



45 WEST FIFTH STREET
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Web Site: www.rosscountyhistorical.org

Summer 2014 ISSUE

New Trustees & Officers Selected

Two new members were elected to the Society's board of trustees at the annual meeting on Monday, April 28. Judy Benson was returned to the board after a two-year hiatus. She takes the place of Julia Pierson who had completed her latest three-year term. Neil Coleman was elected to complete the final year of Laversa Motes' term. Benson had previously served on the board as second vice-president and did an outstanding job chairing the membership and social committees. Coleman has been a member of the finance committee for two years and received the Society's First Capital Historical Award with his wife Pat two years ago for their exemplary restoration of the Henry Walke home on Western Avenue in Chillicothe.

At the Society's May 6th board meeting, Henry Herrnstein was elected to a one-year term as board president. He moves into that position after several years as first vice president. Eric Picciano was elected to move from second to first vice president, and Ron Bowen was elected to take Picciano's position as second vice-president. In addition, Tim Barada was re-elected board secretary, a position he has held since 2011, and Bob Casari was re-elected board treasurer, a position he has held for thirteen years, including a one-year hiatus from the board.

We thank each of these individuals and all our other board members for the generous contribution of their personal time and talents so crucial to the Society's success.

Summer Junior Member Program

"Become an Apprentice"

Wednesday, July 30, 9:30 a.m. — 12:30 p.m.
at the Ross County Heritage Center

Pre-registration is required, and space is limited. Register by calling (740) 772-1936, 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. (Please see page 3 for further details.)

2014 Museum Hours

April — December:
Tuesday — Saturday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

2014 McKell Library Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday, 1 to 5 p.m., year 'round
Closed major holidays



Find us on
Facebook

2014 First Capital Historical Awards



At its annual meeting on April 28th, the Society presented First Capital Historical Awards to three local people in recognition of their work in preserving local history. Clarksburg resident and local historian Barbara Cleary (above, second from left) was recognized for researching and authoring a nearly 700 page book on the History of Clarksburg and Deerfield Township, covering over 200 years of history of the Ross County village and its surrounding township.

Cindy and Ron Henderson (above, third and fourth from left), owners of Old Town Fabric Shop, were recognized for their renovation of 56-58 West Water Street, currently housing their business. The Henderson's extensive restoration helps maintain the historic integrity and unique nature of one of Chillicothe's most historic and picturesque streets. (Also pictured above are board members Bob Nelson [left] and Vic Cleary [right].)

2014 Nolan Scholarship Awarded

Also at the Society's annual meeting, Scholarship Committee chairwoman Julia Pierson (right) introduced Kaylie Noy-Detillion, a graduating senior at Unioto High School, who is the recipient of the Society's 2014 Nolan Scholarship.



Kaylie will attend The Ohio State University this fall where she plans to major in Spanish and nutrition with the goal of becoming a pediatrician.

President's Report, by Henry Herrnstein

The Society's May board meeting is always our reorganizational meeting: the meeting where officers are chosen for the following year. I had the honor and privilege to be chosen as president for the 2014-15 year. It is a daunting job, and I am fortunate to have the advice and council of my three immediate predecessors and a wonderful staff.

The new Collections Preservation Facility is, of course, complete and easing into full operation as the last fixtures and appliances are installed. The Heritage Center's roof, which was still under warranty, has been replaced. Maintenance is, of course, a never-ending task whether the physical plant is a historic structure or a brand new building. My hope is that, now our buildings are in good order, we will be able to concentrate more of our energies on our primary mission.

A Very Special Member!

The Society would like to recognize a very special member, June Gregg, of Bainbridge, who celebrated her 103rd birthday on June 2nd. Miss Gregg has been very active in preserving Ross County & Bainbridge history and is a wealth of information. We thank her for her many years of support.



Happy Birthday!

Welcome New Members

The Society welcomes the following new members since the last issue of the Recorder (names are in alphabetical order):

- Diane Barbour & David Coward
- Lynda Buchanan
- Arthur Devore
- Carmi & Nancy Jones
- Barbara Morrow
- Bill & Cheri Noel
- Petland, Inc.
- Doug & Amanda Schwemlein
- Melody Shahan
- Joseph & Amber Stewart & Family
- James Wright

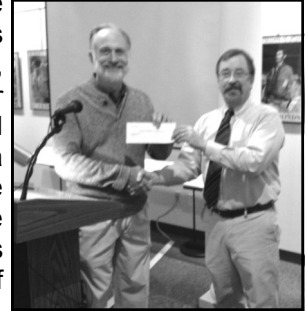
New Life Member
James Edward Schilder

Memberships Make Nice Gifts

Memberships to the Ross County Historical Society make thoughtful and inexpensive gifts. Buy them for the history buffs you know by returning the form on page 7. Benefits include free admission to each of our museums and the McKell Library plus discounts at the museum store.

Director's Report, by Tom Kuhn

At the conclusion of the first of our three Spring Speakers Series programs back on April 23, the Society presented speaker Bruce Lombardo of the Heartland Earthworks Conservancy (right) a \$500 donation in support of the Conservancy's campaign to save the Junction Group Earthworks located near the intersection of Plyley's Lane and Bellevue Avenue in Chillicothe. The tremendous outpouring of support from many others will make the effort a success, and another part of our local pre-historic puzzle will be saved, studied, and enjoyed for generations to come.



On another note, we received the news of the recent passing of long-time Society member Lloyd Savage with much sadness. Lloyd was a tremendous resource for the Society in many areas, and we regret his passing and will long remember his winning smile and beautiful voice.

Gift Ideas from the Museum Store

- Back In Print! *The Marietta & Cincinnati Railroad, and Its Successor—The Baltimore & Ohio: A Study of this Once Great Route Across Ohio, 1851-1988*, \$25.00** — an outstanding compilation of photos, short stories and newspaper clippings on Chillicothe's railroad history, by John R. Grabb.
- The Civil War Journals of Samuel H. Hurst, 73rd Regiment, OVI*, \$19.95** — a perfect companion to Hurst's *Journal History of the 73rd OVI*, compiled by Patricia Fife Medert.
- Church & High Streets, Chillicothe, Ohio: The Buildings & the People & Other Miscellaneous Structures*, \$39.95** — the sixth in a series of publications on the structural history of Chillicothe's historic district, by Patricia Fife Medert.
- The Rise and Fall of Camp Sherman: Ohio's World War One Soldier Factory*, \$4.95** — a reprint of Richard Peck's popular pictorial history of Chillicothe's WWI army training camp.
- Chillicothe, Ohio: Frontier Settlement to State Capital*, \$14.95** — An illustrated history of Chillicothe's founding and role as Ohio's first capital, by Patricia Medert & Andrew Verhoff.
- Ohio and Erie Canal Motor Tour: To Circleville from Chillicothe*, \$15.00** — an exploration of the remains of this historic waterway, by Martha Gerber Rittinger.

Society members receive a 10% discount on all purchases.

The Society's Wish List

Donations of everyday items such as tools and other types of equipment help our staff and volunteers complete a multitude of projects. If you, or anyone you know, have any of the following items to donate to the Society, please call 772-1936. (We would be happy to make arrangements to pick up your donation.)

1. 28 foot aluminum or fiberglass extension ladder.
2. Stacked washer/dryer (for our new collections facility).
3. Gas or electric powered leaf blower

A Friendly Reminder

The use of articles, photographs, and other items in the Recorder is prohibited without the express written consent of the Board of Trustees of the Ross County Historical Society, 45 W. 5th St. Chillicothe, OH 45601.

Ross County Historical Society

Invites children ages 6 to 12 to join us for our
2014 Summer Junior Member Program

**“Become an Apprentice:
 Earning a Living in Early Ohio”**



**On the grounds of the Knoles Log House
 (behind the Ross County Heritage Center)**

45 West Fifth Street, Chillicothe

Wednesday, July 30th

9:30 a.m. — 12:30 p.m.

Wanted immediately: Apprentices 6 to 12 years of age for the Ross County Historical Society's Summer Junior Member Program! Sign up now!

For hundreds of years children of all ages learned how to earn a living by working as apprentices alongside the “masters” of various crafts, trades, and professions. In our re-creation of those days, children will sign apprenticeship papers and begin learning the historical trades of the rope maker, the seamstress & tailor, and the carpenter. The experience will include making craft items to take home. When their “work” is done, they will participate in popular outdoor children’s games from the 1800s. Refreshments will be provided!

Free to Junior Members — \$10.00 fee for Non-Members

Space is limited. Please call 740-772-1936 by Monday, July 28th.

(Fee includes a one year membership to the Ross County Historical Society's Junior Member program. Children of households with family memberships to the Ross County Historical Society are considered junior members & participate free.

Advanced registration is required for all participants.

*From the Library, by Pat Medert***120 Years of Theater History in Chillicothe, 1805-1925 (continued)**

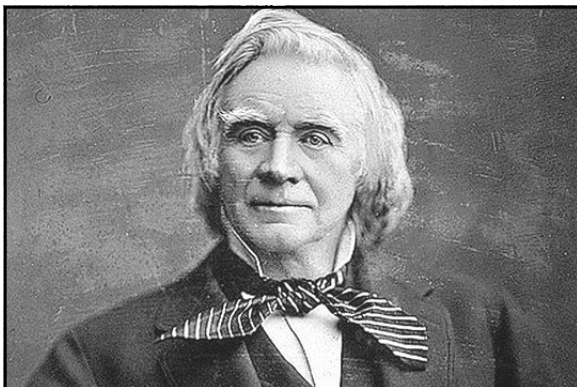
In the last issue of the *Recorder*, I wrote about the new exhibit in the temporary exhibit room in the McKell Library. On display are programs, pictures, and text panels telling the story of "120 Years of Theater History in Chillicothe, 1805-1925." I have written about the theaters, and this article is about the performers who appeared on the stages of those theaters. They were among the nation's leading actors, actresses, comedians and musicians. Many performed here numerous times and had a special fondness for the town and its people.

The first traveling performer to appear on the stage of Masonic Hall after construction was completed on the building in the spring of 1854 was child prodigy Nicholas Goodall, a twelve-year-old violinist who was billed as "Le Petit Ole Bull." Ole Bull was a Norwegian and he also had been a child prodigy before becoming a virtuoso violinist on concert stages throughout Europe and the United States. In addition, he was the composer of more than seventy musical scores. Young Goodall was accompanied at the piano by his father, Professor Goodall, and appearing with them was vocalist Madame Jullien. The performances received good reviews; however, the audience's favorable opinion of the performers was diminished when it was learned they had left town without paying the printer's account for their playbills. It was discovered they were being sought by printers in cities where they had appeared before coming to Chillicothe.

Fourteen years later the real Ole Bull performed on the Masonic Hall stage, along with his piano accompanist, Edward Hoffman, and soprano, Madame Varian. The circular distributed to advertise the event included the following message.

*Messrs. St. Burkley and F. A. Simonds, at the request of many of the lovers of Music in this place, have made an arrangement with this Troupe of Artists, at a very heavy expense, to visit Chillicothe. This will enable the people of this vicinity to have the pleasure of hearing **OLE BULL** (pictured below) without incurring the outlay of going to Cincinnati. It is hoped that the enterprise of these gentlemen will be met with liberality by the community, and that the attendance will be such as not to occasion loss to them.*

Thus, through their efforts, one of the greatest violinist of that time entertained theatergoers in Chillicothe.



Thomas W. Keene, one of the nation's most noted Shakespearian actors, was a favorite performer among Chillicotheans and appeared here often. He was born Thomas R. Eagleson in New York City in 1840 and began his career by playing small parts in plays at the Bowery Theater. His first major role was that of Henry IV in 1862 at Albany, NY. From then until his death in 1898, he was the leading actor of several national touring companies that performed throughout the U.S. and England.

Keene credits the people of Chillicothe with saving his career. He was here in November 1867 with the National Theater Co. when the company experienced financial difficulties and was unable to move on. The crew and cast remained in the city for six months. Keene was totally without funds. A number of prominent men who had befriended him held a testimonial on his behalf. This was followed by a benefit ball sponsored by the Reliance Fire Co. These two events raised \$185.35 for the penniless actor, which enabled him to get through the winter.

Keene had a fondness for alcoholic beverages and frequently overindulged. Before leaving Chillicothe in the spring, the men who had treated him with kindness asked him to promise to give up drinking. Keene made that promise, a vow he never broke. Twenty years later, Keene told a *Gazette* reporter, "I shall never forget Chillicothe while memory shall last."



Above is the cover for the program for Thomas Keene's performance in Julius Caesar at the Clough Opera House.

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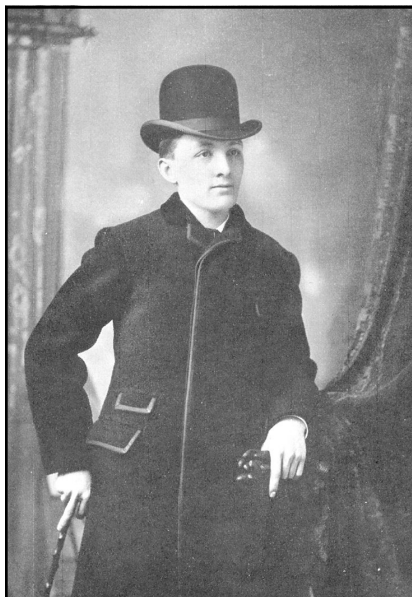


Tony Pastor (pictured left) is known as the "father of American Vaudeville." He was born in New York City in 1832 and began singing professionally as a child. After working as ringmaster for a circus, which involved entertaining the crowd with singing and dancing, he performed in music halls and saloons. Unhappy with the rowdy crowds and raunchy entertainment, he opened his own theater and toned down the stage offerings, thereby providing good clean entertainment for the whole family.

Pastor took his vaudeville show on the road and was performing in Chillicothe in 1886 when Chillicothe Lodge No. 62, of the Elks was organized. This organization dated to 1868, and its early members were mostly stage performers. Many of the actors and crew who came to Chillicothe were Elks, and it was from them that Edward Kauffman, manager of the Masonic Opera House, learned of the organization. He was able to attract a number of young men in the city to join the order, and when they were ready for their installation, Pastor and members of his troupe, who were authorized to install the new members, did so at Kauffman's solicitation.

George C. Tyler, one of Broadway's greatest producers, was born in Circleville in 1858 and in early childhood moved to Chillicothe with his parents. He became stage-struck as a young boy and determined to have a career in the theater, though not necessarily on stage. When he was only 18, he persuaded his father, George H. Tyler who was co-owner of

The Chillicothe Leader, to lease the Clough Opera House and allow him to manage it. He was successful in presenting first class productions with name stars, but was unsuccessful financially, and his auspicious start lasted only four months. After this failure, he took to the road and worked newspaper jobs until he was hired as the advance agent for leading actor, James O'Neill. A few years later he formed a partnership with Theodore Liebler in



George C. Tyler, age 18

a theatrical production firm under the name Liebler & Co. which launched Tyler's career as one of the nation's leading theatrical producers. His productions starred the famous actors and actresses of the day, and he brought many of his plays to Chillicothe to appear on the stage of the Masonic Opera House, later renamed the Majestic Theatre. Tyler died March 13, 1946, in New York, and his remains were brought to Chillicothe for burial in Grandview Cemetery.

James O'Neill was born in 1849 in Ireland and came to the U.S. when he was five. The family lived in Buffalo, New York, before moving to Cincinnati. O'Neill began work as a clerk, but was drawn to the theater, and when about age 22 began accepting walk-on parts in a Cincinnati theater. His roles became bigger as he learned his trade and performed in other cities. In 1872, he joined the McVicker Stock Co., whose lead actor was Shakespearean star, Edwin Booth. O'Neill appeared with Booth in several productions and became established as a major actor.

In 1883, O'Neill opened in New York in the role of Edmund Dantes in *The Count of Monte Cristo*, a role with which he would be identified from that time forward. Although he would appear in other major productions, *The Count of Monte Cristo* was what the public clamored for. He played the role of Dante more than 6000 times. O'Neill was a favorite with Chillicothe audiences, and he performed here several times.

O'Neill died in 1920. He was the father of the renowned playwright, Eugene O'Neill.



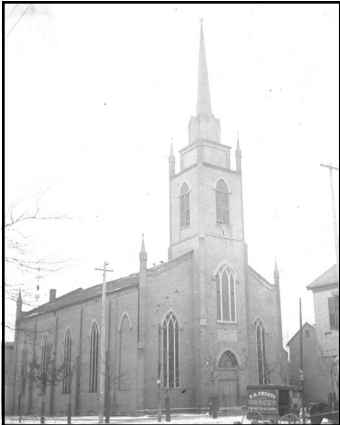
From the Photo Archives, by Lisa Uhrig

The St. Peter's Church Fire

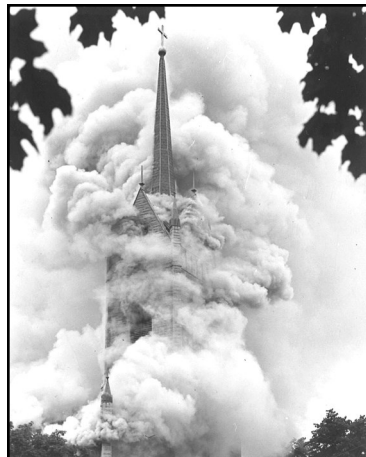
The first St. Peter's Catholic Church located on the northwest corner of Church & Water Streets in Chillicothe, was built in 1845-46. On Thursday, June 19, 1947, it was destroyed by fire leaving only a gutted shell of the former grand church. The *Chillicothe Gazette* reported the estimated loss at a cost of \$250,000.



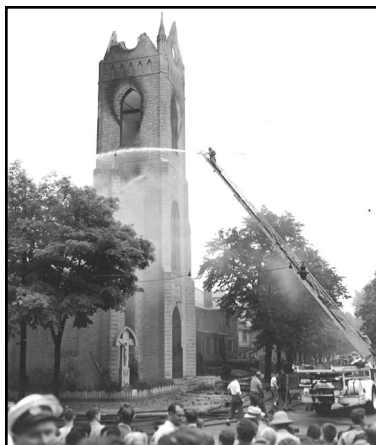
Above is the beautiful sanctuary prior to the fire. The two images below reveal a stark contrast following the fire.



At left is St. Peter's Church with its original brick exterior. In 1909, it was re-facaded with stone as seen at right.



A century of history goes up in smoke. Above are two views of the bell tower and steeple fully engulfed in flames.



The steeple topples into the sanctuary (left). A Chillicothe fire fighter sprays water onto the church (right).



Above is a present-day view of the church which rose from the ashes of the one that burned.

Recent Acquisitions of the Museum and Library

(Listed in order received since the last issue of the Recorder)

13. Book – *Six Selections From Irving's Sketch Book*, by Homer B. Sprague, 1888, donated by Ann Salome.
14. Photographs – (24) Statehood Day Muzzleloaders Shoot and construction of Sugarloaf Amphitheater, c. 1972, donated by Barbara Withers.
15. Letter – (laminated) by John Taylor Sharp, 73rd OVI, Sept. 28, 1864, donated by Marion Coey.
16. Postcards – (10) colored images of covered bridges in Ohio, donated by Al & Pat Heierman.
17. Book – *Lincoln: An Illustrated Biography*, 1992, donated by Bob Casari.
18. Newsletter – *Historian's Newsletter* by United Methodist Historical Society of Ohio, Winter 2014, donated by Julia Pierson.
19. Minister's License – issued to F.E. Evans, October 6, 1883, donated by Ohio Historical Society.
20. Photograph – of McClintick / Bennett chair in RCHS collection; Photograph – of same chair in Bennett home 76 West Second Street, Chillicothe, donated by Martha Bennett Stiles.
21. Scrapbooks – (56) Chillicothe Jaycees community activities from 1941-1961; Ledger – Chillicothe Jaycees 1949-1959; Plaques (3) & Certificate – presented to Chillicothe Jaycees for outstanding service, 1943, 1966, 1970, 1980, donated by Chillicothe Jaycees.
22. Painting – oil, framed, Adena Entrance Chillicothe, Ohio, by R. F. Erdmann, 1922, RCHS Purchase.
23. Books – various authors & titles, donated by Lisa Uhrig.
24. Printed Material – *Mead Paper, Paper Knowledge Manual*, c. 1985, donated by Thomas E. Day.
25. Bottles – (2) "Royal Crown Cola Salutes Ohio State Of Presidents 1776-1976", "7up Salutes The United States 1776-1976 Bicentennial", donated by Betty May.
26. Photographs – (33 color slides) of Ross County buildings and landmarks, donated by Barb Howe.
27. Ribbon (red) – used in ribbon cutting ceremony in the RCHS Collection Preservation Facility, April 28, 2014, RCHS Acquisition.
28. Box – (cardboard) "Nestle's Puffed Milk Chocolate", Oct.3, 1942; Printed & Written Material – from the Mallow / Bush families of Concord Township, donated by Jeff Carithers.
29. Book – City Directory of Chillicothe, Ohio 1926; Newspaper Articles & Clippings – (6) mostly local structures, donated by Judy Timmons.
30. Booklets – (3) *Ross County Historical Society Museum, The Ohio Country Territory to State*, 1953, *The David McCandless McKell Collection*, 1953, donated by the Cincinnati Art Museum.
31. Booklets – (3) Daughters of War of 1812, Duncan McArthur Chapter, Chillicothe Program booklets for 1992 – 94 & 1996 – 97, State of Ohio Membership booklet, 1995 – 97, donated by Jane R. Hudak.
32. Book – *Three Months of It*, published by the Candidates of the Third Officers' Training School, Camp Sherman, Ohio, 1918; Carte-de-viste – (4) Civil War Soldiers, 1861 - 65; Cabinet Cards – (2) Spanish American War Bugler, c. 1898 and photo of funeral flowers for deceased Sons of Veterans Color Sergt., no date, RCHS Purchase.
33. Newspapers – (2) *Chillicothe Gazette*, May 22 & 26, 1984, "The First Annual Feast of the Flowering Moon"; Magazine – *Man On The Moon, July 20, 1969*; Magazine – *Journey to the Moon 1969*, 1969; Magazine – *Look*, "Our New First Family", 1961; Magazines – (3) *Life*, 1965 & 1969; Photographs – (2) framed, Chillicothe Baseball Team, 1896, "Hamm's Nine of 96", donated by Vivian Crowe.
34. Booklet – *Boy Scout History of Ross County and Chief Logan Council 1910 – 1969*; Book – *American Carriages, Sleighs, Sulkies and Carts*, by Dover Publications, 1977, donated by Jamie Bliven.

The Ross County Historical Society Welcomes

New Member Renewal

Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Phone _____
 Date _____

Are you interested in volunteer work?
 Yes No

I have enclosed a check made out to the Ross County Historical Society for \$ _____.

() My employer will match this gift.
 Employer's name: _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Junior (12 & under) \$10.()
 Teacher..... 15.()
 Individual..... 20.()
 Family 30.()
 Contributing..... 75.()
 Group/Club or
 Business 100.()

CONTINUING MEMBERSHIP

Life (per person)..... 500.()
 Patron 750.()
 Benefactor 1,000.()

Your benefits as a member of the Ross County Historical Society include:

- ◆ Quarterly newsletter
- ◆ 10% discount in museum store
- ◆ Free admission for museum visits by member and out-of-town guests
- ◆ Free admission to many Society programs
- ◆ Reduced fees for workshops and special programs

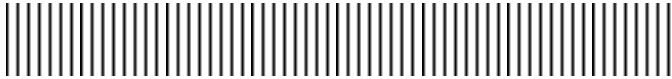
The Ross County Historical Society is a non-profit 501(c)(3) institution. Your gift may be tax deductible

Please make checks payable to:
THE ROSS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 45 West Fifth Street
 Chillicothe, Ohio 45601-3227
 (740) 772-1936

Ross County Historical Society

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NEWSLETTER

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Summer 2014 — PAGE 8

THE ROSS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY *RECORDER*

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Erc Picciano 1st Vice President
Ron Bowen 2nd Vice President
Tim Barada Secretary
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Tom Kuhn Executive Director
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Vic Cleary Trustee
Neil Coleman Trustee
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Alan Davis Trustee
Richard Enderlin Trustee
Chris Harrod Trustee
Robin McKell Trustee
Pat Medert Trustee
Bob Nelson Trustee

The RCHS Welcomes Junior Member...

Name _____ Telephone # _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Birthdate _____ Grade in School _____

Parent/Guardian's Name _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature _____

What are your hobbies? _____

Are your parents members of the Historical Society? - Yes - No

Is this a gift membership? - Yes - No

From Whom? _____

Address _____

Please send \$10 with this form to
The Ross County Historical Society
45 W Fifth Street
Chillicothe, OH 45601-3227