



Cemetery Walk 2026

On a very warm June 7th evening, the Maple Hill Cemetery came to life above 5 gravesites as volunteers represented some of the oldest occupants. Jeff and Annette Calicoat represented Luther and Rebecca Chaffee, Ed Merta spoke of Abraham Favorite (see more in this newsletter), Jackie Wahl told about David Sheets, Joe Bellas recounted John Murray's life and a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, Lee Emrick, talked about John Retter. The attendance wasn't a good as was hoped but it was hot and we were in competition with the Strawberry Festival. Those who did come enjoyed the presentations.



Rebecca & Luther Chaffee



Abraham Favorite



John Retter



John Murray



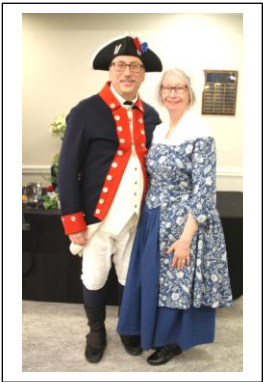
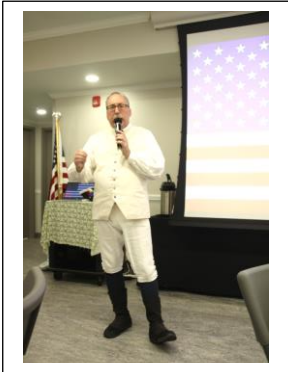
David Sheets

Photos by Carla Ungerecht

Important: Before the end of July, you will receive by email the revised copy of the Society's Constitution and Bylaws. Please review them and vote to accept them electronically. Those without email will receive theirs via USPS. Instructions will accompany the Bylaws.

Annual THS Banquet

The historical society met on Tuesday, May 19th at 6:00 pm at the Tipp Senior Citizen Center for the annual banquet. Following a fabulous meal provided by Mrs. B's Catering, the program "It's Only Treason if You Lose" was presented by Steve Kaplan, a member of the Ohio Sons of the American Revolution. He presented interesting information about how and why the Revolution happened that is usually not taught in school. He was accompanied by his wife, who is a Daughter of the American Revolution. Both were dressed in period attire and brought a display of artifacts from the war. Thanks to Karen Jackson & Karen Kuziinsky who organized the event.



Letter from the President

The Society has held several events this spring. Our annual member's banquet, May 19th honored the nation's 250, with a special program, *It's Only Treason If You Lose* by Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), complete with sound effects provided by thunderstorms!

Keeping in the Revolutionary War theme, the Society hosted the Cemetery Walk focusing on the oldest graves in Maple Hill Cemetery. Thanks to tireless and incredible research done by member, Karen Jackson, the histories of these individuals and their connections to the Revolutionary War were discovered. Spirited narrative was provided by Society members as well as a SAR member. We were especially pleased with the excellent coverage of the event in the Gazette.

We were blown away (literally) by our participation in the Downtown Partnerships' Vintage in the Village event, June 20th. Strategically located at the corner of Third and Main, it was such fun to meet and chat with residents and visitors to our town. You always hear such great stories.

As the sultry summer days settle in, stay cool out there. And stop by the Museum, open Saturdays 10-2. Our AC is working fine!

Barbara Smith

Welcome

New Century Homeowners

- Jenny Woods
- Cal & Roberta Jones
- Amber & Brian Taylor

New Members

- Shawn & Dave Chandler
- Tiffany Mohr
- Ken & Sherri Jensen
- Cal & Roberta Jones



From the Museum Director

I would like to thank all those who worked to make our 2026 Cemetery Walk a success. Karen Jackson spent hours doing research. When she could not find any Revolutionary War veterans at Maple Hill, she switched gears and looked for some of the very first people buried at Maple Hill. Her work gave those who portrayed those people information to build on. Thanks go to Jeff and Annette Calicoat, Ed Merta, Jackie Wahl, Joe Bellas and Lee Emrick for the time and effort they put into their presentations. Thanks also go to Joe Hammann and Paula Lantz and her granddaughter, Rose, for their assistance to Ed and Jackie.

A big project was just completed. The roof on the white house rental property and on the Society's garage had to be replaced. In preparation for that it was decided the fascia board and soffit and spouting needed to be replaced. It was also discovered that some of the wood areas needed to be replaced. After inspections were done and bids turned it was decided to use the Schaeffer Company to do the job. They worked from 6:30 a.m. until 3:00 or so during those extremely hot days. They finished everything up during the week of July 6th.



We took part in the Vintage in the Village downtown. Between the wind and the rain, we did get to visit with folks and sold a few items. It is always good to make connections with people who are not aware of the museum. And we have welcomed some new volunteers.

Susie Spittler

Favorite Son: Revelations of a Tombstone in Maple Hill Cemetery

On Sunday, June 7, 2026, I had the pleasure of presenting at the Historical Society's Cemetery Walk event, held in Maple Hill Cemetery. I and other volunteers each spoke to visitors about the life of someone buried at the cemetery, focusing on individuals with connections to the American Revolution. In preparing for the event, I learned a lot about the life and times of my appointed figure, a certain Mr. Abraham Favorite. Without the work of local history societies like ours, and historians everywhere, all of what follows would be forgotten. I owe special thanks to Karen Jackson for research assistance to make this article possible! By Ed Merta



At first glance the date and numbers don't mean much. The tombstone says that this particular man died April 2, 1848, after 61 years, 11 months, 220 days. Based on the lifespan, you have to do your own calculation of the decedent's birthday, which turns out to be April 10, 1786. Next to the tombstone, a marker testifies that the man served in a military clash known as the War of 1812.

That's all we know about Abraham Favorite, if all we have to go on is the gravestone atop a shallow rise in Monroe Township's Maple Hill Cemetery. Visitors might, perhaps, notice that the tombstone is quite old by this cemetery's standard. Abraham Favorite lived and died many lifetimes ago. But so much more happened in his time than anyone might guess. Local history societies try to find such stories and preserve them for the lifetimes after our own. Until then the tales lie in wait, like ghosts.

A bit of research about the life and times of Mr. Abraham Favorite, from 1786 to 1848, reveals glimpses of the world he knew. When he came into it, his country (and ours) reached its tenth year on the planet. The triumphant war for American independence against the crown of Great Britain had concluded only three years before Abraham arrived on the scene. Frederick County, Maryland was his birthplace. He would have eight brothers and sisters.

Historians have written extensively of the years in which Abraham Favorite grew up and came of age on a Maryland farm. They saw the aftermath of a war that tore apart souls. The War for Independence fought by Abraham Favorite's forefathers unleashed bloody combat across an entire continent. Murderous gunfire and stabbing took place not just on famous battlefields against the world's leading military power but in thousands of towns, villages, and farm fields, where neighbor shot and bludgeoned neighbor. Victory for the patriot cause came against all hope. Social upheaval followed in its wake, born from the unprecedented belief that birth with a title of nobility did not make one man superior to any other. In time, the obvious question arose: was any human born superior to any other?

As Abraham Favorite grew up in Maryland in the 1780s and 1790s, Americans spoke of their miraculous deliverance from monarchical power in awestruck tones. The Revolution became a legendary event fought by men akin to Greek heroes and gods, ancient of days. American statesmen and soldiers became the mythic figures who defeated tyranny, by the grace of authority beyond the world.

Alarming, though, young Abraham, in his adolescence during the presidencies of George Washington and John Adams, would have heard how national heroes, once united in rebellion, later quarreled among themselves after victory's new dawn. Great men like Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson, John Jay and James Madison, nearly broke the country apart in their vicious infighting as the eighteenth century gave way to the next. Abraham Favorite's family and neighbors would have absorbed such tidings as they spread around the country, carried by word of mouth and incendiary pamphlets rolling off partisan printing presses. The Favorites heard of armed rebellion over whiskey taxes in Pennsylvania, shouting matches between politicians over a national bank, and mob rampages over which side to choose in a new European war between Britain and France. The federal government under President John Adams passed laws to jail political dissenters. Politicians like Jefferson and Madison hinted that some American states might secede, leaving the young nation to form separate countries instead.

That war across the Atlantic posed the greatest peril. America's former French allies, who had aided the rebellious new country during its revolution, now fought under a radical, aggressive new regime. Some Americans saw French anarchism as conspiring to destroy property, order, and liberty in the New World. On the other side, America's former enemy in Britain now bought American goods and debt instruments in abundance. Yet Britain also allied itself with hostile Indian nations in the western frontier territories, such as Ohio. The British sold weapons to the Indians for use against American settlers pouring into the frontier by the thousands every year. The Indians fought these invaders, who expelled native peoples and took native land by force of arms.

Two centuries before the Internet, Abraham Favorite knew political polarization and the threat of disunion, all before turning 20 years of age. He made a life for himself, nevertheless, marrying at age 21. He brought his wife, Elizabeth Shryock, to the Ohio frontier sometime around 1812, joining the mass migration of thousands across the Appalachians to the vast country beyond. The young couple settled in Miami County and took up farming. They cleared away forest and planted crops to eke out a living.

Tranquility proved elusive. Rumors and news pamphlets in Ohio warned of British and Indian plots to slaughter settlers and seize their lands. That's how Ohio settlers saw things, but the situation looked much different to Chief Tecumseh of the Shawnee nation and his allies. He traveled the western territories, trying to build a vast military alliance of Indian nations against the United States. Tecumseh had grown up near today's Chillicothe, Ohio, a few miles southeast of the Favorite family farm in Miami County. The Shawnee leader had seen members of his own family killed in battle by Americans. His men had suffered military defeats by advancing American armies who forced his people out. His brother, notably, had gone down to catastrophic defeat at the hands of General William Henry Harrison in 1811, at a place in northern Indiana called Tippecanoe. In the aftermath of that defeat, Tecumseh still planned to retake his home by force, aided by the same British crown that once held America under its rule.

Abraham Favorite and his neighbors in Ohio would make Tecumseh pay in blood for any such attempt. From their vantage point, they had too much at stake. Families like Abraham's had cleared parcels from the endless primeval forest that dominated Ohio's landscape in those days, stretching from the Appalachians to the Mississippi River. Having hewn out clearings to farm, thousands of migrant families like the Favorites planted crops to feed themselves and earn a livelihood as best they could. They would not leave.

History took its course. In Anno Domini 1812, newly arriving traders and settlers carried dramatic news to the forests and farms and villages of Miami County, Ohio. Far across the Appalachians to the east, the Congress of the United States in Washington City had granted a request by President James Madison for authority to wage war against the British Empire once again.

Abraham Favorite had grown up hearing tales of the great war against British tyranny, fought by his parents' generation. Now he would fight his own.



Tecumseh

To be continued in the October newsletter

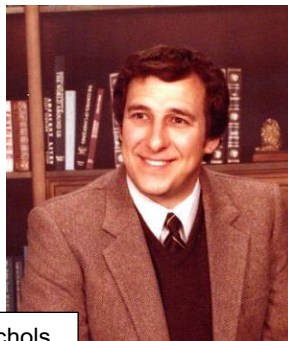
In Memory

THS lost two members since the last newsletter.

We appreciate their years of membership and send condolences to their families.



Gerald "Jerry" Miller
5/5/35 – 6/4/26



Thomas Nichols
4/12/45 – 5/15/26

What This Home Has Seen

Have you ever wondered what stories the walls of an old home could tell?

At **563 South Hyatt Street**, the answers span more than 170 years. Built around **1853**, this remarkable home has quietly stood through some of the most significant moments in American history while generations of families created memories within its walls.

When this house was new, Franklin Pierce was President of the United States. The Miami & Erie Canal was the lifeline of Tippecanoe City, and the Civil War was still years away. Horses and wagons traveled dusty roads where automobiles now pass, and nearby farms stretched across much of the landscape.

As history unfolded, this home remained a silent witness.

It stood through the Civil War and the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. It saw the arrival of the railroad, the invention of the telephone and electric light, and the first automobiles making their way through Tipp City. It was here when the Wright brothers achieved powered flight just a few miles away in Dayton. It weathered the Great Depression, celebrated the end of two World Wars, witnessed Americans walk on the moon, and entered the digital age of computers and the internet.

Closer to home, this house has watched Hyattsville become part of Tipp City. It has seen dirt roads paved, farms transformed into neighborhoods, and countless children grow up and raise families of their own. Through every season and every generation, it has remained a familiar landmark on South Hyatt Street.

The true history of a home is not found only in deeds and photographs. It lives in birthday celebrations, holiday gatherings, family dinners, laughter echoing through the rooms, and the quiet moments shared by those who called it home.

Every owner has cared for this home for a chapter in its long story. Today, Brian and Colin Brown have the privilege of preserving that legacy for their three children and future generations.

The Century Homes Program celebrates more than old houses—it honors the families who built our community and the homes that continue to tell their stories. Every century home is a reminder that history is not found only in museums. Sometimes, it is waiting just beyond the front door.

A Century Homes Feature by Paula Lanz



Mark Your Calendar

**September
26 -27th**

MUM FESTIVAL

Tipp City Park

We need volunteers to man our THS booth



Upcoming Board Meetings

Tuesday, August 11th 3:00 pm – Board Meeting – Tipp Senior Center

Tuesday, September 8th 3:00 pm – Board Meeting – Tipp Senior Center

Tuesday, October 13th 3:00 pm – Board Meeting – Tipp Senior Center