

Huron Historical Society

News updates from the present and the past

Historical Marker Dedication

Members of the Huron Historical Society (HHS) joined with current homeowners in Old Homestead and descendants of Old Homestead's original owners on May 20, 2007, to celebrate the dedication of Huron's newest historical marker, which commemorates Old Homestead on the Lake and the Old Meeker Farm.

The marker is located in Old Homestead #1's common area which borders Cleveland Road and near the recently restored stoned arches that were part of the original walkway and entrance to the neighborhood.

Judy Ryan of the HHS worked closely with the Old Homestead #1 Board of Trustees to secure a grant from the Ohio Historical Society to help pay for the marker, which together with funds provided by Old Homestead #1 made the project possible.

One side of the marker reads: "Old Homestead-on-the-Lake was established on August 7, 1927, when the Old Homestead Beach Association was granted ownership of Harbor View Park, Mansell Beach, tennis courts, and two parks from R.A. Breckenridge, trustee for owner Metta Breckenridge.

The former lake front farm area, noted for having one of the finest beaches on Lake Erie and once owned by Aaron Wright Meeker, became a site primarily for summer cottages in the spring of 1922 when Greenleaf Realty began selling lots. The original entrance served as Stop 22 ½ for the Lake Shore Electric and serves today as a reminder when Huron became a vacation destination, which forever changed the village."

The other side reads: "In 1837 Aaron Wright Meeker received 160 acres of Lots 26 and 32 from his parents, Stephen and Polly Meeker who originally came to the Firelands from Vermont. Heavily forested, A.W. cut the trees by hand to build a farm on what would become Huron Township's most valuable tract of land. In 1859 he built the Old Homestead for his family, which still stands today. Upon his death in 1896 his daughters Metta Breckenridge and Hannah Stein inherited the farm and embarked upon separate land development ventures that would turn the Old Meeker Farm into an area of summer cottages and resort beaches, Chaska Beach in 1925 and Old Homestead in 1927. In Old Homestead, the streets are named in honor of the Native Americans who once claimed the area before the 1805 Treaty of Fort industry."

June Garden Tour a Success

Beautiful weather and stunning gardens teamed together to make the Huron Historical Society's Annual Garden Tour a resounding success. Over 100 visitors toured gardens in the Eagle Crest neighborhood, Shelter Bay Condominiums, Findlay Street, Scheid Road in Huron Township, and Shawnee Place in Old Homestead. Over ninety people participated in the ever-popular luncheon at the home of Bob and Sharon Barnes. Patti Smith, the Huron Historical Society member who chairs the event, and her volunteers are already planning next year's tour. Many thanks to Patti Smith, Sharon Barnes and the many others who helped make the Garden Tour such a wonderful event this year.

Huron Historic Home Walking Tour

This past spring the Huron Historical Society worked together with the Huron Chamber of Commerce and the Old Plat Association to create the Huron Historic Home Walking Tour. The self-guided tour features 43 homes, businesses, and landmarks in the Old Plat area. Brochures detailing each stop on the tour are available at the Huron Historical Society and the Huron Chamber of Commerce, and on our website at www.huronhistoricalsociety.org. The Society would like to especially thank researchers Brad Budd, Donna Campbell, Kathy Muehlhauser Moore, Judy Ryan, Alyson Meeker Wilson, and Lisa Yako whose efforts made the walking tour brochure possible.

Give a Gift of History this Holiday Season

Books

Huron, A Great Lakes Port is the first volume of a series of books chronicling the history of Huron. The book examines the years Huron was inhabited by Native Americans, through the surveying of Huron and the Firelands, the founding of the town in 1809, and the early shipbuilding and fishing industries in the 19th century. The book also features early Huron families and the role they played in the community's growth.

Huron, A Village Comes of Age is the second volume exploring Huron's history, covering the years from 1890 to 1929 with emphasis on the town's entrepreneurs, the Huron ore docks, Huron newspapers, and the German influence in shaping the village.



Both books are extensively illustrated with photos and old postcards. Separately, each book is available for a donation of \$20 plus a shipping and handling fee of \$2.50. Delivery is free within Erie County. The books can be purchased together for a donation of \$37.50 plus a shipping and handling fee of \$3.50. Delivery is free within Erie County.

Please call the Society's office at 419-433-5009 ext -243 or call Kathy Muehlhauser at 419-433-5087

Art Prints

Downtown Huron 1957 is a numbered print of Huron artist Owen Felton's well known nostalgic painting of downtown Huron. It is available for a donation of \$38.



The Golden Age is a numbered print of Milan artist Kinley Shogren's majestic painting of the sailing ship the Golden Age, which was built at Fries Landing by Valentine Fries in 1883. It is available for a donation of \$60.

Ohio Bicentennial Throws

SALE! ONLY FIVE THROWS LEFT!

Two styles to choose from, the State Outline and the Ohio Quilt. Both are beautifully designed and illustrated with the symbols of Ohio. On sale for a donation of \$30.

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www.huronhistoricalsociety.com

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Happenings at the Historical Society

- The Society is now open on Mondays from 11a.m. until 4p.m.
 - Photographs have been sorted and will be put in notebooks according to topics. Scanning will be also part of the process. About 1000 have been scanned so far.
 - Research has begun on establishing a database for ships built in Huron.
 - Providing help to those who are tracing ancestors continues to increase with many requests emailed to us. It is a good way to add to Huron history, to raise money, and to obtain new members.
 - Due to the work involved with the Huron Walking Tour Brochure, there was no spring newsletter.
 - With bound volumes and microfilm of the Erie County Reporter and Huron Reporter, the Society is looking for suggestions of what to do with many loose copies. However, copies of the newspaper are needed for the 1990s.
 - Huron history articles that have appeared in The Hometown News and the Walking Tour Brochure will be added shortly to the Society's website (www.thehuronhistoricalsociety.org) as well as information about the Old Homestead Historical Marker.
 - The Society's website had 271 visits in October, which has been our highest number since June 2006.
- "A big thank you to Mark Myers, Shelia Earhart, Jennifer Kilbury, Brad Budd, and Lisa Yako for researching, collecting, and writing Huron history."

A Bit of Early Huron History

The Society's purchase of a very rare Ohio Family Record Sampler c1840 has led to the discovery of a fascinating piece of early Huron history. The embroidery sampler is a record of the Martin S. Wright and Maria Remington family. The couple was married August 26, 1832 in the village. Wright was one of Huron's first dentists and activity in Huron County and village affairs.

One of the prominent physicians in and around the town for half a century was Dr. George Haskin who arrived from Rupert Vt. in 1832 shortly after Dr. Charles Leggett and his wife accidentally drown while canoeing in the Huron River.

Dr. Haskin soon met and married Julia A. M. Remington, a daughter of Henry H. Remington, who had moved to Huron from North Adams Mass., in 1829. Another daughter Maria had married Dr. Wright. On November 13, 1837, an argument took place between Mr. Remington and his sons-in-law. In the course of the scuffle Remington was hit on the head and died a short time after.

Both men were charged with murder soon after. In March 1838, Haskin was tried in the Common Pleas Court in Norwalk. Wright had been found not guilty in an earlier trial. The trial was very tedious on account of the intricacies of the case and the number of witnesses. After very able arguments by the defendant's attorneys, the jury received the charge from Judge Bowen. The jury retired to their room about eight o'clock in the evening and a half hour later, the jury returned a not guilty verdict.

The case was then tried in the Ohio Supreme Court in Huron County (Huron, Ohio then being in this county.) with charges of murder and manslaughter. In July, the prosecuting attorney asked that all charges be dismissed and they were.

The Haskin family continued to live in Huron while the Wrights moved in the 1840s to Cleveland, Ohio. Both marriages remained intact. Dr. Haskin wrote a fine history of Huron for the Firelands Historical Society prior to his death in 1885, and it is interesting to note that his wife's family was not in it even though the Remingtons were Huron pioneers.

Statistics from 1907

- The average life expectancy in the US was 47 years old.
- Only 8 percent of the homes had a telephone.
- There were only 8,000 cars in the US and 144 miles of paved roads.
- The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph.
- The average worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year.
- More than 95 percent of births took place at home and 90 percent of all doctors had no college education. Instead they attended so-called medical schools.
- Sugar cost 4 cents a pound, eggs 14 cents a dozen, and coffee was 15 cents a pound.
- Most women only washed their hair once a month and used Borax or egg yolks.
- The leading causes of death were 1. Pneumonia and Influenza, 2. Tuberculosis, and 3. Diarrhea.
- Crossword puzzles, canned beer, and ice tea hadn't been invented yet.
- California was 21st in population.
- There was no Father's or Mother's Day.
- There were about 230 reported murders in the entire U.S.A.

Welcome Our New Members

We would like to thank our newest members for their support of the Huron Historical Society:

Brad & Sheri Budd,	Huron, Ohio	Kathy Butler,	Westerville, Ohio
Julie Dively,	Huron, Ohio	Jean Hoffman Kuhn,	New Philadelphia, Ohio
Mark Advertising,	Sandusky, Ohio	William S. Townse,	Rockford, Illinois
Mabel Wilson,	Orlando, Florida		