



We Remember

“Remembering” was the name of the original Conneaut Area Historical Society newsletter. Joan Barnett was the last editor, and with her death and the Covid pandemic the newsletter has not been published for a time. It seemed fitting to name this new version of the old newsletter “Renewed Remembering,” in honor of the former editors including Louise Legeza and Joan Barnett who edited and published the newsletter for so many years. We hope you enjoy it!

The President’s Paragraph

The Conneaut Area Historical Society wants to thank you for your continued support. As always, new members are welcome. You can call: 440-599-6011 with further questions or write to Conneaut Area Historical Society, P.O. Box 563, Conneaut Ohio, 44030. Our Historical Museum street address is: 518 Mill Street and our David Cummins Octagon House address is 301 Liberty Street, Conneaut, Ohio 44030. Come and visit us. Jim Jones, President

One Night Lost in the
Salem Woods...Civil War
Corner...and more

Hump Day History
Wednesday “A
Tinker’s Hollow
Halloween”

Barn Quilt Square No. 9



In the fall of 2023, Steering Committee Member Debbie Herbel painted our museum Barn Quilt and it is proudly displayed on the front of our museum. We are thrilled to be a square in the Ashtabula County Barn Quilt patchwork and a traveler on the Ashtabula Barn Quilt Trail. The barn quilts celebrate Ashtabula County's agricultural heritage, including the Underground Railroad network, natural areas preservation, and Great

Lakes maritime history.

Barn quilts stretch from the Ashtabula Lighthouse to the Pennsylvania borders and into Lake and Trumbull Counties. These trail guides take visitors to the heart and stories of Ashtabula County history. More than 110 barn quilts on both public and private buildings display the tourism and historical attractions of Ashtabula County. For more about the history, purpose, and quilt creators of the Barn Quilt Trail, go to their website at [Ashtabula County Barn Quilt Trail](https://www.ashtabulacountybarnquilttrail.com/)

One Night Lost in the Salem Woods



I seek the Lake Erie shore, because father and mother and my sisters and I came to this new place called Salem in a batteaux and

the music of the waves resounds in my ears. I seek the Lake Erie shore because Orange Tabby and I are lost in these tree meadows and I want to go home! I know to follow the winding creek that father and mother called Conneaut Creek to find the



lake. I know to follow Orange Tabby my cat, who had sailed with us on the lake. I want to go back home.



If I follow Conneaut Creek and Orange Tabby, I will find the lake. Already, I hear the sound of the waves and my toes in my tight cowhide shoes twitch, anticipating the feel of beach sand. I walk faster, thinking just as fast and remember what Reverend Simpson told me after he baptized me at the camp meeting by Conneaut Creek.



Cold lake water ran down my face. Shaking my head and splattering drops of water on the Reverend's sleeve, I watched him talk to an Indian he had baptized after me. The Indian looked like he got baptized

deeper than I did. He dripped water from his leggings and his feathers drooped half-mast.

"He is telling me of the Eriez people who once lived here. The Iroquois destroyed them after they cheated in running races," Reverend Simpson explained. "They left their name and memories of their lives on our lake, Lake Erie, and its shores." I listened to his Eriez story, because his heart for the Indian people shown in his eyes and rang in his voice, and I looked more closely at the Indian. Reverend Simpson's gaze directed mine and I focused on the Indian's face and words instead of the hatchet hanging from his belt and his hair waving in the wind like a flag instead of laying smoothly on his forehead like...well, like it does on the head of Thomas Bentley.

I squared my shoulders even though they are soggy from my cape. Thomas Bentley. Our families sailed from New York on the batteaux with us. I remember lazy sunny afternoons, the waves lapping against the sides of the boat. I read *The Children of the Abbey* by Miss Regina Maria Roche, and I felt Amanda's love for Lord Mortimer. I looked over the top of my book, darting a quick glance at Thomas who helped our father steer the batteaux. I have fought with him since I was old enough to chop wood, fire a gun, and inform mother that I did not intend to marry. I would write books like *The Children of the Abbey* and become

independently wealthy. I stole a second glance at Thomas. The muscles of his arms rippled like strong waves as he and our fathers propelled the batteaux toward our new homes in Conneaut. He looked over at me and I quickly buried my nose back in my book.

The setting sun sent fingers of colored light dancing on the waves. I imagined I see Erietz Indians canoe dancing over the water. I wanted to be gliding their watery ballet with them, not standing dripping on the shore.

Mother settled my warm wool cape around my shoulders.. “You and Orange Tabby quickly follow us home. You need to change those wet clothes before you catch your death of cold!”

“Get your feet moving, Sally!” My Sister Rachel thumped me on the shoulder, creating a Lake Erie shower. Most of it landed on Orange Tabby, who streaked into the woods like mice taunting her from the trees. I ran after her, squishing water with each step. “Orange Tabby, come back!” My voice sounded watery in my ears.

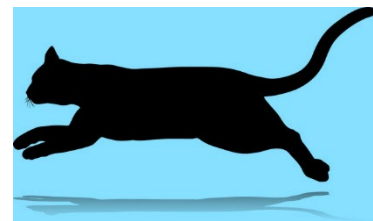
“My child, come back!” Reverend Simpson shouted. His is the last human voice I have heard.



Now lost in these woods chasing Orange Tabby I hear crows cawing, mosquitoes buzzing, mysterious growling, and Orange Tabby screeching her feline battle cry.. I run after her, certain she is running home to our cabin. She streaks past deeply green trees with bold branches that slap me in the face as I try to catch her. My lungs fill with night air and tree shadows surround me. “Orange Tabby, you have far exceeded our cabin. Let’s stop and retrace our steps!” I shout.

Orange Tabby keeps running. I peer through the gathering darkness, trying to find Conneaut Creek. If I can find the creek, I can follow it either to the Lake or home. Either way is acceptable to me. I can’t find Conneaut Creek. It is dark in the woods now, a darkness that I can feel.

This darkness is not velvet like the darkness in *The Children of the Abbey*.. It is thick like mother’s stew and full of question marks. What and who does it hide?





I hear a growl behind me.
 “Orange Tabby, is that you? Stop squawking and let us head for home. If we walk together, we should find the way.”

Instead of purring and rubbing against my cape, which all of the running through the woods had comfortably dried, Orange Tabby growls again. Another growl answers her. I follow what I think is Orange Tabby’s growl.

But she streaks from behind me like a shooting star. I hear a thump and then the screech of Orange Tabby’s battle cry. The growling fades away something runs heavily through the brush. Confused, I follow it for a few paces until I feel Orange Tabby rubbing against my skirt. I grab her and hug her.



I jerkily stroke Orange Tabby’s fur. “That was just a bear following us. Now, can we go home?”

Orange Tabby scuttles under a maple tree and I follow her. I bury my face in her fur and pet her. We sink into the darkness of sleep, surrounded by the darkness of the woods.

The sun rising over the treetops tickles my eyelids and for a minute I think I am in our cabin feeding wood to the wood stove to make the cornmeal mush for breakfast. Orange Tabby unwinds herself from around my neck where she has been sleeping. She gives herself a tongue bath and then stands in front of me meowing a command.



Meekly, I follow her through the woods. She is light and can easily pass through the brush and saplings. I am heavier and have to push them aside. I fight valiantly, but after a time, I just want to sit on a log and rest.

Orange Tabby disagrees. She rubs against my legs until I get up and stumble along behind her. We travel through the woods that I am convinced have no end like the love that Reverend Simpson says that God has for us. Then I see water gleaming through the trees. Pushing the bushes aside, I run to Conneaut Creek.

But this isn't Conneaut Creek! It is just a tiny thin stream, thin as my hope of getting home.

I sink down in a heap of disappointment and cover my face with my cape. The voice of my sweetheart floats over the shoulder of my torn cape and mends it with threads of hope. "Sally Montgomery! Get up and act like yourself."



I peer through a large tear in the cape. Orange Tabby is staring at something on the other side of the tiny stream. Or someone! And I know who that someone is, but I won't say the words out loud. Instead, I jump up, snatch my cape, and run down the bank of the tiny stream. Thomas Bentley runs across from me, keeping perfect pace. "Sally Montgomery, get up and act like yourself!"



I hear my sister Rachel's voice. "Get your feet moving Sally!" I get my feet moving faster.

Realizing that he has made no inroads with me, Thomas turns to Orange Tabby. "Come here, Orange Tabby," he croons to her. That traitorous cat jumps across the stream, landing on his shoulder. She sits there smirking at me and purring. I keep running, but Thomas still keeps pace with me even with a cat on his shoulder. Finally, I can run no more. I sink under a maple tree, gasping for breath.



Thomas easily catches up with me. He pulls me to my feet. I ignore the touch of his hands, but they feel like a warm blanket.

“Come in and we will have a cup of tea.” Orange Tabby runs ahead of us. “Where are we going, Thomas?”

My cabin is just around the corner.” He puts a guiding arm around me.

His cabin sits in a sheltered nook but high enough from the stream to keep the water from invading it. Before I know it, I am sitting in a rocker in front of a warm fire sipping a cup of tea. He sits on a stool in front of me. I remember that I had helped his mother embroider the daisies on it.

Thomas tucks a blanket around me. “Now, we will talk,” he says.

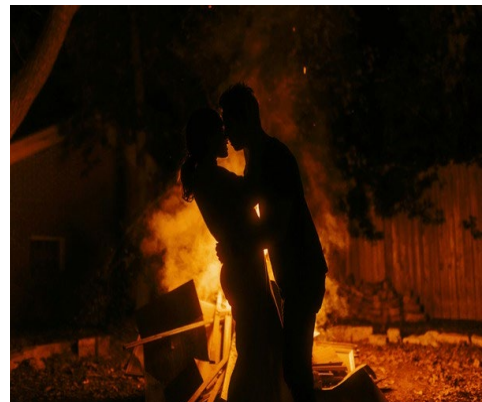


I glare at him. “Now, we will not talk,” I say to myself. Orange Tabby knows what I am thinking. She growls at me. I growl back.

“Everyone has been looking for you,” Thomas says. “I am so glad you are safe. Rest for a while, and then I will take you home.”

I do not get a smidgen of rest. Besides

Orange Tabby, my thoughts also betray me. They tell me I am already home. I want to rise from my comfortable rocker and cook some corn bread and venison for Thomas. On the long winter evenings with snow covering the windows, I will rock in front of the fire, reading or knitting while Thomas sits polishing his boots with bear oil.



I run out of the cabin and whirl around not sure about which direction to take. Then, I remember. Lake Erie is north. I have to run north. I run north, with Thomas and Orange Tabby close behind. I am ready to stop running and sit on the nearest log when I hear father's shouting, "Sally!"

I don't answer. I just run into his arms. I peek around his elbow to make sure Thomas has followed me. Thomas smiles at father. "I found her," he said. "Now, I will have to marry her just to be sure she stays safe."



Father gives Thomas permission to marry me. I have given nothing, at least not yet. I help Mother prepare a knapsack lunch for us to take on our wedding journey. Thomas and I have to walk thirty miles through the woods to Harpersfield so that Justice Avery can marry us.

"He is carrying the knapsack," I tell mother as we walk down the dirt path toward the woods. Orange Tabby starts to follow us, but I pick her up and shut her in the barn. Her paws are still sore from our overnight adventure in the woods and her meow is hoarse from screeching at the bear.

Thomas and I walk along silently. I hear crows cawing and some rustlings in the thick underbrush, but I do not feel afraid and I do not feel like running. Thomas is a steady rock beside me. Then I hear a different noise. A snuffling and growling noise that grows louder as we walk deeper into the woods.

I break the silence. "I know that noise."

"I do too." Thomas takes his gun out of the crook of his arm.

"Wait before you fire. Spare this bear," I tell him.



"Why this bear?" Thomas asks.

"This bear snuffles like the one that led us to your cabin. I owe him a thank you."

I screech like Orange Tabby and the snuffling stops. I hear the sound of a heavy body crashing through the underbrush.

Thomas laughs. “You scared that bear away with your screeching. Where did you ever learn how to do that?”

“You will soon enough find out since Orange Tabby is going to live with us.”

“Then you will marry me and I am not taking this 30 mile walk just to walk?”

Would Amanda have said yes to Lord Malcomb’s proposal?

“I’ll think about it,” I said. “Sweetheart, “ I add under my breath.

We spend our honeymoon trip walking back thirty miles to the cabin Thomas built in the Conneaut woods. We talk about partners instead of the little wife. We talk about women voting sometime in the future and Thomas says he thinks it a good idea. We finally arrive weary and footsore, back at the cabin in the woods. I run ahead and throw open the door. “Welcome home, sweetheart.”

I never did let Thomas carry me over the doorstep! We walked in together.

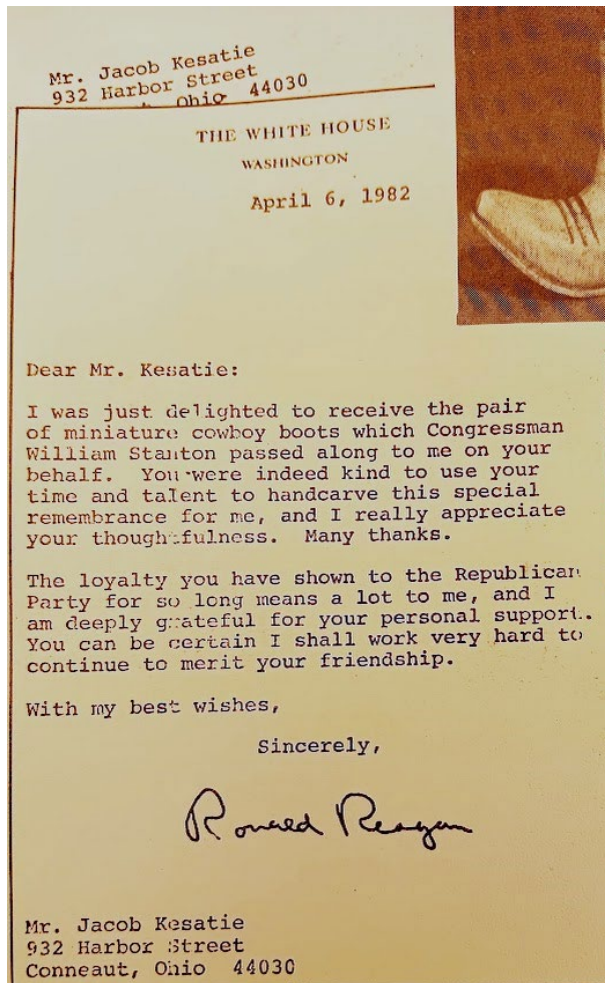


From "Memorial to the Pioneer Women of the Western Reserve," Part IV, Mrs. Gertrude Van Rensselaer Wickham, Editor [Women's Department of the Cleveland Centennial Commission, February, 1897], p.p. 917-920.

This fictional story is based on the true Conneaut story of Anna Montgomery and Aaron Wright, early Conneaut pioneers who were married in 1800. They had to walk through dense woods the thirty miles from Conneaut to Harpersfield for the Justice of the Peace to marry them. There was no Justice of the Peace in Conneaut. They also had to walk the thirty miles back to Conneaut through the same woods. Reverend Simpson is based on Reverend Joseph Badge, a pioneer minister who worked with the Native Americans in what later became Ashtabula County.

Dock Talk Tales

Kesatie's Carved Boots March Into The White House



Jacob Kesatie, Supervisor of Payrolls and Employee Benefits, has a hobby of carving animals and other things in miniature. Lately he has been delighting his friends and acquaintances with gifts and pairs of shoes or boots carved in wood and in miniature size. Some of these were in appreciation for a donation made to Kesatie's favorite charity.

Recently one of Kesatie's friends suggested that he make a pair of his boots as a gift to President Ronald Reagan. So, Jake created the unique pair of boots, complete with spurs which you see pictured here. They were given to Congressman William Stanton, who represents Ohio's Eleventh District. He marched them over to the President's Assistants at the White House and they passed them along to President Ronald Reagan.



The President was delighted and expressed his appreciation in a personal letter of thanks to Kesatie, a copy of which is reproduced here. Jake has described the receipt of this note as "the high point" in his carving career. Just as Jake's books have found their place in

the White House, so will the framed letter from the President of the United States find a place of prominence in the Kesatie home.

Dock Talk, May 1982

Up to Date and Doing with the Conneaut Area Historical Society

Another Conneaut Area Historical Museum season has whizzed by as fast as the summer. We celebrated our 28th Anniversary Labor Day weekend with free hot dogs and festivities. It has been an eventful 28th years, full of progress, joys, and sorrows. In the last few years we have lost some long-time, faithful members, including Jack Mathay, Rosemary Bennett, and Karl Rowbotham in July. They are missed and mourned, both in the Society and in the Conneaut Community.

Our joys include reopening the David Cummins Octagon House with a June Open House. We plan to keep it open all winter as a base of operations for our historical society, since the historical museum doesn't have heat. The Octagon House hours are Friday, 12 to 3, and on Saturdays and Sundays we are open from 12 to 5. Come and visit us. As well as antiques and a unique building, we have Conneaut history displays, scrapbooks, city directories, school year books, and military, musical, and other interesting exhibits. We also have a monthly history program that we changed from Time Travel Tuesday to Hump Day History Wednesday. Our October program will feature three video perspectives of a Tinker's Hollow Halloween and Chris Anderson will be presenting a program about the Miss Conneaut and Miss Ohio Pageants in November.

The Historical Museum featured several new exhibits and displays last season and we are planning more for the next season. At the Octagon House, we are tweaking our archives and getting ready to scan the glass and PowerPoint slides that John Tyler donated and we are also doing history with Conneaut schools.

So we are busy and we know you are too, but take some time to drop in and see us at the David Cummins Octagon House, and mark next Memorial Day on your calendar for the next season Conneaut Area Historical Museum.

Museum Steering Committee

Delmas Bennett	Jim Jones
Jerry Anderson	Pat Jones
Jerry Janco	Debbie Jones
Debby Herbel	Mo Tanner
Kathy Warnes	

Museum Officers

Jim Jones, president
Jerry Janco, vice-president
Pat Jones, treasurer
Debbie Jones, secretary
Kathy Warnes, historian

<p>Andy Potchatko, Topky Library, Printer</p>

CIVIL WAR CORNER # 6

September 2024

(OHIO IN THE CIVIL WAR). GETTYSBURG

There are countless books and articles about the American Civil War. The war continues to fade into the past of 160 plus years ago, yet it continues to capture our imagination. As with newsprint ... if it bleeds it leads.



I started this project by rereading The Untried Life: The Twenty-Ninth Ohio Volunteer Infantry in the Civil War by James T. Fritsch. I am reading about the events between the major engagements and stopping to watch a YouTube presentation about the major engagements and then read Fritsch's account of these events. It is enlightening. It puts local men into the maelstrom of the major and minor engagements of the war bringing them to life. It brings fear, confusion, and valor into focus.

The YouTube presentations clearly display the battlefield positions and actions of the 29th OVI. By watching YouTube, the sequence and actions are clearer.

We accompanied the 29th OVI from the current Jefferson Fairgrounds through the major engagements of 1862 and early 1863. After their solid performance at the Battle of Chancellorsville they were sent on the thirty-mile march back to Dumfries, VA to refit and prepare for future operations. The 29th OVI are assigned to Slocum's 12th Corps, Candy's Brigade, and Geary's Division.

The morale of the Regiment and most of the Army of the Potomac, from the individual soldier up to and including several general officers, was surprisingly high after the significant reversal of Chancellorsville. They all knew they had fought well but were beaten due to Hooker's poor generalship.

In mid-June they received orders to march north. Lee was once again trying to invade the north for multiple reasons: seeking supply from the bread basket of Pennsylvania giving Virginia a break and creating a significant victory to encourage foreign support/intervention.

Deserters became a larger problem as the war ground on. On the route that ultimately became the road to Gettysburg three deserters from another brigade in their division were executed near Leesburg, VA. This brought a pale of sadness over all ranks in their division. As Lee continued north behind the mountains the Army of the Potomac kept between Lee and Washington, DC. The movement was a stop/start affair leaving the soldiers in the dark regarding the destination and the

goal. Once they moved into Pennsylvania they were significantly heartened by the reception of the populace. They were marching through friendly home territory for the first time.

The 29th OVI, part of Candy's Brigade, Geary's Division, arrived at Gettysburg late on 1 July. They were positioned a little north of Little Round Top. They settled in for the night. The roads were full as the Army of the Potomac moved into the area. The troops sensed a battle as big as Chancellorsville was in the offing.

As units arrived the positioning of the corps and divisions caused a considerable amount of adjustment. The 29th OVI and the rest of Geary's division was moved north to a high hill named Culp's Hill. This became the Union right/north of a line of troops that looked like a fishhook or a Shepard's crook ranging north to south, east of the town of Gettysburg. Culp's Hill became the right of the Union line. Cemetery Ridge the center and Little Round Top to the south was the extreme left. Greene's Brigade, also in Geary's Division, had been on Culp's Hill the day prior and was busy digging in and creating a breastwork made of rocks and downed trees. The 29th OVI and Candy's Brigade was placed in reserve behind Greene early on 2 July.

Lee struck in the center of the Union line on Cemetery Hill and farther south toward Little Round Top. Early on 2 July. The objective was to cause Meade to pull troops from the Union right (Culp's Hill) and reenforce the Union center. Having the Union right weakened Lee then had MG Ewell overwhelm the weakened Union right, cut the Baltimore Pike and roll up the Union line. The attacks on the Union center resulted in the horrible fighting in the Peach Orchard, Wheatfield and Little Round Top. The plan nearly worked.

At MG Meade's direction and to strengthen the Union center Slocum ordered Geary to move his Division to Cemetery Ridge around 6 PM reinforcing the Union center which was again in dire straits. Greene was to stay and defend Culp's Hill. William's Division had started to move earlier, Geary was to follow him. The fog of war intervened. They became separated and Geary got lost!

Confederate MG Ewell commenced a determined attack on Culp's Hill at about 6 PM. If Ewell succeeded the Union right would fall, the main communication route to the Union rear and a large Union supply point would be lost.

Greene's Brigade conducted a valiant and successful defense of Culp's Hill reinforced by regiments from the 1st and 11th Corps. This defense equals the 20th Maine's defense of Little Round Top to include a fierce Union bayonet charge by the 137th NY defending the extreme right flank breaking the Rebel assault. Meanwhile Geary was still lost 5 miles southwest near Two Taverns. Near 1:30

AM on 3 July Geary found his way back aided by the flashes of musket and cannon fire on Culp's Hill . His troops settled into their previously occupied position behind Greene's Brigade. One wag observed "it seemed like Chancellorsville, the 29th OVI had been on the field for two days and had yet to sustain a serious casualty."

The frustration of having thus far "missing the dance" would become ironic. The old adage of "be careful what you wish for" applies.

The Rebels, reinforced by fresh units, continued to attack in earnest. Candy's brigade, including the 29th OVI alternated, one relieving the other in the breastworks, with Greene's brigade at 45-minute intervals maintaining constant fire on the Rebels. The Rebel attack started to falter and around 10 AM the Union counterattacked. By midday, the rebels began to pull back. The danger to the Union Right flank was alleviated. The cannonade in preparation of Picket's charge commenced around 1 PM. Picket's charge was launched at 3 PM and by 4 PM it was all over.

As confusing as this may seem I strongly recommend you watch the first recommended YouTube presentation. It is excellent. It does not discuss Geary's land navigation skills.

HOW CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CIVIL WAR?

Of all the positive and negative things the Internet has brought to us the opportunity for self-study in an easy to manage mode is possible through YouTube. This FREE window into history is amazing with regard to the number of presentations that are available at your fingertips. Though initially daunting to the novice it can provide **years** of enlightened study and enjoyment.

HOW TO WATCH YOUTUBE AT HOME

- From a computer or tablet put www.youtube.com in the search window.
- In the YouTube search window type in the subject you would like to learn about.
- **This month's suggestions are :**
 - **Culp's Hill: Gettysburg Battle I History Mapped 1863 Meade**
 - **Civil War Combat: Carnage at Gettysburg (Culp's Hill) (1 JUL 1863)**
- **As you view any presentation advertisements will periodically appear. Just hit "skip" and they will go away.**
- If you have a streaming service like Spectrum the YouTube application (AP) is probably on your screen where you select Spectrum. Select YouTube, go

to the search window and type in the term of what you want to watch, Once you open one Civil War show the built in algorithm will offer other Civil War selections.

- **If you have any questions, comments or feedback please send them to Bill Kennedy at whk3oh@gmail.com.**

After the Gettysburg campaign the 29th OVI and Slocum's 12th Corps was shifted to the Western Theater. Being a logical break point and since I have received zero feedback I will place this section of the newsletter on pause until further notice.

To create your own journey thru the Civil War I strongly recommend you purchase a copy of **The Untried Life** by James T. Fritsch (I have no financial interest in this or any other book) or one written by a veteran of the 7th, 105th or 19th OVI. Read the dialog leading up to a battle and switch to YouTube to see a first-class presentation of the battle and then return to the book for a discussion of the fight at the soldier level. Good luck with your studies.

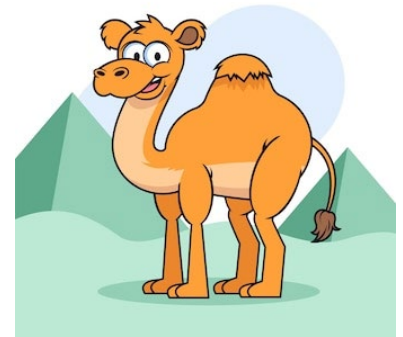
Bill Kennedy

Colonel USA

Retired

Time Travel Tuesdays Become Hump Day History Wednesday

The David Cummins Octagon House, Conneaut, Announces HUMP DAY HISTORY WEDNESDAYS! We moved from Time Travel Tuesdays to Hump Day History Wednesdays!



Conneaut City Manager Nick Sanford will present our first Hump Day History Wednesday program on Wednesday, September 18 from 6 until 7 p.m. at the David Cummins Octagon House.

- We meet the third Wednesday of every month from six to seven at the David Cummins Octagon House. Light Refreshments and Fun Conversation after the program.
- Parking: Conneaut Savings & Loan rear parking lot or on the grass under the Old Maple Tree across from the back door.

Time Travel Tuesdays have traveled to the third Wednesday of every month and become Hump Day History Wednesdays. We have some exciting Hump Day History Wednesday programs including “A Tinker’s Hollow Halloween” in October and Chris Anderson’s presentation about Miss Conneaut in November. Join us at the Octagon House on the third Wednesday of the month from 6 to 7 p.m.

History doesn’t sit on Hump Day. It doesn’t stop in its tracks and wait for us to catch up with it. It forges ahead, with or without our participation.

Conneaut citizens are in the forefront of historical progress with many dedicated people making it every day, including Connie Naylor, Executive Director of the Conneaut Convention and Visitors Bureau, and Nicholas Sanford, Conneaut City manager since April of 2024.

Nicholas Sanford



Nick Sanford, newly appointed Conneaut City Manager, speaks with Ashtabula City Manager Jim Timonere at a meet-and-greet for Sanford at the Conneaut Human Resource Center at a recent Meet and Greet.

Photo by Brian Haytcher | Star Beacon

As a fifth generation Conneaut native, Nicholas Sanford, “Nick,” has a long, deep history with the city and with Ashtabula County. He graduated from Edgewood High School in 2003, and earned a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from Youngstown State University in 2008 as well as enjoying the distinction of being the first person in his immediate family to graduate from college.

After his college graduation, Nick became active in his community. He joined the Edgewood Alumni Association and graduated from LEADERShip Ashtabula County in 2019. He served on the Boards of Directors of the Conneaut Arts Center,

the Conneaut Human Resources Center from 2010 to 2014, and the Conneaut Foundation.

In 2018, Conneaut Council appointed him to fill the unexpired term of a Second Ward Council member and voted as a member on various legislation, including the application for \$19.5 million in federal funding for the Conneaut Harbor Dredge Facility and the Port Conneaut Project which is projected to connect Conneaut Harbor directly to Interstate 90.

When former City Manager Jim Hockaday resigned early in 2024, City Council appointed Nick to the City Manager position. After signing his contract with Conneaut, according to an Ashtabula Star Beacon quote, Nick noted that the appointment was one of the most humbling moments of his life and he said, “I’m very honored to be in this moment right here, right now, and very honored to have my family here with me,” he said. “Thank you all very much. I’m ready to get to work.”

Nick works hard in other parts of his life as well. He and his wife Jennifer Lillish Sanford are members of Corpus Christi Parish in Conneaut, where he has performed vocal music for over 20 years. His voice resounds in special concerts like “The Voices of Hope” at the Conneaut Human Resources Center. He and Jennifer have two golden retrievers Frankie and Louie, and they help him read to children at the Conneaut Public Library.

One of Nick’s jobs involved walking over to the Octagon House from City Hall and exploring its history. At his September presentation, he talked about Conneaut History and answered some questions about the present and future history of Conneaut.



Connie Naylor

In a February 2023 interview with the Ashtabula Star Beacon after the Conneaut Chamber of Commerce named her Conneaut Citizen of the Year, Connie Naylor, executive director of the Conneaut Convention and Visitors Bureau, revealed that she is not a Conneaut native. Rather, she notes that “We had no ties to Conneaut at all, and yet we chose to live here.”



Her choice has benefitted Conneaut. After retiring from working as an educational consultant for about 14 years, she moved to Conneaut in 2007, and she started working with the Conneaut Tourism Board in 2008. She said that when it became the Conneaut Convention and Visitors Bureau in 2019, she continued to work for it. “I’ve been a board

member, I’ve been a committee chairperson when we were the board of Tourism, I’ve been president, and now I’m executive director.”

She also volunteers at events and programs like D-Day and the Conneaut Human Resource Center’s Right Track Program.

In her August presentation at the last Time Travel Tuesday series of history programs at the Octagon House, Connie Naylor, Executive Director of the Conneaut Convention and Visitors Bureau outlined the history and mission of her organization. A city ordinance created the Conneaut Bureau of Tourism in the mid-1980s and specified that the Conneaut Bed Tax would support it. In 2008, the Conneaut Bureau of Tourism reorganized with a new name, The Conneaut Board of Tourism. It became a non-profit, stand-alone organization in 2018-2019, and is now the Conneaut Convention and Visitors Bureau still receiving support from the Conneaut Bed Tax and yearly membership dues.

The Convention and Visitors Bureau’s purpose is to develop, promote, and otherwise encourage tourism, recreation, and economic development throughout Conneaut and Ashtabula County.

There are fifteen members on the Board of Directors with one liaison to the City Council. Connie Naylor is the Executive Director, Jennifer Bosley, the Administrative Assistant, and Michael Bartone, the technician. Board members serve four-year terms. The current board includes Kristina Showalter, President; Rick Naylor, Treasurer; Joanna Bucci, Dolly Sherman, Deborah Herbel, Linda

Thompson, Amanda Furnage, Stephanie Gildone, Mindy Notte, Kay Peterson, George Peterson, Denver Spieldenner, Stephanie Gildone, and Jodi Wnoroski.

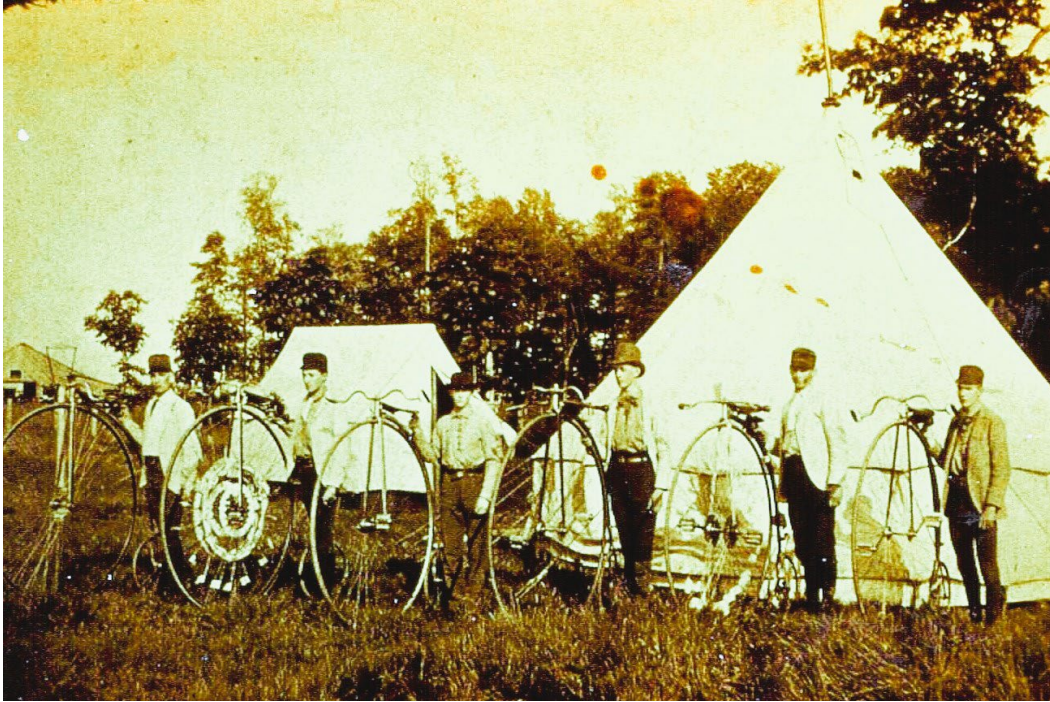
The Bureau meets on the second Tuesday of each month at the Conneaut Port Authority Office. Some of the Bureau's activities include advertising and promoting Conneaut as a visitor destination by creating printed publications and other media methods to spread the good word about Conneaut and Ashtabula County. Supporting local events like the MS Bike Event, D-Day Event, the Red, White, and Boom, Perch, and Pilsner Festival and the OLC Discovery Day are some of the local events that the Board supports. They also facilitate Santa's yearly visit!

Maintaining the Conneaut Convention and Visitors Bureau Website: www.visitconneautohio.com and listing events on other websites as well as promoting Conneaut through Social Media like Facebook and Instagram are other important Bureau activities.

The Conneaut Convention and Visitors Bureau is a member of organizations like the Conneaut Chamber of Commerce and the ACCVB that promote area tourism.

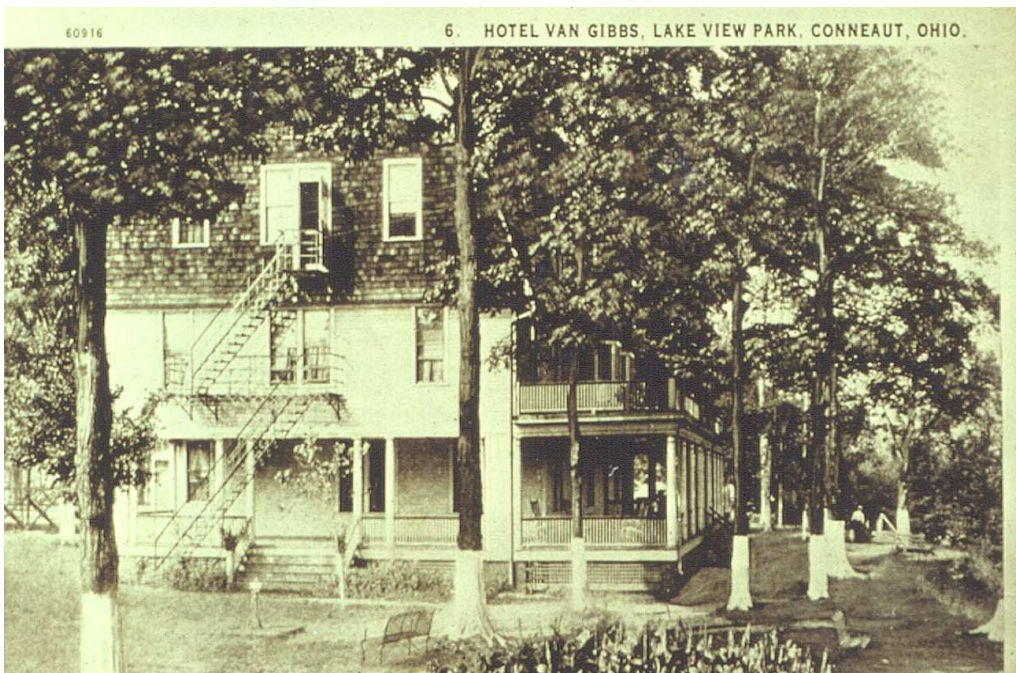
One of Connie's guiding principles is "We continue to believe that life is just better here and we want visitors to come discover why."





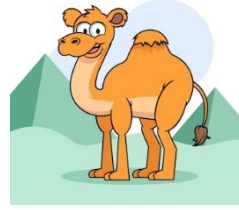
These are photos of slides from the John Tyler collection that we are processing at the Octagon House. There are four hundred and counting glass slides and several carrells of Power Point

slides. If anyone has a scanner with a slide bed scanner that will scan glass slides that they are willing to donate or sell, please let us know!



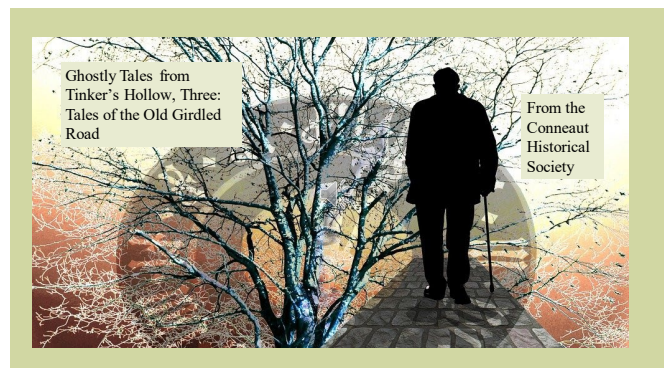
Hump Day History Wednesday

Twitch and Tremble to “A Tinker’s Hollow Halloween”



Wednesday, October 16, 2024, from 6 to 7 at the Octagon House

Parking in the Conneaut Savings & Loan Parking Lot across the street or under the maple tree in the side yard.



Patron's Pages

Join Our Patrons Program

The Conneaut Area Historical Museum is excited to announce a new Merchant Patron program which is available to any local business who desires to help our museum to function and improve. For \$50 per year (January to December, renewable every year) we will include your business name and phone number in the publications the museum produces, including a monthly newsletter, any future books the museum produces, and our website. If interested, send your donation of \$50.00 to P.O. Box 563, Conneaut, Ohio 44030. We will include you in our list of great merchants and businesses in this area.

American Legion Post 151
162 Broad Street
Conneaut, Ohio
440-593-2205

Angela's Café
268 Lake Road
Conneaut, Ohio 44030
440-593-6060

*Conneaut Dairy
Queen*
1009 Main Street
Conneaut, Ohio
440-593-2765

Biscotti's Restaurant
Park Avenue
Conneaut, Ohio 44030
440-593-6766

*Chris Brecht
State Farm
Insurance Agency*
216 Main Street B
Conneaut, Ohio 44030
440-593-1191

Conneaut Creek Vet 186
Clinic
382 West Main Road
Conneaut, Ohio 44030
440-593-7387

Crafty Shanty
1009 Maine Street
Conneaut, Ohio 44030
440-593-2765

Gerdes Pharmacy
183 Park Avenue
Conneaut, Ohio 44030
814-480-9532

Leslie & Donald O'Bell
2 Bretenahl Place
Bretenahl, Ohio 44108

*Kathi's Golden
Retrievers of
Albion*
11790 Penside Road
Albion, PA 16401
814-756-5432

Lake Erie Auto
West Main Road
Conneaut, Ohio 44030

Marcy Funeral Home
208 Liberty Street
Conneaut, Ohio 44030
440-593-4253

Lynn Armington
48 Ranch Road
Willoughby, Ohio
44094

Maureen Mo Tanner
930 Main Street
Conneaut, Ohio 44030

Port Conneaut Federal Credit Union
1002 Broad Street
Conneaut, Ohio 44030
440-593-7350

Rainbow Café
263 Main Street
Conneaut, Ohio 44030
440-593-2504

Susanne Trigg
Canfield, OH

Normal for Norway is a culture shock humor podcast where in each episode two foreigners living in Oslo discuss one weird thing about Norway.

Listen to Normal for Norway wherever you get your podcasts!

Conneaut Area Historical Society

Membership Application



The dues period runs from January through December.

Single \$15.00 _____ Couple \$20.00 _____

Family \$25.00 _____ Patron
\$50.00 _____ Name _____

_____ Address _____

City _____ State _____

_____ Zip Code _____ Phone
Number _____

Would you be willing to volunteer at the Museum during the summer months or help us with winter projects?

We are open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from noon until 5 p.m., starting on Memorial Day and ending on Labor Day.

What day or time is best for you?

Thank you for your membership.

P.O. Box 563

Conneaut, Ohio 44030