

NOVEMBER 2020

ALONG THE CORRIDOR

## The Maumee Valley Heritage Corridor Annual Meeting

On Sunday, November 15th, 2020 at 2:00 pm this year's MVHC Annual Meeting will be done virtually in Zoom format.

The original plan was to have the meeting that same day but at Nazareth Hall near Grand Rapids OH.



It was going to include a luncheon, organization info/display tables, annual reports, the annual meeting, elections to the Board and Officer positions, and self-guided tours of the building.

Obviously, because of the pandemic we needed to make changes. We still need to have an annual meeting according to the by-laws. So, on Sunday, November 15th at 2:00 pm, please join me in a virtual Zoom meeting which I anticipate to last about 90 minutes. Do this from any convenient location.

An e-mail invitation to the Zoom meeting will be sent to those who have an e-mail account. You can join the meeting by clicking on the blue link, or copying and pasting that link into your browser window.

If you do not have e-mail you can go to **Zoom.us** on your computer or

cellphone. Once on the Zoom website click "**Join a Meeting**" at the top of the page. Then follow the prompts. *On a computer*, type in the Meeting ID: **563 463 2948** and press "**Join.**" Then enter the Passcode: **CrL7DT** which will get you into the

meeting. *On a cellphone*, dial **312-626-6799** and follow the same procedure – Enter Meeting ID: **563 463 2948** and Passcode: **516401**.

This will be an annual meeting for members but is open to anybody that wants to join the meeting, including friends, and members of our Partnering organizations. But, only members will be able to vote.

### *The annual meeting AGENDA will follow this format:*

1. Reading and approval of the 11-17-19 annual meeting minutes
2. Financial and membership reports
3. Report of the activities since last annual meeting
4. Vote on proposed amendment to by-laws
5. Election of Board members for 3 year terms (2021-2023)
6. Old and new business
7. Board meeting to elect Officers for 2021

## Renew Your Membership Now

It is the annual time for all of us to renew our membership in MVHC. We can do this by clipping out the membership form in the newsletter or by making a copy of it on a copier. All the instructions and details are on the form. Remember to include your payment. The membership renewal is for calendar year 2021. To extend membership beyond 2021, a Life membership can be had for a mere \$1000. Donations also welcome.

It will be necessary to have this renewal in at the time of the November 15th Annual Meeting to validly be eligible to run for a Director of the Board position. A valid membership for 2020 at the meeting will be needed to have a vote.

For those not currently a MVHC member, sending in the membership form, with payment, will provide membership for the rest of the current (2020) year plus all of the next calendar year of 2021.

## MVHC Organizational Partners

- Henry County Chamber of Commerce
- Wood County Historical Society and Museum
- Tree Toledo
- Henry County Historical Society (new)
- History In Your Own Back Yard (new)
- Perrysburg Area Historic Museum (new)

OUR MISSION

*The Mission of the  
Maumee Valley Heritage Corridor  
is to advocate for and protect the historical,  
natural, recreational, and cultural resources of the  
Maumee Valley watershed, while promoting their  
use and appreciation by current and future  
residents and visitors.*

# The Ohio's Scenic Rivers Program Presentation by Christina Kuchle (ODNR)

Sunday, March 21st, 2021

**Nazareth Hall near Grand Rapids OH**  
Because of our prior deposit arrangement with Nazareth Hall for this Fall, we are postponing the presentation that we already had arranged to the new date. Hopefully, this will indeed occur but we are prepared to postpone again, or cancel altogether. The agenda will be:

- 12:00 - Gather, greet, peruse organization info/display tables
- 12:30 - Luncheon (optional) \$20 - rsvp required
- 1:30 - Presentation by Christina Kuchle
- 3:00 - Tour of Nazareth Hall building and grounds

Lunch Menu: Garden Salad, Apple Glazed Pork Roast, Chicken Cordon Bleu, Buttered Baby Carrots, Cornbread Stuffing, Triple Chocolate Cake, Coffee, Iced Tea.

This will be open to the public. We will make a special invitation to our MVHC members and the members of our



Partnering organizations, and those that we know are "friends" of MVHC.

Please put this on your calendar and consider bringing others. All precautions will be made to follow the needed safety guidelines.

We invite our Partner organizations, historical organizations, museums, and other related heritage groups, to bring brochures and information that can be set out on information display tables (provided).

Please contact Frank Butwin at fb21@wcnnet.org or 419-270-0622 to make an arrangement for a table.

# NEEDED: Board Members & Officers

If you are not currently on the Board and are willing to serve in that capacity (3 year terms), make sure by November 15th that you are a member for 2020 (only current members can be on the ballot) and also a paid member for 2021. We cannot vote for someone that may not be a MVHC member in 2021 because they fail to pay their dues. All Board members are expected to make at least half of the 4 Board meetings per year and to be on a committee or be an Officer. If you have questions or the willingness to be put on the ballot, please contact VP Willis Beck, Nominations Committee Chair, at 419-874-8076 or beck.willis@yahoo.com.

We currently have 15 Board members and are allowed up to 24. Self nominations will be taken from the floor.

We also need Officers, (President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer), for 2021. At this time, no one has expressed an intention to be an Officer.

Anyone can call (Frank) at 419-270-0622 or email fb21@wcnnet.org to get an explanation of the current situation and the usual officer responsibilities for MVHC. In the end, a contact should be made to our VP Willis Beck (contact info above), Nominations Committee Chair, to get your name on the Officers ballot. Nominations will be accepted from the floor on November 15.

## “Welcome!” to the Newest Partners of MVHC

### Henry County Historical Society (www.henrycountyhistory.org)

The Henry County Historical Society formed in 1970 to protect, preserve, and perpetuate the history of Henry County, Ohio, to learn about and preserve the artifacts of the county, and to generate interest in the past of the county. Today the HCHS operates two historic museum sites in Napoleon, Ohio.

### History In Your Own Back Yard (www.historyinyourownbackyard.com)

The purpose is to have a website for people to get to know about the hidden jewels in their own backyards, before they disappear forever. As the word gets out, perhaps we can help save some of them from the demolition crews.

### Perrysburg Area Historic Museum (www.perrysburgmuseum.com)

The Perrysburg Area Historic Museum's mission is to collect and preserve historic artifacts and information from the Perrysburg area for the purpose of telling the stories and honoring the character of the Native Americans, early settlers and their families, professionals, and entrepreneurs who carved a town out of the Black Swamp.

## Annual Meeting, Board Meetings, and Elections

We are required by our 2011 By-Laws (Article IV, Section 4.4) to have quarterly Board meetings. In the last couple of years, we have been trying to have these regularly in February, May, August, and November. The one in November has lately been at the close of the Annual Meeting (membership meeting), which is specified to be in November by Article III, Section 3.2 (we have been doing them on a mid November Sunday afternoon).

Elections of the Directors to the Board (for those running for a 3 year term) are to be done at the Annual Meeting, while the election of Officers for the next calendar year are done by those Board members present (old and newly elected) at the Board Meeting immediately following the Annual Meeting. Candidates for Directors are taken from valid MVHC members and candidates for Officers are taken from the Directors of the Board that will validly be in place the next year.

## By-Laws Proposal to be Voted on at Annual Meeting

At the Board meeting of 8-26-20, a motion was made and passed to amend By-Laws Article IV (General Powers), Section 4.3 (Tenure) to change the number of consecutive full terms that a Board member can have from two (2) to three (3). The reasoning for this is that we have had cases where good Board members had to leave the Board after 2 terms (total of 6 years) leaving fewer members on the Board.

This proposal needs to go before the MVHC membership at the Annual Meeting on November the 15th per our By-Laws (of 2011) Article VII, Section 7.1 (Amendment). A two-thirds (2/3) vote is necessary for approval.

Additional changes may be proposed.

# Ohio Counties Celebrate Bicentennials in 2020

by Willis Beck

## Formation of the Counties...

The concept of counties dates back to English law and U. S. History was laid out in the Northwest Ordinance of 1787. Ohio officially became a state in 1803 and was a part of Virginia until 1784. One time, Connecticut also claimed part of the northern part of the state as can be seen by the Western Reserve and the Firelands. Many early homes in the area portray the Connecticut style of architecture.



At one time we were considered a part of New France. Shortly before the Revolution we came under the Quebec Act. Our major city in Northwest Ohio is Toledo, although we never owed allegiance to Spain! Ethnically, we are mostly British, Irish, German and Polish with a sprinkling of Native American and Hispanic.

In the act of 1820, fourteen counties were to be surveyed and then organized when the time was right. In 1820, all of Wood County had a population of 734. Sandusky County had a total population of 832. These two places had been the sites of Fort Meigs and Fort Stephenson during the War of 1812.

Sandusky and Wood counties were organized at once. Other counties were surveyed but not organized and were attached for administrative purposes to an adjacent county. Here follows the fourteen counties, their attaching counties, and the dates they were organized.

**1** Sandusky 1820, attached county **2** Seneca 1824 -- **3** Wood 1820, counties attached for civil purposes **4** Paulding 1824, **5** Williams 1824, **6** Putnam 1824, **7** Henry 1834, and **8** Hancock 1826. **9** Marion – attached to Delaware 1820 – **10** Mercer attached to

Darke 1824 – **11** Crawford attached to Delaware 1826 – **12** Allen attached to Shelby 1831 – **13** Hardin attached to Logan 1833 – **14** Van Wert attached to Darke 1837.

All of these counties were immediately surveyed to facilitate land sales, etc. They were then attached to the name of the adjacent counties for civil purposes until they could be organized and a seat of government established.

The 1835 boundary dispute with the Michigan Territory, aka the “Toledo War,” resulted in the formation of **15** Lucas and **16** Ottawa 1840. The removal of native tribes resulted in the formation of **17** Wyandot 1845 and **19** Auglaize 1848. The tremendous growth in population and industry that resulted from the opening of the canals led to the founding of **18** Defiance 184. In most cases, lands were taken from the adjacent counties to form these new governmental units.



The little village of Perrysburg(h) got a jump-start on the settlement game when it was surveyed and platted in 1816, (before Wood County was formed). It along with the neighboring Maumee area in the center of the Twelve Miles Square reserve that was part of the Treaty of Greenville in 1795. All land outside of that area unless specifically designated was technically still native land. These boundaries can still be seen on old maps. The Twelve Miles Square Reserve has a southern boundary of Dowling Road and a western boundary of Crissey Road. Its center lies about a block east of the Maumee Public Library.

## Naming the Counties...

Of the 88 counties in Ohio you can find the names of many of our Founding



Fathers. You will see most of the early presidents until Jackson, a healthy dose of Revolutionary War generals and several Native tribe names. You will also see our local favorites Harrison and Wayne; as well as War of 1812 favorites Perry, Shelby, and Pike.

Eleazor Darby Wood the engineer that designed and built Fort Meigs was an early graduate of the newly formed West Point Army Academy. He was killed in battle at Fort Erie in 1814 and we have honored him by naming Wood County for him.

Three militiamen of Westchester County New York were guarding a highway near Tarrytown, NY on September 22, 1780. They stopped a gentleman on horseback that claimed to be John Anderson. He claimed to have a passport signed by General Benedict Arnold. They examined the document and then strip-searched him. Inside his boot and between his sock and his bare feet they found several drawings of the new fort at West Point. They soon found that he was not John Anderson. He was in fact the British spy John Andre and he was working on an intrigue with the traitor Benedict Arnold. A few weeks later he was hanged at General Washington’s headquarters

The three militiamen were: John Paulding, David Williams, and Isaac Van Wart. In 1820, some forty years later, we named three of our Northwest counties for them. (The spelling of the name Van Wart is correct! Somewhere along the line it got changed to Van Wert!)

### MVHC Board of Directors

#### OFFICERS

Frank Butwin - *President*  
Willis Beck - *Vice President*  
Ed Hoefel - *Treasurer*  
Scott Duncan - *Secretary*

#### BOARD MEMBERS

Carl Bauer - *Allen County Rep*  
Phyllis Bidlack - *Paulding County Rep*  
Joel Burg  
Herbert Delventhal - *Defiance County Rep*  
Patrick Dymarkowski  
Bill Grimes  
Maura Johnson  
Matt Jones  
Judy Justus - *Wood County Rep*  
Richard Kudner  
Frank Kuron - *Newsletter Editor*  
Neil Munger  
Jeff Oster  
Danielle Steinhauser

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

Due to the corona virus, we will have virtual meetings for the foreseeable future. We may get to the point of hybrids (some in-person with others joining virtually). Tentatively the next Board meetings will be:

**Sunday, February 28, 2021 at 2:00 pm**

**Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at 7:00 pm**

**Wednesday, August 25, 2021 at 7:00 pm**

**Sunday, November 14, 2021 at 2:00 pm** (*Annual Meeting*)

*And remember, plan to attend the tentative presentation by Christina Kuchle (ODNR) on "The Ohio's Scenic Rivers Program" on Sunday, March 21, 2021 at Nazareth Hall near Grand Rapids OH, starting at 11:30 am.*

### BECOME A MEMBER!

We invite you to become a member of the Maumee Valley Heritage Corridor.

Members receive a subscription to our newsletters, notice of special events and tours, and an opportunity to help with our varied projects.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Individual (\$25): \_\_\_\_\_ Family (\$35): \_\_\_\_\_ Lifetime (\$1,000): \_\_\_\_\_

Gift: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to:  
Maumee Valley Heritage Corridor (or MVHC)

Mail to:  
MVHC Membership  
PO Box 886  
Napoleon, Ohio 43545

Questions? Call Frank: 419-270-0622

### *Visit the Newly Updated MVHC Website!*

We are happy to announce that the MVHC website has recently been revamped and relaunched! Visit: [www.maumeevalleyheritagecorridor.org](http://www.maumeevalleyheritagecorridor.org) and learn the latest news from MVHC.