00 - Christmas Luncheon at Jackson Township Hall

# 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](http://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.



The Boston House was originally built in 1838 by Zach Robinson. At the time, it was one of the largest brick buildings in the county. It replaced a 1½ story frame house (18' X 24') built by James McKinnie in 1827. <sup>(1)</sup> It was torn down in the early 1960s. <sup>(2)</sup>

What are your remembrances of the Boston House?

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(1) History of Clermont County, Ohio by Louis H. Everts, 1880  
<http://www.heritagepursuit.com/Clermont/Clermont1880Index.htm>  
(2) Shirley Shipley, 2009

## 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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