

The Zoar Star

A Publication of the Zoar Community Association

WINTER 2014-2015

www.historiczooarvillage.com

The ZCA Mission

To preserve, interpret, and celebrate the culture and heritage of the Society of Separatists and historic Zoar Village through education, activities, and events that promote both the legacy of the Society and the present Zoar community.

What's Inside

| | |
|--|-----|
| Volunteer Banquet..... | 1 |
| Contact Block..... | 2 |
| Meet the Board..... | 2 |
| Local High School Student Writes History of Zoar..... | 3-4 |
| In Memory of Jennifer Donato..... | 4 |
| New Members..... | 5 |
| FREE Speaker Series..... | 6 |
| Upcoming Events..... | 7 |
| Christmas in Zoar Contest Winners.. | 7 |

Artifact of the Month

This artifact was hidden away in the Zoar Store attic! Can you guess what it is? The first person to email zoarinfo@historiczooarvillage.com with a correct answer will win two tickets to Harvest Festival, August 1 & 2.



Volunteers Honored at 2014 Volunteer Banquet



The Zoar Community Association and Historic Zoar Village honored all the organizations volunteers at a banquet on Sunday, January 18, 2015. ZCA hosted the banquet at the Wilkshire Banquet Center in Bolivar. Canal Tavern of Zoar catered the appetizers and Benson's Market and Catering catered the luncheon and dessert.

Volunteers recognized for over 50 hours of service included: Sally Bullock, Paige Hamsher, McKenna Marchand, and Morgan Marchand. Volunteers honored for over 100 hours of service included: Donald Beamer, Mary Lou Beamer, Janis Chaffey, Staci Cope, Scott Gordon, Mary Lou Miller, Scott Reynolds, Marcie Smith, and Pat Woodward. Ticket Sales volunteers honored this year included Jeff and Susan Eadie, and Brooke Moffat. Youth volunteers included Paige

Hamsher, McKenna Marchand, Morgan Marchand, and Ben Williamson. These young people combined to serve more than 200 hours in 2014.

It is important to remember that ZCA Board Members are also volunteers, and many of them donate 50-100 (or more) hours of their time. The 2014 ZCA Board included the following individuals:

Jon Elsasser, Mark Gaynor, Frank Price, Diane Geis, Gail Rubert, Mike Barnett, Bill Bjork, Darin Good, David Hayes, Darrell Markijohn, Libby Moffat, Mike Murphy, Holly Shane, and Sandy Worley. Event committee members also donate a significant amount of time to ZCA. This includes Tammy Bennett, Cindy Elsasser, Candy James, Rita Mullet, Carol Murphy, and Kathy Schlabach.

The banquet concluded with a time for sharing memories of Jenny Donato, previous site manager at Zoar. Several volunteers commented on her work ethic, artistic abilities and how she applied those in Zoar, and her capabilities as a manager.

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VISIT US

Site Hours for Tours:

January-March: Closed
April & May: Sat. 11-4; Sun. 12-4
June-September: Wed. - Sat. 11-4; Sun. 12-4
October: Sat. 11-4, Sun. 12-4
November & December: Closed

Zoar Store Retail Hours:

January & February: Closed
March: Fri., Sat. 10-5; Sun. 12-5
April-December: Wed. - Sat. 10-5; Sun. 12-5

Meet the Board: Mike Murphy



Mike Murphy is active on the Harvest Festival and Civil War Reenactment Committees serving as a past co chair of both events. He loves to do the hands on volunteer jobs such as festival set up. He is an avid local history buff. His hobbies include reading, running, bicycling, gardening and watching OSU and Cleveland sports. He is married to Carol and they have two grown sons. Mike works for Enervest Energy LLC. He is a native of New Philadelphia and lives in Lawrence Township. Mike loves to travel and he and Carol are looking forward to traveling to Switzerland, Germany and France this Spring.



LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT WRITES HISTORY OF ZOAR: Part III



Paige Hamsher lives in Canton, Ohio and is a sophomore at Glenoak High School. She is 15 years old. Her favorite things include reading, watching movies, and learning new things. She learned more about Zoar by attending the Speaker Series and soon realized that the Zoarites' story demonstrated this years Ohio History Day theme which is Rights and Responsibilities in

history. Paige is grateful to all of those who contributed information and sources that helped her write her paper.

National History Day (NHD) is a highly regarded academic program for elementary and secondary school students.

Each year, more than half a million students, encouraged by thousands of teachers nationwide participate in the NHD contest. Students choose historical topics related to a theme and conduct extensive primary and secondary research through libraries, archives, museums, oral history interviews and historic sites. After analyzing and interpreting their sources and drawing conclusions about their topics' significance in history, students present their work in original papers, websites, exhibits, performances and documentaries. These products are entered into competitions in the spring at local, state and national levels where they are evaluated by professional historians and educators. The program culminates in the Kenneth E. Behring National Contest each June held at the University of Maryland at College Park.

Paige received honorable mention at the Ohio History Day competition. Part three of her paper follows.

It took time after the Articles of Association were created for the community to start flourishing. In fact, the financial system became so bad at one point that Joseph Bimeler had to suggest that the community practice celibacy and not conduct marriages until their situation improved. This took place from 1822 to 1830 (Morhart 17). When marriages were allowed again, the idea for a children's nursery was put forth. At the age of three the children were put into a nursery that was run by a matron. When they reached the age of fourteen they could return to their parents if they desired. "It is said that few return to their homes from the dormitories...There are reports which state that the children were not happy in the dormitories" (Holshoy 40). They were closed by 1860. This is yet another example of how the Zoarites sacrificed and felt it their responsibility to give up their children so the community could continue.

It is believed that the real reason for the dormitories was to free the mothers for their duties and responsibilities in productive labor. "Members apparently could not accept the idea of Zoar women working both in the domestic sphere and outside of the home" (Buescher 55). Because of the fact that the women outnumbered the men, the women had to complete tasks that would normally be considered a man's job. They planted and harvested crops, built things, and completed many other jobs outside the home.

The Zoarites' big break came in 1827 when the Ohio Canal was being constructed. It would run through their territory, approximately 7 miles worth, so they obtained a contract to do the work in its construction. "The contract called for an excavation of forty feet in width at the water line and twenty-six feet in width at the bottom" (Holshoy 43). For their work, the group received \$21,000 (Bryan 11). This money helped them pay off their mortgage entirely, and they were even able to purchase additional lands (44). With the canal at such a convenient location, they could buy and sell products more efficiently.

The community began to make many new tools. A sawmill was built so the members could build houses (Fernandez 76). There was a grain mill for grinding flour. Their crops were also doing well. They produced wheat, oat, and rye. Their orchards and gardens were filled with produce. They got meat from their healthy herd of beef cattle (Tarulli HD Media Group). They were able to trade and sell products with surrounding cities. They were doing so well that non-Separatist settlers even applied to join the community. Zoar's leaders would only accept people who could speak German, so in essence most were turned down (Buescher 66).

Throughout the 1830's and 1840's, Zoar prospered. Everything seemed as if it had fallen into place. The community was thriving financially, socially, and religiously. And then, in 1853, an event that would forever change the fate of the community occurred. Joseph Bimeler, who had been leading the Zoarites since their existence in Germany, passed away. Many believe that this was where the downfall of the society began. They were able to maintain the success for some years after his death, but not many. No one was able to take the position of leadership that he had held for so long. When asked what she thought was the ultimate cause of Zoar's demise, Becka Lash said, "In my opinion, the main reason for Zoar's demise were the revolutions in transportation and industry. Transportation ended the isolation of the community and brought new ideas and people to Zoar. The industrial revolution decreased

continued from page 3

the demand for quality, handmade items because factory made items were less expensive and easier to make.” (Lash). Through the coming decades, Zoar continued to function, but not like it used to. “Their trade gradually fell off, their income decreased and their expenses increased. Their young and active members deserted” (Randall 53). But one thing did not change: their work habits. According to Alexander Gunn, a Cleveland native who stayed in the Zoar Hotel during the community’s final years, “With the dawn begins the stir of life at Zoar, and the village bell rouses the sleeping ones to another day of honest labor...soon all scatter to their various tasks-some to the fields and others to the work-shops” (5). Even when the community began to fail, the Zoarites never gave up their responsibilities.

Many started to advocate for the dissolution of Zoar. In fact, Levi Bimeler, a descendant of Joseph Bimeler, strongly encouraged people to remove their share from the society. On March 10, 1898, a meeting was held and it was agreed that the community disband. “Each family received its home in the village, some farm land, and a cash dividend of about

\$200.00” (Nixon 227). Deeds were transferred from the property of the community to each individual. Most of the other buildings were left vacant or were used for their original purpose by those who were still living in the village. Zoar, as the outside world and inside community had known it for almost 81 years, was no more.

The Society of Separatists of Zoar did something spectacular. They fought for their religious rights and beliefs, and because of their perseverance were able to emigrate to America. Upon arriving in their new home, they exhibited the ultimate sacrifice and responsibility by forming a Communal Society to pay off their debts. Little did they know that because of this, they would become one of the most successful Communal societies in the United States. Though for the Zoarites, success was never their true goal. Their real objective was to have a place where they were free to worship and not be persecuted for what they believed in. They were able to achieve this in Zoar. So, if you are traveling through the Tuscarawas Valley in Ohio, stop by and visit.

You will be amazed by the preserved structures, and will be able to see the village as it is today.

In Memory of Jennifer Donato

Jennifer L. Antrobus-Donato, 65, of New Philadelphia died Tuesday, December 2, 2014 in the Country Club Retirement Center at Dover.

Born June 15, 1949 in Knoxville, Tennessee she was a daughter of the late Andrew and Ruth Russell Humphrey. She was also preceded in death by her sister, Chrys Humphrey.

Jennifer retired from the Zoar Community Association and had also worked for ODOT. She loved playing golf, and was a member of the Green Valley Women’s Golf League and the Ohio Historical Society. In her spare time she enjoyed painting, weaving and excelled at interior design.

Jennifer will be sadly missed by her husband of five years, Alfred A. “Fred” Donato II whom she married on December 30, 2008; children, Rebecca (Chris) Borrell of Texas, Matthew Antrobus and his companion, Holly East of Mineral City, Tiffany (Max) Margolis of Bexley, Meredith Donato and her fiancé Andy Smith



Jenny and Sherrie Baughman enjoy a quiet moment during one of the 2010 events.

of Cincinnati; brothers, Kenneth (Lisa) Humphrey of Sylvania, Ohio, Jon (Jacquie) Humphrey and Larry Humphrey both of Leesville; sister, Susan Podrasky of Willoughby; six grandchildren, Drew, Ashley and Alex Borrell, Charlie and Ben Margolis and Jaidyn King.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society at 525 North Broad St., Canfield, Ohio 44406 or to the Zoar Community Association at PO Box 621, Zoar, Ohio 44697.

Welcome to Our New Members and Donors

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In the previous Zoar Star, the following donors should have been listed as In memory of Porter Gardner:

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in honor of Ramon & Sylvia Murray
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in memory of Ruth Hayes

Upcoming Events

Dates Set for 2015 Saturdays in Zoar FREE Speaker Series

February 7

Zoar will begin the Speaker Series season with a presentation by John Spaziani that answers the question, "How did scouting and spying, by both the Northern and Southern Operatives, affect the Civil War?" Meet in the historic Zoar Schoolhouse (located at 221 East 4th Street, Zoar, Ohio 44697) from 1pm-2pm.

March 7

Boone Triplett, author of Ohio and Erie Canal, will give a presentation entitled "The Ones That Missed the Cut." This presentation will discuss the collection of photographs that were not included in his finished book. Meet in the historic Zoar Schoolhouse (located at 221 East 4th Street, Zoar, Ohio 44697) from 1pm-2pm.

April 11

In addition to our Opening Day festivities, Zoar will host a FREE Speaker Series at the Zoar Schoolhouse (located at 221 East 4th Street, Zoar, Ohio 44697) from 1pm-2pm. Author Claire Gebben received a fantastic surprise when her relatives in Freinsheim, Germany discovered old letters in their attic written by her ancestors, German immigrants to Cleveland, Ohio. The discovery led to the historical novel *The Last of the Blacksmiths* (Coffeetown Press, 2014), based on the true story of Michael Harm, a young blacksmith who travels from the Bavarian Rhinelands to Ohio to pursue an artisan way of life. To research the novel, Ms. Gebben embarked on a journey that included four days of intensive blacksmithing and a month-long stay in the German Rhinelands. In her powerpoint presentation she'll share research adventures, the little-known historical influence of Ohio Germans, and genealogy tips she picked up while writing the book.

May 2

Join author and life-long Ohio resident Wendy Koile for her presentation about her book entitled *Legends and Lost Treasure of Northern Ohio*. From sunken ships to treasure hunts, Koile's presentation will take you on a wild journey through Ohio's history. Author will have autographed copies of her books available for purchase. Meet in the historic Zoar Church (located at 142 East 5th Street, Zoar, Ohio 44697) from 1pm-2pm.

June 6

"Mr. Lincoln's Camera Man: An Afternoon with Mathew Brady." His photographs of Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War have become icons of the early days of photography. Hear the story from Mathew Brady himself as the world-renowned photographer and chronicler of the American Civil War and the presidency of Abraham Lincoln shares some of his photographs and the stories behind them. Performed by Mark Holbrook. Meet in the historic Zoar Schoolhouse (located at 221 East 4th Street, Zoar, Ohio 44697) from 1pm-2pm.

July 4

Kathy Fernandez, a former site manager of Zoar, will give a presentation on Zoar textiles -- from clothing to bread cloths. In addition to pictures, some textiles will be on display. Meet in the historic Zoar Schoolhouse (located at 221 East 4th Street, Zoar, Ohio 44697) from 1pm-2pm.

August 1

In addition to our Harvest Festival activities, we will also hold our monthly FREE Speaker Series on Saturday, August 1. Listen as Confederate President Jefferson Davis, also known as David Walker, comes to life to talk about the Civil War. Meet in the historic Zoar Church (located at 142 East 5th Street, Zoar, Ohio 44697) from 1pm-2pm.

September 5

Join Sara Showman (from the South) and Mark Dawidziak (from the North) for a presentation entitled "Ghosts of the Civil War: Shades of Blue and Gray." This one-hour presentation will include ghost stories from South Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, and Ohio and literary selections by Walt Whitman, Ambrose Bierce, and Emily Dickinson. Meet in the historic Zoar Schoolhouse (located at 221 East 4th Street, Zoar, Ohio 44697) from 1pm-2pm.

October 3

John C. Fazio will visit Zoar to deliver his presentation entitled "Francis and Arabella; John and Fanny: Love and War," the story of a Union General, a Confederate General, and their wives, all who live through the Civil War to become unlikely friends. Meet in the historic Zoar Schoolhouse (located at 221 East 4th Street, Zoar, Ohio 44697) from 1pm-2pm.

November 7

Soldier of Honor: Milton Holland and the 5th U.S.C.T. The men who fought as United States Colored Troops led very different lives before becoming soldiers for the Union. Many were simply doing their best to meet the challenges of everyday life, yet some came to be recognized for acts of valor on the battlefield. Milton Holland was destined to become a leader and to be awarded the Medal of Honor for gallantry in the Battle of New Market Heights. Holland was born a slave, but his father was a wealthy Texan who became Secretary of State in Texas and fought for the Confederacy. Milton's life was much different from his father's. Hear from Milton himself as Anthony Gibbs uses living history to bring this story to life. Meet in the historic Zoar Schoolhouse (located at 221 East 4th Street, Zoar, Ohio 44697) from 1pm-2pm.

December 5

In addition to our Christmas in Zoar activities, we will also hold our monthly FREE Speaker Series on Saturday, December 5. Chris Hart will present his NEW offering, "A Civil War Christmas Remembrance." Meet in the historic Zoar Church (located at 142 East 5th Street, Zoar, Ohio 44697) from 1pm-2pm.

FEBRUARY & MARCH EVENTS

Weaving Class

Wednesday, February 4, 10a-5p

Wednesday, February 18, 10a-5p

Saturday, February 21, 10a-5p

Saturday, March 7, 10a-5p

Wednesday, March 18, 10a-5p

Learn to weave your own rug on a two-harness floor loom in the historic Zoar Sewing House! Class goes from 10am-5pm, and all participants take home a completed project at the end of the day! Cost of the class is \$70/person (or \$63/person for ZCA members) and includes all instruction, materials, and lunch including a deli sandwich, a pickle, chips, a cookie, and water. The Zoar Community Association will be happy to accommodate for any dietary restrictions. Classes fill quickly, so call 330-874-3011 to make your reservation!

Knitting Workshop

Saturday, February 28, 10a-5p

Learn to knit a cozy for your favorite mug in the historic Zoar Sewing House! Class goes from 10am-5pm, and all participants take home a completed cozy in just one meeting! Cost of the class is \$40/person (or \$36/person for ZCA members) and includes all instruction, materials, and lunch including a deli sandwich, a pickle, chips, a cookie, and water. The Zoar Community Association will be happy to accommodate for any dietary restrictions. Call 330-874-3011 to register!

The Zoar Store Opens for the Year

Friday, March 6

Visit Zoar's original General Store built in 1833 and shop from a variety of handmade and locally made items, from pottery and hand-dipped candles to old-fashioned candy and canned jams! March hours: Friday & Saturday 10am-5pm and Sunday 12pm-5pm, April-December hours: Wednesday-Saturday 10am-5pm and Sunday 12pm-5pm.



2014 Christmas in Zoar Door Decorating Contest Winners

Judges Winnie Harris, Ralph Kraus, and July Conley Peterson, all former residents and/or business owners in Zoar, judged 26 private homes and the historic museums for the 2014 contest.

The winners were:



**1st place: #21 House
owned by Bill and
Kathy Bjork**



**2nd place: #8 House
owned by Kevin Bechtel
and Doug Parkinson**



**The Print Shop owned by
Whitemyer Advertising**

After a rainy, cold day of deliberation, the judges then enjoyed lunch at the Canal Tavern of Zoar.

Submitted by Donna Gardner, chair.

Yes! I want to become a member of the Zoar
Community Association

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Donations made in memory of Jeanne Graef were used to purchase new rose bushes for the Zoar Garden to replace the bushes damaged in the unusually cold winter of 2014.

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