



Massillon Heritage Foundation

October 2017 Newsletter

President – David Darnell

The grant from the state of Ohio is moving along, but it is taking far longer than expected to get approval to use for much needed exterior work. State guidelines consider much of what needs to be done at Five Oaks to fall under the category of “repairs”, which wouldn’t qualify for grant funds. An example is mortar. The state considers this to be a repair that would last 5 years. The first major mortar work was done in 1973 when the building was 80 years old. The procedures used at that time (1973) have since proven to be inferior compared to present day practices. Numerous mortar joints have failed, allowing water infiltration. We have been dealing with this issue for 10 years, starting with a major water intrusion in the master bedroom in 2007. Some of the worst areas have received attention, as funds have permitted. The entire building needs complete mortar restoration, which if proper methods are used, should last for many decades.

Modifications are also needed to the gutters, which in some areas are unable to handle heavy rains. Other areas on the building exterior will also need work. When the building is protected from water, interior projects can move up on the list. With approval from the state, we will begin to tackle these issues.

We have begun dealing with the stone column that has been a source of concern. An update follows later in this edition.

Grants are certainly important in preserving a structure with the complexities of Five Oaks. The members, both new and those who have supported The Massillon Heritage Foundation for many years, have also contributed to the preservation efforts at Five Oaks. In addition to regular memberships, we continue to receive donations and bequests from members whose generosity is making a big difference in ensuring that Five Oaks will remain as beautiful as ever.

Education and Community Outreach Committee

Once again members of the Massillon Heritage Foundation and the Massillon Woman’s Club are linking arms to provide educational programs to the community.

Our biggest project is providing a program for the local school’s third grade children. The program meets the core curriculum’s component for community education. This program was very well received last year and we had many requests to continue the program. The program is presented in a fun and hands on manner that the children respond to well.

We are planning historical programs to offer the children that attend Massillon’s Boys and Girls Club as well.

Friday, November 10th, we will again present a program to honor our local Veterans, “**MILITARY MUSTER AT FIVE OAKS**”. The program will open with the Massillon American Legion Post 221 Honor Guard posting the colors. Local dignitaries will comment on their appreciation of the veterans and their service to our country. Featured will be the Navy during WWII with readings from the diary of Lazar Tarzan, RM3C, who served aboard the USS Russell #414 in the battles in the Atlantic and the Pacific. VOCI will entertain with patriotic music.

We would be so grateful to have more help on both the Education and Community Outreach Committee and the Heritage Events Committee. We have such a good time working together to produce our events and we learn so much as we research the history of Five Oaks and the McClymonds and Russell families. Please consider becoming a part of our team! If you are interested in joining us, call Linda Tarle at 330-809-0167, or any Heritage Board member.

Board of Trustees:

Massillon Heritage Foundation Officers for 2017-2018 are:

President, David Darnell

1st Vice President, Nancy Thatcher

2nd Vice President, Michael Thompson

Secretary, Lorie S. Pedro

Treasurer, Nancy Welch

Board members include: Gene Feller, Betsy Fink, Edward Hare, Peggy Haunty, Susan Keller, John Picard, Mary Ann Poling, Doug Scheetz, and Linda Tarle.

Retiring Board Member

THANK YOU!!!

Michael Jacobs– Joined the board July 2015, resigned in June. Travel from his home in the Cleveland area has made it hard for him to be as committed as he would like. He remains active with our house tours and is greatly missed on the board.

A Moment in History

Early History of Massillon Woman's Club and Massillon Heritage Foundation

- Sue Keller

On April 9, 1919, a small group of women met at city hall in Massillon to apply for a charter to organize a woman's club. a committee was formed to write the purpose and by-laws. At a second meeting on May 26, 1919, seventy women attended. They approved the purpose and by-laws and voted to offer memberships to all women of Massillon and by July 3 had over 600 members. Dues were \$2.00 per year with a onetime initiation fee of \$3.00.

On September 5, 1919 at the first regular meeting of the Massillon Woman's Club which was held at First Methodist Church, over 400 members attended. Edna Wales, daughter of Walter and Flora McClymond spoke for her sister, Ruth and herself in offering "Five Oaks" their empty family home to the Massillon Woman's Club as their meeting place.

In 1924, seeing that all was going well, the sisters gave the deed to Five Oaks to the Massillon Woman's Club with a stipulation that the house and property must be kept up in "original condition" and if not, the property would revert to the heirs.

All continued to go well at Five Oaks and in the early 1970's the Board of Trustees of the Club applied to the National Park Service for Five Oaks to be placed on the National Registry of Historic Homes. On April 24, 1973 word was received that this was granted.

On November 1, 1973 the Evening Independent published an article on the front page stating, "water is pouring through the walls of Five Oaks, elegant old home of the Massillon Woman's Club".

This was a critical time for the Board of Trustees. The house had been under the care of the Woman's Club for almost 53 years. They had a difficult time finding a contractor to do this type of critical work, finally hiring Frisco Systems from Lima, Ohio at an estimated cost of \$30 to \$40 thousand dollars.

The task of raising that much money was an even larger problem. They asked members, solicited businesses, begged the public, had fundraising projects and finally made the money. They realized they must find another way to go forward. Because of the nature of their organization, they could not offer tax write off for donations. The age of the home was also against them as it would only continue to have problems.

After consulting an attorney, they contacted the heirs of the McClymond's family. In addition, they kept the members of the Woman's Club informed through letters and meetings. (See original letters below)

Meetings with the McClymonds heirs and attorneys proved to be enlightening and helpful. The heirs agreed with their assessment and said the deed to Five Oaks could be transferred to an organization separate from the Woman's club which was approved to accept donations which were tax deductible. This organization could also be eligible to apply for money available for historic restoration as well as be responsible to oversee completion of these projects.

And so, Massillon Heritage Foundation, Inc. came into being in 1975 as a charitable, non-profit organization approved to carry on preservation and restoration of Five Oaks.

Below are copies of the original documents from 1975 and 1976.

The Massillon Woman's Club

210 FOURTH STREET NORTH EAST

Massillon, Ohio 44646

October 29, 1975

Dear Fellow Club Member:

The recent necessity to raise funds for the pointing of the stone of the building brought attention to two problems in connection with the Club's financing.

The first problem involved conditions contained in the original grant of the premises to the Club by Edna McClymonds Wales and Ruth McClymonds Maitland, the heirs of J. W. McClymonds, whereby it was required that the property be under the sole control of the Club and its Board of Trustees, that the expenses in maintaining the Club be raised annually and that upon default of these conditions, the property would revert to the heirs at their option. This provision prevented the Club from obtaining bank or savings and loan financing for the pointing project and also prevented the Club from making any transfer of the premises to a charitable foundation, which is now under consideration.

The heirs of Mrs. Wales and Mrs. Maitland have graciously agreed to waive the conditions and have executed a quit claim deed releasing the conditions, including the right of reverter.

The second problem involved gifts to the Club from foundations or other charitable institutions. Such gifts are not possible unless the recipient is on a list of eligible charitable donees published by the Internal Revenue Service. The Club has been unable to be so listed because of the Club nature of the organization.

Now that the building is listed on the National Register of Historic Buildings, the structure and grounds have recognized historical, architectural and educational significance, apart from solely housing the Club; and if transferred to a charitable foundation, such an organization may be eligible to be listed as a recognized charitable donee. The building and grounds would be leased to the Club for its purposes.

Such a foundation would have its own Board of Trustees responsible for the preservation and restoration and the educational programs involving the building and grounds.

The Board of Trustees of the Club has given this matter a great deal of consideration and has endorsed the plan, providing all the details can be satisfactorily accomplished and approval of the membership is obtained. There will be an open meeting of the Club on November 7, 1975, at 1:30 P.M. at which time the matter will be discussed and you will have an opportunity to approve or disapprove of the proposal. Your attendance at the meeting will be appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Blaine W. Paramore

Mrs. Blaine W. Paramore, Chairman
Foundation Study Committee

Mrs. William J. Stollar

Mrs. William J. Stollar, Co-Chairman

Miss Mary Blanche Oberlin

Miss Mary Blanche Oberlin
Club President

The Massillon Woman's Club

210 FOURTH STREET NORTH EAST

Massillon, Ohio 44646

February 9, 1976

Dear Fellow Club Member:

At the November 7, 1975, open meeting, members of the Woman's Club present approved the Board's proceeding in the organization of a foundation to be responsible for the preservation, restoration, and educational program involving the building and the grounds of the Club. The vote of approval was 99 for and 9 against. If you refer to the previous letter sent you, dated October 29, 1975, you may be aided in recall of the reasons for seeking establishment of a foundation.

Since then, Articles of Incorporation were drawn up by approved persons and filed with the Ohio Secretary of State. The name Massillon Heritage Foundation was adopted as one more appropriate for a public foundation. The fifteen-member Board of Trustees includes members of the Woman's Club and men from business, industry, and service in Massillon. The officers have been elected and committees are presently being formed to proceed with the responsibilities of the foundation.

The next step again involves you because transfer of property belonging to an organization can by law be done only with the approval of its members. There are two phases requiring your consideration: the first is acceptance of the quit claim deed executed by the heirs of Mrs. Wales and Mrs. Maitland, waiving conditions of ownership, including the right of reverter; the second is transfer of the property to the Massillon Heritage Foundation.

This important matter will be discussed at the open meeting of the Club on March 12, 1976, at 1:00 p.m. (Note the half hour earlier meeting time). At this time you will have an opportunity to accept the quit claim deed and to approve or disapprove the transfer of the property to the foundation. Your attendance at the meeting will be appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Blaine W. Paramore

Mrs. Blaine W. Paramore, Chairman
Foundation Study Committee

Mrs. William J. Stollar

Mrs. William J. Stollar, Co-Chairman

Miss Mary Blanche Oberlin

Miss Mary Blanche Oberlin
Club President



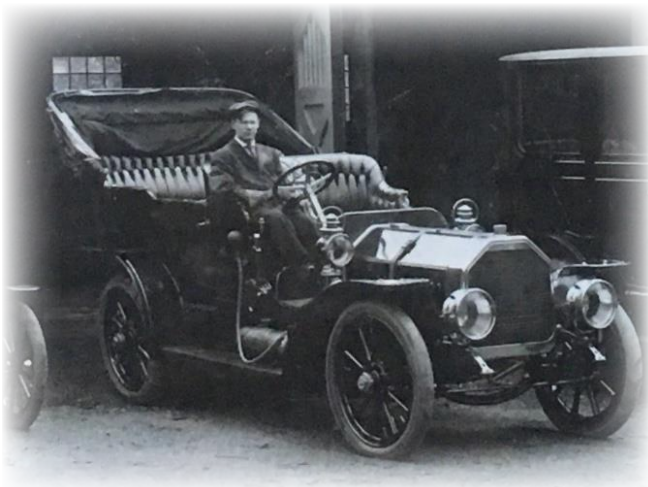
The Massillon Heritage Foundation, Inc.

A Moment in History

The Evening Independent

- November 25, 1908

The following newspaper article was published on November 25, 1908. It describes the October 1908 automobile accident that seriously injured Mr. McClymonds. The account of his return to Massillon also mentions the original elevator at Five Oaks. The car described is probably the Peerless touring car, shown in front of the garage.



MR. M'CLYMONDS SAFE AT HOME

Made Trip in a Private Car,
Arriving Last Night.

AT WESTFIELD, N.Y., SINCE OCT. 7

Mr. McClymonds was Injured in an Automobile Accident and Since that Time Has Been in a Hospital—Felt that He Must Get Back to Massillon.

When people saw Gordon & Hoinger's ambulance going over to the B. & O. station just before 5 o'clock Tuesday evening they thought that some one must have been injured on the railroad. A few of them, led by curiosity, followed it. To their astonishment, when the train came in, they saw a little party of very happy faced people emerge from a private car, followed by more people carrying a stretcher on which rested a very cheerful visaged patient. Then the light began to break and people realized that Mr. J. W. McClymonds, whose left hip was fractured in two places and dislocated in an automobile accident near Westfield, N. Y., on October 7, had come home and that the ambulance was waiting to convey him to his residence in Prospect street. Mrs. McClymonds, Miss Ruth McClymonds, Arvine Wales, Mr. McClymonds' son-in-law, E. C. Merwin and a trained nurse, made up the remainder of the party.

About a week ago Mr. McClymonds, in bed at the Chatauqua hospital in Westfield, suddenly made an announcement.

"I am going home," he said.

"Impossible," said his family and attendants.

"I think I'll go home next Tuesday," continued the patient.

"Impossible," said everyone again.

But Mr. McClymonds had his way. His physician began to feel that home-

sickness could not be discounted in considering the things which might help to retard the patient's quick recovery, and everybody went to work to prepare for the trip. The B. & O. Railroad Company sent a private car to Westfield. What is called an ambulatory pneumatic slip was put upon the patient. He was carried to the car on a stretcher and there put comfortably to bed. At Cleveland the car was transferred from the Lake Shore to the B. & O. tracks and attached to the regular B. & O. train leaving Cleveland at 3 p. m. In Massillon the stretcher again carried Mr. McClymonds to the ambulance, the ambulance took him carefully up Main street and down Prospect to his residence. He was carried on the stretcher to the house elevator, taken up to his own room on the second floor and put to bed. Not an accident marred the trip.

No one was ever happier to be at home again than is Mr. McClymonds, and his neighbors and fellow citizens generally are just as glad as he.

The accident in which Mr. McClymonds was injured occurred at the Glen Mill bridge, near Westfield, N. Y. Early on the morning of October 7 an automobile party consisting of Mr. and Mrs. McClymonds, Miss Ruth McClymonds, F. W. Arnold, and Mrs. McClymonds' maid left Jamestown, N. Y., for Massillon. Members of the party had the night before attended the wedding of Charles Steese, Jr., of this city, and Miss Pauline Vander Voort, of Jamestown. A little company composed of the other wedding guests from Massillon, stood at the Jamestown hotel entrance as the McClymonds car drove off. Everybody was in the best of spirits. Mr. McClymonds waved his hand to his friends as the engine started.

"Best looking lot of people I've seen since I left Massillon," he said. Every-

body laughed.

"And what's more," continued Mr. McClymonds as the car began to move, "what's more, I don't expect to see as good looking a lot again till I get home."

A few hours later these people, some of them part way home and others still in Jamestown, were horrified to hear that the McClymonds car had been wrecked and that Mr. McClymonds' injuries were serious, indeed his escape from instant death was considered miraculous.

The car was going down a steep hill leading to the bridge mentioned when the driver lost control of the brakes. He was confronted with the alternative of dashing over a fifty-foot embankment or running into a stone abutment. He chose the latter. With a grinding crash the big touring car struck the stonework. Mr. McClymonds, who occupied one of the front seats, was pinned between the car and the bridge. The other members of the party were terribly shaken.

At the Chautauqua hospital at Westfield everything known to surgery and medical skill was done for the patient but it was soon found that the tediousness of a slow recovery was to follow the shock of the injury. No one in Massillon expected Mr. McClymonds and his family home for another month or two. Then it was decided that the same problems would have to be met if the patient waited another eight weeks and that there was every chance for a quicker recovery at home than in the hospital.

This morning members of the family said that Mr. McClymonds had passed a good night. On Thanksgiving day he hopes to be down stairs and be able to greet some of the friends who are very anxious to see him.

House Restoration - Column Update

Engineers from the firm of Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates have recently visited Five Oaks to examine the cracked stone column on the north side of the house. When their analysis is complete, we will receive a report and recommendations for repairs. We are hopeful that this work will be completed this fall. Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates is headquartered in Northbrook Illinois, with numerous branch offices throughout the United States , including Cleveland. In addition to engineers and architects, the firm also includes material scientists. With state of the art testing equipment and laboratory facilities, we believe that this firm is the best choice for the diagnosis and solution to the repair of the pillar.



Tour Report: – Nancy Thatcher, Chair

The leaves are starting to turn, summer is over. The summer tour season has concluded and was a success. We had a total of 202 visitors. Some Sundays we had only six people, but the final Sunday we had 66 visitors. We have Margy Vogt to thank for the large number. She had an article in the Wooster newspaper and visitors came to do the walking tour of Fourth Street and Five Oaks. We have been collaborating with Margy the last four or five years and it had proved very successful for both. Thank you Margy. A big thank you goes to all our docents. Their love for Five Oaks shows as most of them work at least two Sunday tours.

If you are interested in becoming a docent, call either Doug Scheetz at 330-327-3368 or Nancy Thatcher at 330-833-0520.

Heritage Events – NEW – BE SURE TO MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

The Heritage Event Committee is busy planning an exciting series of four events for 2018. These events will not only be historically accurate, but they will be presented in a fun and entertaining manner. The Series is titled, “SHOWCASING MASSILLON HERITAGE”. The dates and brief description are as follows:

- 🍷 **January 20, 2018**
VOICES FROM FOURTH STREET - done in vignette style. A formal dinner will be served.
- 🍷 **March 10, 2018**
THE MCCLYMONDS LEGACY - paired with a Scottish menu and feature Scottish dancing, singing, and bagpipes.
- 🍷 **June 30, 2018**
THE RUSSELL LEGACY - hopefully will be held outside and feature picnic foods and include actual Russell equipment to view.
- 🍷 **October 6, 2018**
CHARLES F. SCHWEINFURTH AND THE BIRTH OF FIVE OAKS - paired with a formal dinner.

We certainly hope you will support the Heritage Foundation by attending these events. We know you will learn a lot about the early “movers and shakers” of Massillon and will be entertained while learning!

If you would like to join this committee please call Linda Tarle at 330-809-0167, or any Heritage Board member.

A Note from our Treasurer

When you donate to the Foundation, you are welcome and encouraged to specify how you would like your donation used. It can be applied to the general fund, the restoration and preservation fund, or the investment fund. You can also donate a memorial directly to the Massillon Heritage Foundation investment account through the Stark Community Foundation. If you currently have a personal account with SCF, it is a simple funds transfer or anyone can mail in a donation to SCF. SCF will notify us of the donation. Please contact any board member if you have any questions.

Save the date!

WASSAIL BOWL

Thursday, November 30, 6:30 – 8:30 pm



Massillon Heritage Foundation
210 Fourth St NE, Massillon, OH 44646

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Membership Chair **– Peggy Haunty**

The membership appeal for 2017-2018 was mailed in October. The Heritage Foundation depends on members for the base of support necessary to continue important restoration and preservation projects at Five Oaks.

We thank you for your past loyalty and ask that you continue your support in the future by sending your tax-deductible membership contribution. It is impossible to meet our goals without you!! Questions? Call Peggy at (330) 833-7108.