Email Newsletters Coming Soon

As mentioned in our last newsletter, we are working to get our newsletters online! This is a great way to save in postage and printing. We still have about 50 members whose emails we do not have. If you are not sure if we have your email, please send it to:

rgregg@heritagevillagecincinnati.org

Thanks!!
Notes from the Executive Director
By William J. Dichtl

Soon the leaves will be turning colors to create another beautiful season at the Village. We are all gearing up for the fall season and our event lineup which includes schools visiting to take part in education programs and Apple Fest. Visitors can partake in Harvest Fest on September 24 & 25 listening to songs of Stephen Foster played by Ashley Ford and watching Juanita Daley as Annie Oakley do some trick shooting. Then in October for six nights (14 & 15, 21 & 22, and 28 & 29) Haunted Village returns with old favorites and some new activities including a DJ with dancing.

Even though there are still four months left in the year and lots of activities ahead, plans are in the works for 2012. Exhibits and programs already scheduled include the First Ladies of Fashion exhibit (14 copies of inaugural gowns from Martha Washington to Rosalyn Carter), four programs featuring a first-person interpretation of First Ladies, and a series of talks on Civil War topics. As the year goes on check the website (www.heritagevillagecincinnati.com) for additional information.

I am looking to start a Liar's Club. This group will present a program to groups based on the old television program To Tell the Truth. Our club of three "liars" will use artifacts from the museum's collection. One of the panelists will tell the truth about the artifact while the other two make up a story. It is the audience’s task to determine who is telling the truth. This program is great fun with the panelists interacting with each other and the audience. If you are interested in volunteering to be a member of the Liar's Club give me a call at 513-563-9484.
Fall Harvest Festival
September 24 10am-5pm
September 25 Noon-5pm

Hide your cigars and hold onto your hats, Annie Oakley and Company are coming back to the Village! Join us September 24 and 25 for our annual Fall Harvest Festival. The Village will showcase harvesting activities such as corn-shucking, butter-churning, hearth-cooking, candle-dipping and much more!

Enjoy daily performances by Annie Oakley and Company and the musical treat of “The Songs of Stephen Foster” performed by Ashley Ford. Visit the website for performance times!

Cowboy/Cowgirl costume contests sponsored by Bob Evans & Outback Steakhouse both days at 3:30pm!

Vintage Base Ball “Trophy Ball” at 1:00pm on Saturday where the Redstockings play the Buckeyes!

Members-No Charge
Adults $7.00/Children 5-11 $4.00/Children under 5—No Charge

Holidays in the Village
December 3 & 4, 10 & 11
Saturdays 10am-5pm
Sundays 1pm-5pm

Tour through the Village in all its Christmas splendor!
There will be plenty of delicious treats, fun crafts for children, holiday carols and much more!

Visit:
www.heritagevillagecincinnati.org
For more details as the event gets closer!

Members-No Charge
Adults $7.00/Children 5-11 $4.00/Children under 5—No Charge
New Chester Park Display

Next time you are visiting Chester Park, be sure to take notice of the new luggage display! The large luggage cart that you may remember sitting on the outside of the train station, has been refurbished and brought inside to aid in displaying our unique collection of trunks and hat boxes (not to mention keeping it out of the elements).

Volunteer and Board Member Ed Creighton was instrumental in pursuing and aiding in the restoration that was performed by the Hamilton Caster Company (owned by the Lippert Family, of whom Mary is a long-time Village volunteer.)

Volunteer Positions Available:

Assistant Volunteer Coordinator-be a key member of our amazing volunteer team! The Assistant Volunteer Coordinator will work with the Volunteer Coordinator to plan meetings and activities, recruit new volunteers, and schedule volunteers for tours and events. We are really hoping to make 2012 a wonderful year for our volunteers, and need you to help us make the difference. Hours vary depending on time of year. Some tasks can be done from home!

General Office Assistant-are you a people person who likes to perform general administrative tasks such as data entry and receptionist duties? We are currently seeking volunteers who could come in one day per week or every other week to help with the above tasks and more!

For more information on these positions, please call Shelly Gregg at (513) 563-9484.

2011 Quilt Raffle
Tickets on Sale Now!

“Pinwheel Quilt”
Hand-stitched by the Gibson Girls and on display in the Benedict Cottage.

Tickets are available in the Hayner House Gift Shop for:
$1.00 each or 6/$5.00

Drawing will be held: December 11, 2011
(need not be present to win)
VILLAGE SPOTLIGHT

ICE CUTTING

By William J. Dichtl

Author’s note: The majority of this article was written while I was an intern at the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, Illinois in 1985.

The Village has a stone ice house as part of the Elk Lick complex. This particular ice house was for home use only therefore handling the needs of the family. Across from the house is the Mill Creek. This would have been a prime location to harvest the ice for an ice house this size.

Ice cutting was a major industry in the northern states throughout the second half of the 19th century, reaching its peak in the 1890s. Thousands and thousands of tons of ice were harvested by big ice companies whose ice houses stood along the rivers and lakes. Even with large ice companies claiming rights to harvest ice from the country’s ponds, lakes, and rivers, farmers still managed to harvest ice for their own needs. The ice stored in their ice houses was used to cool milk, fruit, vegetables, and meat raised on their farms.

Farmers harvested ice long before the ice industry began in the early 1800s. The tools farmers used were crude, often made by local blacksmiths, and thus were not very efficient.

To make money as an industry, ice cutting had to become more efficient. To accomplish this, a man named Nathaniel Wyeth invented tools for the industry. The first of these tools, developed in 1825, was the ice cutter, also known as an ice plow.

Ice cutting was done during January and February when the weather was cold. Before any cutting was done, the thickness of the ice had to be determined. The average thickness recommended was 14”, but it was common to cut ice when it was 10” thick. Generally 2” thick ice will support a man; 4” thick, a horse; 5” a team of horses.

Ice harvesting was hard work involving several steps. The first step was the removal of the snow. One disposal method was to poke holes into the ice allowing the water to mix with the snow, which would create snow-ice when it froze. The snow-ice was not the best quality ice because it was porous and filled with air. A second disposal method was to have horses pull scrapers across the ice. The scrapers would gather the snow, which would be left on the edge of the ice in a pile.

After the snow was removed and the thickness determined, the ice was marked. To do this, a marker with 11 cutting teeth, each tooth a little longer than the preceding one, was used. Horses pulled the marker from one end of the ice field to the other. A cut of three inches deep was put into the ice. The marker was turned around with the guiding bar, used to determine the width of the block of ice, being placed into the previous cut. The standard size width was 22”. Once the field had been cut one way, the marker was put perpendicular to the lines and the process repeated, with the blocks being cut in the standard length of 44”.

The next tool used was a plow with five to eight teeth. The plow was to cut the ice to about two-thirds of the thickness of the block of ice. To cut that deep the plow was pulled back and forth by horses several times, because each pass cut the ice 2”. The ice was not cut all the way through so that floats of ice could be moved to the channel leading to the loading area all at one time instead of one block at a time. This also provided for a safe working surface. By not cutting completely through, water would not splash on the ice making it slippery.

To transport the ice to the loading area, a channel had to be opened. A strip one block wide was cut and forced under the water and ice field leaving the channel clear. This was known as “sinking the header.”

Before the ice was broken off and floated down the channel, it was planed. This process removed the snow-ice and made all the ice the same thickness. After planing the ice, it was broken off into floats with a four-to-five foot long steel saw. Ice floats became larger as the field opened up. These floats were towed to the channel by horses hooked to the ice with a grapple or by men using hooks to pull and push the floats.

Upon reaching the channel several men with light breaking-off bars broke the floats into single blocks weighing 300 pounds. These blocks were floated down the channel to conveyors that led to the icehouses.

Each spring when the weather warmed up, the demand for the stored ice began. Men in ice wagons, equipped with tongs, delivering ice daily to homes and restaurants, soon became a part of summer life in the city. However, by the 1930s, electric refrigerators had replaced the need for natural ice and made ice cutting as a large-scale operation a thing of the past.
Our 2011 International Students

Once again, Bill Schott has sponsored two international students to work in Cincinnati during the summer. This year’s students, Gabriel Mydlar and Juraj Lakatos, are from the Slovak Republic. One of their jobs is to assist Bill with many projects around the Village grounds. Next time you are out at the Village, take a look around at the many improvements! In addition, the boys also get to experience a bit of American Culture. This year they were able to attend the Cincinnati Reds Hall of Fame game, the Sharonville 4th of July parade and The Taste of Blue Ash.

In addition, they receive many offers to join in on private celebrations with staff and friends. If you get a chance to stop by the Village, be sure to say “Hello!” to our new friends! They will be heading back home in the fall. We have really enjoyed having Gabriel and Juraj here this summer, and hope they’ll get to come back again next year!

Heritage Village Museum
Annual Membership Information

Individual Membership .......... $30.00
Family Membership ............. $50.00

Membership Includes:

- Free admission to the Heritage Village Museum during normal operating hours and all special events.
- 10% discount in the Village Gift Shop!
- Members-only pricing on Kids Summer Day Camps, Kids Activity Saturdays and Adult Workshops.
- Quarterly Newsletter (this is the last issue of Time Steps that will go out to those other than museum members).

Sign up to be a member today!
Call (513) 563-9484 or
download a membership form at
www.heritagevillagecincinnati.org

Heritage Village Museum
Volunteer Information

Have you always wondered how you can become a volunteer at the Village? It’s easy! Just call the office at (513) 563-9484 to get more information!

HVM is always looking for volunteers to help in the following areas:

- Gift Shop/Admissions
- Tour Guides
- Education Programs
- Special Events
- Office Work
- Maintenance

We also have a wonderful Junior Volunteer program for kids ages 10-18! Call for more info.

Heritage Village Attends Sharonville’s 100th Anniversary!

A group of volunteers, led by Emily Cedargren, decorated and staffed a float for the Sharon Fest parade and even won an award for the Best Float!

Heritage Village Museum is on Facebook!

Be sure to “like” us and stay in touch with all of the Village happenings!

Donation forms are now available for download at www.heritagevillagecincinnati.org

Please consider a tax-deductible gift for Heritage Village Museum in 2011!

Gabriel and Juraj working on the road by Somerset Church.
Heritage Village Museum presents the return of...

Haunted Village

Every Friday and Saturday from Oct. 14th-29th
6pm-10pm
(gate closes at 9pm)

Admission: $8 per person
(children under 2 and Museum Members are FREE)

A family-friendly Halloween event that features a Village full of Ghostly Attractions!

Wagon Rides * Mad Scientist * Monster Mash Dance
Fortune Teller * The Witches’ House * Headless Horseman

Enter the Haunted Village through the Sharon Centre.

Heritage Village Museum
11450 Lebanon Rd.
Cincinnati, OH  45241
(513) 563-9484
www.heritagevillagecincinnati.org

Facebook
Haunted Village News!

Candy Donations Still Needed

Thanks to those who have dropped off bags of candy for us to pass out for trick-or-treating at Haunted Village! But, as you can imagine, we are still in need of more! It doesn’t matter what kind (chocolate bars, suckers, gumballs, etc…) as long as each piece is individually wrapped. A candy collection box is located inside the gift shop. Please stop by with your donation today! And don’t forget, all donations made to Heritage Village Museum (candy or otherwise) are tax-deductible!

Haunted Village Decorators Needed

As Haunted Village gets closer, we will be needing a lot of help getting the Village ready! Whether it be hanging the orange lights on the outside of the buildings or helping to decorate the insides, it truly does “take a Village” to get it all done! If you are interested in helping out, please call the office!

Event Volunteers Needed

Haunted Village is a 6 night event, and is our biggest volunteer need of the year! Even if you have never volunteered before, it is a great time to start. We will need people to work in games, concessions, wagon rides, the gift shops and of course people in costumes to pass out candy and work in the buildings! This is a great opportunity for students and volunteer groups! For more information on volunteering, please contact Shelly Gregg at 513-563-9484 or rgregg@heritagevillagecincinnati.org.

Are You Using Your Kroger Card?

A few years ago, Heritage Village members received a reloadable Kroger Card that enables the Village to earn money off of any purchases made with the card! All you have to do is load money onto the card, and then use it anytime you shop at Kroger. It’s a great and easy way to support the Village if you ordinarily shop at Kroger!

We receive 4% of all money spent using these cards.
If 50 people spent $50 per week for 50 weeks, the Village would receive $5,000.00!
If you have lost your card, or need a new one, please call the office at (513)563-9484.