Letter from the Executive Director

I write my column on our way to the Purdue football game in West Lafayette, Indiana. The temperature is in the 60s and it is the first day of fall. Haunted Village, our annual slight-fright, family-friendly Halloween event, is right around the corner. This is our major fundraiser for the year. If you have not come out to experience the evening please check it out. Share it with your friends. Last year we had over 4,200 visitors! Funds raised at Haunted Village support preservation work on our buildings as well as, education programs and exhibits. This year’s Haunted Village is October 12, 13, 19, 20, 26, & 27.

It is fun to see the costumes that the kids and even some of the adults wear. Last year I saw child size Tyrannosaurus Rex costumes and on a different night, an adult T-Rex. I loved the costume and how it moved. I just thought how fun it would be to see a herd of T-Rexes walking in the Village. Don’t be bashful. Dress up too and join the fun!

If you love Halloween and have creative ideas on how to make Halloween fun, you may be interested in joining the Haunted Village Committee. We have space to have a couple of volunteers join us. We meet seven to eight times a year to plan the event. Each committee member has an area or two to oversee. They take it on and make sure that it is staffed and runs smoothly. If you are interested call me and we can talk.

2018 - Celebrating 50 years of Bringing History Alive!
2

UPCOMING EVENTS

Haunted Village

Heritage Village Museum will transform into a Haunted Village for a family-friendly, slight-fright event! Our 19th century village is the perfect setting for a spooky October evening! Trick-or-treat through the Village meeting a headless horseman, a witch, a fortune teller, and a mad scientist along the way. Take a horse-drawn wagon ride. Walk through the haunted cemetery. Enjoy face painting, balloon art, games, storytelling and more!

Enter through Sharon Centre. October 12, 13, 19, 20, 26 and 27 from 6-10 p.m. Entrance closes at 9 p.m. Admission is $10. Museum members and children under two are free. Please help us get the word out! Tell your friends about Haunted Village and share it on Facebook!

1800s Medicine

Bleed, blister and purge were the preferred methods used by physicians during the 1800s. Find out how (or if) medicine changed from the time of Ancient Greece to the Civil War, what caused the death of President George Washington, the schooling required to become a doctor, and other interesting facts about medicine in the 1800s. Join us on Oct. 23 at 6:30 p.m. when Kathy Creighton, Director of the Butler County Historical Society will give a presentation on 1800s Medicine sponsored by the Ladies Living History Society of Greater Cincinnati (LLHS of GC). This event is free to members of LLHS of GC or Heritage Village Museum. Admission is $5 for non-members.

Mark Your Calendar

Here’s a handy reference you can use to keep track of upcoming events:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 12,13,19,20,26 &amp; 27, 2018</td>
<td>Haunted Village</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 23, 2018</td>
<td>1800s Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 16, 2018</td>
<td>Hearth Cooked Dinner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 8 &amp; 9, 2018</td>
<td>Breakfast with Mother Christmas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 8 &amp; 9, 2018</td>
<td>Holly Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 19,20,21 &amp; 28 , 2018</td>
<td>Train Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 9, 2019</td>
<td>Chocolate, Champagne, and Candlelight</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 13, 2019</td>
<td>Spring in Early Cincinnati: An 1803 Muster and Social</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 18 &amp; 19, 2019</td>
<td>Civil War Weekend</td>
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Hearth Cooked Dinner

Come join us at the Village as we celebrate the harvest and highlight Native American contributions to foodways. On November 14, from 6 to 9 p.m., Heritage Village Museum & Educational Center will host a Hearth Cooked Dinner. Join us and sample some 18th and 19th century cuisine. We’ll have some appetizers in Hayner House prior to visiting the Kemper Kitchen to see the final preparations of your meal before adjourning to the Kemper Log Home. You will enjoy a candle-lit dinner featuring venison in a Cumberland sauce, harvest succotash, mushrooms dressed and Indian pudding. Education Director, Steve Preston, will prepare the meal and give guests background into the history and preparation of each dish. The cost is $35 per person. There will be a special Chef’s Table for up to 4 people for $50 per person. Reserve your seat soon by calling 513-563-9484. This event is limited to 20 people and it fills up quickly.

Steve Preston and Tessa Grant preparing the meal.
The Heritage Village Museum and Educational Center has long been a warm and welcoming place for volunteers and visitors alike. Building on this solid foundation yet recognizing the need to become more diverse and inclusive, Heritage Village has formed a Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) Committee. This committee will guide and support Heritage Village as they intentionally and actively develop an inclusive culture that fully embodies diversity, equity, and inclusion. This committee has been working hard for some time now. They have developed and obtained board approval for Heritage Village’s D&I mission, guidelines, vision, and three-year plan. Members of the committee are: Kathy Wenning (chair), Bill Dichtl, Lauren Dichtl, Sophie Grant, Marilyn Meckes, Bill Parrish, and Leah Sears.

Heritage Village Museum and Educational Center’s diversity and inclusion goal is for Heritage Village to become known as a place where ALL are welcomed. All staff, visitors and volunteers feel welcomed, well accommodated, valued, and respected. As such, the intent is not to single out any one group as a focus, but to provide an experience that is intentional in its design to accommodate everyone. When someone requires special accommodations, those accommodations are respectfully provided in a way that allows that person to participate as fully as they desire with everyone else.

The D&I committee’s initial focus is on the following:
1) Researching and gaining knowledge for developing an inclusive and diverse culture.
2) Sharing information and working with the Heritage Village Museum board, staff and volunteers.
3) Providing physical accessibility for each of the buildings in Heritage Village.
4) Developing various language translations for the self-guided tour booklet.
5) Advertising the availability of the audio tour for the buildings.
6) Providing tactile sensory items in each building.
7) Researching the cultures which existed in Southwest Ohio in the 1800s.
8) Providing accessibility information for visitors.
9) Reaching out to people with varying abilities and cultures for information, guidance, and assistance in respectfully and appropriately accommodating, representing, and welcoming all people.
10) Developing inclusive educational programming.

There is much to be learned and much to do in this new endeavor. The D&I committee is committed to doing their best to learn about diversity, equity, and inclusion, and to share the knowledge gathered with Heritage Village’s board, staff, volunteers, and members that real advances can be made. So, please look over the focus areas above and consider helping with this important initiative. There are many opportunities (now and in the future) for you to lend your expertise, experience, ideas, and energy towards accomplishing some very meaningful goals. The committee welcomes your input and looks forward to your involvement as we learn and progress together. If you are interested in helping in any way, have questions, or want to learn more: please contact Kathy at kwwenning@gmail.com.

Diversity and Inclusion are about giving value to every human being no matter our differences.

–Unknown

Donations to the Collection

Thank you to the following people for your generous donations to the Collection Department between July and September, 2018:

Martha Murray donated a teapot and dishes for use in the Education programs as well as a reproduction spelling book for our schoolhouse.

Barb Reisenauer donated a game of graces and clothing items for the use of our interpreters. Clothing included a Civil War era dress, an 1803 Empire dress, two capes, skirts, neckerchiefs, children and adult pinner aprons just to name a few items.

We have also purchased a Confederate Soldier two-piece outfit.
Reverend Philip Gatch’s (Gash) journey to the area near the east fork of the Little Miami River in southwest Ohio began in October of 1798 when he left Virginia with his wife, Elizabeth, and their eight children. They were accompanied on this expedition by the families of Reverend James Smith (Elizabeth’s brother) and Ambrose Ransom.

I recently visited Ms. Kathy Gatch. She is a descendant of Lewis Gatch (nephew of Rev. Philip Gatch), the daughter of John Gatch Jr. and great-great granddaughter of John Newton Gatch. She lives on property adjacent to Valley View Farms. This property was originally named Arrowhead. Lewis Gatch built a stone house here in 1820. The house still stands there today. The Gatch family transferred ownership of this property to the Valley View Foundation in 2015. During this conversation, it was revealed that four freed slaves also accompanied Philip and his family to this part of the Northwest Territory. Philip inherited these slaves when he married Elizabeth. Philip was a Methodist minister, judge and representative to the Ohio 1802 Constitutional Convention. He abhorred slavery and valued slaves as people. Some of this hatred of slavery may have come from the fact that his grandfather, grandmother and great uncles came to America from Prussia as indentured servants. Philip’s primary reason for leaving Virginia was that he didn’t want his children to grow up in a slave state. The descendants of these freedmen started their own Methodist congregation in Hageman’s Hills, later renamed “Milford,” because in this area was a grist mill and a safe place to “ford” the Little Miami River. These former slaves’ descendants still live in this area and worship at Calvary Methodist Church.

Philip and his family settled on 230 acres purchased in 1799 from John Nancarrow for $920.00. This land was part of the Virginia Military District and is part of present-day Milford. Philip’s home no longer exists but was located where Greenlawn Cemetery is today. Philip and his wife are buried there as are many of his descendants. The “little barn” and corncrib that resides at Heritage Village Museum and Educational Center was probably built on land owned by a wealthy businessman and landowner named Andrew Megrue. It was erected sometime between 1810-1812. Upon the marriage of his daughter, Ann, to Jacob Gest, Andrew gifted the land, frame house and barn to the newly married couple as was the custom of this time. Through many subsequent land transactions and land gifting, General Thomas Gatch (6th son of Philip and Elizabeth and contemporary of Reverend James Kemper) was in possession of the Gest-Megrue land and its buildings (including the Village barn). Upon General Thomas’s death, his son, Nathaniel, was deeded this land in 1859. He held this land until 1876 when he sold it to the first paid Cincinnati Fire chief Enoch Megrue.

Harry A. Lockwood and Carol L. Linden donated the barn buildings to Historic Southwest Ohio in 1971. The corn crib was moved to the Village in 1973.
I have a theory that the small room on the west side of the upper story of the Kemper Log House was designed to be a food storage area in the winter months.

**Background:**
In the Cincinnati Zoo’s 1912 restoration this area was left open and finished as a porch, much to the displeasure of Helen Kemper Blinn, who is quoted as saying, “It is a ridiculous idea that there was an open second story there at any time…I feel it was an insult implied to my ancestor’s good taste and good judgment…”

Willis Kemper, in his detailed descriptions of the house and surrounding land, was particularly puzzled by the structure of this part of the house:

*The log partition on the West end of the West room on the first floor does not come above the floor of the upper room. The West side of the second story is of studding lathed and plastered. This seems very strange—why are they not built of logs?…Another strange thing is that the East partition of the West room on the second floor is solid, clearly built of logs.*

In our docent’s handbook, in the section entitled “Reconstruction of Heritage Village Museum,” concerning the zoo reconstruction it states: the balcony-type porch was due to the fact that original logs were missing, a result of numerous remodelings.

### Food Preservation in Winter:
While studying the Kemper Log House during preparation for the architectural tour, I happened to also be reading *Our Own Snug Fireside* by Jane C. Nylander concerning life on New England farms in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. In the section on “Taking Advantage of Severe Cold,” she states:

*Unoccupied chambers, unfinished lean-to spaces, and shed chambers were the ideal storage places for foodstuffs that would be best preserved by freezing.*

Although most fruits and vegetables had to be protected from freezing, one cookbook author suggested that “cranberries keep well in a firkin of water. If they freeze, so much the better.” The only concern was unseasonably warm weather. When Sara Bryant experienced a day “warm enough to keep the door open” on December 30, 1829, she was seriously concerned about her supply of frozen meats and pies.

Because of the radiant heat of an active central chimney, the temperature in many attic spaces remained above freezing. Meal, flour and dried foodstuffs such as corn, apples, pumpkins, and herbs could be safely stored in attics regardless of how cold it became.

### Temperatures in Cincinnati vs. those in New England:
I did a quick check online for average temperatures in Cincinnati vs. those in New England (Augusta, Maine):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Cincinnati</th>
<th>Augusta</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Avg. High</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec.</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan.</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb.</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>33</td>
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</table>

<table>
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<th>Avg. Low</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dec.</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan.</td>
<td>22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb.</td>
<td>26</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Avg. Low</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dec.</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan.</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb.</td>
<td>15</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Obviously, Augusta’s temperatures would be more suited for freezing food than Cincinnati’s, but the Kemper’s might well have stored food items that kept well in refrigeration rather than actual freezing, as Nylander describes above. Radiant heat from the chimney in the west room might have played some role in moderating freezing temperatures.

### Conclusions:
The assertion in the docent’s handbook notwithstanding, there is no reason to assume the walls of the west room were originally made with logs and that the Kempers, for some reason, removed them. The Kempers seem to have intentionally designed a room that was on the second story, unheated, poorly insulated, and on the windward side of the house. This is hard to explain unless they intended to take advantage of the cold in the winter months to preserve surplus food.

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**The Structure of the Upstairs Storage Room in the Kemper Log House**

by Jim Smith
Thank You to Our Volunteers

The summer has brought with it some hot events that have tested our volunteers, but their incredible strength and dedication have won out each time. Since our last newsletter we have had volunteers attend SharonFest to spread the word about Heritage Village, hosted two Open Houses, a Period Dinner, our first birthday party, and led guided tours just to name some of the things to which the following volunteers have donated their time.

Thank you so much to:
Tyna and Claire Anderton, Danny Blair, George Bell, Rob Carter, Holly Christopher, Shirley and Ed Clancy, Sandi Cloppert, Pat Danneman, Autumn Davidson, Tessa Grant, Joyce Hackbarth, Gary Jewell, Michele McDonel, Mark and Marilyn Meckes, Lydia and Leann Michel, Julie Nettleton, Maggie Reed, Bill Schott, Lee Schmidt, Bob Sharkey, Hayley Solomon, Chris Smith, Karen Stimpert, Kathy and Joe Wenning, Kelly Wright, anyone who has volunteered as a Heritage Village Quilter, anyone who has volunteered to help with Maintenance and Grounds, and anyone else that I have undoubtedly missed.

As always, we are so incredibly grateful for our volunteers. No volunteer contribution is too small, what may seem like the tiniest thing makes what we do here everyday possible.

On behalf of myself, the rest of the staff and our visitors I would like to thank you again from the bottom of my heart for all you do in our mission to bring history alive. I also ask any visitors out there who may be reading this, the next time you visit us thank a volunteer for all they do to make your experience possible. Our volunteers truly are our lifeblood around here.

—Lydia Christopher

Volunteer Opportunities

Looking ahead to the rest of the year our big volunteer opportunities are Haunted Village in October and Holly Days in December. These big events need lots of volunteers and are a great time to dip your toe in if you’ve never volunteered with us before! You can contact me for more information about volunteering in general or about specific events by e-mailing me at lchristopher@heritagevillagecincinnati.org for the quickest response or by calling 513-563-9484.

We will need 70+ volunteers a night for Haunted Village which runs the last 3 weekends of October from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. each night. If you’re available any of the following nights: 10/12, 10/13, 10/19, 10/20, 10/26 or 10/27, please let me know asap!

Additionally, you can check our SignUp Genius for the event via this link if you are viewing the newsletter on your electronic device or go to: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0449afaa2ea0fc1-haunted.

Looking ahead a bit, we will need volunteers on 12/8 and 12/9 for Breakfast with Mother Christmas in the morning and Holly Days in the afternoon. We will need servers and such starting at 10:30 a.m. for Breakfast with Mother Christmas and Holly Days will run from noon to 4 p.m.

For the most up to date information and to make sure you don’t miss any volunteer opportunities, contact me about being added to our Volunteer e-mail list or we can work out another way for you to get updates if you don’t have e-mail!

Heritage Village Museum and Education Center

Ford Resource Center Library
Open House

October 10, 2018
Heritage Village Museum | Hayner House
From 6PM until 8PM
Come celebrate the official opening of the Ford Resource Center Library with us!
Junior Volunteer Scholarship Winner

This year’s winner of the Heritage Village Museum and Educational Center Junior Volunteer Scholarship is Tessa Grant. She has been a junior volunteer for the past eight years. In her time here she has volunteered for many of our diverse programs. She has been a fortune teller during Haunted Village, a summer camp helper, a period clothed volunteer during Holly Days, and recently served as a sous-chef for our Hearth Cooked Dinners.

Tessa is currently attending Berea College. She is exploring study in Forestry and Biology. We wish her the best of luck and thank her for all her hard work for the Village!

Quilt Raffle Winner

Congratulations to our quilt raffle winner, Tom Wenning! At our last Open House we pulled a ticket for the "Comforts of Home" quilt raffle and Tom Wenning was the lucky winner! We hope he enjoys this beautiful, mid-19th century style, 9-patch design quilt that was lovingly made by the Heritage Village Quilters!

Vorhes House New Roof

Architecture Reclamation completed the work on the Vorhes House in early September. A new roof adorns the house and looks fantastic. The previous wood shake roof had some major issues. There was so much vegetation growing that we were concerned that if the vegetation was removed there may not be a roof underneath. The house is in the shade most of the day and does not dry out quickly which allowed the vegetation to grow.

The new roof is made of a plastic material with a warranty of 50 years. The uneven pattern and rough-hewn appearance of the shingles resembles natural wood shake. In the coming years additional work will be done on the buildings in the Village as we continue to do what is needed to take care of these treasured artifacts and their contents.

Thank you to a special volunteer and donor Bill Schott who paid for the new roof, facia board, gutters, and downspouts.

In the coming month Vorhes will have an accessibility ramp installed. A permit has been secured to begin the work. We are now waiting for the weather to cooperate, so work can begin. It will bring another building on line for accessibility.

Child’s Play Exhibit

Our Child’s Play Exhibit is a collection of toys, games, dolls and other childhood artifacts from the 1800s. These objects give us a fascinating glimpse into the childhood of early Americans. We have recently added a hands-on games area to this exhibit. The Child’s Play Exhibit will be on display in the Hayner House ballroom and dining room until Feb. 28, 2019.

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Support Heritage Village Museum by Shopping at AmazonSmile!

Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.

To sign up:

1. Go to smile.amazon.com and input the email address and password of your Amazon account or create a new Amazon account.
2. Type “Historic Southwest Ohio” into the charity search bar. Then select “Historic Southwest Ohio.”
3. Make a purchase as usual. In order for Amazon to make the donation, purchases must be made through the smile.amazon.com site and not through the regular amazon.com page.

Please support Heritage Village Museum (Historic Southwest Ohio) by starting your shopping at smile.amazon.com!