



Spring 2018

Up Coming

- **May 28—** Memorial Day Luncheon after the parade
- **June 2nd—** Ice Cream Social from 2-4 pm & Square / Line Dance at 7pm
- **August 12—** The 125th Birthday Celebration for the Town Hall at 1PM
- **October 10—** Harvest Dinner
- **December—** Trains in the Town Hall



Around Town...

-Roger Peterson, NBHS President

I really love this community and I get so much enjoyment out of teaching and preserving our history. It is a long term goal of mine to put together a book about our town. This community is rich in history, character and beauty. I have been working hard on documenting some of the unnoticed items of charm that are in front of us every day and in some cases have been retired into the memory of a select few. The stories, the ins & outs and the why's of how things came about are important to record for our future generations. After all, if we don't preserve our history, who will? "North Bloomfield—The Town We've Grown Up In and Grown To Love"

One of my favorite projects during the fall of 2017 was a study on the Milk Condenser Plant that sat at the railroad tracks in Lockwood. I was able to record a few interviews with locals that were actually in the

plant during its operation. I was able to document the equipment, the layout and the supplies. This little known industry out east of Town was a massive operation! I built a scale model of the complex for the 2017 Trains in the Town Hall exhibit and was able to use it to teach how & why we had a sweetened condensed milk plant right here in Bloomfield.

In the last few months I have been working on documenting some of the houses and buildings in town, especially their type of architecture. The photo to the right shows a close up view of the Assembly of God church in the 1800's. The use of the trefoil and the quatrefoil in the trim work was a typical element in Gothic Revival design. There are other homes in our community from the 1840-1860's that still have some of these original design elements present.



"Back when I was a Young'un"

We have all heard the "good old days" stories. Imagine being around 125 years ago when the Town Hall was built. Two stage coaches a day went through Bloomfield. There were 4-5 daily trains stopping at the Station with passenger service to Warren, Youngstown & Pittsburgh. Lots of things have changed!

On August 12th we will celebrate the 125 birthday of the North Bloomfield Town Hall. We

will have a luncheon at 1pm with a special program following for all township residents and any that have moved away and still have an interest in their former town.

The old Township safe is still in the Town Hall. At some point a vandal broke off the tumbler knob on the front effectively locking it shut. The safe experts have said the only way to open it would be to cut out a side panel. No one knows when the

last time the safe was opened, and no one knows what is in it. We intend on breaching a wall in the safe and displaying the contents on August 12th.

*April 26, 1893—Voting for the construction of a Town Hall. 129 votes cast, 95 Yea & 34 Nay.
Town Hall construction approved—Western Reserve Chronical, Warren Ohio*



Recent Projects

Our beloved Town Hall requires a little attention every now & then. Some of the projects aren't always visible, however without the joint partnership between the Historical Society & the Township Trustees, the building would quickly "show its age"

- Most recently we contributed toward new exterior drains for the building downspouts.
- Gutters & downspouts repaired
- Cracked floor joists were discovered & repaired
- Ongoing painting
- Continual cleaning
- Electrical upgrades/repair
- Balcony chairs reinstalled to original set up
- Interior doors adjusted to properly close
- General basement cleanup

Without the volunteers of our organization, completing these tasks would be almost impossible.



Third Time's the Charm!
Unfortunately, not in our case. I have gone after three grants to get a wheel chair ramp installed at the Town Hall, each time the funding is used up prior to getting to our request. However, I won't let that discourage me, I will continue to work to find funding to get a ramp installed so everyone can have access to our programs.
-Roger Peterson

Memorial Day 2018

For the first time last year the historical society hosted a luncheon at the Town Hall for the members of the Bloomfield High School Band following the Memorial Day Parade. Again this year we invite all of the band members, veterans and patriotic townspeople for another lunch at the Town Hall.



New this year will be flag

pledge envelopes. We would like to replace & expand the flags you see on the utility poles around town. For a \$15

donation, we will purchase a weather resistant flag in the name or memory of your loved one. The Fire Department installs the flags every year and we sure appreciate their help!

The flags and the luncheon are supported by donation, so please come out & help us dress up the town with some patriotic pride!

Annual Harvest Dinner

The 2018 Harvest Dinner will be on the evening of October 10 at 6:00pm. This is a chance to show off your cooking skills. The meat dish will be prepared by the Historical Society but donations to this potluck extravaganza can be appetizers, salads, vegetables or desserts. Drinks and table service will be provided. We can't find plates big enough for all the wonderful contributions.

Following dinner a program of local interest will be presented.

We are currently on the lookout for something special and interesting. Look for details later on this year.



Trains in the Town Hall

Our fifth annual Train Display in 2017 was magical and it just keeps getting bigger & better!

We had all of our "regulars" on display again including the scavenger hunts, smoking trains, operating animations, and beautiful lighted buildings.

Something new was year was a scale model of the Rieck-McJunkin Condensed Milk Company. The model was built to scale, illuminated, and had a working chimney from the boiler house. It was an absolute pleasure to research and build because we saw the joy that it

brought to so many people that remembered the facility.

Popcorn was continuously popping, cookies were always on hand, and the drinks were flowing. The Town Hall was decorated beautifully, and the trains were enjoyed by more than 1,000 visitors.

Something else new in 2017 was the coloring contest. It was great seeing so many parents & grandparents sitting down with the kids coloring & spending time together. Prizes were awarded in age categories for the best efforts.

Movie Night

The evening of February 9 was cold & snowy but a big crowd showed up for the second Cabin Fever Movie Night sponsored by the historical society.

The floor in front of the super size movie screen was filled with children on blankets, sleeping bags & folding chairs. The adults also enjoyed the animated feature film entitled "Home". It had action, aliens, animals and was lots of fun.

Free popcorn, cookies and drinks were provided and it seemed like a real movie experience. We hope to make this a continuing winter tradition and so that all the children in the community feel an attachment to the Town Hall.

Ice Cream and Dancing

Why not get a cool ice cream treat in the Town Hall on Saturday, June 2? The historical society will be serving sundaes and banana splits with all the toppings from 1pm to 3pm. All of the proceeds help to maintain the 125 year old building.

Join the hoedown in the Town Hall beginning at 7:00pm to 9:30pm. This will be a perfect wrap up to the Optimist Festival with a series of both line and square dances expertly called by Gene and Frankie Hammond. They have been calling the semi-annual dances for more than 10 years in Bloomfield. No previous experience is required and it's a fun time with refreshments to top off the evening.



We are in the process of putting together our plans for next year. We are hoping to expand the animations as well as the hand held train controllers. So start putting this favorite activity in your holiday plans for 2018.

As always, a very special thank you to everyone that donated



This newsletter is in Memory of Bloomfield Author

Dale Wildman

8/25/1954-4/16/2018



In 1917, the Milk Plant underwent a huge expansion project. This young man was photographed standing on the steam powered cement mixer used on the construction site. If only pictures could talk...

Membership

\$5—Senior Citizen

\$10—Individual

\$15—Family

\$250—Lifetime

Someone once said *"Many hands make for light work"*. If you have an interest or talent and would like to have a small part in the big picture, or you just want to be involved with a worthwhile project; we would love to help you volunteer. Email us from the website (see address below), or stop in to a meeting to see just what we are all about on the first Thursday of the month at 5:00pm.

PROJECT SPONSORS NEEDED

All of our projects & functions require funding. If you enjoy reading about all the ways our Historical Society contributes to our community, please consider helping out. If a project is special to you and you would like to sponsor it, please give us a call.

We are a 501(C)3 organization, which means all donations to the Historical Society are deductible on your Federal Taxes. Please refer questions to your tax preparation professional for details.

The North Bloomfield Historical Society

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Facebook—Trains in the Town Hall



PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE