

Massillon Heritage Foundation

March 2017 Newsletter

President – David Darnell

In this newsletter we have many topics to present, including updates on Five Oaks, historical information, a McClymonds family visit, a look at the automobiles in the garage, and changes in our board of trustees.

Member Craig Bobby has provided us with a great newspaper article that opens a window into Massillon of 1902. After reading this I'm sure that you will agree that it sounds like a wonderful place to live in. Five Oaks today is still much the same as it was when that article was published because of the dedication and generosity of many people over the years. As always, we appreciate all those who continue to support Massillon Heritage through memberships and additional gifts. You are making a difference in the preservation of Five Oaks.

New Joint Committee – Education and Community Outreach

PURPOSE:

The Massillon Heritage Foundation and Massillon Woman's Club joint Education and Community Outreach committee strives to:

1. provide informative programs for all age groups about the history of Massillon's prominent families and the role they played in the development of the city
2. provide programs highlighting the historical structures in Massillon and providing access to these structures to community members
3. make the general public more aware of both groups and their goals
4. become more involved in educating young people about Massillon's history

ACTIVITIES OF THE EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE TO DATE:

July 29, 2016 - Combined event with The Russell Collectors and Spring Hill for children from the Boys and Girls Club of Massillon. Thirty 5th and 6th graders along with their chaperones attended.

August 9 & 10, 2016 - Hosted six of the McClymonds' descendants and their spouses. One descendant



MHF Board Member, Doug Scheetz, speaks to Boys & Girls Club

was 5th generation through Edna, and five of the descendants were 5th and 6th generation through Ruth.

September 14, 2016 - Provided a program to the Massillon Tiger Freshman Football team on table etiquette and general manners and social skills.

September 22, October 20, and November 3, 2016 - Provided an all-day program to 300 third graders in the Massillon School system to meet the "Community Component" of their Core Curriculum.

November 10, 2016 - Held a program to honor all veterans called "THE MILITARY MUSTER AT FIVE OAKS". Majestic Voice singers and Nino Millin on piano provided entertainment. Speakers were Mayor Kathy Catazero-Perry and Judge Edward Elum.



Descendants Alexander Dean, Stephen McLain, and Hazel Hackbarth



Jean Rice, as Mrs. McClymonds, with Hazel's children

(Insert Majestic Voice Photo)



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, Michael Jacobs, Susan Keller, John Picard, Mary Ann Poling, Doug Scheetz, and Linda Tarle.

Linda Van Voorhis Tarle grew up in Newcomerstown, Ohio. She attended Massillon School of Nursing, Akron University and Ohio State University. She received her RN, a BS in Health Care Management, holds certification in Nursing Management and Gerontology, and is a Licensed Nursing Home Administrator.

She is married to Steve Tarle, has two daughters and their husbands, two step-sons and their wives and 9 grandchildren.

Linda has served or is currently serving on the following Boards: Massillon Commission to Advance Literacy, Massillon Woman's Club Board-Past President, Massillon Salvation Army.

Linda also finds time to volunteer at First United Methodist Church, Docent at the National First Ladies' Library, Massillon Salvation Army, Massillon Library Book Club, Massillon Woman's Club, Eastern Star Oriental Chapter #106

Doug Scheetz was born and raised in Massillon, graduated in 1991 from Washington High School. Graduated from the Columbus College of Art and Design in 1996.

Doug currently lives on his farm in Louisville with his wife Kristine (a teacher), son Quintin (17) and daughter Landyn (11). After several years in the publishing and advertising business he started Scheetz Design llc in 2006. Scheetz Design llc currently provides design and marketing services for several companies in Stark, Holmes, and Wayne County.

Doug is a founding member of the National Russell Collectors Association. A lifetime member of the Tuscarawas Valley Pioneer Power Association, and a collector of Russell & Company equipment, including steam engines, and memorabilia from Massillon's industrial age. Doug also is a consultant to the National Board of Directors for Horse Progress Days, a major Draft Horse Industry event, and is member of his church consistory.

John Patrick Picard grew up in a small town outside of Boston, Massachusetts and is a graduate of Dean College and Kent State University School of Architecture. John's architectural practice, located in Downtown Massillon, will be 21 years old this spring and is accredited with architecturally significant projects such as the corporate headquarters for Brewster Cheese, Poly Packaging, and ETANK. John developed the Shearers Foods LEED Platinum Certified Millennium Facility and was the restoration architect for Saint Peters Church in Canton. John teaches Understanding Architecture at Kent State University and is an expert in accessibility design. John and his family live in Zoar, Ohio.

Retiring Board Members

THANK YOU!!!

These members worked hard in obtaining grants, house restoration, volunteering at events and dedicated so much to our organization. They remain active members and will be greatly missed. We thank you for your many, many years of service in keeping our home a treasure for all to see!

Harold Weatherbee – Joined the board in 1982 and served as President 1990 - 1991, retired from board in 2016.

Gary Martzolf – Joined the board in 2008 and served as President 2013 – 2016, retired from board in 2016

Alan Edie – Joined the board in 2002 and served as President in 2006 - 2007, retired this year.

A moment in History - Excerpt from
*"A Gallant Sisterhood" – Story of the Massillon
Woman's Club 1919-1944 – Anniversary Edition*

"The Club House"

The site of the McClymonds' homestead, which by deed of gift became the property of the Massillon Woman's Club, was purchased by J. Walter McClymonds from Dr. J. Watson, in 1891. Older club members remember Dr. Watson's house, with its large grounds, greenhouse in the rear, surrounded by a high spiked fence of iron, located at the corner of what is now known as Fourth Street and North Avenue. The McClymonds place was called Five Oaks, because of the old oak trees near the front of the house.

Building began in 1892. J. W. Schweinforth, of Cleveland, was the architect. The stone of which the house was built came from the Everhard Stone Quarry, of Massillon. Special tools were made for its cutting and carving and fifty stone masons, some of them from Scotland, were engaged in the work. The house was completed at a cost of about \$200,000.

The paneling of the rooms is of white oak, curly birch, white walnut and mahogany. The doors are of massive oak. Carving and stone sculpture are to be noted throughout. The reception hall has a ceiling of quarter-sawed white oak in hand carved squares, mosaic painted centers. On its octagonal pillars are small fleur de lis, carved in relief.

A Tiffany glass window showing an angel-like figure, representing Peace, and the word Salve, meaning welcome, lights the hall over the first stairway landing, at the east. The stairway is of oak and solid mahogany. Carved oak representations of lions decorate the newel posts.

The dining room has plaster walls, painted and figured by hand, and a beamed ceiling of solid San Domingo mahogany. It has a ten-foot fireplace of Numidian marble. The mahogany table and chairs were made to order according to special designs. The ball room is 45 feet long, 40 feet wide. Adjoining it are two refreshment rooms and balconies. The bed rooms, used by the club for committee and class meetings, with adjoining bath and dressing rooms, are characterized by convenience and beauty. All the lighting fixtures were designed and made by Tiffany."

Capital Campaign – Ed Hare, Chairman

Raising funds to keep Five Oaks maintained and properly restored has always been a challenge. This was the main reason the Massillon Woman's Club transferred the property to the newly formed Massillon Heritage Foundation March 12, 1976. One of the largest projects that shifted the financial responsibility from the MWC to the MHF was grinding out the old mortar at every joint and replacing it with the matching red mortar, then sealing it properly. In spite of problems encountered, the MWC did raise \$40,000 for the pointing project which cost \$30,000. The MWC realized further projects of similar scope would need a wider base of support. The Massillon Heritage Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization and its purpose is to restore and preserve Five Oaks for the enjoyment of future generations.

The "very first" MHF list of important projects included plaster repairs on the third floor ballroom, installation of a fire escape from the third floor, replacement of the sidewalk on the 5th Street side of the property, and replacement of the floor boards in the gift shop. A \$6000 matching grant was approved for copper finials, gutters, and downspouts, and restoration of some of the fireplaces. Rewiring of all lighting fixtures was accomplished.

Rewind to 2017 and projects of major concerns continue to surface. Our largest concern right now is a sizable crack in one of the stone columns. We are trying to secure the proper expert to evaluate the situation and come to the correct solution to restore it. The outside of the building stands in need of repair as well. Estimates for these projects are not completed, but our special projects funds are under \$19,000 and we need to be able to move forward as soon as we can.

In May of 2016 Governor Kasich signed a bill that brings \$12 million to various Stark County projects. The bill was sponsored by Sen. Scott Oeslager, (R-Canton) chairman of the influential finance committee. In the House, Rep. Kirk Schuring, (R-Jackson) recently tapped as majority leader by Ohio House Republicans, was influential in getting money for Stark County as well. Five Oaks Historic Home is slated to receive \$350,000. While this is proposed for 2017-2018, no indication has been given as to when we will receive these funds. For certain, sooner would be better than later.

Tax season is upon us and it is a wonderful time

to assist organizations such as MHF with your tax deductible gift. Your check may be mailed to Massillon Heritage Foundation, 210 Fourth Street NE, Massillon, Ohio 44646. As always, we thank you for your support of Five Oaks and the Massillon Heritage Foundation.

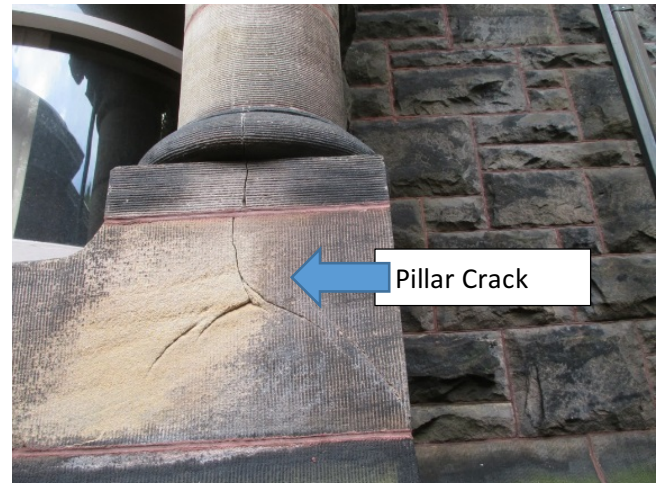
House /Restoration

The restoration project on the NW chimney was completed in September at a cost of \$9,990. Tree saplings were removed from inside the chimney and the area was treated to prevent further growth. All of the deteriorating mortar was removed and repointed on all four sides of the chimney from the top down to the roofline. Biological growth was also removed from the stone on the wall behind the fire escape.

The tree growing out of the chimney had not been removed until now due to the fact that the 60 foot aerial lift that was used on a previous project was unable to reach high enough to allow the workers access inside the chimney. The higher and wider lift needed to reach the top of the chimney was extremely difficult to maneuver along the narrow, winding driveway, taking nearly an hour to do so.



As this piece of the exterior restoration work is completed, another unexpected one has materialized. A crack has developed in the stone pillar at the curved window on the North side of the house. A structural engineer has inspected the pillar. The basement was also inspected. There is no evidence of any settling or foundation damage. It is believed that the stone that the pillar rests on is failing, probably due to a natural flaw. We have requested further analysis and a solution from another firm with more advanced equipment to better assess the condition and strength of the stone. It will be necessary to correct this problem as soon as a solution is found.



We have completed a number of masonry restoration projects to the building, stopping the intrusion of water in those areas, but many more areas need attention. The number one priority, after the pillar, is to stop the infiltration of water. Our architect has recommended that we focus on masonry, along with problematic gutters and roof issues, before proceeding with more interior restoration. We are currently working on details to use the 350,000 grant from the State of Ohio to continue with this much needed work.

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.

The McClymonds Automobiles

This photo, one of many wonderful photos given by McClymonds great - great - granddaughter, Hazel Dean Davis Hackbarth, shows the McClymonds garage and fleet of automobiles. David Schultz has identified the three cars. The small runabout on the left is a 1907 Studebaker electric. The two larger cars appear to be Peerless automobiles circa 1905-1908. The brick garage, designed by architect J.M. Bostick, has been remodeled and enlarged into the

lovely home across from Five Oaks on North St. The rooftop cupola is still visible today.

There are so many details to explore in this picture. Peerless automobiles were manufactured in Cleveland and were considered one of the top three luxury cars in America at the time, along with Packard and Pierce Arrow. What makes Peerless especially interesting is that the President of the company was Louis McClymonds, brother of J. Walter.

The touring car with the chauffeur at the wheel is probably the vehicle in which Mr McClymonds was seriously injured in while returning from a wedding in Jamestown NY in October of 1908. Visible at the right of the photo is the rear of the home of Mr and Mrs Charles Steese, whose son's wedding Mr and Mrs McClymonds, daughter Ruth, and two others, were returning from at the time of the crash in Westfield NY.

The account of Ruth's wedding in 1909 mentions that after the ceremony the newlyweds were driven to the train station in the McClymonds limousine. This beautiful machine, on the right, appears to have an enclosed passenger compartment and an open-sided front. A speaking tube is visible for communication from the passengers to the chauffeur.

NOTE: More articles on the vehicles and Mr. McClymonds accident to come in next newsletter



Massillon – September of 1902 – Cleveland Plain Dealer

The more passionate history aficionados within our local membership have no doubt read much of what was being written long ago about Massillon by writers local to the area. But, have you ever seen an account written from the perspective of a visitor from elsewhere? The following narrative was written by a reporter on assignment from the Cleveland Plain Dealer – quite nearly 115 years ago. Wonderfully, many of the architectural subjects mentioned have survived with a tangible presence to this very day. Among these is our very own Five Oaks (although somewhat amusingly misidentified!).

Special Correspondence of the Plain Dealer.

MASSILLON, O., Sept. 20.—Way back in '46 Massillon, sixty-five miles south of Cleveland, on the Tuscaraw^{ss} river and the Ohio canal, used to be called "the wheat city." It was then one of the greatest wheat markets in the state.

In these days it is better known as the center of the Massillon mining district and as one of the most prosperous manufacturing cities of its size in Ohio.

Since the inauguration of a good train service on the B. & O. railroad Cleveland visitors have been able to reach Massillon in just two hours and five minutes. Pittsburg is reached in about four hours by the Pennsylvania railroad. The city was named by Jean Baptiste Massillon, a celebrated French divine, but not even the oldest Massillon resident attempts to pronounce his name correctly, and the brakeman's nasal call of "Ma'-as-lop" is a fair sample of the average citizen's enunciation of the sibilant appellation.

Massillon's population, according to the last census, is 11,944. The city is divided, north and south, by its principal thoroughfare, Main street; east and west, by the Ohio canal. Most of the great manufacturing establishments are situated along the line of the canal and river. They include the immense agricultural implement plant of Russell & Co., the Hess-Snyder Co., manufacturers of furnaces, stoves and pumps; the Massillon Iron & Steel Co., several large glass factories, three large flour mills and immense brewery, beside smaller factories where pianos, tables, gloves and skirts are made.

The principal resident streets of the city are known as Main and Prospect. They are broad, well paved streets, shaded

with large maple trees and bordered with fine houses. "Seven Oaks," the home of J. W. McClymonds, compares favorably with any of the handsomest Euclid avenue residences. Mr. and Mrs. McClymonds are social leaders. They have spent much time abroad. Their home contains one of the finest private collections of paintings in this part of the country. Mr. McClymonds has also a fine library.

A beautiful, old-fashioned house on this street is the home of Judge and Mrs. A. J. Ricks, formerly of Cleveland. Charles Steese, president of the First National bank, occupies a palatial residence on the same thoroughfare, and nearly opposite Jesse J. Pitts, assistant treasurer of Russell & Co., has recently built a fine house of colonial design. On the corner of Prospect and Plum streets stands a tasteful three-story building, the quarters of the Massillon Social club. Here members of the Massillon smart set gather to play pool, billiards, ping-pong, etc., and here during the season weekly hops and card parties take place and many fine balls are given, it being possible to secure the club rooms for private affairs. The large ball-room occupies the third floor.

The Massillon free public library is also situated on Prospect street. The building stands back in the midst of an extensive lawn. It was formerly the residence of the Nahum Russell, and was presented to the city by Mr. Russell's daughters, Mrs. J. W. McClymonds of Massillon and Mrs. Louis McClymonds of New York.

Among the many handsome residences on Main street are the homes of Charles M. Russell, vice president and secretary of Russell & Co.; Mrs. J. P. Burton, Elmer E. Fox and William B. Hurzberger. H. A. Croxton, secretary-treasurer and manager of the Massillon Iron & Steel Co., the oldest son of S. W. Croxton of Cleveland, is erecting what will be a very fine house on the south side of the street,

near Prospect. One of the prettiest among the smaller houses on this street is that of Per Lee Hunt, assistant treasurer of the First National bank and a nephew of Jerome B. Zerbe of Cleveland.

The churches of Massillon are twelve in number. The denominations are Roman Catholic, Episcopal, Presbyterian, Methodist, Reformed, Lutheran and Baptist. The Salvation army has a Massillon corps and a small body of Christian Scientists hold weekly meetings in a room at the corner of Prospect and Wellman streets.

The city has an excellent public school system and is one of the few towns of its size having ample accommodations for pupils. Two handsome buildings erected this year are fine examples of modern school architecture. The older school buildings are also solid and substantial and are well heated and lighted.

Fronting on Main street, in the business section of the city, is a well kept park. Here the two best musical organizations, the Military and the Harmonia bands, give weekly concerts during the summer months. The park and streets in its vicinity present a gay appearance on these occasions. People who have spent the earlier portion of the evening driving manage to return in time to enjoy the music, and the curbs are lined with handsome traps. Verandas of near by houses are filled with gaily dressed listeners and the sidewalks are crowded. The drives about Massillon are charming, no matter what direction is taken. A favorite one is over the hills west of the city into Wayne county. The proprietors of an old-fashioned inn at Mt. Eaton are always ready to serve dinners or suppers to Massillon driving parties.

The buildings of the Massillon state hospital occupy a piece of rising ground about two miles south of the city. They

are considered the finest of any similar institutions in Ohio. Eight hundred patients are accommodated. Dr. H. C. Eymann, formerly in charge of the Cleveland hospital, is the superintendent.

The club rooms of the Massillon lodge of Elks are located on the second floor of a down town business block. They are handsomely furnished and are the scene of many fine social functions. The Massillon Trades and Labor assembly hall occupies the top floor of a large block in South Erie street.

Massillon's water supply comes from artesian wells owned by the Massillon Water Co. and is shown by analysis to be unusually fine and pure. The grounds surrounding the pumping station in the northeastern part of the city are kept like a park. An artificial lake is covered with a rare specimen of water lily and beautiful beds of foliage brighten the landscape.

The richest farm land in the state spreads out to the south, west and north of Massillon. A proposed electric line is expected to draw an immense trade from the farming and coal mining population to the north. As it is, the business section of the city is crowded with country conveyances every day, and on Saturday particularly the stores are filled with country traders.

In 1894 Massillon attained a certain degree of distinction as being the home of "Gen." Jacob S. Coxey, leader of the commonweal army, and the starting place of that forlorn host which marched to Washington. Mr. Coxey owns an extensive silica sand quarry north of town, but his present business interests are in Mt. Vernon and he makes his home there. The city has one daily evening paper. It has two large hotels and a number of smaller ones.

Tour Report: Nancy Thatcher, Chair

Five Oaks received 250 visitors in 2016. Sunday summer tours brought 143 and scheduled tours brought 107. Thank you to all who helped as tour guides and to Sue Keller who set up the Summer Tours. A special thanks to Margy Vogt, scheduling her Historic Fourth Street tours in July and August to coincide with our Sunday tours and provided publicity. Collaboration worked well for both of us. Heritage coffers received \$1,329 for our efforts. If each Heritage member would bring one person to tour Five Oaks on a Sunday, we would double our take. That is your challenge as members for 2017. If you are interested in becoming a tour guide my phone number is 330 833 0520.

Gala Event

– moving to Fall 2017

– look for future mailings

Membership Chair– Peggy Haunty

Thank you to all the members on the following list for supporting our Massillon Heritage Foundation. We appreciate all levels of giving. Please note anyone having an asterisk * by their name, gave an additional amount for our restoration and preservation fund. So far this year we have 280 memberships totaling \$17,395 and an additional \$1,125 donated for restoration and preservation. Forgot to join this year? It's never too late to join us!

Questions? Call Peggy at (330) 833-7108.



The Massillon Heritage Foundation, Inc.

Summer Tour Schedule - Saturday, June 24 – Make it a day at Five Oaks!

- Ruth & Edna's Lawn & Garden Sale – opens at 10:00 am – 2:00 pm.
- Majestic Voice singers perform at 11:30 am

- Self-guided tours of Five Oaks
from 12:00 – 2:00 pm cost \$7.00
- Historic Fourth Street tour with Margy Vogt
at 2:00 pm cost \$7.00
- Enjoy both tours for \$14



Sunday Afternoon Tours at 2:00 & 3:00 pm are scheduled for the following dates: July 9, 16, 23 & 30 and August 6, 13, & 20.

The guided tours begin at 2:00 and 3:00 pm each scheduled Sunday. Adults are \$7 and Children \$3.

Special Sunday Tour, July 23 – Massillon's Millionaires Row with Margy Vogt 1:00 pm followed by Five Oaks Historic home tour - \$7 each or both for \$14.

Special Sunday Tour, August 20 – Massillon's Millionaires Row with Margy Vogt 1:00 pm followed by Five Oaks Historic home tour - \$7 each or both for \$14.

Interested in becoming a docent for group or summer tours? Contact Sue Keller 330.833.8449, or Nancy Thatcher 330.833-0520.

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

The Ohio History Fund is a way for Ohioans to contribute to state and local history projects by making a donation 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.” Website is: www.ohiohistory.org/about-us/ohio-history-fund