



Warren County History Center
105 S. Broadway
Lebanon, OH 45036

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THE HISTORICAL LOG

2016

Volume 66 ~ No 1

To Preserve and Present the Heritage of Warren County

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By Victoria Van Harlingen

«ADDRESSBLOCK»

*What people do not understand, they do not value;
What they do not value, they will not protect,
And what they do not protect, they will lose.*

-Charles Jordan

Charles Jordan is talking about the conservation of natural resources such as our farm land, forests and water supplies. But the quote resonates with me on many levels. We at the Warren County Historical Society are conservators of our community's history and material culture. Very simply stated, we keep and present the artifacts or "things" of our past but more importantly we keep and present the stories and the lessons of the people who used those artifacts. We are conservators and educators and we work every day to help the people of our community to understand the lessons of our past so that they will value our history and not lose their way forward.

John Zimkus is the Warren County Historical Society's Historian and Director of Education. He has held that position since 2008 and since then has shared our stories with hundreds of families, school children and adults. In the process John has helped to educate hundreds of people about our rich history. Along with Head Curator Mary Klei, Exhibits Curator Jeanne Doan,

Archivist Lynley Dunham-Cole, Marketing Manager Jodi Werling and a team of dedicated volunteers, John has developed lecture series, school tour programs and summer history camps that have delighted, entertained and educated thousands of children and adults throughout southwest Ohio.

This past year, 2015, was one of the Warren County Historical Society's most successful in terms of attracting people to our programs. We focused on our museum collections and presented not just history but also art and the culture of southwest Ohio. We sold out almost every program the team presented.

One of the biggest wins for the team was the increase in school tours. A series of letters and posters encouraging teachers to bring their students to the Warren County History Center attracted not only history teachers, but also science and English teachers. These educators saw both our collections and our staff as resources. Emily Jefferson, a sixth grade science teacher from Berry Intermediate School in Lebanon, emailed our staff the following:

*My students were so excited from all that they learned by visiting the Warren County History Museum. As teachers we were excited because students were able to learn so much in a hands-on way about many different subjects--from history to science to math and language arts!
It was 'one-stop learning' at its best from seeing wonderful artifacts to a very knowledgeable and trained staff to guide us through the center. We will for sure be back year after year!*

Will you help us continue to educate our community on the importance of learning from our past? You value history and help us protect our past stories and their lessons with your membership dollars. You are a big part of our success. Won't you consider an additional donation for 2016 or upgrade your membership level? You can donate online at www.wchsmuseum.org or send a check to us at 105 S. Broadway, Lebanon, OH 45036. As always, your membership and donations are 100% tax deductible.



2015 Saw an increase in school tours at the Warren County History Center.

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Vendors from Around the Country

Service and Sacrifice: The Kidnapping of the *General*

By: Mary Klei, Head Curator

Part III (Continued from the November 2015 *Historicalog*. Part I & Part II are available online under the “Members Only” tab at www.wchsmuseum.org)

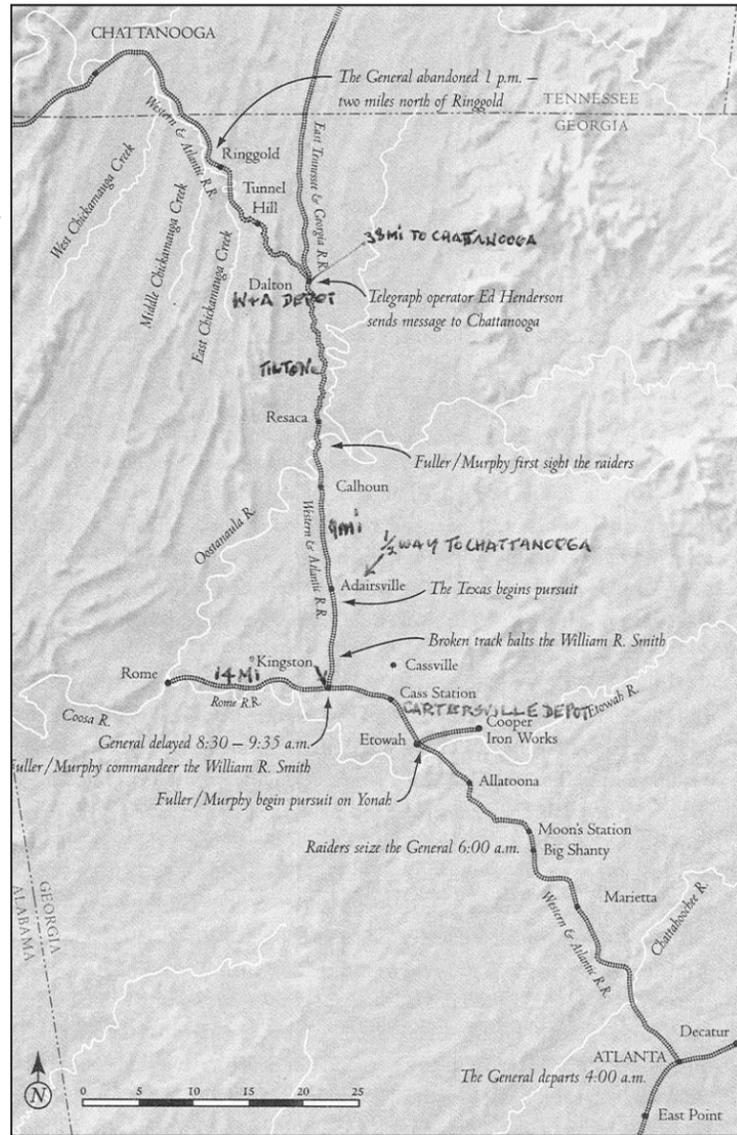
Meanwhile, Fuller, the conductor of the purloined train, now joined by the Western & Atlantic’s machine shop foreman ran as fast as they could, at first opportunity jumping onto a handcar and then commandeering a small old switch-engine. Then the two pursuers took another locomotive, the *Catoosa*, pulling a car with some forty soldiers aboard, and were finally able to make better time chasing the *General*. Then the unthinkable occurred. A southbound train, which, intending to let the *General* by, “stopped...in such a manner as completely to close up the other end of the switch.” After another unnerving delay and a forced stop to take on water and stock the tender with firewood, every passing minute bringing the Confederates on the *Catoosa* closer, the *General* went speeding northward at 60 MPH, narrowly avoiding a head-on crash with a southbound passenger train. The irony in the situation was that Mitchel was now maneuvering his troops toward Chattanooga; thus the crowding of the rails with extra trains moving out threatened Confederate supplies and freight cars and only served to make the raiders’ mission even more difficult.

Lacking all communication with the outside, in the throes of growing unease, the boxcar raiders wondered why Andrews had not appointed a “second-in-command” to direct the men riding behind while he himself dealt with major issues. One man saw this arrangement as potentially advantageous in case of a fight, for example, and proceeded to suggest George Wilson, a private, as second-in-command, seemingly an unusual nomination, as there were three sergeants and one regimental sergeant-major in the group. But the suggestion may have carried overtones of others’

estimation of Wilson as a leader, as alluded to earlier in this article.

At Adairsville the *General* met the nemesis which would finally put a stop to the chase. Now they were halfway to Chattanooga. A southbound freight pulled by an engine named *Texas* had been stopped by the two men from the Western & Atlantic who had been pursuing all along. The *Texas* “was equal to the *General* in almost every respect.” Both locomotives had been built in New Jersey according to identical specifications. The *Texas* looked like the *General*, having the same five-foot driving wheels, cow-catcher, square lamp and funnel stack. Its major advantage was that its engine was of the same class as that of the *General*. The *Texas* was driven two miles in reverse back to the Adairsville depot, where its twenty-one freight cars were parked on a siding, leaving only the tender. There was no turntable at Adairsville, so the *Texas* would have to chase the *General* in reverse. Here were two equally matched locomotives, the one speeding up the line in reverse at 50 MPH, both engaged in “...a trial of speed...a race which for desperate daredevil recklessness, velocity and the high stakes at issue was never equaled on land or water on the American continent,” one of the raiders later wrote. The *Catoosa*, with a carload of Confederate soldiers in tow, now joined the chase behind the *Texas*.

The *General* was approaching the beginning of the end. Andrews’ men were attempting to set the great Oostenaula River bridge on fire when they heard a train whistle. The pursuers now were closing in, and the *Texas* kept too close behind the *General* to allow taking on any more wood



The perilous journey of Andrews’ Raiders. Map by Joseph Clark, from *Bonds, Stealing the General, Yardley, Pennsylvania, Westholme Publishing, 2007, p. 115, (annotations added).*

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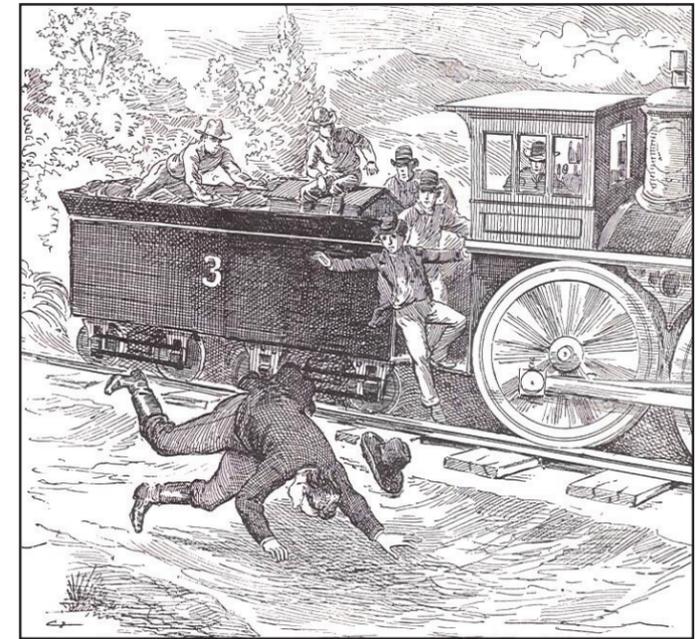
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[†]We mourn the passing of these valued members.

and water. With this decision the mission turned from offensive to defensive. Two boxcars had been cut loose. The raiders threw crossties as obstacles, but at such high speeds, some bounced far off the track. The soaking rains would prevent the Chickamauga Creek bridges from burning at all, so they kept going. Unrelenting pursuit at high speeds exacerbated the fuel situation; reaching Chattanooga seemed doubtful now. Never slowing, the *General* ploughed through the station at Dalton, where the track ran under the roof. Nor did they dare to slow down to destroy "Tunnel Hill," where engineers began in 1847 to construct the first railroad tunnel south of the Mason-Dixon Line. The raiders considered the 1447-foot tunnel to be an ideal spot for an ambush, but Andrews ordered full speed ahead with their remaining wood. The *Texas* crew knew now that it was but a matter of time. The Ohioans tried to burn the remaining car and uncoupled it on a covered bridge, but the formidable *Texas*, still in reverse, drove right into it and pushed the smoldering car to the next side-track. George Wilson and his fifteen companions would continue their flight in the now-empty tender.

Despite all possible haste to cut the telegraph lines, a message had gotten through from conductor Fuller on the *Texas* to the Confederate commander at Chattanooga. So it happened that Confederate troops set up an ambush and blockaded the track south of Chattanooga, ending once and for all James Andrews' hope of a successful arrival in that city and ultimately connecting with General Mitchel. Extreme measures by the Ohioans had been grossly insufficient to fuel the *General*. All the raiders' efforts combined gained them only another eight painfully slow miles, as far as Ringgold, Georgia. (One raider likened the *General's* failure to "the last struggles of a faithful horse.") Andrews now ordered the exhausted men to strike out on their own, contrary to his earlier orders, and head for Federal lines. This was an order a military man never would have given, for the men's safety required that they stay together; but Andrews had no military experience, thus his order "led directly to the calamities that followed," wrote Pittenger. The *General* could not climb the grade up the hill past the Ringgold depot, the great drivers turning ever more slowly as the raiders jumped off one by one, 18 miles south of Chattanooga. The engineers, in a last desperate measure, pulled the reverse lever, intending to send the *General* down the hill to crash into the *Texas*, but the *Texas* merely reversed itself too, that is, drove forward, allowing space between for the *General* to come to its final dead stop. At 1 o'clock, just over seven hours and 87 miles after the kidnapping at Big Shanty, the ambitious undertaking meant to hasten the end of the war came to an end itself.

Pittenger, the most widely read chronicler of the Andrews Raid and its aftermath, has written that the principal reasons for the failure of the mission were, mainly, that the delay of one day caused extra trains to be moving south, putting obstacles between the *General* and Mitchel, who was on time at Huntsville. Mitchel had no knowledge of



Leaving the Locomotive. From Pittinger, William. "Daring and Suffering..." New York, War Publishing Company, 1887, p. 151.

the raiders' delay of one day. Furthermore, on Friday, the original date for the mission, the weather had cleared sufficiently to allow the lighting of fires, but on Saturday heavy rains resumed. Andrews had previously demonstrated that he preferred to stick to his plans, to use strategy rather than engage in combat, as in speeding through the tunnel instead of setting up an ambush; he was not a military man, nor did he think like one. One of the raiders opined that they were chosen to be laborers, not fighters. Finally, the unrelenting pursuit by the two Western & Atlantic men afforded the raiders no intervals necessary for refueling, nor was it possible to elude them due to the fact that the two pursuers picked up help along the way: the *Catoosa* and the *Texas*.

However, because of the incident, failure or not, the Union gained some important advantages, among them, hundreds of Confederate troops were removed from the line of battle in order to guard bridges, trestles, tunnels, depots—having the effect of diverting Confederate forces. The raid and its aftermath served to establish Northern valor and courage, as, until this time in the war, it was the South which had demonstrated the will to win battles. When asked later by a Confederate soldier whether Mitchel had any more like him, George Wilson, considered by his comrades to be one of their most heroic, replied, "Why, we are the worst men of his division, the refuse of the whole army, and he only sent us down here to get rid of us!" as Pittenger quotes him.

A granite marker has been placed near the spot where the chase ended. The locomotive *General*, having suffered only negligible damage during the raid, became a war relic, maintained and preserved to this day. The *General* served at the battle of Kennesaw Mountain, and after the war pulled passenger cars and became perhaps the most famous

Continued next page

Continued from page 3

locomotive in America.

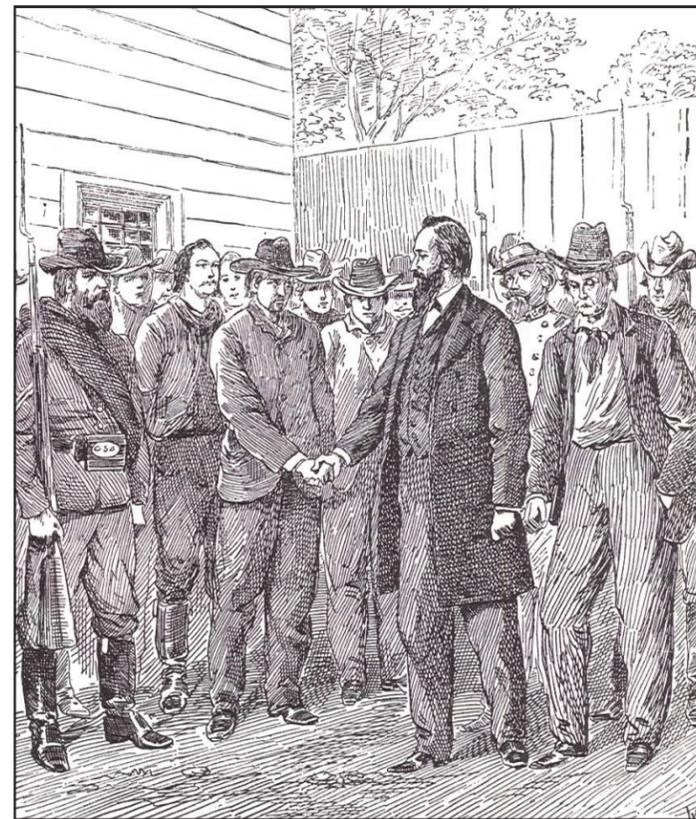
Leaping from the tender, the raiders scattered into the woods, not knowing where they were or which way to go. They were hunted like wild animals, bloodhounds being set after them from all directions, the *Catoosa* Confederates joined by men from the countryside who jumped at the chance to “shoot some Yankees.” The capture of the first three Ohioans came only too soon; unfortunately they gave their names and ranks, hoping thereby to gain protection under the rules of war. Fettered together with a log chain around their necks, the three were taken to Chattanooga. The next capture involved two men, one being the second youngest of the Ohioans, Jacob Parrott, eighteen years old. Refusing adamantly to give the enemy any information at all, he was stripped and forcibly held down over a boulder while one hundred lashes were laid on his back. Parrott told the Confederates nothing. George Davenport Wilson was among the four men caught next, having severely injured himself on jumping off the train, and unable to run or even walk fast. Stopping at a house to ask for food, their only recourse after having been refused was to drink a bucket of milk they found set out on the porch. The next day some fifty men with tracking dogs captured them. Wilson had proposed that the Kentucky story be dropped and a new ruse invented. There was no time to rehearse, however; the Ohioans became entangled in their lies and were soon found out. One of the man-hunters put his pistol to Wilson’s head, his finger ready to pull the trigger, “when his hand was turned away by a Major,” as Pittenger remembered. The raiders’ hands were then tied and they were marched to a house about a mile away, and much to their surprise, were given a hearty supper before being taken to Ringgold and to jail. It was now Sunday evening, one week from Andrews’ visit to General Mitchel.

The capture of Andrews occurred the very next day. His “striking personal appearance” gave his identity away to persons who had known him on his previous forays as a smuggler, as well as to those who had noticed him in the cab of the *General*. In irons he and two raiders were taken to Chattanooga, to “the worst of all prisons,” Pittenger laments, for soon Andrews would be joined there by his Ohioans. “Our leader had been trusted by the enemy and had betrayed them.” Not long afterward six more chained raiders arrived at Swims’ jail, as the prison was named, after its downright mean and hateful keeper. George Wilson was among the six. He had been jailed at Marietta and then was taken in chains to Dalton, where a contingent of kind ladies gave him and his fellows food, seemingly oblivious to a raging mob outside. In the morning they were transported to Swims’ jail, where the raiders, together now, quickly discovered they were not the only living things that populated the filthy place. The men were to spend three agonizing, dehumanizing weeks in this black, vermin-infested dungeon.

During this time General Ormsby Mitchel had received a promotion to Major General. It appeared that he was once

again on his own, no help forthcoming from Generals Buell or Halleck at Corinth. He did not report the failed mission to Washington or to his commander, General Buell. Mitchel instead was engaged in bridge-burning and making his successes known. He is said to have believed that the raiders had all been hanged. The Andrews Raiders, it seemed, had been forgotten by their own military superiors.

The captives realized they would be put on trial for spying and sabotage. Their fate would serve as an example to the Unionist insurgents in eastern Tennessee. The men chose to act with determination in order to be prepared for whatever might befall them, so a “trial” was organized as a constructive way to pass the time. “To Geo. D. Wilson and myself fell the main task of outlining our defense and drilling all the party into it,” recalled Pittenger. He added that the outline they prepared “was so closely adhered to that the enemy never learned that we [began as] volunteers and intelligent participants in the enterprise.” George Wilson served as prosecutor. Basically their defense revolved around 1) having been appointed to serve by their officers in the belief they would be acting under the rules of war; 2) not being previously acquainted with Andrews; 3) not knowing what their service would entail other than destruction of communications in Confederate territory; 4) wearing civilian clothes so they would not alarm the public; 5) not entering any Confederate camp; 6) their expectation of protection as



“Boys, meet me on the other side of Jordan.” From Pittenger, William. “Daring and Suffering...” New York, War Publishing Company, 1887, p. 249.

Lebanon High School Football 1931-1933 Seasons

1931 SEASON (0-8)

| Home or Away | Week | Score | Opponent | Win or Loss |
|--------------|------|-------|-----------------|-------------|
| Away | 1 | 0-44 | Hamilton | Loss |
| Away | 2 | 0-43 | Ludlow (KY) | Loss |
| Away | 3 | 6-7 | West Carrollton | Loss |
| Away | 4 | 7-27 | Fairmont | Loss |
| Home | 5 | 32-0 | Oakwood | Loss |
| Away | 6 | 0-20 | Germantown | Loss |
| Away | 7 | 0-6 | Cedarville | Loss |
| Home | 8 | 27-0 | Franklin | Loss |

KY- Kentucky (Score in bold print is Lebanon)

1932 SEASON (6-3)

| Home or Away | Week | Score | Opponent | Win or Loss |
|--------------|------|-------|-----------------|-------------|
| Home | 1 | 0-20 | Sharonville | Win |
| Away | 2 | 6-58 | Hamilton | Loss |
| Home | 3 | 14-0 | West Carrollton | Loss |
| Home | 4 | 7-12 | Cedarville | Win |
| Away | 5 | 0-26 | Oakwood | Loss |
| Home | 6 | 0-26 | Germantown | Win |
| Home | 7 | 0-25 | Reading | Win |
| Away | 8 | 6-0 | Franklin | Win |
| Away | 9 | 27-0 | Osborn | Win |

(Score in bold print is Lebanon)

1933 SEASON (1-7)

| Home or Away | Week | Score | Opponent | Win or Loss |
|--------------|------|-------|-----------------|-------------|
| Home | 1 | 13-0 | Bellevue (KY) | Loss |
| Home | 2 | 27-6 | West Carrollton | Loss |
| Away | 3 | 0-20 | Ludlow | Loss |
| Home | 4 | 12-6 | Oakwood | Loss |
| Away | 5 | 19-0 | Germantown | Win |
| Away | 6 | 0-13 | Lockland | Loss |
| Home | 7 | 14-0 | Franklin | Loss |
| Away | 8 | 0-21 | Miamisburg | Loss |

KY- Kentucky (Score in bold print is Lebanon)



The 1933 Lebanon High School football team with numbered key.

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. | 20. Jim Behnam |
| 2. | 21. Hal Miller |
| 3. Jack Warwick | 22. Chester Nixon |
| 4. Kenny Reif | 23. |
| 5. Ray Schwartz | 24. |
| 6. | 25. Lyle Bonham |
| 7. | 26. Joe Worley |
| 8. | 27. Dick Bohl |
| 9. Milton Earhart | 28. Grant Stratemeyer |
| 10. Clarence Dieterich | 29. Coach Roy M. Black |
| 11. John Castleman | 30. Howard Price |
| 12. Herschel Orr | 31. Robert Dieterich |
| 13. Herschel Bailey | 32. Paul LeFever |
| 14. Walter Luti | 33. Lou Brown |
| 15. Stanley Wolf | 34. Jack Hancock |
| 16. Ed LeVeck | 35. Everett Hazelwood |
| 17. Herb Gray | |
| 18. Earl Dunham | |
| 19. Bill Newton | |

Lebanon High School Football's Weird and Wild Beginnings

By: Morgan Showen, WCHS Volunteer and Current Lebanon High School Football Player

In American culture today, football is ever present and has been ingrained in most people's lives. Families and friends fervently watch their favorite team with immense passion and support. Whether it is the NFL, college or high school, Americans love a good football game. Lebanon, in particular, has an ardent following of devoted fans to its high school football team. The origins of Lebanon football, and the way the game was played at the beginning of its existence, are without a doubt quite extraordinary.

The first ever Lebanon High School football team was formed in 1914. During this time period, football was played without pads, or helmets, and the football was actually made out of pigskin. Lebanon's team consisted of a whopping 12 players. That means that due to the 22 positions in football, all but one of the players had to play both offense and defense. In comparison to today's teams: Lebanon's 2015 varsity football team had 70 players, and all NFL teams have 53 players on their rosters. Shortly after the formation of the team, it was quickly disbanded due to the beginning of World War I and the need for young men to fight in the war.

Football in Lebanon was reinstated in 1924 after the war was over. Football as a whole, was not very popular at the time and stayed a small and niche sport up until the 1930s.

During the depression era, football was very different from what America has today. Football players were called "Gridders" due to the fields being called Grid Irons. The schedules were eight to nine games long and consisted of, for at least the 1931 season, two home games. Lebanon's schedule also consisted of games against teams from places like Ludlow, Kentucky. Lebanon was in a division called "The Little Four." It consisted of Lebanon, West Carrollton, Germantown and Franklin; a far cry from the 18 teams in the Greater Western Ohio Conference (GWOC) that Lebanon is a

Continued from page 7

for their "commitment to preserving Ohio history," through their "careful rehabilitation" and preservation of their grandparents' legacy, the Golden Lamb.

Through the Jones Foundation the family yearly supports the WCHS's Robert and Virginia Shaker Gallery by funding improvements and additions to the exhibit. Recently they helped establish the gallery's award-winning "Pottery Discoveries at Union Village: Unearthing a Shaker Industry" display, and are currently helping to finance the creation and illumination of Union Village scenes through the windows in

member of currently. The formations were different as well. Instead of the five offensive line formations that are currently used, teams in the 1930s used seven offensive linemen. These two extra linemen were called "ends." In a modern era of football, where teams on average throw about 40 passes per game, it is odd to see any team that is focused on running the football. This was completely flipped in the 1930s. It was rare to see more than five pass attempts during a game. The sizes of the players were drastically different as well. The Lebanon football team was considered to be "bulking up" when the team's average weight went from 133 pounds to 145 pounds in 1932. Today's NFL players are rarely below 200 pounds.

Lebanon's football team was a very inconsistent affair from season to season. During the 1931 season, Lebanon didn't win a single game and went 0-8. The 1931 team was outscored 206-13 overall. Just one year later, however, the 1932 Lebanon team went 6-3, not allowing five out of the nine teams they faced to score a single point. Flash-forward one year later, and the team goes 1-7 scoring a whopping 12 points for the season. This volatility in records happened due to a lack of consistent talent and opponents. Lebanon played almost entirely different schedules each year bringing large changes in the team's records. Lebanon's fans, however, were just as passionate during that time as they are today. The fans did not have the benefit of the wonderful stadium Lebanon currently enjoys. Lebanon's games were played at Harmon Park, which was not the most up-to-date place to play or watch the games.

Lebanon football has always been extremely exciting and supported by passionate fans. These two things, however, are probably the only two things Lebanon football today has in common with these early Lebanon teams.

the Shaker gallery. The artist, Kyle Penunuri, was a special guest at the WCHS Gala last June.

The Warren County Historical Society, serving our community for 75 years, and the Jones/Portman family, serving their fellow citizens of the area through their historic inn and their generosity for nearly 90 years, together, are indeed fulfilling the "need" of which Governor Bricker spoke on that Saturday afternoon in April 1940 in front of the Golden Lamb. The need to hold "high the honor and respect for . . . those things which have contributed so greatly to the building of [our] nation."

prisoners of war.

As for Andrews himself, his betrayal having become known to the enraged Confederates, he "could not now turn around, even with his marvelous adroitness and unsurpassed powers of deception, and make them believe that the enterprise...was intended as the means of deceiving the Federals only the more completely," wrote Pittenger. Andrews' court-martial was held first, but he was not sentenced at that time.

Andrews' sentencing and the Ohioans' trials were now postponed. Mitchel's army was threatening Chattanooga. The prisoners were sent to Atlanta, where they were confronted by a howling mob eager for a hanging. Then a few days later they were returned to Swims' jail in Chattanooga, and it became known that at the time of the locomotive theft they were indeed under orders and not volunteers. George Wilson, in conversations with their guards, had been led to believe that chances were good for their exchange; the Confederates, however, insisted on a trial to first prove the raiders' military status. Delays occurred, hopes rose and fell, escapes were planned and not carried out. Then an order was received to take twelve raiders to Knoxville for trial. George Wilson, having special permission to take fresh air in the prison yard because he was injured, was the first to hear and was told he should select those who would go. Would his selection mean death for these men? There was no way he could know, for, as Pittenger explains, if George chose the most prominent members of their group in hopes that it could mean their exchange, "the [Confederate] plan was hit on of making him unconsciously select the men to die."

It had been six weeks since the raid. Obviously Andrews was beyond hope; the Confederates' lust for vengeance was too strong; "he had played a fearful game and lost." His parting words to the men about to leave for Knoxville were, "Boys,...meet me on the other side of Jordan." He received his death warrant on May 31. The next day Andrews escaped from Swims' jail, only to be captured to await execution on June 7 in Atlanta, chosen because of renewed bombardment of Chattanooga by the Federals. The scaffold was built, his grave was open nearby, there was no coffin. It was a horrible death, "indescribable," Pittenger reported. Andrews was laid in the earth, no shroud was provided, his iron shackles still welded onto his limbs. His gravesite was unknown for many years.

The twelve who had been chosen for trial were remanded into the hands of some of Morgan's Raiders, guerrillas fighting for the South, who treated them with civility. The accused twelve were uneasy about the charge of spying. Kidnapping the *General* was not mentioned in the indictment. Pittenger cynically observed that courts-martial are "organized to convict." Each day one of the men was taken out of the cell to hear the charges read, a few witnesses questioned, and then he was returned to the others. The monotony of the proceedings soon rendered the court "very inattentive." The accused Ohioans were not allowed to hear their counsel's defense. No records of the courts-martial have ever come to light, and the trial procedure remains controversial to the present day. In George D. Wilson's trial, the testimony of a Confederate lieutenant—that the raiders passed a picket line—was shown to be false by the president of the court himself. And suddenly the venue of the trial was changed once again, due to reports that Mitchel was now marching on Chattanooga, and Knoxville was threatened, so the men were taken to Atlanta. They wanted to escape before they were moved, having come to disbelieve Confederate assurances that the Union soldiers would not receive the death penalty, as Andrews had. Apparently George Wilson had been sorely deceived about this; at any rate, he had been injured, making his own escape nearly impossible; and he was sure some of his comrades would be killed in the attempt. He hoped for an early release when the war ended. "Alas! Wilson was throwing away his last chance of life, and knew it not!" lamented Pittenger later. Wilson told his friends of a horrific dream the night of June 17th wherein he saw great heaps of newly dug earth. TO BE CONTINUED in the April 2016 *Historicalog*.



REVOLUTIONARY WAR SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL DEDICATION

On Sunday, April 24, 2016, at 2 p.m., the Sons of the American Revolution will hold a memorial dedication to veterans of the America's War of Independence who are buried in Lebanon. The ceremony, which will include speeches, an SAR honor guard in Revolutionary War military uniforms, and the unveiling of a memorial monument, will take place at the Lebanon Pioneer Cemetery located at the corner of Main and West streets in Lebanon.

The dedication is open to the public and will honor the following veterans of the American Revolution: Jacob Earenfight, Anthony Geoghegan, Robert Hamilton, Matthias Spinning, Francis Dunlavy, Mary Craig Dunlavy, Leonard Peckinpugh, Robert Benham, John Crawford Bone, James Cowan, Sr., Ezekiel Irvin, Samul Manning, Lawrence Monfort, Peter Perlee, William Russell, John Tharp, and Jonathan Tichenor.

Any descendants of the above-mentioned Revolutionary War veterans are urged to attend.

The Warren County Historical Society's Tribute to the Jones/Portman Family

by John J. Zimkus, WCHS Historian/Education Director

(The bulk of this article was taken from a speech I gave at the WCHS's 75th Anniversary Gala on June 6, 2015.)

In a ceremony in Lebanon, Ohio at 2 o'clock in the afternoon on Saturday, April 27, 1940, 10-year-old Joan Jones unveiled a plaque that marked the historic Golden Lamb as "Ohio's oldest hotel."

On Thursday, May 2, 1940, *The Western Star* newspaper reporting the event stated, "A thousand or so spectators gathered on the plaza in the street in front of the Golden Lamb" to witness the Turtle Creek Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, bestow the honor on the inn.

It reported that Ohio Governor John W. Bricker addressed the crowd that afternoon stating, "So long as the present generation holds high the honor and respect for historic landmarks and those things which have contributed so greatly to the building of the nation . . . the nation will not falter. But . . . there is a need for a wider spread of this recognition."

The day after that newspaper came out, Friday, May 3, 1940, nearly two dozen people met in the Thomas Corwin Room on the second floor of the recently honored inn.

Up until a short time earlier that room was the only home Joan Jones had ever known. She was born across the street from The Golden Lamb at the Blair Brothers Hospital on December 11, 1929. She shared an apartment with her parents on the second floor of the old hotel they ran. This apartment extended the entire width of the north side of that floor.

Her dad, Bob Jones, had leased the old Lebanon Hotel with a partner in 1926. In May 1927, Bob and his new partner bought the property, and by that winter Bob Jones had bought out his partner and was, at the age of 28, the sole owner of the once great Golden Lamb Tavern.

On Monday, April 30, 1928, a fire threatened to completely destroy the recently purchased hotel. The cause was believed to be faulty wiring in the northwest corner of the fourth floor. A newspaper account stated that Bob Jones was "undaunted by the \$20,000 damages and [was] determined to make an even better and more modern place than he had previous to the fire." Adjusted for inflation that \$20,000 worth of damage in 1928 would be cost nearly \$280,000 today.

Being apparently an optimist if not by nature then by necessity, on June 5, 1928, while the hotel was being extensively repaired, Bob Jones married Virginia Kunkle, 24, in Springfield, Ohio. Ginny Kunkle had taught in the Lebanon school system during the 1927-28 school year.

A special newspaper supplement to the July 19, 1928 *The Western Star* announced the completion of the renovations of Bob and Ginny Jones' Lebanon Hotel.

The Jones' continued their improvements to the old inn. They brought back the name Golden Lamb to the hotel around 1936. It was the old inn's original name but had been gone since 1841. They also began to transform The Golden Lamb from a hotel with as many as 50 guest rooms and only one dining room, into a restaurant with 18 guest rooms and 10 dining rooms. They made The Golden Lamb a destination restaurant. A place where people made a special trip to drive down from Dayton or up from Cincinnati to enjoy a great meal. Because his efforts, Bob Jones earned the unofficial title of "father of Warren County tourism." Today the scope of the restaurant's popularity has widened greatly to go beyond Columbus, Indianapolis and Northern Kentucky. In fact, in January 2014, The Golden Lamb



Bob and Ginny Jones, c1940, in what is now known as Gazebo Park just outside the Golden Lamb.

was designated as "Ohio's Most Iconic Restaurant" based on its longevity, popularity and quality. Now back in May 3, 1940, in the apartment Joan Jones had moved to after her birth, something else was being born. Those two dozen or so individuals that had gathered there represented 13 various organizations from around Warren County. Their purpose was to give birth to a historical society.

After various committees were formed, Charters Maple, a Lebanon attorney and representing the Kiwanis Club, moved that the organization be called the Warren County Historical Society. The name was unanimously accepted. And we, as an historical society, were given life.

A second meeting was held on Friday, May 17 in the Golden Lamb. After a lengthy discussion a proposed constitution for the society was adopted.

At the June 7 meeting at the Golden Lamb, officers were elected. Charters Maple was chosen president.

On the newly formed board of trustees was Hazel Spencer Phillips, who lived near Springboro, Ohio. Her zeal for Warren County's history and for the WCHS was only just being tapped. She would be responsible for collecting much of the society's valuable artifacts, serve as its museum's first curator and eventually its museum director as well as becoming one of the Midwest's most respected local historians. She was also the registrar of the Turtlecreek Chapter of the DAR and the person who had done the research on the Golden Lamb for its recognition the week before.

Bob and Ginny Jones offered their assistance and encouragement to the WCHS in every endeavor for decades after its founding in 1940. From early Pilgrimages of Homes, through the purchase of the Glendower mansion and the establishment of what is today the Warren County History Center in Harmon Hall, Bob and Ginny had participated in and contributed to every project.

The very first display presented to the public by the WCHS was done in a glass case in the lobby of The Golden Lamb, and in the early years of the Warren County Museum there was always a "Reserved" luncheon table for the museum staff and volunteers in a dining room of the inn.

On Jan. 7, 1956, the Turtlecreek Chapter of the DAR made its first ever presentation of an Award of Merit to Bob Jones. At the ceremony it was said he received the award for, "his efforts in the preservation and restoration of [the Golden Lamb], for his quiet generosity, and co-operation with patriotic and educational organizations, for his interest in civic projects and for his good citizenship, essential in a Republic such as ours, all of which are directed toward the preservation of the American way of life."

The close relations between the Jones and the WCHS was strengthened more in February 1958, when Hazel Spencer Phillips, the curator of the Warren County Museum, which was then housed in the Glendower mansion, published a 68-page book that was simply called *The Golden Lamb*. It is still today, nearly 60 years later, the most complete work on Ohio's oldest inn.

Over the years the Jones' have made scores of donations to the WCHS collections. The file in the WCHS curator's offices on items donated to the society by Bob and Ginny Jones, going back over 60 years, is about a foot wide. One item recently on display was part of our "Preference for Lace" exhibit. This special exhibit featured over two dozen wedding gowns from the 1870s to the 1970s. One of the highlights was displayed in our Victorian Gallery: an elegant ivory colored silk slipper satin wedding gown worn by Joan Jones when she married William C. Portman here in town at the Lebanon

Presbyterian Church on July 12, 1952. Joan was an active member of the WCHS and became the manager of the Golden Lamb from 1960 to 1967 after her father had a stroke.

Almost 33 years ago, on July 31, 1982, another Gala, a "Shaker Gala," was held at the WCHS Museum. Its purpose was to honor the Jones family and to help raise funds for the completion of the new wing on whose second floor would house the vast Shaker collection donated by Bob and Ginny Jones. Joan Jones Portman had worked hard to solicit funds for the addition. At that gala Bob and Ginny sat on a sofa in what is now the gift shop and received the good wishes and gratitude of every person who attended the event as they entered the museum.

Bob had long been an admirer of the Shakers. In 1963 he stated, "My father's family were Quakers in Pennsylvania in the days of William Penn. The Shakers were really an odd offshoot from the Quakers, . . . They had some of the same tranquility I knew from the Quaker tradition. I was interested in their part in Warren County history." He started by collecting Shaker furniture that turned up at farm sales. "It

was much more common then," he continued. "Much of my encouragement came from Hazel Phillips."

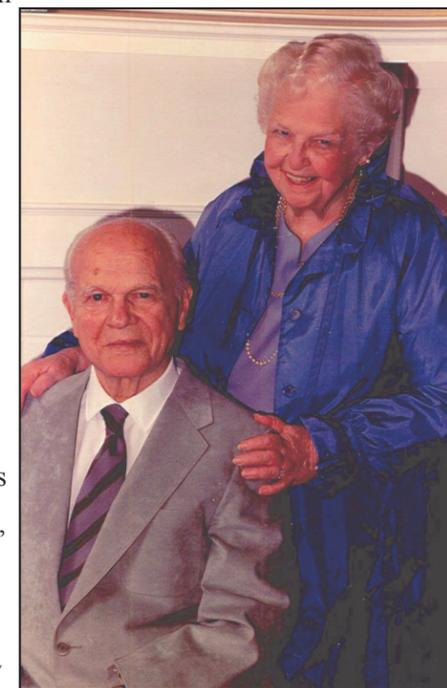
On Oct 28, 1983, Bob and Ginny were again honored with the unveiling of a plaque designating the WCHS Shaker display as the Robert and Virginia Jones Shaker Gallery. The furniture they donated along with the vast number of valuable written Shaker documents, diaries and books add up to more than 90% of the entire WCHS Shaker collection. It was, and still is, one of the largest, if not the largest, collections of Shaker artifacts in the Midwest. Bob on the occasion said, "The Society does a lot for Lebanon. It attracts people who are interested in history."

Bob's fascination with the Shakers was passed down to his grandson Rob, who in 2004 co-authored with Cheryl Bauer the book *Wisdom's Paradise: The Forgotten Shakers of Union Village*. The book is the definitive look at Warren County Shakers.

In the book's dedication Rob wrote, "For Robert and Virginia Jones, my grandparents, whose love of history and fascination with the Shakers of Union Village rubbed off on me."

The family and the Warren County Historical Society have long shared a love of all things Shaker. Another thing they share, if I can get personal for a moment, is me. In October 2007, I became the official historian of the Golden Lamb, over three months before I became the education director here for the Warren County Historical Society.

In 2010, Bob and Ginny's grandchildren, Wym, Rob and Ginna, received the Ohio Historic Preservation Office Award



Bob and Ginny Jones, November 4, 1984.