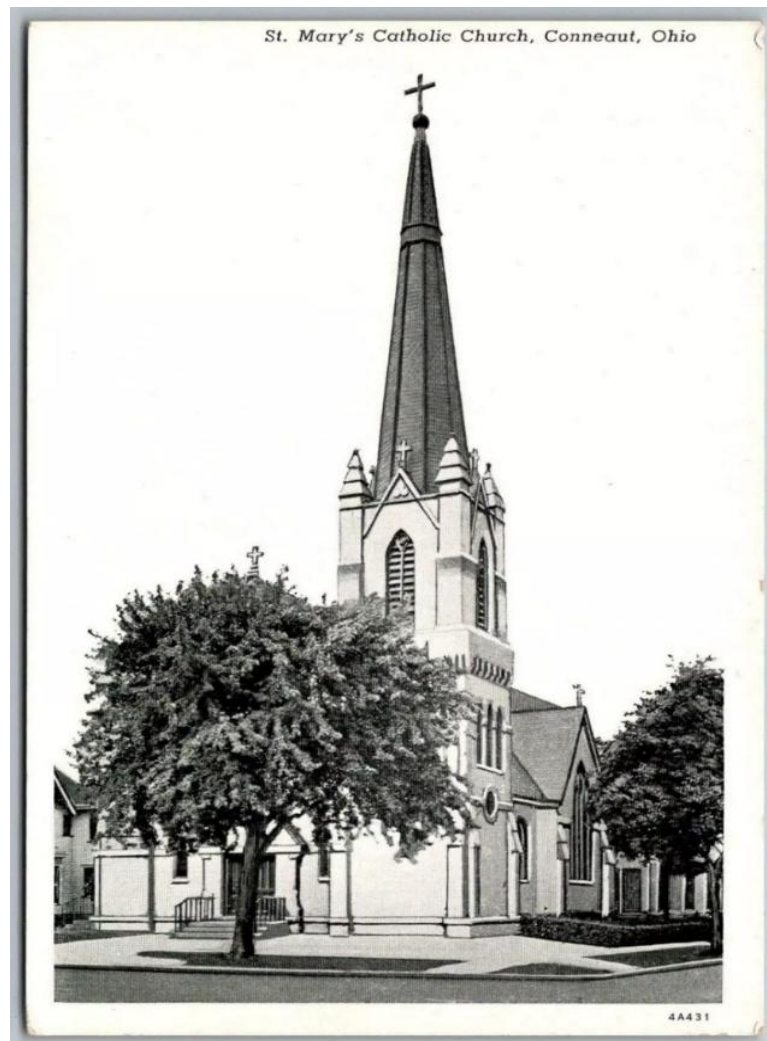


Renewed Remembering: The Newsletter of the Conneaut Area Historical Society and the David Cummins Octagon House

April 2025

Volume 3, Issue 27



St. Mary's Church 1942

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Two Nicks and a St. Mary Time Capsule

Congregational Recipe

Barn Quilt Square No. 16

Hump Day History Wednesday April 16,
6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Beth Anthony will
present a program about the Conneaut
bus that was just donated to the
Conneaut Area Historical Museum.

Two Nicks and a *St. Mary Time Capsule*

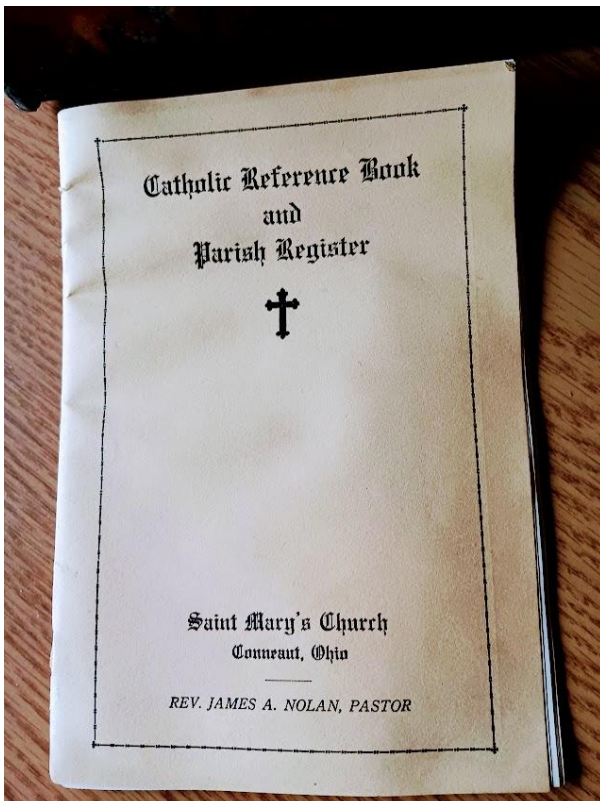


Over the past two years, St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Conneaut has closed, had its bell removed, and contributed a time capsule and two advocates named Nick, Nick Perkowski and Nick Sanford to continue its story.

In early April Diocese of Youngstown officials worked to desacralize St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church in Conneaut to prepare it for sale. Nick Perkowski, now of Corpus Christi Church and City Manager Nick

Sanford eagerly watched as contractors worked to uncover something buried in the stone that had rested there since 1927.

The scrutiny if the two Nicks produced results. The two Nick's and Nick Perkowski's contractor uncovered a time capsule buried in the sancturary of the addition to the church which was dated 1927. The two Nicks and the



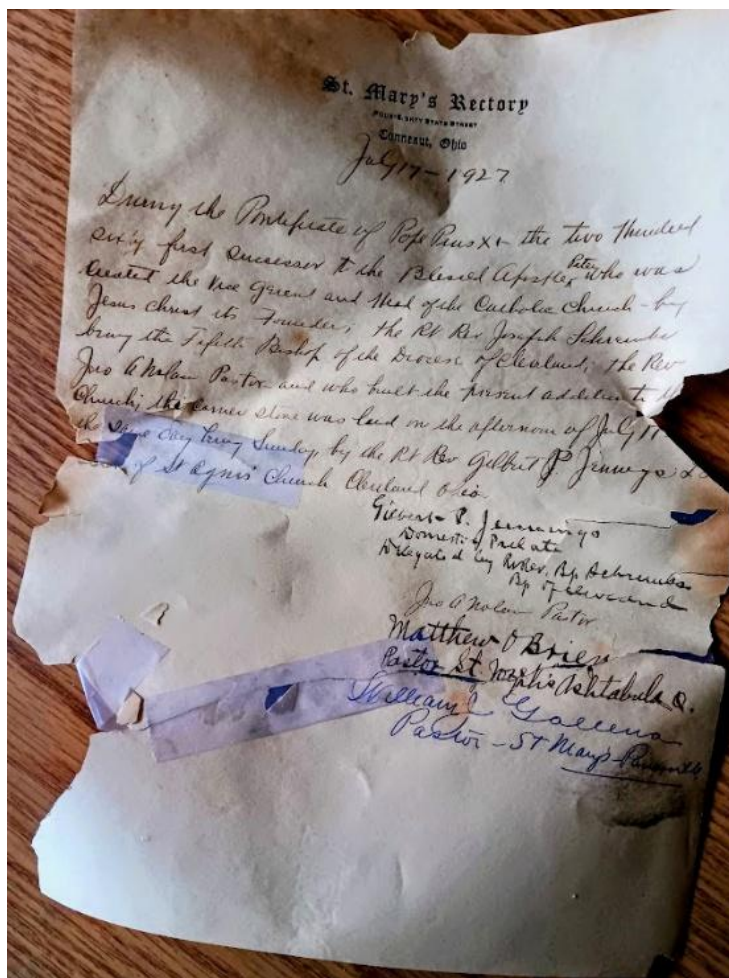
contractor expected to find something because often when buildings were constructed, including churches, cornerstones were fit in and time capsules or some other forms of mementos were buried in the cornerstone. Wood paneling surrounded the time capsule and the workers had carefully removed the paneling when they found the time capsule.

The time capsule appeared in the form of a tin lined copper box containing two newspapers, a letter from Pastor James A. Nolan, 1927 priest at the time, and a parish registry. One of the newspapers was The Universal Bulletin of the Diocese

of Cleveland and the other was an issue of the Ashtabula Star Beacon. The letter and newspapers were brittle from spending nearly a century in the box.

Quoted in a Courier story by Bob Ettinger, Nick Perkoski said that “finding the capsule brings him a bit of sadness because . “There’s a long history there of parishioners and this whole process of closing the church, having it desacralized, it’s been difficult. I grew up somewhat in that parish, in both parishes. It’s sad to see this.”

That said, the capsule would have never been found if not for St. Mary’s being desacralized. It never would have come up. We wouldn’t have broken into the cornerstone we were still using.”



The contractor carefully recovered the time capsule because of the slight chance that the cornerstone could be preserved and moved to Corpus Christi Parish Hall. According to Nick Perkoski and the Youngstown Diocese, desacralization rules if the cornerstone can't be removed and it has a religious significance to the building it has to be broken up. Nick Perkoski said, “My guy who’s doing things said there’s no way we can get that out of there, so we’re going to probably end up breaking it up.”

St. Mary added additions in different generations, so Nick Perkoski thinks there could be another time capsule

somewhere.

“We haven’t found anything else yet, but we believe there’s another cornerstone from the original building,” Nick Perkoski said. “We don’t know where that is, because, in the 1950s, they built the front part of St.

Mary's that you see there. We call that the vestibule. We think that that covered it up somewhere inside the walls. There are some closets there that we're going to look into. We do want to go looking for that. Now that we found this one, we're hoping that there's one from the 1800s."

St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Conneaut, Ohio

Mary L. Lardi, a long-time parishioner of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception wrote a history of her church that is available for sale at the Conneaut Area Historical Society.. This is just a part of the history of St. Mary Church of the Immaculate Conception. Her history is still living and still growing as long as her people do.

Time Travel Tuesday with Mary L. Lardi:

The Spirit of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Conneaut

At the May 2023 Time Travel Tuesday Conneaut Area Historical Society program, Mary L. Lardi presented the historic and spiritual journey of Conneaut's St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church.

A Conneaut Recorder newspaper story about St. Mary Church gives the bare historical facts of the early beginnings of St. Mary's Church.

St. Mary's Church. Conneaut. October 19, 1888

The early pioneers who came to Conneaut were those if they had any religious affiliation at all, almost without exception were Protestants, and moreover, Protestants from that state, which was most Puritanical among the Puritans, Connecticut.

In presenting this brief sketch of St. Mary's therefore, we are dealing with a congregation which is relatively of recent origin and of which it is fair to suppose .made its beginning among those not largely blessed with worldly goods and a community where the existing religious atmosphere was hardly congenial to it. In May 1864, Reverend J. Tracy, secured from Martin Murphy and Terrance Quinn, the donation of a one-half acre lot fronting on Chestnut Street, though the Catholics of Conneaut were few and too poor to erect a church at that time. Father Tracy bought a small frame building 26x30 for one hundred dollars and moved this former dwelling which had stood on the site of the present town hall. to the new lot dedicated it in 1865 under the name of St. Mary's.

In 1887, Father Jennings bought a new site, being two lots at the corner of State and Chestnut Streets for \$900 and on July 10 of that year (1887) Bishop Gilmour laid the cornerstone of the new brick edifice which cost \$10,000. Father Jennings was first resident pastor in Conneaut. In October 1891, the present commodious, pastoral residence was ready for occupancy. having been completed at a cost of \$2,200.

Next Sunday morning the dedication services of Conneaut's new Catholic Church will be held at this place. Low masses will be said in St. Joseph's Church at 7:30 and 8:15 a.m. to give all an opportunity to attend both here and at Conneaut. The train fare for the round trip will be fifty cents. A large number from here will take part in the services.

A new parochial school was begun on September 8, 1900. It was a handsome two-story structure of pressed brick and cost \$15,000. It was dedicated in March of 1901 and formally opened in August 1901. Generations of students were educated at St. Mary school until it closed in 1972.

More than one hundred years later, another newspaper story by staff writer Mark Todd in the Ashtabula Star Beacon highlighted one of the current events in St. Mary history.

120-year-old Conneaut church saluted by historical society

Sep 18, 2006

CONNEAUT - - The story of St. Mary's Church in Conneaut also is the story of the people who found comfort and faith within its walls, Cheryl Shepard, Ashtabula County Historical Society president, said Saturday. Shepard spoke at an afternoon ceremony to honor the church at Chestnut and State streets, the latest building to be saluted by the Society. A plaque that will hang near the church entrance was presented to the Rev. Raymond Thomas, pastor of the St. Mary's/St. Francis Cabrini parish, and Mary Lou Lardi, who did the research that earned the honor.

More than a dozen people were on hand for the brief ceremony, conducted outside the church. St. Mary's was dedicated in 1885, and it's arrival apparently marked Conneaut's first Catholic church built from the ground up. Until then, Catholics worshipped in existing buildings in town. Shepard read from a newspaper article of the day, which described the church as a grand edifice tastefully decorated and well-constructed. She agreed, noting the church - - nearly 120 years old - - "still stands proudly today."

The same article noted the church was built, not with money borrowed from banks, but with individual donations." The people built this church," Shepard said. Conneaut was the first community settled in what is known as the Western Reserve, and St. Mary's Church is a tribute to the city's diversity. "Conneaut was one of the largest melting pots," she said.

Thomas thanked Shepard for the plaque and Lardi for her research, and said he hoped St. Mary's will stand for many years to come. "We have a responsibility to maintain (the church)," he said. "Not just for ourselves, but for the future." The Society regularly recognizes "homes and buildings of historical significance throughout Ashtabula County," Shepard said. Eligible structures must be at least one hundred years old, she said. "We have a lot of history in Ashtabula County," Shepard said. "We need more people who are interested in it."

As the 21st Century progressed, St. Mary Church reflected the changes taking place in main line Protestant and Catholic Churches in the United States and around the world, heightened by the impact of the Covid epidemic. .

A Gallop poll published on March 29, 2021, revealed that Americans' membership in houses of worship continued to decline last year, dropping below 50% for the first time in Gallup's eight-decade trend. In 2020, 47% of Americans said they belonged to a church, synagogue, or mosque, down from 50% in 2018 and 70% in 1999.

In a story dated January 22, 2023, the British newspaper, The Guardian, noted in a story dated January 22, 2023, "Churches are closing at rapid numbers in the US, researchers say, as congregations dwindle across the country and a younger generation of Americans abandon Christianity altogether – even as faith continues to dominate American politics.

As the US adjusts to an increasingly non-religious population, thousands of churches are closing each year in the country – a figure that experts believe may have accelerated since the Covid-19 pandemic."

In 2008, Saint Mary Parish merged with Saint Frances Cabrini Parish to create one parish and in 2013, the parish was renamed Corpus Christi Parish. Ten years later April 16, 2023, Bishop David J. Bonnar celebrated a closing Mass at Saint Mary Church.

Knowing that your historic church is part of significant historic changes is small spiritual comfort when its doors close behind you. Throughout her presentation, Mary Lardi's love for her church shone through like an altar

candle in a dark church. . She spoke of the community spirit that St. Mary inspired among Catholic and non-Catholics who worked together to create Mary's Kitchen which fed hungry people for several years. She spoke of the traditional services, especially Christmas and Easter, where the joy and meaning of their participation shone on the children's faces.

In her book, St. Mary Church, Conneaut, Ohio, Mary describes the classical Gothic architecture of St. Mary's Church and the unique, original stained-glass windows as well as several location and structural changes. But she wrote that St. Mary never lost its unique identity and "loving, welcoming atmosphere."

Mary identified a roll call of the priests who blessed both Catholic and Protestant lives, including priests like Reverend Gilbert Jennings, the first resident pastor at St. Mary; Father William F. Murphy; and Father Thomas Fahey. According to St. Mary tradition, while sitting in the hushed sanctuary in quiet meditation, it is possible to see the benign ghostly figure of a priest blessing the worshippers in the church that he served.

Although St. Mary is closed and in the shadow of an uncertain future, Mary closes her book with certainty: "Over 125 years have gone by, yet St. Mary Church is still standing as a monument to the love and dedication of her people. Under the guidance of Mary of the Immaculate Conception, may she continue to prosper long into the future."

Pew Portraits of Denominational Persuasions

- Church and Society Notes
Communion Services at the Christian Church Sunday immediately after the Sermon.
The Methodist Sunday School will give an Easter Social Friday evening April 8th.
Conneaut Reporter. March 30, 1887.
- Church and Society Notes
On account of the necessary absence of the pastor, H.H. Emmett, there will be no services at the Baptist Church on Sunday.

Friday, Vigil of the Feast of Assumption, is a fast day and Saturday the 15th a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass will be celebrated at 5 o'clock a.m. at St. Mary's Church.

Preaching at the M.E. Church by the pastor at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Sunday School at 12:00 p.m. Epworth League meeting 6:30 p.m.

Conneaut Reporter, August 14, 1891

- Daughters and Mothers Meet Annual Event Held at Conneaut Church Conneaut, April 23, 1928. A cordial invitation is extended to all.

The annual Mothers and Daughters dinner in the Congregational Church Friday night was a complete success and one of the outstanding social events of the season.

A dinner served by the boys of Mrs. Archie Morgan's and Gerald Schram's lass was served at 6 p.m. Mrs. J.H. Haskin was toastmistress. Mrs. George Arthur gave the invocation. The welcome was given by Mrs. Rankin and Miss Jane Davis responded for the daughters. Toasts were given by Mrs. S.S. Skinner, Mrs. William Minor, and Miss Virginia Minor, representing three generations. Mrs. Skinner was superintendent of the primary Sunday School for 25 years.

Others in the program were Mrs. Robert Cribbs and daughter Jane; Barbara Barnes and Dorothy Weigle; Mrs. Cable T. Barnes; Jean Crocker; Mrs. Robert Crocker; Alice Frew, Betty Harrington; Mrs. J.H. Rankin; and Mrs. J.D. Loomis.

A playlet concerning one of the problems of a mother was given by the following ladies: Mrs. Mary Wagoner; Mrs. Jessie Stoke; Mrs. T.R. Hatch; Mrs. Robert Cribbs; Mrs. H.M. Welch; Mrs. Archie Morgan; and Mrs. Hugh Buchanan.

- Guild Inducts New Officers Marjorie Fenton Again Heads Society Conneaut, April 23, 1928. Miss Donna Gilliland, Whitney Street, was hostess Thursday to the members of the Worldwide Guild of the First Baptist Church. Twenty-two members were present. Two new members, Miss Helen Carmody and Miss Mary Smith were present and a visitor, Miss Luclaira Graham. The new officers of the Guild

were installed and were as follows: President: Marjorie- Fenton; Vice President: Josephine Ring; Secretary: Ruth Justice; Treasurer: Margaret Carmody; White Cross Director: Mrs. Ring. The preceding officers were President, Marjorie Fenton; vice-president, Ruth Puffer; secretary, Florence Blakeslee; treasurer, Donna Gilliland.

- Call Off Classes At Sunday School

There will be no sessions of classes at the First Congregational Sunday School Sunday morning with the exception of the adult classes, it was announced today by Lynn Bowerman, superintendent. This action was taken on account of numerous scarlet fever cases in Ashtabula.

Conneaut Reporter, 1930s

From the Congregational Cook Book

Published by Mrs. M.C. Bulfinch's and Mrs. C.H. Simonds' Sunday School Classes of the First Congregational Church of Conneaut, Ohio

MCMXVI

City Barber Shop

Marshall & Brooks Proprietors

Main Street

Cutting Children's Hair a Specialty

Pie Crust

One level cup flour

Two tablespoons lard (shortening)

Three tablespoons water

Rub lard and flour together with hands until a granular mass is formed. Then add water and mold into a paste. This is just enough for one pie with two crusts or for two piles with under crust only, and is never tough. Roll thin. Mrs. H.N. Armstrong

Mrs. Senator B.F. Wade's Pumpkin Pie

On quart milk

One quart cooked and sifted pumpkin

Four eggs

Two cups sugar

One tablespoon cinnamon

Two teaspoons ginger

One teaspoon nutmeg

One teaspoon salt

Will make four medium sized pies.

Mrs. A.P. Laughlin

Your Money Buys More At The New and Greater Boston
Stroe

Conneaut's Best Liked and Most Popular Priced
Department Store

Allen Block	Myron C. Leavitt	Phone 1768 Black
215 Main Street	Manager	Conneaut, Ohio

*For Monuments and all Granite
Work*

See

Chas. Marcy & Son

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

Up to Date and Doing with the Conneaut Area Historical Society and the David Cummins Octagon House

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; we have school year books, and military, musical, and other interesting exhibits. We have a monthly history program on the third Wednesday of every month

that we changed from Time Travel Tuesday to Hump Day History Wednesday. Conneaut native Beth Anthony will be presenting our April Hump Day History Program on April 16 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Octagon House. She will talk about the vintage Conneaut bus that was just donated to the Conneaut 'area Historical Society. Join us!

We are encouraging public school and home-schooling parents and teachers to bring pupils to the Octagon House for a field trip to glimpse into the past. Come and have fun and win prizes in local history bees.

Our research library is stocked with material waiting for people to come in and use, and we have over 100 scrapbooks crammed full of Conneaut History. Come and explore!

In December we had our first Octagon House Tea. The tea had a World War II Theme, featuring Glenn Miller music and Connie Naylor reading some of her grandmother's letters that she wrote as she came of age during the World War II years. Twelve-year-old Aubrie also modeled some of our vintage clothing to the delight of the tea goers. We are planning to have four seasonal teas a year: a spring, summer, fall, and Christmas tea. We are sponsoring a Jane Austen Tea on April 26 from 12 to 2:00 p.m. at the Octagon House. We request a \$10.00 donation and reservations are required. Call us at 616-307-5750 for more information and to make a reservation.

We are working on several new exhibits, including the panoramic photographs of William Haines and a Pittsburgh & Conneaut Dock exhibit.

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 for the Conneaut Area Historical Museum and the David Cummings Octagon House.

Conneaut Area Historical Museum People

Steering Committee	Debbie Jones
Jerry Anderson	Pat Jones
Jerry Janco	Debbie Herbel
Delmas Bennett	Mo Tanner
Jim Lyon	Nancy Lamb

Officers

President: Jim Jones

Vice-President: Jerry Janco

Secretary: Debbie Jones

Treasurer: Pat Jones

Historian: Kathy Warnes



Barn Quilt Square No. 16

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.ashtabulabarnquilttrail.com/).

Wild Cats on a Willow Tree!



They are so soft and fuzzy and
stretching in place

You expect to see a little cat face,

Peek out at you and purr

Asking you to pet their fur.

They stand tall and dance in the wind,

Bow to spring breezes and even bend,

To watch the flowers bloom and the
grass grow,

Pussy Willows celebrate spring, you know!

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.

Crafty Shanty 153 Park
Avenue Conneaut,
Ohio 44030

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

Gerdes Pharmacy
245 Main Street
Conneaut, Ohio
440-593-2578

Biscotti's Restaurant
186 Park Avenue

Conneaut, Ohio
44030

440-593-6766

Rainbow Café

263 Main Street

Conneaut, Ohio
44030

Conneaut Creek
Veterinary Clinic West
Main Street
Conneaut, Ohio
44030 593-7387

Kathi's Golden
Retrievers of Albion

11790 Penside Road
Albion, PA 16401

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
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Lynn Armington

48 Ranch Road

Willoughby,
Ohio 44094

Lake Erie Auto West
Main Road Conneaut,
Ohio 44030

*American Legion Post
154*

162 Broad Street

Conneaut, Ohio

440-593-2205

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

Angela's Café

265 Lake Road

Conneaut, Ohio

44030

440-593-6060

*Leslie & Donald
O'Bell*

2 Bretenahl Place

Bretenahl, Ohio

Maureen Mo Tanner

930 Maine Street

Conneaut, Ohio 44030

Hair Shack

444 State Street

Conneaut, Ohio 44030

440-549-6777

Mellow, Mild, Messenger



Not for me lilies proud and tall, but dandelions subtle. and
small,

With deep and strong roots, and short spunky shoots

Do you see sailing seeds or sneaky growing weeds?

Earthbound reality or faces of eternity?

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 or at the Octagon House during the summer months or help us with winter projects?

The Conneaut Area Historical Museum is open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from noon until 5 p.m., starting on Memorial Day and ending on Labor Day.

The David Cummins Octagon House is open from Memorial Day to Labor Day from noon until 5 p.m. We also plan on keeping the Octagon House open during the winter for special programs and tours. What day or time is best for you?

Thank you for your membership.

P.O. Box 563. Conneaut, Ohio 44030