



## Letter from the President

Happy Autumn, everyone!

It is hard to believe 3 months have passed since the last newsletter. Things have been busy at the museum and for the Society. I am certain some of what I mention in this letter will appear elsewhere-just view the duplications as reinforcements!

Let me begin by apologizing that a new membership directory is not yet available; I have been working sporadically on this project since we still don't have a membership chair. I admit, I plan to hand over this job when everyone is confirmed (there are still a few members that I need to contact). So, a new directory will be coming as soon as possible!

Susie and I coordinated a busy day on Saturday, September 17. The museum was open for a Sale Day and with the cooperation of John and Marilyn Richards, the Opera House was open for 4 hours in the afternoon. The turnout at the Opera House made our efforts worthwhile. It also brought to the forefront our need to use social media to get the word out about our activities. The board was contacted for input and of the few that responded, "go for it!" was the gist. In order to avoid confusion, there is a Facebook page that was set up by Gordon Pittenger. There are less than 100 people or followers (sorry, I don't know the correct term) and it was suggested that it would be easier to begin anew. There would be 2 significant changes: the new name would be "Tippecanoe Historical Society Tipp City Ohio" (to avoid confusion with pages concerning the towns in Indiana) and the admin would consist of 3 people. This would be done so that if someone is out of town or becomes ill, changes can continue to be made to the site.

I also hope that we can re-establish programs such as "If Tombstones Could Talk" and the oral histories tapings, both are certainly enjoyed, and history is being gathered at the same time.

One last issue, after the last newsletter, a member sent a note expressing the view that we should not have accepted the donation of the treadle sewing machine. We agreed to take it because it is indicative of a by-gone time! We have turned down other items but this time the thinking was that there were other treadle sewing machines in this community and there are plenty of people who have no idea what it is. My final comment is to the person submitting the note: I don't have a problem with differing opinions, that is what makes the world interesting. But please understand that by being anonymous, your opinion carries no weight.

Jackie Wahl, President



Our Grace Kinney Room at the Historical Museum on North Third St. is a special place and a great place to do research. The research room at our Tipp Library can also be a great place to work and joke with the great library staff and where I found the following article in a huge 2 foot by 3-foot binder. Please enjoy, as I did, these excerpts from a letter sent to the editor of the first issue of the Tippecanoe Herald printed on June 10, 1869. It's amazing how the writer predicted so accurately the future of our town. Ruth White



### Tippecanoe – Past, Present and Future

To the Editor of the Tippecanoe Herald from Eric Mailaw

Having been an occasional contributor to the columns of papers heretofore published here, and having been so long without a paper for our town, through which to advertise our property and make known our wants, I avail myself of this early opportunity of the first issue of the Herald to say something of our town and valley.

At our family dinners, father and mother often give us from memory sketches of the country as it appeared to them so many years ago when they were young. Father tells of riding from Asahel-Wright's store, two miles south of West Charleston, to visit a patient then living in a cabin near the present site of Colesville, fording the Miami "flank deep" at the old Indian ford, following a bridle path, crossing a blazed road which is now our beautiful, tree-fringed Main Street, crossed it, as near as he can remember, where the pride and boast of our village now stands, Chaffee's Hall. No houses here then, no farm, no railroad, no canal. Think of the change! The land has since been cleared, farmed for years, orchards planted and they too now overrun by our town and their existence is a hard for us to realize as the unbroken forest itself. Mother tells of wild deer crossing the road at the point where the barn now stands on the old Woodward farm; she tells of the great days that came every year, when a few enterprising men of the young country, as the late John Clark and Col. Robert Morrison, launched their flat boats at the mouth of Honey Creek. After which they brought in their neighbors' surplus of corn and pork, then off on a long and wearisome trading trip to New Orleans, walking all the way back, 900 miles. All the neighbors had flocked in to see them start, so many followed the river's bank through the tangled underbrush to the Devil's Elbow, to see them safely round it. A final farewell cheer and all returned to work again.

Thinking of the past I often bother my mind to picture the Miami Valley as it will appear a half century hence. It would seem that in the physical appearance of the country there can be no great change. Our forests are now gone, our streams are levied, and our main roads are turnpikes. Then what are the changes for the present and next generations to affect? The improvement in farming will be great, though not striking. Our clay lands will be ditched and tilled. The architecture of farm houses will be greatly improved as well as the general morale of farming. In the care and breeding of stock, sowing and gathering of crops, planting forest trees, more and better fruits will be grown; a farm without a full supply of fine pears, quinces, grapes, etc. will then be the exception. Our minor roads will all be graded and graveled, and all our thoroughfares will be skirted with forest trees.

But the great change lies in the change in our industries. From a purely agricultural community, as we have been, we will become largely a manufacturing people. We are now in the transition state. There are too many men farming; or, rather, our manufacturing interest is not sufficiently developed to absorb our surplus labor from the farm; the consequences, we have dull times, young men go west, so too men of capital not having it invested in land. This will all change. Some men talk as though we had about reached our goal, as if this valley was fully developed. Our highway to a city's growth is in building factories. The spirit of it is abroad here now and throughout our valley too. The growth of our town is assured as the great prosperity of our valley is certain.

## From the Museum Director

We have had some very busy and interesting times at the museum since the July newsletter.

- Several folks have come in just to see the dog. Bob was able to arrange for Betty Eickhoff's daughter, Jill, to bring her in to see and pet the dog. She remembers going to the cemetery with her mom and stopping by to pet him when he was standing guard there. What a special treat for those of us who were there!
- Jene Steele, Mutt Hoover's granddaughter, and her friend Lisa visited Tipp for several days in early August. She brought many items with her for the museum. They stayed in downtown Tipp and thoroughly enjoyed their visit. Ron Re' met with them as he had so much to share about Mutt's business. He walked us downtown to where Mutt's pool hall/bowling alley was. It is now the Fox and the Feather. When she left, she gave us a large donation in appreciation of the display of Mutt's things she sent before Covid, the museum in general, and the hospitality of our Tipp City.
- We had several people come in together and imagine our surprise when two of them said their Great Grandfather was Sidney Chaffee! Well, they were amazed at how much information we have on the family, the Chafee Building/Opera House, and the Chafee home on west Main Street.

By Susie Spittler

## Event Follow - Up

We had a very busy day on September 17<sup>th</sup>, our sale day. The Opera House was also open that afternoon. We sent several people over there and they sent several people to us. It was fun to hear their comments as many had either never heard of it or had never been up to see it. What a special event for the town.

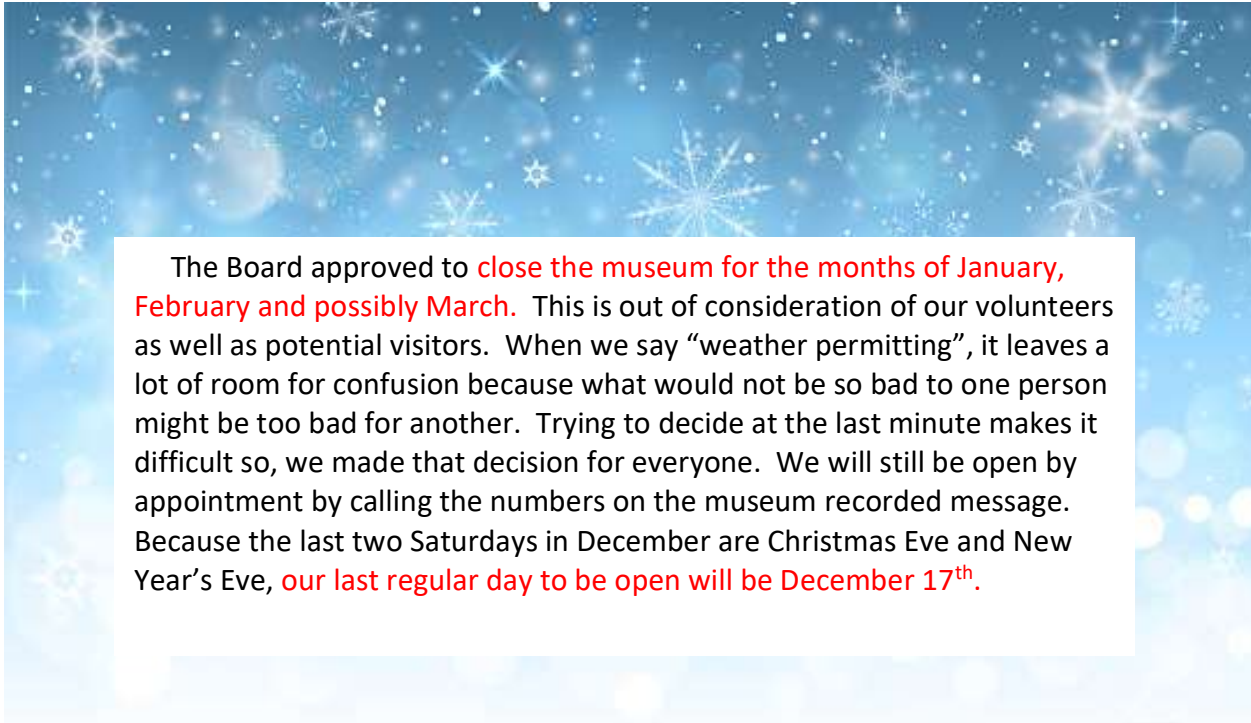


The weather was perfect for the Mum Festival. We sold several items and had a lot of foot traffic. It is always a fun and interesting weekend when the weather cooperates.

By Susie Spittler

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## Museum Winter Schedule



The Board approved to **close the museum for the months of January, February and possibly March**. This is out of consideration of our volunteers as well as potential visitors. When we say “weather permitting”, it leaves a lot of room for confusion because what would not be so bad to one person might be too bad for another. Trying to decide at the last minute makes it difficult so, we made that decision for everyone. We will still be open by appointment by calling the numbers on the museum recorded message. Because the last two Saturdays in December are Christmas Eve and New Year’s Eve, **our last regular day to be open will be December 17<sup>th</sup>**.



Like to write?

Like history?

Like to do research?

Have an interesting story to tell ?

I have received many positive comments about the historical articles in the newsletter and I want to continue to include them in every newsletter but, I need to have articles submitted. If you enjoy writing, history, research or simply have a good historical story to tell that relates to Tipp City, please consider contributing an article (or more) to our newsletter. If you want to do research in the museum, I can arrange to open it for you.

If you are interested, please contact me at [acalicoat@woh.rr.com](mailto:acalicoat@woh.rr.com). Thank you.

Annette Calicoat, Editor