Letter from the Executive Director

By the time you read this newsletter it will be autumn and Haunted Village will be happening shortly. As we say goodbye to summer, we can enjoy how productive it was at the Village. Many projects were completed with the summer help of Patrik Bukovsky, Patrik Dobrovodsky, and Fábián Tóth from the Slovak Republic. Some of the projects they worked on included creating the accessibility ramps for the flatboat and Vorhes. As well as a brick walkway to the front door of Vorhes, re-staining the accessibility ramp at Hayner House and staining the accessibility ramp at Elk Lick. Some of you met them while they were serving ice cream and apple fritters at our Free Days in early August.

Through a generous donation from Mark and Marilyn Meckes, the Fetter Store received a much needed restoration and new paint. Besides spending many hours at Fetter working, Mark oversaw the work of the crew. Fetter is the latest building to get some much needed attention. Thank you to Mark and Marilyn for making this happen.

Free Days at the Village was a success! 1,164 visitors came to sample life in the 1800s! Several buildings and the flatboat were open and staffed with interpreters. Staff and volunteers demonstrated cooking in the Kemper Kitchen and gave free samples. The Cincinnati Dulcimer Society and Livin’ For Tuesday provided music and the Cincinnati Red Stockings and Buckeyes gave visitors the opportunity to play 1869 style baseball.

Check inside this issue of Timesteps to find a program or event that may interest you. We look forward to seeing you at the Village.
Did you love the musical “Hamilton”? This program picks up where “Hamilton” leaves off. After his duel with Hamilton, Aaron Burr was politically ruined, so he concocted a plan to carve a new empire out of the West. Burr’s trial for treason was the trial of the century. Join us as we discuss the plot, the players, and the trial from a Cincinnati perspective. Ohio and Cincinnati played a larger role in Burr’s plans than many realize. Refreshments will be provided. November 7 at 7 p.m. Admission is $5. Museum members and children age 4 and under are free.

Enter through Sharon Centre. October 11, 12, 18, 19, 25 and 26 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!

**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!

**Burr Conspiracy**

Did you love the musical “Hamilton?” This program picks up where “Hamilton” leaves off. After his duel with Hamilton, Aaron Burr was politically ruined, so he concocted a plan to carve a new empire out of the West. Burr’s trial for treason was the trial of the century. Join us as we discuss the plot, the players, and the trial from a Cincinnati perspective. Ohio and Cincinnati played a larger role in Burr’s plans than many realize. Refreshments will be provided. November 7 at 7 p.m. Admission is $5. Museum members and children age 4 and under are free.

**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>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 11, 12, 18, 19, 25 &amp; 26 2019</td>
<td>Haunted Village</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 7, 2019</td>
<td>Burr Conspiracy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 13, 2019</td>
<td>Period Dinner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 14 &amp; 15, 2019</td>
<td>Breakfast with Mother Christmas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 14 &amp; 15, 2019</td>
<td>Holly Days</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 18,19, 20, 27, Jan. 2 &amp; 3</td>
<td>Train Days</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 8, 2019</td>
<td>Chocolate, Champagne, and Candlelight</td>
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<tr>
<td>Every Friday in Feb. and Mar.</td>
<td>First Person Program Series</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Be A Haunted Village Hero!

Haunted Village is our biggest fundraiser of the year. The proceeds from this event help us to maintain our historic buildings and provide quality educational programs throughout the year. There are many ways that you can help us make Haunted Village a success.

1. **Volunteer** – We need 70+ volunteers for each night of Haunted Village. Volunteer opportunities range from dressing up as a character or passing out candy to helping at admissions, concessions or the gift shop. To sign up or for more information go to: [www.heritagevillagecincinnati.org/volunteer-for-haunted-village/](http://www.heritagevillagecincinnati.org/volunteer-for-haunted-village/)

2. **Donate candy** - Last year over 17,000 pieces of candy were donated, enough for every child who visited to receive 10+ pieces. Candy donations can be dropped off at Hayner House.

3. **Spread the word** - Please tell your friends and family about this fun event! Sharing our Facebook posts is another helpful way to promote Haunted Village! It only takes a second to share a post but it makes a huge difference in the number of people we are able to reach.

4. **Post a Poster** - Posters are available in Hayner House. If you know of a business, church, or other public space that would allow us to post a poster, please take one.

5. **Be a Mad Scientist** - Do you know someone that loves to act and entertain a crowd? The Mad Scientist gives a 10 minute presentation on repeat. It is the biggest acting role for Haunted Village. Bethany Jewell can provide the script and science experiment. Please contact Bethany at [bjewell@heritagevillagecincinnati.org](mailto:bjewell@heritagevillagecincinnati.org) with your availability if you’re interested.

Accessibility and Inclusion

We would like Heritage Village Museum to be a place where everyone can participate and feel welcome. Our Diversity and Inclusion Committee has made suggestions for improvements we can make to accomplish this goal.

This summer a ramp was added to Vorhes House while a brick and compacted gravel path was added to access the flatboat. Kemper House and Kemper Kitchen are the last two buildings that are currently not accessible, but we are working on solutions for them.

This year at Haunted Village we will have an accessible horse drawn wagon that can accommodate up to three wheelchairs at a time. Our portolets will also be accessible. An accessibility brochure that details where to access ramps and other pertinent information will be available at admissions and the gift shop during the event.

We will participate in the Teal Pumpkin Project again during Haunted Village. At every candy stop during the event, an allergy friendly alternative will be offered to children with food allergies.

We welcome ideas on how to improve our accessibility. If you have any suggestions, please email Bill Dichtl at [wdichtl@heritagevillagecincinnati.org](mailto:wdichtl@heritagevillagecincinnati.org).
Much has been made of the “rugged individualism” of the American frontier, but in reality cooperation was essential on the frontier for survival. The common good was an organizing principle of frontier life, and there may have been no better example of this than the community coming together to raise a house or a barn. When the Kemper’s raised their log house on Walnut Hill, the Kemper farm, they could count on their friends and neighbors to form a raising crew to help.

Of course there was an enormous amount of preparation the family had to do before the raising day. Appropriate trees had to be identified, felled, hewn and dragged to the construction site. When the raising crew arrived, the logs for each of the walls would have already been laid out in all four directions. Theirs was to be a “double pen” log house: two rectangular log “pens” with a common wall. Six “corner men” would be selected, one for each corner of the pens. Once started, the construction would proceed at breakneck speed. The goal would be to get the whole structure under roof in one day. (Since this was a two story house, it is possible they needed an extra day). First began the construction of the walls. As each log was lifted into place, the corner men notched it. This notch was designed to anchor each log to the one below it. Logs were lifted into place with the aid of skid poles, long poles propped against the wall that allowed the men to slide the logs into place along them. This technique worked to a height of about fifteen feet. Higher walls required animal power or some kind of hoist. When the second story walls were complete, logs for the eaves and the ridge pole of the roof would be hauled into place. With the completion of the roof frame and the sawing off of the tails on all the logs, the house was “raised to square” and the raising crew could go home (no doubt after some appropriate celebration).

But there remained much for the Kemper’s to do. The floors had to be finished. The stairs had to be built. Porches needed to be added front and back. The chimneys needed to be constructed and the doors and windows installed. Large spaces between the logs were filled with “chinking,” odd and end pieces of wood wedged in and covered with mortar; as the green logs shrank, this material tended to work loose and fall out, so every wall needed to be either plastered or weather-boarded to hold the chinking in.

So the house went up in one or two days, but the process of preparation and finishing took months. But the happy day did finally arrive, when the family moved in and had their house warming, and the happy night when Charles Adolphus, Judith and James’ fifteenth and final child, was born, June 4, 1804.
In societies across the world, women have long been viewed as caretakers of the injured, sick, dying, and, in many societies, the dead. Up until the mid to late nineteenth century, funerals were organized by the family and/or community of the deceased. During this time the role of women in death preparation included cleaning and preparing the body, organizing the wake or visitation, and, in some cases, organizing the casket and transportation to the cemetery. However, in the latter half of the nineteenth century, the modern American funeral industry began to emerge as a cornerstone of American society with moves towards professionalization and regulation in the realm of not only undertaking and death ritual, but also the new trade of embalming. What had previously been classified as domestic or household duties and therefore the realm of women, was now a scientific profession dominated by men that included a formal education or apprenticeship and regulation. However, the story of women in the early American funeral industry was not entirely one of decline, a number of industrious and pioneering women around the country were able to operate successfully as undertakers in their communities.

One such woman from Brooklyn was written about twice in The Woman’s Journal, first in 1886 then again in 1888. The two articles paint the picture of a woman who took over her husband’s business after he died to support her family and ultimately found success as a female undertaker. The article from 1886 even stated that it was thought by the public to be very pleasant to see a “gentle mannered woman, in her neat black dress, performing the sad offices that are so often intrusted [sic] to men, who, if not rude in their performance, are often noisy and always indifferent.”

Again, in the 1888 article the female undertaker’s femininity was seen as an asset to her business and community as the article cites the woman herself having said that she thought many families liked having her around more than a man, particularly in cases of women and children. Additionally, the article states that instead of the “usual mortuary emblems” displayed in the windows of other undertaking businesses, this woman’s windows were “full of flowering plants instead.”

In the case of this female undertaker she was able to use her femininity as an asset to her work in the industry of death instead of it being seen as detriment.

Another professional female undertaker of which documentation still exists is Mrs. Anna Walter from Marcellus, Michigan. An article was written about the many business women of Marcellus in 1896 and Walter was quoted as believing gave a better sense of understanding between the couple as they each had a mutual sympathy regarding one another’s work. Walter was more than just the wife and business partner of the town undertaker though, at the time of the article she was about a year away from receiving her diploma (only a “course in lectures” and “practical study of anatomy by means of dissection” stood in her way) and Walter was also able to not only prepare a body for embalming, but to embalm the body herself. Walter took pride in her work and was even using her “artistic taste and design” to develop new designs for coffin liners featuring “dainty ruffles of lace and puffs of satin.”

The emergence of the modern American funeral industry in the latter half of the nineteenth century was accompanied by a professionalization of death-ways which enticed many men to join the field, but to assume that no women occupied this new occupation would undermine the industrious women who marched against the Victorian ideals of womanhood, while also embracing their femininity as an asset in their field. If you would like to learn more about early female undertakers, consider visiting our own female undertaker who will be taking up residence in Benedict Cottage on Saturdays during Haunted Village!

Volunteer Opportunities

Looking ahead in 2019, we have lots of volunteer opportunities with something for everyone. First and foremost, Haunted Village is our biggest fundraiser of the year and it takes A LOT of volunteers to help make it happen! Each of the six nights of Haunted Village hundreds of visitors flock to Heritage Village for a family-friendly, slight-fright event, but the event could not happen without the 70+ volunteers a night who come out and bring the Village to life with the cackling of witches, shrieks of ghosts, whispers in the cemetery, and the music from regions beyond. But, dressing up in character isn’t all that our Haunted Village volunteers do, they also work in admissions, concessions, our gift shop, games stations, face painting, help with crowd control, and pass out thousands of pieces of candy over the course of the 6 nights. There truly is something for everyone at Haunted Village and it is also a great way to gain service hours, give back to your community, gain experience, boost resumes, and make new friends!

Jr. Volunteer opportunities begin at age 10 and we have volunteers at Heritage Village who continue to come out and volunteer into their 90s, so Haunted Village is a great opportunity for the whole family. In the past we have had grandparent/grandchild volunteering teams and parent/child volunteering teams. It truly is a great way to get spend time together in a fun and spooky way this autumn. We have volunteer opportunities at Haunted Village for scout groups, student organizations (high school and college), families, friends, couples, and individuals!

December will also see the return of Breakfast with Mother Christmas, Holly Days, and Train Days that volunteers are also always needed. If you are interested in volunteering at Haunted Village this year you can either fill out the application on our website under “Volunteer for Haunted Village.” For more information about volunteering in general, email our Director of Volunteer Services, Lydia Christopher, at lchristopher@heritagevillagecincinnati.org.

Thank You to Our Volunteers

It’s hard to believe it has only been about 3 months since our last newsletter with all of the news to come out of our volunteer department! Since our last newsletter, in which we celebrated our Volunteers of the Year, volunteers have helped host our Volunteer Recognition, our 5-day open house: FREE Days at the Village, Paint the Village, a Period Dinner, and Columbia Settlement 1788 Revisited. Through these events scores of volunteers have generously donated their time to help bring history alive for our visitors. One of the most exciting aspects of these last few months was the growth of our volunteer family through the move of Columbia Settlement 1788 Revisited, which had previously taken place at the Pioneer Cemetery near Lunken Airport. This event brought many new volunteers to Heritage Village who we can’t wait to have back in the future!

From a more administrative perspective, our Volunteer Department has been working on updates to our section of the Heritage Village website, as well as rolling out new volunteer documentation forms, and an official Heritage Village Museum & Educational Center Volunteer Handbook! We have even had our first update to our online Docent Handbook, thanks to Summer Tour Guide and volunteer Jim Smith. Overall, these last few months have been very exciting and busy for our volunteer department!
**Collections Department**

It has been an exciting time in the Collections Department! We have finally finished cataloguing all the historical books in the collection and found a few surprises. We have Readers from 1819 through the 1920s! Not to mention all the other interesting textbooks. Now we have moved on to the clothing in our collection making sure it is all photographed and measured so we can produce small exhibits with ease. We are rediscovering fine baby clothes as well as beautiful dresses and everyday linens. Can’t wait to see what else turns up!

Many donations have come in this year to augment the interpretations in the Village. We now have a working organ in the Somerset Church thanks to John and Carol Voss donated in memory of her mother, Mrs. Mary Louise Heiden. In the Hands-On History area you will find a lovely doll house donated by Jon and Stephanie Thompson. In addition to the house many other useable items have entered the collection: a spider skillet from Jaquelin Olsen; A 1900s parasol from Avery Foster; numerous personal papers from Michael Waddle including discharge papers given in memory of his parents, Sherman and Irene Waddle and his fourth-grade teacher, Bernice Grubbs. Susan Faller donated clothing to augment our costume collection in memory of her mother, Marian Faller; then Jan Gardiner donated a reproduction Kentucky rifle for our use. Paul Gray’s aunt, Mrs. Hagedorn, gifted him with cards of Somerset Church in its original setting while Dan and Amanda Nowlin gifted us with Civil War memorabilia. Christopher Smith donated 4 books related to Cincinnati history for the library and Kerry Duke increased the hands-on items for Educational usage. Finally, Mr. Ashley Ford donated more trains to enhance our Christmas display! You don’t want to miss seeing the new engines, cars and tankers this December!

Thank you to all who have helped tame the collection department. It is an enormous but rewarding job here at the Village!

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**Quilt Raffle**

The Heritage Village Quilters work hard to create extravagant, authentic quilts. Last year, they created a commemorative quilt in honor of Heritage Village Museum’s 50th Anniversary!

This year, they designed a *Friendship Star Block Quilt* to be raffled off. In the 1800s, this design was often made by family and friends. The quilt was gifted to someone as a going away present and in the center of each block the person making that block would sign their name. The *Friendship Star Block Quilt* will be raffled off on December 15 at 4:00 p.m. We will be selling single tickets for $1.00 or 6 tickets for $5.00. Tickets can be purchased in our gift shop. You do not need to be present to win. We encourage you to come out and see the other amazing quilts the Heritage Village Quilters have made!
As a friend of Heritage Village Museum, you can support the mission of Historic Southwest Ohio, Inc. each month with a donation using your credit card. By making this recurring gift, you will add to the financial stability of the Village. Just complete the form below and mail it or drop it off at the office.

_____ Yes, I want Historic Southwest Ohio, Inc. to charge my credit card **monthly** in the amount checked below. I understand I need to tell you when I no longer wish to give.

_____ $50  _____ $25  _____ $15  _____ $10  $____ (Any amount greater than $5.00)

Cardholder Name_________________________________

Card number_____________________________________

Expiration date: ____/____/_____  3-digit security code______

Cardholder Signature______________________________________________________

_____ My employer, ___________________________________________ will match my gift.