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# THE HISTORICAL LOG

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A Publication of the Warren County Historical Society

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## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

*By Victoria Van Harlingen*

Happy New Year! We, the staff and volunteers of the Warren County Historical Society, are pleased to report that 2014 saw us make great strides in accomplishing our mission to preserve and present the history of Warren County. Here's just a few of the highlights.

**National Award of Merit:** We nominated our new permanent exhibit "Following the Tracks of the Underground Railroad in Warren County" for a prestigious American Association of State and Local History Award of Merit, hoping to receive at least an honorable mention. The exhibit took more than a year to research and build and we have been very proud of this ground breaking work by our Exhibits Curator Lynley Dunham-Cole with support from John Zimkus. As you can imagine, we were more than thrilled when we learned in June that we had won the AASLH's Award of Merit for the exhibit. We urge you all to visit the museum and see the exhibit for yourself. We are sure you will be impressed.

**History Camp Changes Reaped Huge Benefits:** WCHS Historian and Director of Education John Zimkus has been running our summer history camp for more than 20 years. Last year the camp moved from a two week format to a one week format to accommodate children who sign up for multiple camps and could not come to us two weeks in a row. The change to a one-week format brought in a record number of students and was a great success. The theme was the Underground Railroad in Ohio and included field trips to the Freedom Center in Cincinnati and Camp Joy as well as classroom time at the History Center and of course a review of our award-winning exhibit. This year's topic will be announced soon. Check our website for details.

**Children's History Hour:** Kids love our museum and we work hard to make it a hands-on and interactive place for kids to explore. Exhibits Curator Lynley

Dunham-Cole led a free one-hour lecture with activities for kids on Thursday mornings this summer. She explored such topics as early native peoples, Ohio archaeology, searching your family tree, and many other local history topics. The Time Traveler History Explorer program was designed and taught for the kids but parents and grandparents attended as well, turning Thursday mornings into family time at the Warren County History Center. Folks were so taken with the program that several families purchased memberships. Kudos to Ms. Dunham-Cole for her excellent work. Look for a repeat of this program this summer.

**Flea Markets Grow Our Revenue:** Head Curator Mary Klei has been in charge of our flea market held during Applefest for more than 20 years. We gather donations from you, our members, and it's always a very successful event. However, storing your "fleas" all year long has become more and more difficult. Our solution is to hold quarterly flea markets and also to invite others to participate by renting booth space. Over the last three years the proceeds from these quarterly flea markets have become a significant revenue source. In 2014 the flea markets brought in \$3,547.88. Congratulations to Mary Klei for a job well done and thank all of you for your donations. Keep them coming!

**Girl's Night Out at the Museum's Gift Shop:** Our Rocking Horse Gift Shop inside the Warren County History Center is run 100% by volunteers Joyce Leeds, Liz Grauwelman, and Ann Rivers. These ladies are in charging of buying, merchandising, and selling a variety of gifts and decorative items with a specialty in floral displays. In addition, Liz Morris, our Board secretary, volunteers to manage the book shop. The downtown Lebanon merchants have offered a shopping promotion called Girl's Night Out once each quarter on a Saturday evening. The Rocking Horse volunteers chose to have our shop participate this year and saw a hefty increase in

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sales for their giving up their Saturday night. Many thanks to Joyce, Liz, Ann, and Liz Morris with extra help from Janis and Cathy Skraucevs. The next Girl's Night Out is March 14.

**Email Editor:** Janis Skraucevs has been the editor of our once a month email blast for the past two years. Janis and his wife Cathy help out with a variety of projects around the museum as well. We say a big thank you to Janis for his fun and informative emails.

**Christmas 2014:** Christmas 2014 was both loads of fun and very rewarding at the same time. For 2014 we partnered with three county-wide charities to help support their missions and to extend our reach into the community. It all started when Tammy Stebelton of Big Brothers and Big Sisters contacted us to see if their group could volunteer at one of our events. We had just decided to sponsor a Gingerbread House Display and Contest and invited BBBS to help us set up the display which would be open and free to the public Friday and Saturday of Thanksgiving weekend. In exchange we donated the contest entry fees to BBBS and set out a

donation box for visitor's contributions. We managed to send BBBS \$269.

The weekend after Thanksgiving is Lebanon's Horse-Drawn Carriage Parade and Christmas Festival. Our own John Zimkus always dons the persona of Zachariah Johnson, 1898 Christmas Story Teller, and entertains guests in our Village Green room for free to visitors that Saturday. An old top hat was set out for donations and Zachariah managed to collect \$145.00 for the Interfaith Hospitality Network of Warren County.

Last but not least, designers Patty Johnson and Jackie Dunn performed their Christmas decorating magic at Glendower, our historic mansion house museum. This year's theme for the decorations was "The Twelve Days of Christmas" and it was very popular with visitors. In fact, attendance at Glendower was up 60% over last year. Our charity partner for "Christmas at Glendower" was the Warren County Community Services Early Learning Centers. We raised \$500 for this worthy cause.



*Retired teacher Nancy Dyer, Golden Lamb manager DeDe Bailey, and Lebanon Mayor Amy Brewer, the gingerbread house judges, with Tammy Stebelton of Big Brothers & Big Sisters of Warren and Clinton Counties.*

# Japanese Kimonos Donated by WCHS Member

by Jeanne Doan, Exhibits Curator

## Recollections

On December 19, 2014 Karen Devanney donated to the WCHS several items she had acquired in Japan while living there between 1950 and 1953 during the Korean War. In addition, she sat and spoke with Jeanne Doan about her experiences there.

During her time in Japan, Karen's father, Jack McLeod Smith, mother Wanda Chisolm Smith, and brother Jack II lived in Irumagawa, Japan on Johnson Air Base, which is now the Japanese Iruma Air Base. Growing up in a military family, Karen recalls moving at least eight times. On this move, the family was brought over by a converted military ship. When crossing, they had to ride through a typhoon with many other military families. Karen's father was a United States Air Force pilot who flew missions over Korea. They lived in a separate area on the base because of the threat of bombings. School was also in a separate area due to threats. She remembers air raid drills that were performed weekly. During the raids, everyone was supposed to head for the nearest ditch and take cover. This was always fearsome because the residents used the ditches for latrines!

Mount Fuji was always visible in the distance. Karen remembers the sunrises and always seeing the snow on the top of the mountain. As a 7-year-old child, she and other children from the base would go where there was a hole in the fence and play with the Japanese children. Karen can also remember the festivals, both Japanese and American, that the families in the military could attend. The Cherry Blossom Festival and Boys' Day Festival were two that she recalled. At these festivals there would usually be a Chindon'ya Man—a "one-man orchestra"—who had many instruments arrayed on his body. At the Boys' Day Festival, it was customary to be given a carp kite; the larger the fish, the more money you had. The ladies always wore their best kimono to the festivals. Karen and her family toured Japan and saw the sights. She especially remembers seeing the Great Buddha of Kamakura, Japan.

The community that Karen lived near was quite poor—mostly rural with farming. The Japanese people who lived there did not have indoor plumbing, which is why the ditches were used as toilets. The family had a servant from the nearby village. Her name was Taki. Karen spoke highly of her and said Taki treated them like family. The military encouraged village servants as it was helpful to the economy.

It was customary to remove ones shoes before entering a home. Slippers would be provided in the house. The sleeping mats in Japan were called "tatamis." These were rolled up and put away when not in use. The first floor of the home was raised above ground to allow for air movement. The brazier would be in the middle of the room for warmth and cooking. Clothing was put away in chests or hung on pegs. The doors and windows slid sideways to open and close and were made from rice paper. Bathing was done at the public baths where everyone would come and bathe communally. Water for the baths would travel in pipes from a hot spring. They were open 24/7.

The military housing that was provided on the base was quite different. The buildings were made of cinder blocks with heavy doors and windows. These homes also had bathrooms. After the military base was closed, this type of housing was desired by the Japanese because the cinder blocks would hold up better during earthquakes.

## Donations

We are very excited and grateful for the kimonos and other items Karen donated to the WCHS. One of the kimonos donated is a long pink "formal" kimono with a Chrysanthemum design. With the formal kimono comes an "under" Kimono. This garment can be taken apart for



*This beautiful kimono was donated to WCHS by member Karen Devanney.*

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*The “bum roll,” which was worn over a kimono.*

easy cleaning. Over these garments would be worn a series of “obi” or belts. All kimonos are closed left over right. Next comes the final piece, a “bum roll” tied to the waist that goes to the back of the ensemble. With the kimono would be worn “getas,” a type of shoe that is raised as on tubes. With these shoes would be worn a pair of “tabi” socks that have a slit between the first and second toes to allow for the strap on the shoe. Or, a pair of “zoris”—slippers with a strap—could be worn. This ensemble was worn as a costume by Karen’s mother, Wanda, several times.

Karen also donated was a man’s kimono and a “tea pickers” outfit. The man’s kimono is a masculine affair in colors of black, grey, and brown, and has scenes of work, geometric designs, and Mount Fuji depicted on it.



*A Japanese parasol for a child.*

It is closed by a grey and black woven tie. The tea-pickers outfit is made of dense cotton fabric because the tea bushes were prickly. The top with a left-over-right closure and the bottom trousers are in a dark blue color with white spots. With this ensemble would be worn a scarf over the hair, a woven straw hat, and a heavy cotton apron, dark blue with possibly a ship depicted on it and Japanese writing on the front.

With the kimonos, the WCHS also received several items for a young girl: a little girl’s parasol, an obi, a doll house, and three dolls. The parasol is dark pink silk with flowers painted on the panels and is made mostly of bamboo. The obi is red and white silk sized for a small child that would be wound around a young girl’s waist as a belt. The parasol and obi would be used at festivals. The wooden doll house is a very good replica of a typical

well-to-do two-story Japanese house. Having two stories would have been very nice for families. This replica even has sliding doors and windows. It has a raised floor and front door steps. The first of the dolls is a small doll with paper hair and clothing. She looks like a Geisha. The second doll is a small wooden bead doll with painted features. The last doll is a kabuki dancing doll. This doll has brocade clothing and real hair. Composite limbs make the dancing movements. As kabuki actors were always male, this doll has four different masks to change how he looks: a women’s face, a cat’s face, a demon’s face, and an imbecile’s face. This doll came with its own box and tissue to protect the contents. All of these artifacts are handmade.

The final donation made by Karen is a lovely silk kakemono panel. This is a hand-painted silk panel that is hung from bamboo rods and has a silk cord with a silken tassel on the end. This panel depicts a beautiful Japanese woman in her kimono. It would be used as a decoration.



*On the left, the Japanese doll house—complete with sliding doors—and on the right, the kabuki doll’s box.*

## Warren County Historical Society

105 S. Broadway  
Lebanon, OH 45036  
513-932-1817

wchs@wchsmuseum.org  
Wchsmuseum.org

# A Settlement in Hamilton Township

*By Marlene Schwartz-DeBoard*

The following article originally appeared in the Winter 2015, Vol. II, Issue 1 edition of *Pathways: Morrow's Past, Today*, the newsletter of the newly formed Morrow Area Historical Society. It is reprinted here with permission.

Some of the following article was culled from an article I read, compiled by Dr. J. L. Mounts in 1882.

“Probably the first settlement in the county, south of the Little Miami River, was in the autumn of 1795, on lands now owned by William P. Mounts, three miles below the mouth of Todd’s Fork. This settlement was made by the William Mounts’ family, and five other families. It was known as Mounts’ Station. The families making the settlement had been stopping temporarily in Kentucky and White’s Station on the Mill Creek, for about two years. As soon as the news of their safe arrival on their lands reached their friends in Virginia, where many had been anxiously awaiting the result and report of the advance, there was at once the most tremendous tide of emigration from all the east, but especially from Virginia and Pennsylvania. A few families had come with the settlers at Mounts Station and stopped temporarily at what is now called South Lebanon. Many of the first settlers had been soldiers under General Wayne in the Indians Wars. A Col. Paxton commended a regiment of Pennsylvania troops and immediately after peace was established removed to Clermont County. He had already located several tracks of land in Warren County, which had been surveyed in 1792-93. Todd’s Fork took its name from Paxton’s son-in-law, Robert Todd, who was one of the surveying party.”

Now bringing us up to modern days: An Eagle Scout project by Stephen NeCamp about 10 years ago gives us a small park on Stubbs Mill Road before crossing the Bike Trail. There is a stone that marks the location of the Mounts Station settlement. Stephen had planted shrubs, had some of them promptly stolen and had to replace. He cleaned the area and you can now pull your car off the road. Stephen is the son of Steve and Mary Jane NeCamp, and is now a chemical engineer with Proctor and Gamble.

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*Late 20<sup>th</sup> century photo of the Mounts Station monuments after improvements to the park were made.*

# Tidbits

## Vote for the Warren County History Center and Glendower Mansion!

The Warren County History Center and Glendower Mansion have both made the list of nominees for the “Best Place to Explore History” in the **2015 Best of Warren County** contest! Starting Sunday, February 1, 2015, and continuing through February 14, 2015, please go to the following link and cast your vote for WCHC, Glendower, and your other favorites places in Warren County!

[www.todayspulse.com/bestofwarren](http://www.todayspulse.com/bestofwarren)



## Heritage Advisory Council 2014 Grants Awarded

One of the uses of the funds raised by HAC is small \$250 grants to its members. This year's grant recipients were: Carlisle Area Historical Society (Lois Jestic), Quaker Heritage Center (Ruth Brindle), and Morrow Area Historical Society (Joey Hansted).

## Praise for Glendower Volunteer

We received the following note and picture from a Red Hat group that toured Glendower last summer:

*“...wanted to send you a photo and thank you for your tour. We really enjoyed our visit! What a bright and informative guide! Thanks!*

*-All the Red Hat Ladies”*



## Thank You Antique Show Volunteers!

Mary Allen  
Peter Berninger  
Fred Compton  
Karen Devanney  
Jeanne Doan

Liz Grauwelman  
Irena Hall  
Mary Klei  
John Kropf  
Rebecca McLaughlin  
Paula Miller

Barb Phenix  
Gail Rose  
Rosemary Schatzel  
Gene Slorp  
Marilyn Slorp

*A special “thank you” to Patrick Allen for his Dealer Hospitality Donation!*



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Approximately 300 people attended the dedication of the monument near the site of “old Mounts Station” on what was called in 1940 “Stubbtown Road, just north of the CCC Highway.” Today the location would be said to be on Stubbs Mill Road just north of US 22 and SR 3. The stone was unveiled by six young girls, all descendants of William Mounts. They were Evelyn Fisher, Dorothy and Miriam Rogers, Dorothy Mounts, Virginia Moise, and Nancy Newman. Five of the young ladies are seen in the photo on page 7.

Today in the 1845 Glendower Historic Mansion, which is owned and operated by the WCHS and is located at 105 Cincinnati Avenue in Lebanon, hangs the portraits of two members of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Mounts family. They are William Mounts and his wife Sarah McGloughin Mounts. William Mounts is the son of the pioneer William Mounts and the uncle of the William P. Mounts mentioned in the article. The portraits were painted in 1827 by itinerant Ohio artist J. T. (Joseph Thoits) Moore (1798-1854).



*Portraits of Sarah and William Mounts are on display at Glendower Historic Mansion.*

## Lunch & Learn 2015

*A Catered Served Lunch & Lecture. 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.*

*Members \$20, Non-Members \$22. Paid reservations required by the Saturday prior.*

### February 11

#### CINCINNATI & SOUP: GREAT GRAPES! OHIO WINES

*Cincinnati and Soup* author Cheri Brinkman will discuss Ohio’s wines and wineries—from their historical significance to current trends.

Wine tastings included.

### March 11

#### THE TALENT & TRAGEDY OF VERNON H. JONES

WCHS Historian John Zimkus will present the life, death, and art of this young and talented Warren County sculptor.

### April 15

#### TREASURES OF ART FROM WCHS’ COLLECTION

Professor Michael Coyan will showcase the depth and diversity of the WCHS art collection and discuss new discoveries about the artists and their works.

### May 13

#### NEIL ARMSTRONG: OUR LEBANON NEIGHBOR

Historian John Zimkus will explore how Neil Armstrong attempted to lead a “normal” life as a Warren County citizen and be an active member of the Lebanon, Ohio community for 23 years.

# Shaker Gallery Windows Come to Life

## *Sponsor a window now!*

Visitors to the nationally recognized Shaker Gallery inside the Warren County History Center will notice painted scenes behind all three windows in the Sister’s Shop. These are the first of the “scenes out the windows” of the Shaker Gallery project and were painted by artist Kyle Penunuri. Our goal is to enhance the visitor’s experience in the Shaker Gallery by showing views that the Shaker brothers and sisters might have seen while they worked and worshipped in the various buildings at Union Village.

These three window scenes were made possible by donations from WCHS members Bob & Ann Olson and the Robert & Virginia Jones fund. Thirteen more windows still need funding. The cost is \$375 per window. As always your donation to this project is entirely tax deductible.



*Scenes of life outdoors can now be seen through the windows in the Shaker gallery.*

## Meet our New Exhibits Curator



*Jeanne Doan, new Exhibits Curator at WCHS, helped bring to life the Neil Armstrong exhibit, which is now on display in the Lebanon Conference & Banquet Center lobby.*

Hello! I’m excited to introduce myself—I’m Jeanne Doan, and I’m the new Exhibits Curator here at the Warren County Historical Society. I’ve always been fascinated with history and my love of museums grew out of the time I spent every year visiting the Science and Industry Museum and the Art Institute in my hometown of Chicago.

After graduating from high school in Carmel, Indiana, I spent many years working in stained glass shops. When my husband, Mark, was offered a job in Reno, Nevada, we jumped at the chance, and our little family moved across the country. In Reno, with three kids in tow, I enrolled at the University Of Nevada, Reno and earned my Bachelor of Fine Arts with a minor in Museum Studies. During my enrollment at UNR, I interned at the Nevada Historical Society and found my calling—the care, study, and display of our history! As luck would have it, life decided to throw us a curveball, and just after graduating we had the opportunity to move overseas to Germany. We accepted, and I was fortunate enough to visit many wonderful museums, cathedrals, and historical sites that I might not have ever seen otherwise. After several years, we came back to Cincinnati and have lived here for 14 years.

I saw an ad for volunteers here at Warren County Historical Society and jumped at the chance to work with the Shaker collection. I am now working in the textile department, helping with research, and creating exhibits. I am so very lucky to work with such wonderful, helpful people; Vicky, John, Lynley, and Jodi. The volunteers here are also tireless and loyal. My hope for the future is a long and fruitful relationship with this museum. I am so grateful to be here!

# The Springboro Woolen Factory

*By John Zimkus, WCHS Historian and Education Director*

Jonathan Wright (1782-1855) laid out the town of Springboro in Warren County in 1815. Over the coming years he and his family, (he and his wife Elizabeth had five children, four boys and a girl) established and operated a woolen factory, two flour mills, a general store, and a 320-acre farm in the Springboro area.

The woolen mill, built in the early 1830s just west of Springboro, was first known as the Upper Mill. It was located just east of Twin Creek, a tributary to Clear Creek, the main waterway in the community. Farmers who raised sheep in the area took their raw wool to the mill to be carded and spun into thread to make stocking yarn. The mill burned down in 1843 but was rebuilt that same year.

The 1850 U.S. Census shows that Ira Thomas, the brother-in-law of Jonathan's second oldest son, Josiah Wright (1808-1870), lived and worked in the Springboro area as a "clothier." It was probably around this time that the brick woolen factory was built on Wright's property just a few roads west of the mill. Known to locals around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century as the "Old Factory," it and the mill were both situated on the north side of Factory Road less than one-half mile west from Main Street (SR 741). The road was no doubt named after this woolen factory.



*Wright Woolen Mill on Factory Road, which is no longer standing. Springboro, Area Yesterday: A Pictorial History Compiled by Rebecca Easton Hill, 2003.*



*Part of the map of Clear Creek Township, Combination Atlas of Warren County, Ohio, 1875.*

# UPCOMING EVENTS

*Mark Your Calendar!*

**February 11—Lunch & Learn: Great Grapes! Ohio Wines**

**March 6, 7, 8—Lebanon Quilt & Fabric Arts Show**

**March 14—Girls' Night Out**

**March 21—Members-Only Ghost Hunt at Glendower**

**April 11—Antiques & Collectibles Study Forum**

**April 24 & 25 —Old Post Office Flea Market**

**May 2—Old Lebanon Pub Crawl**

*Check our website  
or call for details*

Ira Thomas in the 1860 Census is recorded as being a “Woolen Manufacturer.” By 1870, 50-year-old Thomas became partners with his nephew, 32-year-old Jesse Wright (1837-1925). Jesse was named after his father’s youngest brother who had died in 1836, the year before Jesse was born. The Wright & Thomas woolen factory was patronized by people from as far as 15 to 20 miles away.

The looms at the factory made the wool into stocking yarn, blankets, coverlets and cloth. The girls at the time wore flannel dresses, while men and boys wore flannel shirts and all slept under pure woolen blankets. A local resident in 1915 recalled the factory as being “a much needed industry.”

An account from the day states that one could always find Jesse Wright “busy at the looms” in the unpainted brick factory. Jesse was described at that time as a “curly-headed stripling.” He was said to be rather quiet and would “glance at visitors, but was fully occupied by his duties.” His uncle Ira Thomas was reported to have been the more talkative one. He would serve some seven one-year terms as a Clear Creek Township trustee in the 1870s and 80s.

One Springboro resident remembered that “after a while the man at the loom was an Englishman named John Ford [who] often asked another Englishman named Miller to assist him.”

Eventually Jesse Wright was the sole owner and it became known as the Wright Woolen Mill. It continued to provide what was described as being “the very best wearing quality” woolen items. By the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century both the factory and mill had closed.

Today fine examples of the products manufactured at the Springboro woolen factory can be found in the possession of some of the older families of Warren County and in the vast textile collection of the Warren County History Center, in Lebanon, Ohio.



*Coverlet woven at the Springboro Woolen Factory designed by George Creators (1812-1870), Lebanon, Ohio painter/cabinet maker.*

*Warren County Historical Society textile collection.*

# INTERESTED IN ANTIQUES?

DON'T MISS IT!

## Lebanon Antiques & Collectibles Study Forum

Learn from experts in a variety of fields,  
including Ancient Chinese Artifacts, Vintage  
Fountain Pens, Antique Transferware, & Disney  
Collectibles

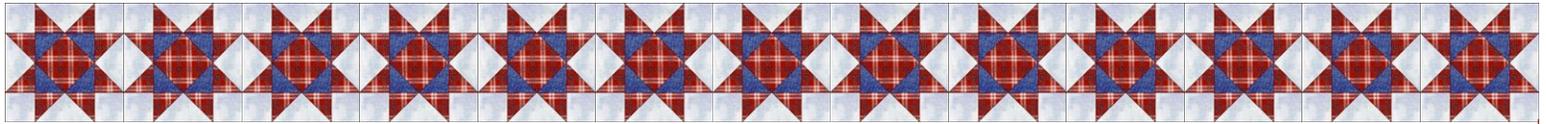


SATURDAY  
APRIL 11, 2015

FOR NOVICES  
OR COLLECTORS!

5 Different Lectures and a  
catered Lunch with guest speaker  
in Historic Lebanon, OH  
Lectures, \$20 each, Lunch \$25,  
or Full Day with Lunch \$75

Register at [WCHSmuseum.org](http://WCHSmuseum.org) or call 513-932-1817



## Lebanon Quilt & Fabric Arts Show

Vendors from  
Around  
the Country

Admission \$5

March 6, 7, & 8, 2015

FRI & SAT 10-5 SUN 11-4

Quilts, Quilting & Craft Supplies,  
Patterns, Fabrics, and More

SPECIAL EXHIBIT:

Blankenbecker Family Treasure  
*The personal work of a meticulous  
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*Dated Material, Please Open*

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