



The Curator's Corner

An eZine from the
Museum and Archives
of the

Westfield Historical Society



Old Guard Donates Records

As one of its final acts as it disbanded at the end of 2007, after 75 years of providing activities for the retired men of Westfield, the Old Guard has donated a significant portion of its records and memorabilia to the Westfield Historical Society. Among the items that have already been catalogued are minutes from their first meeting in 1933, the banner that hung at their meetings and which they carried in parades, and their lectern with an emblem carved by John Brunner, one of the town's foremost artists.



The Curator's Corner
is published occasionally by the
Museum and Archives Committee
of the
Westfield Historical Society.
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Theater to Benefit Society

The Friday, March 7 mystery, *The Uninvited*, which will be presented by the **Westfield Community Players**, will benefit our Museum and Archives. The benefit ticket price of \$25 includes an hour long wine and hors d'oeuvres reception starting at 7:00 pm with a curtain time of 8:00.

(See: Theater – page 2.)

Museum and Archives Open House

In what is rapidly becoming an annual event, the Museum and Archives will host an open house during the day and evening of Tuesday March 11, 2008. Day-time hours will be from 10:00 am to 4:45 pm. Evening hours will run from 7:45 until 9:30. Our staff is busy preparing several new exhibits for the event. If you have never visited our museum, now is the time to plan for it. If you have been a frequent visitor, why not bring a friend and share

(See: Open House – page 2.)

Coming Events:

Feb 10 – (MC) Historic Valentines
Feb. 24 – (MC) Whitehouse Pets
Mar. 2 – (MC) Maple Sugar
Mar. 5 – First Wed Luncheon
Mar. 7 – Theater Benefit
Mar. 9 – (MC) Art of Rubbings
Mar. 11 – Open house (see above)
Mar. 13 – Evening Program:
Crusading Women
Mar. 16 – (MC) Easter Traditions

Library Hosts Reeve Exhibit



During the entire month of February, the main display case at the front of the Westfield Library will feature a Museum and Archives exhibit showing photos and artifacts that once belonged to the Reeve family.

Items were selected from the society's collections to give a

(See: Library – page 2.)

Current Hours:

Museum and Archives

Room 300/302

302 Elm Street

(School Board Building)

Tuesday 10 am to noon

Tuesday 2:30 to 4:30 pm

Wednesday 10 am to noon

By appointment: Tuesday evenings during School Board Meetings.

February, 2008

Theater (cont.)

The Uninvited, by Tim Kelly, was adapted from a novel by Dorothy Macardle. Set in a house in western England perched on a cliff overlooking the Irish Sea, the evening promises to be a mix of ghostly evil. Community Players' theater is located at 1000 North Avenue West. Tickets, at \$25 each may be ordered from Gail Smith, 544 Forest Avenue, Westfield, 07090: Checks payable to Westfield Historical Society

Open House (cont.)

our exhibits, new and old, with them. It is a great way to recruit a new member. It is also the perfect opportunity for those who are unable to take advantage of the daytime hours, to become acquainted with our collections.

Library (cont.)

brief overview of the house and the people who lived in it. Items include a sampling of the early twentieth century books that belonged to the three Reeve children – Ralph, the oldest, and the twins, Edgar and Grace. There is a beautiful “end of day” glass ball that their mother, Mamie, had been given by her mother and that she passed down to Grace. There is small powder horn, dated 1850, that belonged to Mamie's father, O.W. Tichenor of Newark, and two leather encased totypes showing both of Mamie's parents during the 1850's. The exhibit also includes a few of Mamie's many beautiful serving dishes. Elsewhere, illustrated by photos, the visitor will find an explanation of the role William Edgar Reeve, the father, played in raising the funds to purchase the pond that became the focal point

of Mindowaskin Park. In addition to the fund raising, William provided the acreage at the back of his property, but fronting on Euclid Avenue, that eventually became the playground that so many youngsters enjoy today.

Volunteer Opportunities

The Museum and Archives can always use a few more good people! We prefer to allow our volunteers to choose those activities in which they take an interest, but the first priority is always the visitor, and all of our volunteers are willing to stop what they are doing to help some one find what they have come to look for.

In addition to people who are willing to photocopy, clip, and file articles, the Archives can use the skills of volunteers to digitize paper, vinyl records, and video and audio tapes. We need people to help care for and display our fabric collections. We need people to help photograph, inventory, and catalog our artifact collections.

The Museum and Archives Committee has four standing sub-committees. Two are open to volunteers: membership on the other two are subject to appointment. What follows is a brief description of the committees and their charges.

Accessions Sub-Committee:

This committee is chaired ex-officio by the Curator,. The Archivist and the President of the society also sit on the Accessions Sub-committee. When there are questions regarding whether or not to accession (or de-accession) an item , the Curator consults

with this committee. When necessary, the committee solicits advice from other individuals who have a particular area of expertise.

Oral History Sub-Committee:

All new oral histories are captured using digital voice recorders. In addition to those willing to be trained to conduct interviews, the committee needs people with the technical skills to transfer the files to a computer. It also needs help transferring all of the old magnetic tape interviews to digital media.

Genealogy Sub-Committee:

Although the Archives has a significant amount of genealogical materials and is the repository of the “town trunk” containing original records from the 18th and 19th centuries, this committee has no chair and is essentially dormant. Two members do spend time responding to genealogical queries.

Westfield Hall of Fame:

This is an exciting new project and new sub-committee. It was created by the Board of Trustees nearly a year ago. The committee, which is currently chaired by Ralph Jones, consists of eleven appointed individuals.

The intention is to induct the first class of members before the end of the year. Anyone may submit a nomination by sending a brief bio to the committee at the archives (which can prove to be a valuable resource in assembling the bio.)

If you are interested in volunteering in any capacity, please visit or call the Archives at 654-1794.