



Owensville Historical Society

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May 2011



www.Facebook.com/OwensvilleHistoricalSociety

Calendar of Events

Summer-Winter 2011

May

17 Tuesday – CNE 3rd Graders
touring Museum & Cabin
21 Saturday & 22 Sunday -
Village-Wide Yard Sale

June

12 Sunday 1:00-4:00 – Open
House at Museum & Cabin

July

24 Sun. through Sat. July 30 -
Clermont County Fair

August

14 Sunday 1:00 – Picnic at Gauche
Park

September

9 Friday – Work day
11 Sunday 1:00 – 4:00 County-
wide Museum Day

October

9 Sunday 1:30 - House Tour

November

13 Sunday 1:30 – Veteran's Day
speaker. (Held at the Owensville
Commons)

December

4 Sunday 1:00 - Christmas
Luncheon at Jackson Twp. Hall



From the President

April showers bring ... May showers! After the wettest April in history, we were hoping for a little reprieve this month, but no such luck. We did have a beautiful day to clean the dust and the cobwebs out of the museum and the cabin last week to prepare for upcoming tours. Thank you to all who helped.

At our April meeting we were privileged to hear Tony Weitzel, formerly of the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Society, talk with us about native and naturalized plants that can be used for food and medicine. It prompted me to sauté up some morels and fiddleheads from our woods. I would be interested in hearing what stories our members have about using wild-collected food, medicines, decorations, and the like. Join us in our conversation on Facebook.

This year begins the commemoration of 150 years since the Civil War. It is sometimes difficult to imagine Owensville in the thick of the action. The article on page two (reprinted from the "A glance at the Past: The Origin of Owensville") reminds us of the day the war came into our backyards. Our area has quite a colorful history!

Jim Varick, President

A Glance at Civil War History in Owensville **(From "A glance at the Past: The Origin of Owensville")**

During the Civil War, Boston (Owensville) was victimized by the Confederate cavalymen of General John Hunt Morgan who led about 2,500 men into Clermont County. At an earlier point in his march, up to 3,000 men were estimated to be under his command. A number of these, however, were taken prisoner, according to historian Richard Crawford, before reaching Owensville. Because Morgan's Raiders, as they were called, were nearly exhausted by constant riding to avoid capture from Union cavalymen and Ohio militiamen, "those of Morgan's command who decided to take a nap on the ground, awoke to find themselves prisoners."

On July 14, Morgan's men rode around Cincinnati. Their route is documented by Crawford in his *Thunder in the Valley: The Confederate Invasion of Clermont County*. Morgan used local farmers as guides, threatening them with death if his force was misguided. According to Crawford's account:

His column proceeded around the city through Lockland about 1 a.m. and Glendale following the Reading Pike, just before 2 a.m. After Glendale, they followed the Milford Road through Sharonville and Montgomery, stopping just east of Montgomery to water the horses in streams there. At several points the rebels were so close to Cincinnati that they reported they could see the lighted spires of the city.

The Union convalescent camp at Camp Dennison had been alerted by General Ambrose Burnside of Morgan's approach. Mrs. Neff, wife of the commandant, went with their servants to a private home where she buried the post records and hid her jewels and the family silver.

At Camp Dennison, the Confederates burned a wagon train of 75 wagons, exchanged some firing and derailed a train, paroling the uninjured new recruits that had been on board.

It wasn't long before Mrs. Neff and other officers' ladies were found in the privately-owned farmhouse, now thought to be located near Miamiville between Milford and Loveland.

From here stories vary as to which route Morgan's men actually took. It is known that his men were dispersed into several foraging parties which ventured through Amelia, Withamsville, north of Milford, Goshen, Owensville and Batavia.

It is believed the main column traveled north of Milford from Camp Dennison then entered Owensville from Route 132. The column then took Route 276 to Williamsburg. Part of the column arrived in Owensville about noon on Tuesday, July 14, 1863, and upon their arrival, the officer in charge entered Ulrey's General Store, which stood on the present site of the Sohio station on the southeast corner of the junction of Routes 50 and 132.

The late Mayme Ulrey, former Owensville teacher and descendant of the pioneering Owensville Ulrey's, told historian Crawford of an incident which occurred in the town involving her grandmother. According to Miss Ulrey, when the raiders arrived in town, her grandmother was the only one in the Ulrey store since most of the men were either hiding valuables in the fields outside of town or were with the army or militia that was in Cincinnati. An officer came into her grandparents' store with a couple of his men and asked her if she was the owner of the store. The Ulreys lived in the front part of the store and the back section, which was the store, was separated from the living area by a curtain. The officer started to walk toward the curtain while asking what was behind it. Mayme's grandmother blocked his way and replied, "Sir, I have heard that Confederate officers are gentlemen, and gentlemen do not enter where they

are not invited. And you Sir, are not invited into my parlor." That apparently ended the conversation, according to Mayme. The officer bowed to her grandmother and promptly left with his men, not bothering a thing.

Another incident that occurred in old Boston, and is mentioned by Crawford, as the display of a United States flag on the top of the steeple of the Boston Methodist Episcopal Church. An elderly man hung the flag then fired shots at Morgan's Confederate cavalry as they passed by. It was reported that Morgan and some of his men rode up the steps of the church and inside to bring down the man. They disarmed him, and the flag was dragged through the dusty streets, tied to a horse tail.

Another witness recalled that "When the rebels left Boston (Owensville), they tore down the Union flag in the church where it had been used at a festival and dragged it along the road to Williamsburg in derision."

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Moving us Forward

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.

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. We need 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 items 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.

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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