

# THE HISTORICAL LOG

A Publication of the Warren County Historical Society

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By Victoria Van Harlingen

### WCHS Wins a National Award of Merit

The American Association of State and Local History has awarded the Warren County History Center and its Exhibits' Curator Lynley Dunham-Cole, their prestigious Award of Merit for Leadership in History. Ms. Dunham-Cole was the lead designer and builder of Following the Tracks of the Underground Railroad in Warren County, a new permanent exhibit which opened at the Warren County History Center in May of 2013. She was assisted by Director



*Following the Tracks of the Underground Railroad in Warren County*

of Education John Zimkus and Cincinnati artist Kyle Penunuri in producing a comprehensive exhibit that included an overlay tour throughout the History Center. The AASLH Leadership in History Award is the nation's most prestigious competition for recognition of achievement in state and local history. This is truly a great honor for our museum. Ms. Dunham-Cole will be traveling to St. Paul, Minnesota in September to accept the award. Please stop by and visit the exhibit at your earliest convenience and give Ms. Dunham-Cole your congratulations. And thank you to you, our members, for providing the funds that made this exhibit possible.

### Your Donations Needed

Long time Warren County Historical Society member James B. Gray of Mt. Vernon, New York has offered to donate \$2000 towards the purchase of

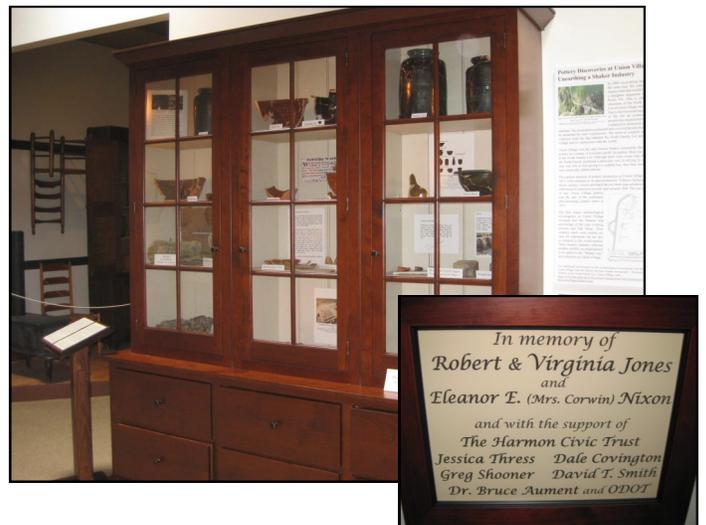


*Tom Corwin Stumping for Office, painted by Will Corson*

Will Corson's genre painting featuring Thomas Corwin. Mr. Corson is well known for his paintings depicting people and events from Warren County's history. His works are in private collection throughout the country and at least one is on display at the Ohio state house office building. The cost of the painting is \$3000. Mr. Gray will donate the \$2000, provided others donate the remaining funds. You can donate any amount up to \$1000. Mail checks to the Warren County Historical Society at 105 S. Broadway, Lebanon, OH. 45036. All donations are tax deductible.

### Planned Gift

WCHS member Barbara Kryter Ackerman passed away recently in Dayton. She established a fund with the Dayton Foundation to remember organizations that were important to her. The Warren County Historical Society is one of the organizations which has been honored with an annual gift. She joins the Robert & Virginia Jones Family Trust, the



*Shaker pottery display cabinet made possible with funds from the Robert & Virginia Jones Family Trust*

Esmon Nissan Foundation and the Will Family Trust in providing the Historical Society with annual gifts of \$1000 or more. These on-going financial gifts make it possible for the Historical Society staff to plan exhibits and programs from year to year. We encourage all of you, our members, to remember the Warren County Historical Society in your estate planning.

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## Turtlecreek Summer Music Festival

The Turtlecreek Summer Music Festival, a joint venture of the Warren County Historical Society, the Lebanon Kiwanis, and the Lebanon Council of Garden Clubs, took place July 12<sup>th</sup> at Warren County Armco



*Great music, delicious food, and good times at the Turtlecreek Summer Music Festival*

Park. We had a great day in a beautiful venue and everyone had a wonderful time listening to classic rock n' roll music from the 1950's, 60's and 70's. There was plenty of good food and drinks, a Kids' Zone and a classic car and motorcycle cruise-in. The Warren County Historical Society raffled a reproduction Fender Stratocaster electric guitar known as a Classic Vibe electric guitar. Before each band performed we had the members of the

# Lantern Light Cemetery Tour

*Meet the "Spirits" of Lebanon's notable and historic departed through historic reenactments.*

**Friday, September 12, 2014, 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM**  
**Lebanon Cemetery, West Silver Street, Lebanon**

\$20 Adults, \$10 Students 18 and under, paid reservation required.  
 Reserve online at [WCHSmuseum.org](http://WCHSmuseum.org)  
 or by calling 513-932-1817



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band sign their names on the guitar and at 9:30 that evening we awarded the guitar to one lucky winner. It was one of the highlights of the event.

## **New Acquisitions**

Historian and WCHS member Dennis Dalton has donated a two-volume binder set of the history of Corwin, Ohio. This archive represents several decades of work by Mr. Dalton and includes a wealth of information about one of Warren County's former railroad towns. The volumes are available for research in the Research and Genealogy Library located inside the Warren County History Center.

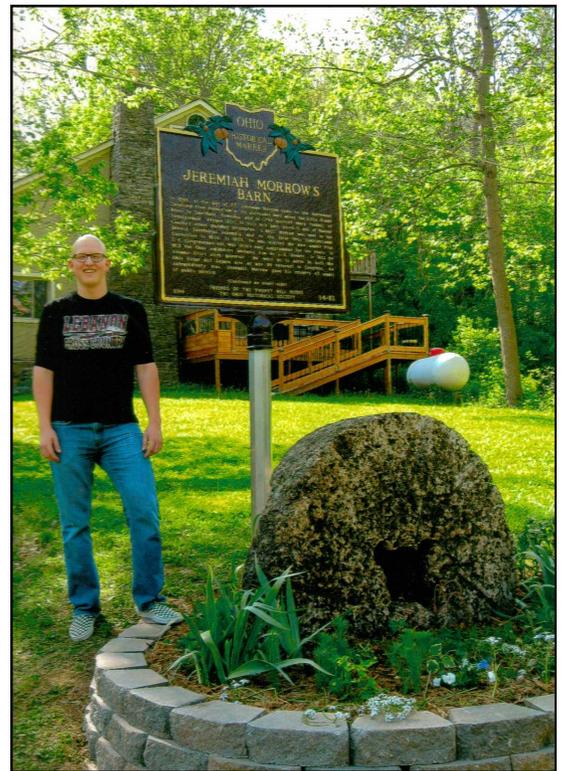
## **Jeremiah Morrow Honored**

On Sunday, May 18, Warren County's famous statesman and early pioneer, Jeremiah Morrow, was honored with a commemorative marker at the site of his farm and mill on the Little Miami River at Fosters. The ceremony took place at 2:00 pm at 8745 Davis Road.

The Friends of the Twenty Mile House and Dr. Karen Dinsmore of Maineville wanted to do something to honor and remember this remarkable man. It was a wonderful ceremony with about 75 people in attendance.

In front of the marker, the millstone from Jeremiah Morrow's mill was used as the centerpiece of a flower garden designed and planted by Lebanon student Markus Rask to further honor Governor Morrow. The garden was his Eagle Scout project, completed just before his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. The Warren County Historical Society donated the stone for the project and the marker was funded in part by a grant awarded to the Friends of the Twenty Mile House.

For those interested in seeing the marker, it is located on private property, but is easily visible from Davis Road. Next time you are in Fosters, stop by to take a look.



*Eagle Scout Markus Rask stands next to the completed historic marker and millstone project at the former site of Jeremiah Morrow's mill*

# Kids Dam

*By Dwight Rowe, WCHS Member*

**A**s a young child growing up in Lebanon and living near Harmon Park, I spent a lot of time playing at the park and in the woods along Turtle Creek. On one of my adventures along the creek, I came across a large concrete wall with names carved on the side. I often wondered why this wall was there and whose names were scratched in the wall.

After I retired, I became a volunteer at the Warren County Historical Society. I asked the staff and volunteers at the museum about the concrete wall, but no one knew any information about it. It became my quest to find out any information I could. So, after 60 years of wondering about the wall and names on it, I began my search.

In November of 1911, William E. Harmon announced he would build a gymnasium for the people of Lebanon. During the summer of 1912 the idea of a park and playground was conceived. A plot of 88 acres was purchased from Judge J. A. Runyan and this place was called Harmon Park. During that time, Mr. Harmon decided to build a dam on Turtle Creek to make a swimming lake for the Lebanon youth. This would be the first of three dams built by Mr. Harmon—Kids Dam (1912). The second was the

Flood Control Dam (1918) and the third was the East Street Bridge Dam (1927). When the Boy Scouts of Lebanon heard the Kids dam was being built, they volunteered to help with the construction. The Boy Scouts gathered 135 wagon loads of rock to be used on



*The Boy Scouts worked for two weeks to build the Kids Dam*

the dam. During the summer of 1912 a storm washed away all the initial work done on the dam. The Boy Scouts gathered all the rocks again and the work continued on the dam. The dam was then completed by the Oregonia Bridge Company of Lebanon Ohio in December of 1912.

In my search I was curious about one of the names scratched on the wall: C D Maple 1912. After checking the 1910 Census, I found a Charles D. Maple, age 11. In 1912, when the Kids Dam was built, he was 13 years old. His father was Chester W. Maple, a Lebanon lawyer. At the age of 13, Charles was probably one of

the boy scouts who worked on the dam. In March 1913, the Great Flood that devastated Dayton, Ohio, damaged several bridges in Lebanon and also damaged the Kids Dam crossing the Turtle Creek. Mr. Harmon once again came to the aid of the dam. He donated additional money to have the dam repaired so it



*The Kids Dam created a pond that allowed for swimming in the summer and ice skating in the winter*

could be open for the summer. An article was written June 1913 in the *Boy's Life* magazine describing the work the boys did on the dam. In August, tents were up and the boys went to work at 4 o'clock in the morning. They worked two hours and then ate breakfast. This routine went on for two weeks. After this time, it was turned over to the Oregonia Bridge Company to complete the work. There was a beautiful lake for the children to swim in the summer and ice skate in the winter.

Over the years the need for the dams has expired. Today, there are no more dams on Turtle Creek or in Harmon Park. The creek still runs through the park, however, the children still play in the creek, and the citizens of Lebanon still have a beautiful park...thanks to the generosity of Mr. Harmon.



*Today, Harmon Park still offers a beautiful outdoor space to be enjoyed by children of all ages*

## Museum Invaded By Children

*By Lynley Dunham-Cole*

If you have visited the museum this summer, you might have noticed the recent influx of children. WCHS has expanded its summer schedule to include new programming geared toward school-age kids. In addition to History Camp, we held a Princess Tea and Charm School Boot camp in June and we are continuing a weekly Time Travelers History Explorer Program.

The theme of this year's History Camp was the Underground Railroad. It was Education Director John Zimkus 24th year holding the camp, which he calls "a tremendous success." "This was the first time the camp was four consecutive days. We received great feedback from parents and students both verbally and on social media," says Mr. Zimkus.



*Young ladies spent the day learning to be princesses at the Princess Tea and Charm School Boot camp on June 28*

Close to three dozen campers attended, spending the week touring WCHS—where two guest speakers specializing in the Underground Railroad gave presentations—and taking field trips to The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center and Camp Joy.

On June 28th, the museum hosted a Princess Tea and Charm School Boot camp for young Ladies-In-Waiting. I, along with Curator Mary Klei and volunteers Liz Grauwelman and Nancy Lewis gave lessons on posture, curtsying, table settings, pouring tea, and proper table manners. The young princesses also made their own "Thank You" notes to take home. A delightful tea, complete with cookies and lemonade, was served at the end.

Our weekly Time Travelers History Explorer Program is bringing new young faces to the museum every Thursday morning. Each Thursday this summer through August 14th from 10-11 a.m., WCHS is offering a new historical topic for students to explore through tours, games, crafts, presentations, and educational activities. Topics thus far have included: Native Americans, Pioneers in Warren County, Disney History, and Archaeology.



*Musician and educator Bob Ford visited during this year's History Camp*

# The Case For and Against the Golden Lamb Inn Being Part of the Underground Railroad

By John J. Zimkus WCHS Historian/Education Director

The Underground Railroad was one of the most intriguing stories in pre-Civil War America. It was a loose national network of freed blacks, former slaves, Quakers, Wesleyan Methodists, Presbyterians, and other abolitionists who assisted escaping runaway slaves to obtain their freedom. It was a story, or rather thousands of stories, where humanity attempted to overcome the harshness of legality in the United States at that time.



Giving the movement the name Underground Railroad (UGRR), however, conveys upon it the impression of a massiveness and structure that in reality did not exist. In addition, bestowing the moniker of “President of the Underground Railroad” upon the likes of Levi Coffin, and using such terms as “conductor” and “stationmaster” also suggests a huge organization with a chief executive at its head, when there was none, nor actual titled positions within it. I am sure many of those who guided and aided escaping slaves in the UGRR never knew they were called “conductors.”

The UGRR was a hodgepodge of several small groups that operated independently of one another and often without knowledge of neighboring groups. Their main connecting factor, and often the only one, was a sincere belief that the buying and selling of a fellow human being was inherently and morally wrong. This belief was so strong within the individuals of these small groups that they were willing to risk financial loss and, in some cases, their own personal freedom to achieve their goal of helping fugitive slaves obtain freedom.

The exact number of slaves who were aided by the UGRR will never be known. What is known is that the number that did find safety in places like Canada, where slavery and, of equal importance, slave catchers after 1833 were not allowed, did not grossly effect the institution of slavery. In 1860, there were approximately 4 million slaves in the South. The number of successful

escapees per year between 1830 and 1850 has been estimated at being between 1,000 and 2,500. As one historian put it, the number “was virtually insignificant in terms of making an impact on the slave economy.” It is important to remember, however, that the goal of those involved in the UGRR was not to make “an impact on the slave economy” but to rather make an impact on the lives of the individual slaves they were helping.

Another number that will never truly be known is how many people were actually involved in the UGRR. A generation or two after the Civil War it became quite the fashion in the former Northern and Border States for citizens to brag that “my father” or “my grandfather” was part of the UGRR. The boasting individual would often point to some extra space in the attic of their family home or some old trapdoor to their cellar as proof. During this time white involvement in the UGRR was grossly exaggerated, while black involvement, the activities of freed slaves and returning escaped slaves, was ignored.

The mythology of the UGRR grew rapidly in the late 19th and early 20th century. Even historians got caught up in this tangled web. Many started to accept rumors and legends as facts. Larry Gara, in his book *The Liberty Line: The Legend of the Underground Railroad*, summarized the situation by stating, “Although the Underground Railroad was a reality, much of the material relating to it belongs in the realm of folklore rather than history.”

Whether a 19th century structure was ever part of the UGRR is often pure conjecture. We frequently only have circumstantial evidence upon which to base the conclusions as to its role in aiding slaves escape their bondage.

One place that often has the question put to it is arguably the most famous historic building in Warren County—Ohio’s oldest inn.

Was The Golden Lamb in Lebanon, Ohio part of the UGRR?

Interestingly enough, there is some compelling circumstantial evidence both for and against The Golden

*Continued on page 8*

# Thank You Turtlecreek Summer Music Festival Volunteers!

- PETER BERNINGER
- JACOB BOYER
- JENNIFER BOYER
- RACHEL BOYER
- MARILYN CARTER
- ALOK DAS
- REENA DAS
- JEANNE DOAN
- LYNLEY DUNHAM-COLE
- BILL DUNING
- JANE DUNING
- LYNDON DUNN
- JENNY GAUCHE
- KENZIE GAUCHE
- LIZ GRAUWELMAN
- BILL GREGORY
- MONIKA GREGORY
- STEVE KAISER
- MARY KLEI
- DAVE MATRE
- DEBBIE MATRE
- REBECCA MCLAUGHLIN
- DENNY MEANS
- MARY MEANS
- LIZ MORRIS
- BILL RIVERS
- DWIGHT ROWE
- JANIS SCRAUCEVS
- GENE SLORP
- MARILYN SLORP
- DEBBIE VAN HARLINGEN
- GEORGE VAN HARLINGEN
- PAT VAN HARLINGEN
- VICKY VAN HARLINGEN
- JODI WERLING
- LOGAN WERLING
- DEBBIE YURASEK
- JOE YURASEK
- JOHN ZIMKUS

## Don't Miss these Events!

### GIRLS' NIGHT OUT

AT THE ROCKING HORSE GIFT SHOP IN THE  
WARREN COUNTY HISTORY CENTER

AUGUST 9TH, 4PM TO 8 PM

**\*20% OFF AMERICAN GIRL MINI DOLLS & BOOKS\***

**\* 10% OFF EVERYTHING ELSE \***

**\* REFRESHMENTS \* PRIZES \***

### *Spirits at the Museum*

*August 9th, 8pm to midnight*

**Professional Ghost Hunt at the  
Warren County History Center**

**\$40, 16 and older, reserve online or by phone**

## Lunch & Learn

11:30 A.M.—1 P.M.

AT THE WC HISTORY CENTER

\$20 FOR LECTURE AND GOURMET LUNCH.

PAID RESERVATION REQUIRED BY THE  
SATURDAY PRIOR TO THE EVENT

### August 20

QUAKER HERITAGE

Speaker Ruth Brindle discusses Quaker origins and influences in Warren and Clinton counties.

### September 17

PIONEERING WOMEN

Historian John Zimkus discusses the lives of several extraordinary local historic women, their achievements, and the obstacles they faced.

### October 15

ANOTHER "GREAT DIVIDE"

Speaker Paula Marett talks of best friends T. Roosevelt and W. H. Taft and the disgruntlement that led to Roosevelt running against his former friend for president.

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Lamb being involved with hiding and aiding escaping slaves.

### The Case “For”

1) On April 5, 1843, Isaac Stubbs bought The Golden Lamb, what was then known as The Bradley House, from Calvin Bradley. The Stubbs family would own the hotel for over 70 years. Isaac was a Quaker and was born on March 4, 1793 in Wrightsboro, Georgia. The Quakers were one of the most anti-slavery religious groups in the country. They also were some of the most active “white conductors” involved in the UGRR in the United States, Ohio, and Warren County.

Thousands of Quakers sold their land in the South to remove themselves from the evils of slavery and resettle in the free states of the North. Quaker Benjamin Butterworth brought his family from Virginia and settled in southwestern Hamilton Township in Warren County, Ohio in 1812. Isaac Wales, another Quaker, and his 12 children, and their children, moved from Iredell County, North Carolina to Harveysburg in Warren County in 1814. Because of published memoirs and/or family documents, both the Butterworth and the Wales families are known to have been very active in the UGRR in the county.

In 1804, when Isaac Stubbs was 10-years-old, his family moved from Georgia to the now long gone community of Milgrove, Salem Township, Warren County. *The Combined Atlas Map of Warren County, Ohio* published in 1875, the year after Isaac Stubbs died at the age of 81, had a brief biography of him. When discussing Stubbs’ beliefs it stated, “His religious connection was to the Society of Friends [Quakers], in which faith he reared his family, and he was particularly strict in the moral training of his children.” One could easily make the argument that this “moral training” would include the Quaker aversion to slavery and the desire to see it end.

2) Isaac Stubbs’ first cousin, Henry Stubbs, and several members of Henry’s immediate family were

involved in the UGRR in Ohio. Henry’s father, Nathan Stubbs, and Isaac’s father, who was also named Isaac Stubbs, were the first and second sons, respectively, of John and Esther Stubbs. The brothers were born in Cane Creek, North Carolina.

Henry Stubbs was involved in the UGRR in the 1840s and 50s. At that time he lived in West Elkton, Ohio in southeastern Preble County, less than 30 miles away from Lebanon, Ohio. Henry’s son (Charles) Rolla Stubbs wrote in his memoirs,

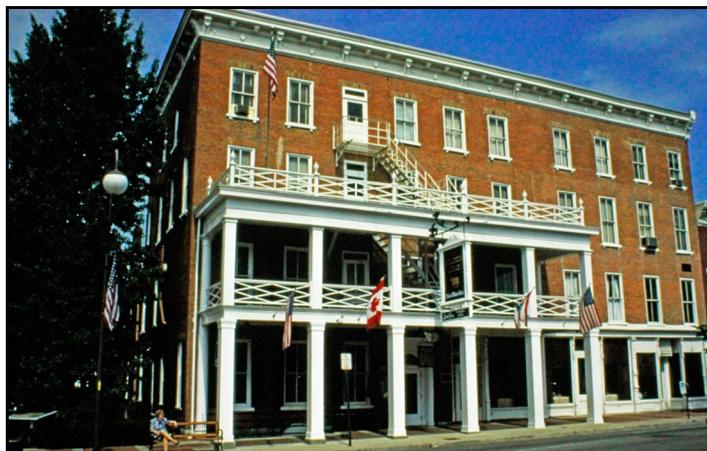
“My brother Joel was very active in helping fleeing slaves. He and father Henry helped transport many of them across into Indiana. They fed and clothed them as needed, too. It was 30 miles from our farm at West Elkton to the next ‘station’ and they took a covered wagon at night with the slaves hidden under quilts and supposedly market bound farm produce heading to Richmond [IN]. It was a dangerous and risky business with fierce slave hunters seen frequently in our area.”

3) In April 1854, Isaac Stubbs added a three-story wing to the north on The Golden Lamb. The first floor of this addition is now made up of the Shaker and Buckeye dining rooms in the Lamb. In 2007, in the service bar area in the rear of the Shaker Dining Room, a very old 3-foot x 4-foot trap door was uncovered when equipment was moved during a major renovation

of the restaurant. The trapdoor locked from the inside! The lock and hinges were said to be “very old”. Unfortunately they were both discarded. It is an area that could possibly have been used to hide runaway slaves.

4) In the 1898 book *The Underground Railroad: From Slavery to Freedom* written by Wilbur H. Siebert,

one of the foremost experts on the UGRR, there is a map on page 140 entitled “Network of Routes Through Greene, Warren and Clinton Counties, Ohio.” It shows a known UGRR route heading north from southern Warren County, where the Butterworth family lived, to Lebanon, Ohio. From Lebanon the route branches off into the directions



*A three story wing was added to the Golden Lamb in 1854*

of the three major Quaker communities in the county in the early 1800s-Springboro, Waynesville and Harveysburg. Isaac Stubbs' hotel, The Golden Lamb, was on that known route of the UGRR.

Another UGRR map entitled "Underground Railroad 1860" appears on page 49 of the 2014 book *Images of America: Cincinnati's Underground Railroad* by Richard Cooper and Dr. Eric R. Jackson. The map is accredited to the Ohio Historical Society. It shows a direct UGRR route from Lebanon to "Elkton" (West Elkton) in Preble, County. It goes from where Isaac Stubbs had an inn to where his first cousin Henry Stubbs, a known and well-documented "conductor" on the UGRR, lived.

5) Sometimes the safest place to hide something, or someone, is in plain sight. Having "free" black laborers work at a busy stagecoach stop hotel, like The Golden Lamb, prior to the Civil War would be very common in southwestern Ohio. Few people would have noticed an extra black worker or two, nor would they have paid close enough attention to tell if all of the laborers carrying in luggage or supplies into the hotel came out of it.

**SUMMING UP THE CASE FOR:**

Quakers as a group were well known for being against slavery in America. Quaker Isaac Stubbs buys the Golden Lamb in 1843. Isaac's first cousin Henry Stubbs in West Liberty, Ohio, less than 30 miles from the Golden Lamb, was a known "conductor" of the UGRR. In 1854, Isaac builds a three-story edition to the hotel. In 2007, an "old trap door" that locks from below is found in that 1854 addition during renovations. Known routes of the UGRR go through Lebanon and one actually connected Lebanon to West Liberty, Ohio.

Hiding an escaped slave "in plain sight" in The Golden Lamb would have been easy with many black workers going into and out of the hotel.

**The Case "Against"**

1) There is a good argument that Isaac Stubbs' interest in The Golden Lamb was purely business and not as a vehicle to aid runaways to escape the bondage of slavery. He actually once owned the hotel prior to 1843.

On February 1, 1841, Isaac Stubbs bought the building for \$3,150 from Calvin Bradley. Almost two months later, on March 26, he sold it for \$6,700 making an extremely nice profit for such a short period of time. In fact, the person he sold it to was Calvin Bradley!

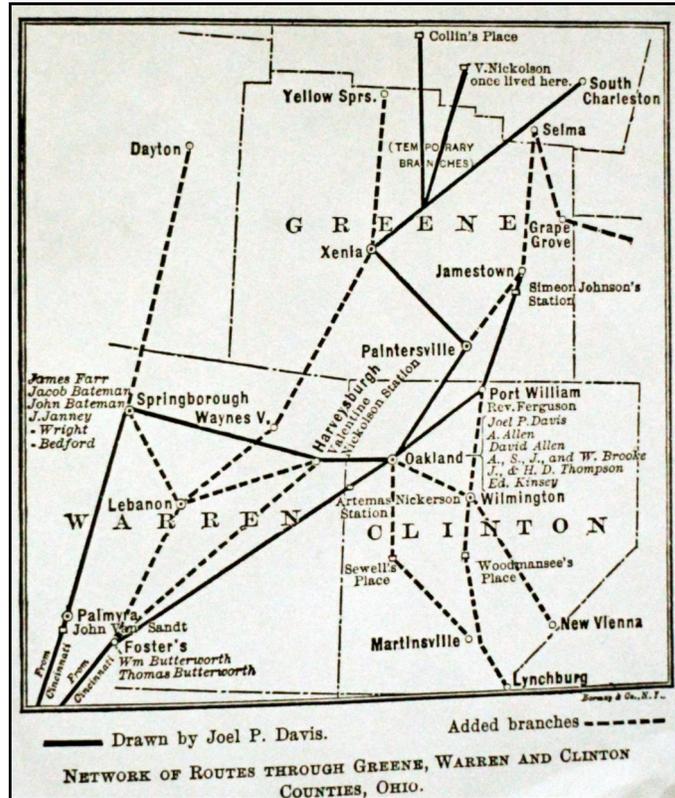
Around 1844 he added a third floor to the 1815 brick two-story tavern. After this addition he then tried to sell it again. On March 7, 1845, Stubbs advertised in the Lebanon newspaper *The Western Star*.

"That Valuable Tavern Stand, long known as The Golden Lamb Hotel, now The Lebanon House, in the town of Lebanon, Warren County, Ohio, is now for rent, or for sale. The House

has lately been enlarged, and is in the first state of improvement. The Stabling, which is new, is large and commodious, and the whole premises well worth the notice of those who may wish to purchase or rent property of this kind.

A considerable amount of the furniture now used in the house can be purchased of the present occupant upon very reasonable terms. Those wishing to purchase or rent will examine for themselves. Possession can be had from the 1st to the 15th of April. —March 7, 1845. Isaac Stubbs."

The 1875 *The Combined Atlas Map of Warren County, Ohio*, besides talking about Stubbs' Quaker background, also said, "His boyhood was passed partly upon the farm and party in a mill, where he learned the



From *The Underground Railroad: From Slavery to Freedom* written by Wilbur H. Siebert, 1898



# Old Lebanon Ghost Walk & Pub Crawl

Enjoy ghost stories and cocktails on this walking excursion  
in Historic Downtown Lebanon

**October 4<sup>th</sup> 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM**

Meet at the Warren County History Center,  
105 S. Broadway

\$12, paid reservations required. 21 and older only. Complimentary wine at start of tour. Drink Specials and Dinner Deals!

**Pub Stops**  
Blackhorse Tavern  
Doc's Place  
Village Wine Cellars

When darkness  
falls....  
Don't miss the

Costume  
Contest!

# Old Lebanon Witches' Ball

Eating and drinking and dancing, oh my.

**October 25<sup>th</sup> 7:00 PM - Midnight**

Lebanon Conference & Banquet Center, 121 S. Broadway

\$25, paid reservations required. 21 and older only.  
Hors d'oeuvre buffet and cash bar.



Reserve Online at [WCHSsense.com](http://WCHSsense.com)

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millers' trade, which latter business he followed for nearly half a century . . . He observed a marked economy in expenditure of money, and by close application and frugality accumulated a **large property** . . . Mr. Stubbs was a very quiet, unassuming man, took no part in public affairs, but **gave his whole attention to his business**, and pushed it with an indomitable energy and a resoluteness of purpose that insured success."

This brief biography does not mention his 31-year ownership of The Golden Lamb. It is possible this is because he viewed the hotel as merely part of the "large property" he frugally accumulated and not a means to fight a social injustice such as slavery.

2) As the March 7, 1845 advertisement implies, Isaac Stubbs did not want to run the Golden Lamb. If he could not find someone to buy the hotel, he wanted someone to buy it or rent it from him. Hazel Spencer Phillips, the first director of the Warren County Historical Society Museum and a noted local historian, points out in her 1958 book *The Golden Lamb*,

"Several men tried their luck at managing it, but continuing advertisements signified that they won small success. Samuel Egbert, who had managed other Lebanon hotels, had an advertisement on August 6, 1847, proclaiming himself manager of The Golden Lamb. E. A. Wiles, another tavern keeper, advertised it as The Lebanon House on October 29, 1847. Other managers were Abner Ross, C. D. Roosa, and Giles Longstreth."

Research shows that there were other managers of The Lebanon House, as The Golden Lamb was now being called, in the mid-1800s. They included J. W. Edwards and W. H. Hart.

If Stubbs was using The Golden Lamb as a safe haven or "station" along the UGRR the manager of the hotel would, most assuredly, have had to have known about it. They would have also, one would surmise, had to have shared Stubbs' hatred of slavery and desire to aid runaways. Since the innkeepers changed frequently, finding such qualifications in hotel managers would not have been an easy task. Add to this the fact that secrecy was vital to the success of the UGRR. Having The Golden Lamb's involvement kept quiet during the 1850s, with so many people being involved, and having it remain unknown today, would be remarkable.

3) The Shaker Dining Room where the trapdoor with its “very old” lock and hinge was, for nearly 100 years, a separate business, that of a grocery, within the hotel. It did not become a Golden Lamb dining room until the 1940s. A 1936 first floor diagram of the Golden Lamb found in the Library of Congress show no doorway or any other access existed from that area to any other part of the building. In 1854, it was in all likelihood, also a private business. As far as the lock and hinges go they could have been put on that trap door anytime during the late 19th or early 20th century. (At the risk of starting another rumor, they could also have been put there during Prohibition to hide illegal alcohol, but that’s another article.)

4) The 1854 three-story addition to The Golden Lamb was added four years after the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850 went into effect. This law was part of Compromise of 1850 aimed at keeping both Slave and Free States satisfied. The law’s purpose was to appease the South. It gave slave-owners "the right to organize a posse at any point in the United States to aid in recapturing runaway slaves. Courts and police everywhere in the United States were obligated to assist them." Private citizens were now obligated to assist in the recapture of runaways and people who were caught helping slaves could serve jail time and/or pay fines and restitution to the slave-owners for the loss of their “property.” Many active members of the UGRR, including members of the Butterworth and Wales families in Warren County, stopped helping slaves escape after this law went into effect. Because of this, 1854 would be a dangerous time for Isaac Stubbs to begin his involvement in the UGRR.

5) Rather than The Golden Lamb being a good place to hide “in plain sight” it would have an easy place for strange black labors to be noticed in the center of Lebanon. Remember Isaac Stubbs never personally operated the hotel. If he were actually involved in the UGRR, it would have a lot easier, less dangerous and more logical for all involved to have him hide runaway slaves at his mill on the Little Miami River and not in The Golden Lamb.

**SUMMING UP THE CASE AGAINST:** Isaac Stubbs was a frugal businessman. He was more interested in making a profit than freeing slaves. He often tried to sell or rent The Golden Lamb. He never personally operated The Golden Lamb and went through nearly a dozen innkeepers prior to the Civil War. The mysterious trap door in the Shaker Dining Room was probably in a separate business within the hotel building and not controlled by Stubbs. The Fugitive Slave Law of 1850 threatened jail time and fines for those who aided escaping slaves. It would have had a chilling effect upon those who might have thought about getting involved in the UGRR in 1854 like Isaac Stubbs. Hiding slaves at his mill on the Little Miami River instead of the Golden Lamb would have been easier and safer.

Was The Golden Lamb part of the UGRR? We may never really know. There is circumstantial evidence that can be used to argue both ways.

It is a fact, however, that if the UGRR was to be successful, at any level, it had to be a secret. Many relocated fugitive slaves who had made their way through Ohio and, in many cases, Warren County to reach Canada refused to reveal the names of those who aided them in their flight to freedom. They had promised that they never would. And they never did.



**FREE Admission!**

# CIVIL WAR ENCAMPMENT

*On the Lawn* at Glendower

★ September 27 & 28, 2014 ★

Saturday 10-5, Sunday 11-4

Hear the cannons blast and the rifles fire!  
See Civil War soldiers in action!

The mansion will be open for guided tours  
(mansion tour admission charged for non-members)



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

# Downton Abbey Tea

August 16, 2014, 2-4 pm

*Bring a friend and wear your best or largest hat!  
Period dress and long skirts encouraged (but not required)...*

Enjoy a traditional WWI-era afternoon tea, with three courses.

Hear live chamber music from the Haydynators.

Tour the museum's gorgeous  
"Downton Abbey" clothing exhibit.

At the Warren County History Center, \$25, paid reservation required in advance.

Purchase online at [wchsmuseum.org](http://wchsmuseum.org)  
or call 513-932-1817.