

# Greenfield Historical Society Impact to the Community 2014



## Historical Society of Greenfield, Ohio

### What Does the Historical Society Mean to the Community?

Maybe you have asked yourself that question.—“Why is the Historical Society important to my community?”

A great question and we hope by reading through this information you will learn how we make a positive impact.

Small communities nationwide struggle to exist whether it be due to the economy, natural disasters, revenues, apathy...whatever...all struggle to keep a positive attitude and promote the values we all cherish from living in a small community such as Greenfield.

See how a relatively small group of dedicated individuals band together to make a positive difference for all as we preserve and share Greenfield's rich past.

We hope you will have a better understanding of our role and more importantly choose to be a part of the team striving to make Greenfield an even better place to live.

The **Historical Society of Greenfield Ohio**, formed in 1949, is non-profit and exists to further historical preservation and education in Greenfield, Ohio, and the surrounding area. To this end it shall own and maintain all Greenfield Historical Society's properties for collecting, preserving and interpreting archival materials and artifacts indigenous to the Greenfield area; encourage historical research; sponsor programs, displays and special events; be concerned with the preservation of historical buildings and cooperate with other organizations interested in historic preservation.



# Greenfield Historical Society Impact to the Community 2014



## Community Building through Sunday

### Dinners – January-March

Each January-March (weather permitting) the Society prepares “Sunday Dinners” at the Grain and Hay building for the community. These events are the first Sunday of the month and are positive in outreaching to the community, offering fellowship and are successful fundraisers for the Society. In 2014 the March dinner had to be cancelled, but the January and February dinners averaged 75-80 attendees each!



### Spring Tea – April

Each April in the Konneker Education Museum the Society offers an educational program as well as serving tea and cookies to the public. This year Danny Long portrayed F.R. Harris to a crowd of approximately 60 attendees. This event is also a successful fundraiser for the Society.



## Special Visitors and Groups during the year. . .

It's always a pleasure to welcome folks from out of town who share an interest in Greenfield's history. Maybe they lived here once or a member of their family did or maybe they just share a common interest in history and appreciate what we are doing.

We also hosted the **Greenfield Genealogical Group**. This group also co-sponsored several programs in the past, including *First Families of Ohio*.

## Community Yard Sale

In June the Grain and Hay building served as a venue for a community yard sale. Members of the Society as well as the general public participated in this very successful event and it is another fundraising opportunity for the society.

## Patterson Historical Marker – May

Although the C.R. Patterson & Sons Automobile Company building may be gone (N. Washington Street), its location is officially recognized by the Ohio History Connection (Ohio Historical Society) by the placement of an official historic marker in May of this year. The Historical Society applied for the sign and worked many hours determining the wording for the sign and getting it through the approval process. Cathy Nelson represented the State with a presentation and unveiling of the marker. Thanks to Southern Hills Community Bank, Shorter Chapel A.M.E. Church and the Ohio Historical Society for making this possible. Approximately 35 people attended.



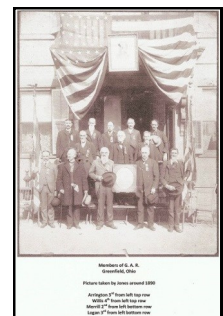
## Greene Countrie Towne Festival

### Educational displays – July

The Society's booth at this year's festival was very successful. It was another outreach to the community sharing our purpose and exhibiting some of Greenfield's history with the public. New friends were made and we even gained some new members!

## Cemetery Stroll – August

Our annual Cemetery Stroll featured Civil War Veterans buried in the Greenfield Cemetery. The 2014 theme was in support of the Civil War Sesquicentennial. This was our 3rd Stroll and approximately 50 people took part in learning about our Civil War veterans. We will soon be planning the 2015 Stroll and welcome your suggestions and help in planning and presenting this popular event.



# Greenfield Historical Society Impact to the Community 2014



## Restoration of Tombstones at Old Burying Ground

If you have ever visited the Old Burying Ground adjacent to Travellers Rest you probably noticed that the majority of the tombstones were damaged, leaning, missing etc. This project to improve the cemetery was begun early in the year and continued throughout the warmer months. A small crew of volunteers spent numerous hours repairing, realigning and locating tombstones directly behind Travellers Rest. An inventory of graves was also begun. We have had visitors to the grounds comment on how much better it looked and were appreciative that a group decided to pay respect to those whom have gone before us.



Travellers Rest you probably noticed that the majority of the tombstones were damaged, leaning, missing etc. This project to improve the cemetery was begun early in the year and continued throughout the warmer months. A small crew of volunteers spent numerous hours repairing, realigning and locating

tombstones directly behind Travellers Rest. An inventory of graves was also begun. We have had visitors to the grounds comment on how much better it looked and were appreciative that a group decided to pay respect to those whom have gone before us.

## History Day – October



This annual event, featuring all the Society properties, featured numerous education exhibits, craft persons, and performances. Progress and demonstrations of the Old Burying Ground tombstone repairs were also shown. The barnyard was

the focus for sales and of course there was food—bean soup with smoked pork loin sandwiches!

## Ghost Walk – October

This is another annual event very popular with the community. Each year “ghosts” of Greenfield are portrayed by volunteers who relate, in a first person style, what it was like living in Greenfield in the early years. This year’s featured ghosts were: James Elder Kerr, Sr., (Terry Washburn); Margaret Watkins Devoss (Teena Thornton); John and Mary Lavery (Danny and Susan Long); Nathaniel Bonner (Jay Hardy); and Sarah Smith (Judy Schmidt). Don’t miss next year’s walk and volunteer to be a “ghost”! Refreshments were served after the walk in Travellers Rest.



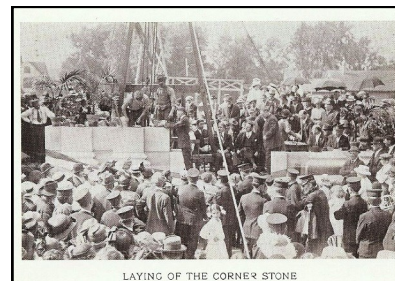
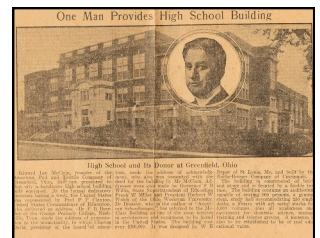
## Tour of Homes and Dinner – December

This year the tour was held December 7th. A baked steak dinner preceded the tour at the Grain and Hay Building. The Greenfield Church of Christ was the historic church on the tour this year and the houses on the tour included: 829 Jefferson Street owned by Chris and Lisa Boyd; Hester Hatfield’s home at 808 Jefferson Street; Sheryl and Steve Wise’s home 705 Lafayette Street; Father Mike Paraniuk’s rectory beside the Catholic Church at 218 South Second Street; and east of Greenfield off State Route 28 at the home of John and Dorothy Balzer. This is an annual event promoting community and fellowship and helps get one in the Christmas spirit! This year 77 tour tickets were sold and 93 meals were served. Please contact the society if you would like your home featured next year.



## 100<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary of McClain High School Book

Did you realize 2015 marks the 100th anniversary of E.L. McClain High School? In recognition of this special event, the Historical Society was busy in 2014 collecting photographs and narratives to be used in a book to be published prior to the 100th year Anniversary Dedication in 2015. This has been a labor of love, dedication, and challenges as the committee spent many hours collecting, sorting, writing, re-writing, re-sorting etc. to make the materials available to the publisher (due by end of Dec. 2014). The availability of this treasure will be announced via our website and newsletter. Be sure to get your copy of this keepsake.



# Greenfield Historical Society

## Impact to the Community 2014



### Elementary School and Scout Programs

**2<sup>nd</sup> grade** – *Transportation Then & Now* – showed types of transportation in our collection and brought in modern examples including a fire truck, ambulance and police car. Plans are to increase next year to include antique cars and tractors.

**3<sup>rd</sup> grade** – *One Room Schoolhouse Education* – “Show & Tell” on how students were educated in the 1800s and a visit to the Konneker Education Museum.



**4<sup>th</sup> grade** – *Greenfield Manufacturers and Inventors* – “Show & Tell” about products invented and manufactured in Greenfield and a visit to the Konneker Education Museum.

**5<sup>th</sup> grade** – *John Parker, Abolitionist* – Anthony Gibbs from the Ohio History

Connection presented a program on John Parker and his work helping slaves escape across the Ohio River. This program is with assistance from the Buckskin and Rainsboro PTOs.

During the year local **Cub Scouts** also visited Travellers Rest and the Old Burying Ground for a presentation about the museum and society activities.

### Improvements and Repairs

Upkeep/maintenance is always a concern for the Society. Safety of visitors is a top priority as well as providing an appealing environment for exhibits etc. During the year the following improvements/repairs were made:

- ◆ Furnace in Tannery and G&H repaired
- ◆ Konneker ceiling painted
- ◆ New deadbolts installed in Tannery and Konneker
- ◆ Replaced air conditioners with help from insurance and installed four cages on air conditioners
- ◆ Travellers Rest gutter repaired
- ◆ Brick stacked at the depot
- ◆ G&H basement door sealed
- ◆ New tables & chairs acquired for the G&H
- ◆ Patterson historical marker installed
- ◆ Coat hooks installed at G&H



### Success and Challenges

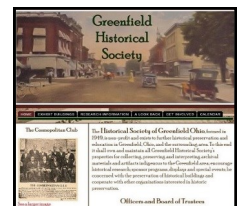
Our success as stewards of Greenfield’s heritage is due to the generous support of our citizens and former residents. Through the course of the year we received a wealth of memorabilia and objects connected to Greenfield. We continually archive these items and catalog them so we and the general public can perform research and learn more about our heritage. However, our success leads to other challenges—where to store, how to display these donated items? Want to help in this effort? Contact us!

### The Greene Countrie Towne Crier

Our newsletter is published three times per year as a service to our members. It summarizes various events happening at the Society, donations and contributions received, and always offers educational articles about Greenfield’s heritage. If you’re not already a member of the Greenfield Historical Society we urge you to join now so we can continue our efforts and bring more information to you.

### GHS Website

Our website ([GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.org](http://GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.org)) is a way we share our rich heritage with the world! Using this vehicle we are able to reach many more people who do not live close enough to experience our history in person. Through it we also gain information from others to add to our collections.



**Our membership grew to 327!**

### Outreach Beyond Greenfield

Technology enables us to reach people outside of our community. Each year we get emails, Facebook posts, and electronic communications from our website from people outside of Greenfield. Some are looking for family information, event information, learning more about our history, or just sharing their connection with Greenfield. This outreach helps us keep connected with those not living here but share a common interest.