Sharing Time: Carving Out a Space for Collections Outreach

ALAO SCAig and the Society of Ohio Archivists Virtual Spring Workshop
Thursday, May 14, 2020

Natalie Fritz
Curator of Library and Archives
Clark County Historical Society, Springfield, Ohio
Limestone quarrying helped shape Springfield

Limestone quarrying shaped the area that would eventually become Cliff Park (or Veterans Park) for more than 40 years. The booming business began with Isaac Ward in the 1840s. After his death in 1863, George H. Frey, who had married his daughter Jane Quigley Ward in 1851, took over until 1879. George’s son George Frey Jr. operated the quarry through the early 1880s. Workmen at the quarry lived in shacks, shown here in the 1880s. When George Jr. ran the quarry, it supplied the stone for the massive East Street Shops, which opened in 1882. Soon after, Frey abandoned the quarry and moved out west, where he worked in the stone business in Kansas for a few years before returning to Springfield and working with the railroad. CONTRIBUTED BY THE CLARK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THEN AND NOW

Spot at Wittenberg has been longtime gathering place

AT LEFT: This photograph taken between 1874 and 1875 shows Wittenberg students in Myers Hall, a longtime gathering place on the campus, located behind Myers Hall, the first building completed on the campus in 1846. This photo was taken around the time that the student body was broadening its scope. Women were first admitted for the school starting Sept. 4, 1874, and the first female graduate was Alice M. Gaiger in 1879. In 1875, Broadwell Glenn became the first black student admitted to the school. CONTRIBUTED BY THE CLARK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

AT RIGHT: Today, the view looks quite different but Myers Hall is still standing and looks about the same. BILL LACKEY / STAFF

HERITAGE CENTER

1940s downtown Springfield

History museums give visitors a chance to step back in time, and the Heritage Center is proud to have one particular exhibit that truly allows visitors to stroll through time: the late Bill Swanger’s meticulously researched and constructed models that let you to walk through 1940s downtown Springfield. Take a walk through the streets to reminisce and share memories or help others make connections to today. Visit this exhibit and more at the Heritage Center. THE CLARK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
In 1978, Mister Rogers hosted a primetime documentary-style program for adults on PBS called “Old Friends, New Friends.” It featured a segment called “Memories,” where he asked viewers to send items that held special memories. Mrs. Lillian Glazier, of Sarasota, Florida, formerly Miss Lillian Purtee of North Hampton, Ohio, sent her 1927 graduation dress, handmade by her mother. The Fred Rogers Production Company has been recently laboring to return those items sent to the show to related families or connected historical organizations. Unable to locate living descendants, they recently gave the dress to the Clark County Historical Society so that the story, the dress, and the memories could be preserved. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CLARK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Hunt Tent - Ralph and William Hunt grew up on the Hunt Farm, the former Simon Kenton Homestead. When the Civil War began Ralph volunteered and was captured at Bull Run in September 1861 and was sent to Libby Prison. Later William joined the cause and their sister and mother worked with the Sanitary Corps and the Soldiers Aid Society. When the brothers returned, they stored their tent in the homestead attic where it was discovered decades later.

Rose City Florists - Clark County has boasted a flourishing nursery and florist business for decades. In fact, in 1919 in Springfield alone there were 33 greenhouses producing over 9 million roses each year. Thanks to Charles A. Reeser’s innovations in the 1870s in figuring out how to ship dormant roses, at one point Springfield and Clark County grew and shipped more roses than any other city in the country, earning the nickname, The Rose City.
Happy Monday! Here's another puzzle for you to try - a sketch from a time when the City Building and the grand fountain in front of it were both new to the downtown!

Play [Heritage Center, Springfield, Ohio 1890 Sketch] puzzle for free
Virtual Clark County History Trivia Night!

When: Wednesday, May 20, 7pm
Where: Wherever you Are!
Pre-register to get the Zoom link to join!
Questions?

Natalie Fritz
Curator of Library and Archives
Clark County Historical Society
nataliemfritz3@gmail.com