

## IN THIS ISSUE

Thank You Chloe	1
Officers and Trustees	2
Curator's Corner	2
Calendar of Events	3
Volunteer Appreciation	3
Christmas at the History Center	3
William J. Orr	4
Halloween KidFest	6
LCHC Staff	6
Upcoming Meetings	6
Artifact Donations	7
Membership Application	7

## *Thank You Chloe*

August 7<sup>th</sup> was our volunteer intern, Chloe Simmons, last day working at the History Center.

Chloe graduated in the top 10 students of the 2020 Class of Benjamin Logan High School, and in December 2023, graduated from Ohio State University with a degree in English and a minor in History. She had planned on pursuing a Master's Degree in Museum Studies at Westminster University, London, England in January of 2024, but her studies were delayed until September.

In December 2023, while waiting to attend Westminster University, and to gain experience in the museum field, she contacted us about becoming an intern at the History Center. We gladly accepted her gracious offer to help.

For the last eight months Chloe has been assisting with several museum projects. Much of her time was spent with the uniform collection. Beth Marshall, the museum's Archivist and Assistant Curator, and Chloe organized, researched, and documented uniforms from the museum's textile storage. The purpose of this project was to ensure every uniform is accounted for, in good condition, and stored appropriately. Furthermore, to allow for easy access to the uniforms in the future, Beth and Chloe created a Microsoft Excel Sheet denoting the serviceperson's accession number (a number given for cataloging purposes) name, donor, branch, era and conflict served, items, where it is stored in textile storage, and extra information. The extra information, or notes, included years served, missions, rank, medal and patch information, and condition of uniforms. This project started in February of 2024 and ended in June of 2024, overseeing one hundred and eleven servicepeople's uniforms. Many of these uniforms will be on exhibit April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025, for the "Salute to Veterans" open house and will remain on exhibit for the rest of the year.

Chloe also accessioned several other items including re-housing a large collection of handkerchiefs from all over the world that had been collected by Rebecca Berry. The collection had been transferred to Logan County Historical Society from the Ohio History Connection. In addition, she used her skills to research and write text for the Indian Lake Open House, Facebook posts, and has been working on the upcoming Cold War exhibit.

Chloe was quick to learn, diligent, kind and pleasant to work with. She was willing to do whatever was asked and often made suggestions for better results. Chloe has been great to work with and we can't say enough good things about her!

We wish Chloe all the best with her new venture "across the pond" and we will greatly miss her joyful smile and eagerness to help.



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## LOGAN COUNTY HISTORY CENTER

521 East Columbus Avenue  
Bellefontaine, OH 43311

[www.loganhistory.org](http://www.loganhistory.org)  
(937) 593-7557

**History Center Hours**  
Wednesday–Sunday  
1:00–4:00PM



## CURATOR'S CORNER

We would like to thank the many people who supported the Logan County Historical Society/ History Center with monetary donations through our 2023-2024 Winter Appeal Letter campaign (November 2023-September 10, 2024). We appreciate your generosity in helping us with our continuing restoration of the Orr Mansion and our other special projects throughout the History Center. Your generosity goes a long way in helping us fulfill the Society's/History Center's mission to collect, preserve and promote Logan County's history.

*Todd McCormick*

Curator/Director

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# VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

MONTHLY \$20 GIFT CERTIFICATE DRAWING

*June*

George Wackerman

*July*

Bob Easterday

*August*

Ray Swisher



# 2024

## Calendar OF Events

### OCTOBER

12<sup>TH</sup> PIECEMAKERS WORKSHOP  
8:00AM Transportation Museum

12<sup>TH</sup> DAR MEETING  
10:00AM AcuSport Room

14<sup>TH</sup> PIECEMAKERS MEETING  
7:00PM Presidents' Room

21<sup>ST</sup> - 28<sup>TH</sup> MUSEUM CLOSED  
KidFest Preparation

26<sup>TH</sup> HALLOWEEN KIDFEST  
1:00-3:00PM History Center

### NOVEMBER

2<sup>ND</sup> CHRISTMAS TREE SET-UP  
8:30AM History Center

6<sup>TH</sup> CHRISTMAS TREE SET-UP  
9:30AM Transportation Museum

9<sup>TH</sup> DAR MEETING  
10:00AM Presidents' Room

11<sup>TH</sup> PIECEMAKERS MEETING  
7:00PM Presidents' Room

14<sup>TH</sup> BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEETING  
7:00PM AcuSport Room

27<sup>TH</sup> - 29<sup>TH</sup> CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING

### DECEMBER

7<sup>TH</sup> - 8<sup>TH</sup> CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE  
1:00-5:00PM History Center

9<sup>TH</sup> PIECEMAKERS MEETING  
7:00PM Presidents' Room

11<sup>TH</sup> LCHC MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
6:00PM Presidents' Room

13<sup>TH</sup> EVENING CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE  
5:30-7:30PM

14<sup>TH</sup> - 15<sup>TH</sup> CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE  
1:00-5:00PM History Center

23<sup>RD</sup> - JAN 1<sup>ST</sup> CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS

## CHRISTMAS AT THE HISTORY CENTER

OPEN HOUSE DECEMBER 7-8 & 14-15 | 1-5PM

SPECIAL EVENING HOURS ON DECEMBER 13 | 5:30-7:30PM

The annual Christmas at the History Center is scheduled for December 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-5:00. We will once again have a special evening open house on Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:30. The trees and rooms take on a special glow after dark.

We will have entertainment in the Orr Mansion's West Parlor and in the Transportation Museum, but places to sit and listen to the music are limited. We will be offering refreshments to the visitors in the Presidents' Room. We will also be handing out goodie bags with take home crafts for the children.

Please keep checking our website, [www.loganhistory.org](http://www.loganhistory.org), and our Facebook page for updates on the Christmas open house. Once we have everyone confirmed, we will put a schedule of musicians and a list of the tree and room decorators that will be participating in the open house on the website and on Facebook. We hope to see you at the 2024 Christmas at the History Center! We will be posting photographs of the decorated trees and mansion rooms on our website for those that cannot make it to the open house.

# WILLIAM J. ORR

BY BETH MARSHALL

In 1906, William J. Orr built his “dream home” on East Columbus Ave. in Bellefontaine, and it is now the “Orr Mansion” section of the Logan County History Center. He was in the lumber business with sawmills, planing mills, a spoke factory and a hoop factory.

In 1910, Mr. Orr went to visit his brothers, Cass (“C.P.”) and Elijah (“E.C.”), who were lumber dealers from Spokane, Washington. They had purchased a mine near Forest, Idaho on the Salmon River that produced gold, silver, and copper on 15 claims covering 300 acres. He was favorably impressed and invested, along with several other men from Logan County, including his sons, Weldon and Starl.

The following January, his sawmill in Bellefontaine burned. Three months later he went to Idaho and became superintendent of the Deer Creek Mining and Milling Co. In May, a letter was received from W.J. stating that they were waiting for the snowy, wet roads to clear before starting to haul machinery into the mountainous area. On a visit home in August, he reported that the sawmill was getting out about 100,000 feet of lumber for the buildings to house the mining machinery which was being delivered

at that time. When he came home for Christmas in 1911, he gave each of his children 1,000 shares of stock in the company worth \$1.00 per share.

On the 4th of July 1913, the mine was dedicated with a large party that included fireworks, supper at the Forest Hotel and dancing, which 200 people attended. In August of that year, Mr. Orr returned to Bellefontaine bringing a moving picture show about the Deer Creek Mining and Milling Co. that was shown at the Grand Opera House for investors and anyone interested in the mining operation. In 1915, he placed an ad for the “Free Motion Pictures” of the mining company to be shown at the theater in West Liberty. It featured “scenic views of the mountainous country, harvesting scenes, trains passing through the mountains, cowgirls and boys racing down the steep mountains”.

August of 1916 saw a major set-back for William Orr and his brothers and investors as there was an extensive fire at the mine. William was President and General Manager of the mining company at that time. The main building that housed the machinery burned, along with a barn, bunkhouse for the miners, a dwelling, and a 150-foot bridge. The loss was estimated at several thousands of dollars, but the main concern was the time it would take to get things

back in operation. The company was capitalized at \$1,500,000 and about one-third was from Logan Co. area investors. A Bellefontaine newspaper article from October of that year tells of Mr. Orr’s travels to Illinois and Cleveland while selling stock, “assisted by local people”, to get the funding to rebuild the mining operation. Several thousand dollars’ worth of stock had already been sold, the machinery was being overhauled, and the site was being prepared for rebuilding.

An article in the *Wallace* (Idaho) *Miner* in August of 1918 has Mr. Orr’s description of how he delivered 144,000 pounds of mining equipment to this very inaccessible site, but that the mine was ready for operation, and he exhibited a 6 oz. gold brick that had recently been produced in a test run.

In 1920, the International Lumber Co. was started by Mr. Orr’s brothers, and the following year Wm. Orr left mining and was working for them, inspecting their timber in British Columbia. A couple years later, E.C. invented a mechanical saw sharpener and started the Orr Saw Tooth Company, selling saw sharpeners that he and his brothers produced for the mills throughout the Northwest. William Orr passed away in 1927 and is buried in Spokane.



William Orr and Bear Cub he brought to Bellefontaine and raised



Willaim. J. Orr in Mine Tunnel



Orr's daughters Pauline, Cecille, Chloe Orr at Deer Creek M.&M. Co.



Deer Creek Camp in winter



WJ Orr at mine



Deer Creek Mine - After The Ball - Mine Grand Opening, July 4-5, 1913



Orr's brother Cass on rt. & Orr's son Starl at Mine Entrance



Mill at Deer Creek Mining & Milling Co



Transporting equipment to the Mill at Deer Creek Mining & Milling Co

# HALLOWEEN KIDFEST

SATURDAY | OCTOBER 26, 2024 | 1:00-3:00PM

The Logan County History Center will once again host our annual Halloween KidFest on Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-3:00 pm.

Participants will enter through the Logan County Transportation Museum doors and trick or treat through the museum bays. They will then make their way up to the Logan County Museum and trick or treat through the spooky hallways and decorated rooms before exiting the Museum and walking around the Orr Mansion. Before leaving, children will receive a pumpkin from Wenger's Produce (as long as supplies last) and a craft kit to take home with them to decorate their pumpkin.

There is no admission fee, but we do suggest bringing canned goods or non-perishable food items that will be donated to a local food pantry. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Volunteers will be in costume throughout the History Center. We welcome you to share your Halloween costume photos in front of the Orr Mansion via email to [historycenter@loganhistory.org](mailto:historycenter@loganhistory.org). We will then post them on the History Center Facebook page. We are looking forward to this year's Halloween KidFest. It is always one of our more popular events at the Logan County History Center.

The History Center will be closed for tours October 21-29 in preparation and teardown of Halloween KidFest.



## Upcoming Meetings

### LCHC MEMBERSHIP CHRISTMAS MEETING

DECEMBER 11, 2024 | 6:00PM

For this year's Membership Christmas meeting we are again asking everyone to bring finger foods (or whatever you want) for a light dinner and camaraderie. Table service and beverages will be provided. This will also be an important meeting as we will be voting on our new 2025 Board of Trustees and Officers. The dinner will take place in the Presidents' Room in the Museum basement.

Everyone will have the opportunity to view the Christmas trees and decorations throughout the entire History Center. We hope to see you here on December 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

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## 2024 LCHC STAFF

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Social Media/Website

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### Beth Marshall

Assistant Curator/Archivist

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### John McPherson

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### Toni McPherson

Bookkeeper/Payroll

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### Tim McPherson

Caretaker

[dtimmcperson@gmail.com](mailto:dtimmcperson@gmail.com)

Thank  
You!

JUNE 5<sup>TH</sup>, 2024 – SEPTEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2024

# ARTIFACT DONATIONS

Thank You!

**Warren Baughman**

Water sled pulled behind father's boat on Indian Lake

**Don & Susan Corwin**

Program and other items from Holland Theatre/Windmill Productions "My Fair Lady", books on using concrete, glass plate negatives Minnie & Grover Ansley wedding portraits, large collection of American Indian stone tools and projectile points

**Bruce & Louise Norris**

Blueprints/Engineer drawings of the proposed Highpoint Shopping Mall at US 33 & TR 55 (never built)

**Janet Blank**

Harding Machine Screw Co. WWII Army-Navy "E" Award program, large 19<sup>th</sup> century plate/dish collection, hand painted floor covering (by donor), 1871 shipping jug or container belonging to J.H. Green of Pickrelltown.

**Ada Griffin Estate**

James Carl Griffins WWII Army uniform (shirt & jacket)

**Dan & Pat Fawcett**

Bellefontaine High School yearbooks (1915 & 1917)

**Sharon DeVault**

Maple Lakes Farm Sugar Camp maple syrup tin

**James Schertzer**

1902 Sears. Roebuck catalog (reprint)

**Jean Leininger**

McGuffey Reader, TV Guide magazines, local bank deposit bags

**Rahe Mitchell**

Logan County High School Boys and Girls Choruses/Band (1951/1957) photos, Rushsylvania High School and Buckeye Local High School yearbooks

**Larry L. Page**

Polished flint from Flint Ridge

**Joyce A. Downey**

Cecil Marie Emery Liggitt's large button collection, WWII US Army Air Corps coveralls belonged to John P Jacobs of Rushsylvania

**Scott Elliott**

US Army uniform of Thomas Elliott (Vietnam War)

**Dava Royer**

BHS Class of 1969 reunion photos & papers, BHS "HI-LIFE" school newspapers, late 1960s BHS sports/student groups photos

**Hershel S. Wright**

Edison Cylinder Phonograph, cylinder phonograph/records, 1848 Logan County coverlet

**Carol A. Thurmon**

Photo of the 1912 Heath-Journell Family Reunion in Quincy

**Pat Ortli/Athenian Club**

Photo of Athenian members at the club's final meeting, meat grinder, various small hand tools

**Michael L. Smith**

1970 Logan County plat map

**Jimmy Taylor**

*Bellefontaine Examiner* and *The Advertiser* newspaper coverage of the 1978 Blizzard

**Margaret Patterson**

late 19<sup>th</sup> century hand-crank roller organ/music box, mandolin

**Maurice Ragma**

Zanesfield High School Class of 1934 class composite photo

**Kristie Kreiger**

Huntsville High School Class of 1928 class composite photo

**Kathy Zaborowski**

Political campaign buttons

**Tom Olson**

Commemorative plates from local churches

**Niki Ropp**

Bellefontaine elementary schools' yearbooks, BMS yearbooks

**Charles A. Huber**

Huber family tintypes, Andrew Huber's Civil War discharge, marriage license, & cane

**Mary Cartwright Delfs**

BHS programs, articles, etc. from mid-1960s

**Kurt & Laura Niemeier**

2023 Bellefontaine Hill Climb Revival participant plaque

**Bellefontaine Examiner**

Bound Logan County Gazette newspapers, adding machines from the Examiner office, Bellefontaine Country Club ledger

**Kathy Comer**

"The Best of the Mills Brothers" 2-Record Set with liner notes purchased at DeLong's in Bellefontaine

**Kevin Headinger**

DeGraff Centennial "Bearded Boys" photograph, Shriner's Clowns Bellefontaine Parade photograph

**Gary L. Heath**

Heath's Building Wreckers (Middleburg) sign

**LeeAnn Lusby**

1950s baby playpens

**Family of Mark & Karen Maier**

Angels of Bellefontaine Jr. Drum & Bugle Corps flag made by Georgia Harmon Maier in 1964, list of names of Angels members from reunion, Satan's Angels newspaper articles.

**Nancy Wade**

1902 West Mansfield Enterprise newspaper, Indian Lake photos from early 20<sup>th</sup> century, various local history booklets, 175th Anniversary Bellefontaine First United Methodist Church wood cut-out

**David Doss**

Zane Caverns photo/mail bag souvenir

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Your donation is tax deductible.

All donations of \$100.00 or more includes a yearly membership.

I am enclosing: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Cash  Check  Card

(Make checks payable to Logan County History Center)

Donations of \$500 and above will go towards the Pillars of History Campaign unless otherwise noted.

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