



# Massillon Heritage Foundation

## Summer 2023 Newsletter

### President’s Report – David Darnell

The Perspectus Architectural firm is nearing completion of an update to the Historic Structure Report of Five Oaks.

This update of the original report from 2011 will provide an evaluation of the present condition of Five Oaks and provide recommendations to best preserve and restore Five Oaks. Restoration projects are also prioritized to allow more urgent needs to move to the top of the list. It appears that the estimates for all recommended projects could total well into seven figures. While such a large sum is beyond our present resources, we do have funds available to begin work on several necessary projects. These include additional work on the roof, and also work that is needed on the heating system. Depending on the amount of work needed on these items, we would also like to begin some long-awaited restoration of interior spaces. The interior work proceeds slowly, partly due to the costs involved, but also due to the difficulty in finding persons qualified to do the work while meeting Historic Preservation standards.

If there is a project at Five Oaks, large or small, that you would like to sponsor or contribute to, let us know. The continual support of the members of this organization continues to make the preservation of Five Oaks possible. The renewal of memberships, and the generosity of members that provide additional donations all contribute to the success of the Massillon Heritage Foundation's mission. Thank you!

### Board of Trustees

President.....David Darnell  
Co-Vice Presidents.....Eric Myers and Larry Slagle  
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Kathleen Bachtel, Christine Bowman, Bill Dewald, Jeff Doll, John Patrick Picard, Roseanna Pizzino, and Linda Tarle.

### Five Oaks House Report

The carriage drive and surrounding area has received some much-needed attention.



The landscaping along the north side of the drive has been cleaned up, including the removal of tree stumps. Along the south side of the drive, the crumbling retaining wall was rebuilt. The drive itself, while not used for vehicular traffic, nevertheless is an attractive feature in the appearance of the front of the house. The drive was not originally brick as was thought at one time. Brick was visible in some spaces

beneath the old crumbling asphalt, but it appeared to be re-used brick with mortar still attached, not paving brick. In addition, the brick had been placed in irregular sections that looked like an attempt to direct rainwater toward the drains. Asphalt had been applied at some point in the past, and it was felt that this would be acceptable to repave the drive in the same way. In addition to safety and aesthetics, it is hoped that this will improve the drainage at the top of the drive, near the porte cochere.



## Five Oaks Garden Restoration

Those who attended the Massillon Woman's Club "Arts in the Garden" event may have noticed the beautification that has been done to the gardens and grounds adorning Five Oaks. Lead by Patty Carmola and Sheri Grunwald, the many volunteers of the MWC Garden Committee have worked very hard to restore what was once the Memorial Rose Garden. The diseased rose bushes have been replaced by perennial blooms and flowers can still be added in memoriam. The orbital sundial has also been replaced by a spectacular piece of local history. The flower urn, generously donated by Roseanna Pizzino, is one of many which at one time stood outside the Aultman-Harter Mansion in Canton. While the mansion unfortunately no longer exists, it is thrilling to have a piece of it in the Five Oaks collection. The urn acts not only as a beautiful addition, but also as a historical link to Cornelius Aultman – Canton's first industrialist and one of the most respected businessmen in America during the Civil War.



To see what other plans are in store for the gardens of Five Oaks you can read the Outreach and Community portion of this newsletter. For further reading on Aultman, we encourage you to pick up a copy of Richard Haldi's book, "Cornelius Aultman: Ohio's Great Civil-War-Era Industrialist."

## Moment in History

Joseph K. Russell was superintendent of the lumber department at The Russell and Company. He was an uncle of Mrs. Flora McClymonds. This is a view of the Joseph Russell residence, from a postcard mailed in 1907. Along the edge, the handwritten message says "Congratulations from 274 E. Main St. Massillon O."



There is no signature on the card, but the home was still occupied at that time by Joseph and his daughters Mary and Jessie Russell. The house numbering system and street name has since changed. The tree lined street at the left is Lincoln Way East. The house was at the corner of what is now Lincoln Way E. and 11th St NE. The view is looking west. The lawn in the foreground is now the site of the Taco Bell. The house is still standing, however, at some point it was moved just north of its original site and rotated 180 degrees. It now faces Federal Ave. The east side of the house as seen in this photo is now facing west. The home was built in 1883, and was one of several Massillon Homes designed by Cleveland architect Nevins P. Charlott. These included homes for Jacob Hess, and Bernard McCue. The McCue house later became the Massillon Club (razed in 2013).

## Tour Chair – Kathleen Bachtel

Thank you to the docents who have assisted with summer tours! We continue to welcome the community to Five Oaks on Sundays in August at 2:00 and 3:00 p.m. We are currently working to expand accessibility and engagement for all who wish to visit the mansion, in addition to other historic sites in Massillon. New opportunities may include: self-guided audio tours, grounds, gardens, and architecture tours, historic community walks, and a special holiday tour event.

As a reminder, if you are bringing a large group on a Sunday in August, a courtesy call would be appreciated. To schedule a private tour for your group or organization at another time, accommodations can be made if a tour is planned far enough in advance. For this, those wishing to train as docents, or information regarding tours, please contact me at 330-605-1937 or [bachka916@gmail.com](mailto:bachka916@gmail.com).

### **Education and Community Outreach – MWC, Patty Carmola and MHF, Linda Tarle, Co-Chairs**

The Outreach and Education committee had a very successful year. More schools attended our field trip program, in which we collaborated with Spring Hill. Reservations are already coming in for the 23-24 school year. An added feature for next year will hopefully be our educational gardens, ex. Butterfly gardens, Ohio plant garden, and possibly an area featuring magical stories with a fairy garden, and perhaps an outdoor tea party.

It takes a lot of time and funds to get this all started, so the MWC is sponsoring a fundraiser on August 26<sup>th</sup>. It's called "The McClymonds Old Fashioned Clambake" that will help subsidize scholarships,

gardens, continued outreach, and operating expenses. Hope to see you there!

If anyone is available to help with our Outreach Program, just reach out to Linda Tarle (330-312-2653), or Patty Carmola (330-575-0898). If you had called in the past, try again. Some of those names were misplaced. Your help is truly appreciated!

### **SAVE THE DATES:**

**Five Oaks Tours** – Sundays in August @ 2 & 3 p.m.  
**The McClymonds Old Fashioned Clambake** hosted by The Massillon Woman's Club – August 26, 2023

### **Membership Chair – Kathleen Bachtel**

Thank you to all who are supporting the Massillon Heritage Foundation and its mission. If you have any questions about membership, renewals, or restoration contributions, please contact me at 330-605-1937 or at [bachka916@gmail.com](mailto:bachka916@gmail.com).

We look forward to your continued support of our mission; 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.

### **MEMBERSHIPS/ DONATIONS**

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.

The Foundation has three financial accounts, two checking accounts and an investment account. One checking account is for general expenses, repairs, printing, postage, fees, etc. This account is funded with the membership income. The second checking account is used for restoration and preservation projects. This account is funded by donations, capital campaigns and grants. The third account is an investment account held by the Stark Community Foundation. Any memorials received are deposited in this account and the account's principle is not used. As the principle grows, it will help us to eventually become self-sustained. 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.

### **WEBSITE**

This comprehensive site is designed to be user-friendly and includes information on our history, events, membership, and volunteer opportunities. It's an excellent resource and a good way to introduce people to our local historic treasures. We welcome any feedback or suggestions. You can visit us at [www.massillonheritage.weebly.com](http://www.massillonheritage.weebly.com)

**Massillon Heritage Foundation**

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**Massillon Heritage Foundation Mission Statement**

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Visit **[massillonheritage.weebly.com](http://massillonheritage.weebly.com)** for history, tours, events  
& membership information