



Massillon Heritage Foundation

October 2018 Newsletter

President ~ David Darnell

Many thanks are in order for members of the Showcasing Massillon Heritage Committee for the many, many hours of hard work that they have given to produce four outstanding events. Not only were these programs enjoyed by those who were able to attend but they successfully raised funds that will be used for the continued restoration of Five Oaks.

Also a very special Thank You to retiring board member Susan Keller for her many years of dedicated service to Massillon Heritage Foundation. She will be greatly missed!

New exterior lighting is coming soon! Through the observation and talent of board member John Patrick Picard, Five Oaks will be illuminated with a new lighting system that will provide better and brighter coverage of the building and walkways. Preliminary tests indicate a much improved appearance. There will be no intrusion of lighting on the properties of the surrounding buildings. The new floodlights also use less energy than the existing units. New fixtures will also be installed at the stone entrance posts.

Phase 4 of the restoration of Five Oaks, funded largely by the \$350,000 grant from the State of Ohio is under way. During the past summer the roof at Five Oaks was examined by nationally known slate roof expert Joseph Jenkins. The purpose of this visit was to determine the overall roof condition, provide a list of immediate needs, and to establish a plan for future restoration. The overall condition of the roof is good. Many areas do, however, need extensive work.



Inspection of roof by slate expert Joseph Jenkins

The slate used is New York Red slate, quarried on the New York/Vermont border. It is among the most rare and expensive slate in the world. After 125 years it is still in very good condition. Mr. Jenkins believes that the slate should easily last another 50 to 100 years. The copper valleys, flashing, and gutters are a different story. Some of this material is still original and will need to be replaced soon. Some of the valleys have been replaced over the years. Many of the built-in gutters have leaked in the past. Some of these have been lined with rubber roofing material. This material does not have the lifespan of copper and will need to be replaced within a few years. The flat roof in the area around the skylight will also need replaced. While the slate is in good condition overall, there are still some slates that will need replacement. Some poorly executed repairs from years past will also need to be corrected. The porte cochere roof is in poor condition and will need to be replaced. The roof is very large and complex. It can be re-stored, although the costs will be very high. Estimates for total restoration of the roof run as high as \$200,000.



The exterior restoration project has been delayed by several issues, including deciding what roof items are essential, which would determine how much of the state grant would be available for mortar restoration. There have been problems with scheduling, making exterior work on a large scale unlikely this fall. We have been assured that the work on the cracked stone pillar on the north side will be completed this fall. Some interior safety and code related work should also be finished by the end of the year. We expect work to resume in the Spring as weather allows.

This restoration phase will move us closer to the goal of preventing water from entering and damaging the structure. In addition to the State Grant, a portion of the funding is provided through the generosity and support of the members of the Massillon Heritage Foundation and sponsors from heritage events. Thanks to all who continue to make the preservation of Five Oaks possible.

Education & Outreach Committee

– Linda Tarle and Patty Carmola

FIVE OAKS FIELD TRIP OPPORTUNITY:

On September 6, 2018, Patty Carmola and Linda Tarle requested, and were invited to make a presentation about FIVE OAKS to the STARK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION. The group included the Stark County school superintendents, principals, and curriculum directors.

The presentation included information about our specially designed field trip that provides an appreciation for the accomplishments of the past, and a learning experience that is directly connected to the third grade Ohio Standards in the Social Studies discipline.

The fun filled day provides the student an opportunity to learn about how the McClymonds family contributed to their community. They also take a step back in time as they experience the beauty and grandeur of Five Oaks.

The students will learn from a scavenger hunt, matching games, storytelling and much more. We also created a handbook that teachers can use in their classrooms to enhance their students learning experience. It includes a variety of activities that are aligned to strategies expected of students as seen on their assessments.

This wonderful opportunity is being offered free of charge to all Stark County schools.

Board of Trustees

President – David Darnell

First Vice President – Michael Thompson

Secretary – Lorie Pedro

Treasurer – Nancy Welch

Board members – Eugene Feller, Elizabeth Fink, Edward Hare, Margaret (Peggy) Haunty, Fred Horner, John Patrick Picard, Mary Ann Poling, Douglas Scheetz, Linda Tarle, Nancy Thatcher, Rhonda Warren. MWC Board President, Bonnie Popa, joins us at monthly meetings with concerns and activities of the Massillon Woman's Club.

Retiring Board Member – SUSAN KELLER – Thank you!!!

The Massillon Heritage foundation regrettfully accepted the resignation of Sue Keller at the October 9th board meeting.

Sue has been an active Heritage and Massillon Woman's Club member since the 1980's. She became a heritage board member in 1996 and served actively for 22 years. She was Membership Chair for 12 years, President of the board 2009-2010. During her term she led the MHF through the Historic Structures Report. The report set priorities for the preservation and restoration of Five Oaks. A result of this report was a \$125,000 Save Americas Treasurers grant that the MHF matched. The board will miss her enthusiasm for the Massillon Woman's Club and Five Oaks and her knowledge and wit at our meetings.

We send her a big THANK YOU for all her years of service!

Massillon Heritage Foundation Mission Statement

To receive and administer funds for the purpose of acquiring, restoring, preserving and maintaining properties of historical significance to Massillon and the surrounding area for use in scientific, educational and charitable purposes.

A Moment in History: Where Is This Place?

Kendal Burying Ground --- Union Cemetery --- Memorial Park

All three of these names refer to the same place. It is a small, forgotten cemetery on Andrew Street NE, bisected by 9th Street. The first cemetery in Massillon is the small Quaker plot on Seneca. This is the supposed burial site of Charity Rotch. According to Ruth Kane's book, Wheat, Stone, Glass and Steel, the Union Cemetery became the second cemetery in Massillon, the first public cemetery. Veterans from the War of 1812 and possibly the Revolutionary War are buried here. In 1848 the Massillon Cemetery opened and many of the bodies from the Union Cemetery were moved there, but not all. Over the years, as excavations were necessary for homes or utility work, bones were uncovered at or near the Union

Cemetery. No markers remain to denote graves.

Signs once identified the cemetery, one on each side of 9th Street and a flag pole was present. Neighbors took it upon themselves to daily raise the flag and keep the grounds neat. The park department maintained the signs and occasionally mowed. The signs are no longer displayed and the cemetery seems to have slipped into obscurity.

The Heritage Foundation's mission is to preserve historic sites in Massillon and western Stark County. To that end, we plan to erect a monument in the cemetery to honor those buried there and to identify one of Massillon's historic sites. Architect and board member, John Picard, has designed the monument and the board has approved proceeding with the project. We will notify Foundation members when the monument is to be installed.

(References for this article – Wheat, Glass, Stone and Steel by Ruth Kane and Kendal Burying Ground by Bob Bratton)

Drawing of marble cemetery marker below shows a wilting rose with the quote "So fades the blossoming rose" – Mary Ellen Young 10/1/1811. At the bottom reads:

KENDALL BURYING GROUND 1827-1848.



JOHN PATRICK
PICARD
ARCHITECT INC.

Tours - Doug Scheetz & Nancy Thatcher

This summer brought visitors from Akron, Dover, and Wooster to Five Oaks. We had 63 paid tourists and 10 on guest passes from Heritage members.

The spring brought two groups from Cleveland to tour our home. The total visits so far this year to Five Oaks is 137.

A big thank you to all our docents, without them we could not have tours. We also want to give a big thank you to Margy Vogt for publicity when she offers her Fourth Street Tours. It's wonderful to work together in keeping Massillon's history alive!

Recent visit from McClymonds relatives:

Elizabeth McLain "Betsy" Humes passed away October 7, 2018 at the age of 89. Her death brought relatives from New York and Maine to visit Massillon. Betsy was born and raised on Springhill Farm in Massillon Ohio. She was the great granddaughter of Flora McClymonds and the granddaughter of Edna McClymonds Wales. A memorial service was held in Massillon on October 22 at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church.

Her family visited Five Oaks on Sunday October 21st. Betsy's daughter, Jane Van Dam, and her son, Robert Wales Humes, brought some of their children and grandchildren to their first visit of Five Oaks. They marveled at the house and thanked the Massillon Heritage Foundation for taking good care of the house.

Events - Linda Tarle, Chair

SHOWCASING MASSILLON HERITAGE

THE RUSSELL LEGACY:

June 30, 2018, It was an extremely hot and humid day, but in the afternoon people that love and support Five Oaks started gathering to view the early 1900 antique Russell and Company farm and steam machines. The machines were on exhibit in the back lawn area of the Salvation Army. On site, in both character and costume, were local actors sharing the impelling story of the Russell family and how they started the Russell Company. The engines and tractors were set into action as the Russell story unfolded. After sharing in the outside "County Fair" type setting, the guests enjoyed a picnic style buffet dinner inside Five Oaks. The guests imparted the day having a better understanding of what the Russell and Company meant to the development of Massillon.

The Russell Legacy event was compiled by Doug Scheetz. He provided Russell engines and tractors from collectors and the Massillon Museum and gathered memorabilia that was displayed throughout Five Oaks.



Doug Scheetz starts up the engine...after a few tries!

CHARLES F. SCHWEINFURTH and THE BIRTH OF FIVE OAKS.

October 6, 2018, Playwright and Director, Lee Lavery and a staff of local actors, again enchanted our supportive audience with the in-depth and intriguing story of how the world famous architect designed and had built our beautiful, FIVE OAKS. Schweinfurth, being a complex and colorful character, was brought to life with true stories about his genius by local Massillon residents that witnessed the birth of Five Oaks. Our guests enjoyed a formal dinner, relaxing music and a perfect night of historically correct information.

John Patrick Picard, joined our committee to help plan this event. Thanks to all who donated time or items, especially Lee Lavery, Cleveland Public Library, Mike Jacobs, Marshall's Antique Warehouse, Mandy Altimus Stahl, and Paraographics Inc.



Actors Bob Gessner, Amanda Lint, Doug Scheetz, Eric Myers and Bryan Stahl perform in the ballroom for Charles F. Schweinfurth event.
Not shown: Lee Lavery, Amanda Hardman, and Mandy Altimus Stahl.

Photo courtesy of Altimus Stahl Photography

Thank you to all the businesses and individuals who contributed to the Showcasing Massillon Heritage events. All four events were extremely successful and resulted in many new visitors to Five Oaks as well as new information to the membership on the early years of the McClymonds family and Five Oaks.

The Showcasing committee consisted of Co-chairs Patty Carmola & Linda Tarle, Mary Ann Poling, Rita Schaner, Doug Scheetz, Nancy Thatcher, Rhonda Warren, and Nancy Welch. The final proceeds from the four events is \$34,863.49 and will be used for the restoration of Five Oaks. Many thanks to all involved!

SHOWCASING MASSILLON HERITAGE SPONSORS

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Nancy & Pete Welch
Paula Ziccardi

Upcoming Events ~ Save the date:

Sunday, December 2, 2018 – Community Candlelight Walk

Invitations will be mailed out for the events below:

- ★ Thursday, December 6, 2018 – WASSAIL BOWL – Members and Guests only
- ★ Monday, February 11, 2019 – MHF ANNUAL DINNER MEETING – Members only
- ★ Saturday, May 11, 2019 – GALA – Members and public are invited

Membership 2018-19 – Mary Ann Poling

After many years and dedication as Membership Chair, Peggy Haunty has turned over the position to Mary Ann Poling. We thank Peggy for her years of service as chair and for a job well done! As you know, our Membership mailing was sent out in September. Many of you have already responded with your 2018-19 memberships and some with additional donations for restoration of Five Oaks. If you know of someone that would like to become a member, feel free to share their name and address with me.

Thank you to those who have and to those who will be joining us in preservation and restoration of our beautiful “Five Oaks”. Let me know if you travel over the winter months and would like to provide an address for mailings we may send.

If you are working, be sure to check with your company to see if they offer Employee Matching Gifts! Feel free to contact me with any questions. If I don't know, I will be sure to direct you to the correct person for an answer!

A Note from our Treasurer – Nancy Welch

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

In Memory...

Richard (Dick) Winfield Gessner, June 30, 1928 – July 18, 2018

Massillon Heritage Foundation wishes to extend condolences to the family of Dick Gessner who passed away July 18, 2018. Dick and his family, owners of Massillon Cable, now MCTV, have been generous donors to Massillon Heritage Foundation over many years.

In addition to the membership and monetary donations, they also were there to film special events for our foundation. One event welcomed six descendants of the McClymonds', one descendant 5th generation through Edna and five descendants were 5th & 6th generation through Ruth. They also filmed our first tribute to the veterans in Massillon area, “Military Muster at Five Oaks” and gave complimentary copies to some of the veterans.

We wish to express our thanks and appreciation for their generosity.

Give to the Ohio History Fund on your State Tax Return!

The Ohio History Fund is made possible by the voluntary contributions of individual Ohioans, who donate a portion of their Ohio income tax refunds. It is a way for Ohioans to contribute to state and local history projects by donating on the state personal income tax form. Donations are tax deductible.

The History Fund is a competitive grant-matching program that is one of four “tax check-off” funds found on Ohio taxpayers' income tax forms. If you are not receiving a refund, you can still donate by giving directly to the Ohio History Connection and designate your gift to the “Ohio History Fund.” <https://www.ohiohistory.org/preserve/local-history-services/history-fund/history-fund-guidelines>

Massillon Heritage Foundation
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Website – Nancy Welch

The Massillon Heritage Foundation has a great website. You can view it at five-oaks.org. It contains information on the McClymonds family and Schweinfurth, beautiful pictures of the interior and exterior of the building, news of upcoming events and access to the newsletters. It's an excellent resource and a good way to introduce people to our wonderful treasure. We welcome any feedback or suggestions about the website.

Visit **five-oaks.org** for history, tours, events & membership information