Letter from the Executive Director

This has been a hot and humid late spring and early summer which reduces the number of visitors that come for guided or self-guided tours. If you have not been to the Village for a guided tour, come out and bring friends to experience the Village.

After almost a year working with Uniguide we have an audio tour of the Village for those visitors taking the self-guided tour. Last year Uniguide approached us with an opportunity to have an audio tour for free. They received a grant to produce it for us. Members can use the audio tour for free. Non-members pay $3.00 for adults and those aged 5-11 pay $1.00. It really brings history alive listening to the narration for each building.

Speaking of bringing history alive, the Heritage Village Museum and Educational Center is celebrating 50 years of Bringing History Alive. So far this year we have done so through last month’s Civil War Weekend, our first-person series in February and March, our education programs for students, and period dinners.

Last year our intern from West Virginia, Jack O’Rourke, put together an architecture tour that he gave several times during the summer. The tours are back beginning July 25. Jim Smith, tour guide at the Village, will be giving the tours on the following Wednesdays and Saturdays:

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All tours start at 12:45 p.m.

Look inside this issue and see all that is happening in the Village. Thank you for your love of the Village that keeps you coming back.
In July, August, and September, we are bringing back our Architectural Tour of Heritage Village. This tour will be conducted by Jim Smith and is based on research done by Jack O’Rourke. During our standard Village tours, in an effort to make the Village come alive for our visitors, we focus on the people who lived in our buildings, what life was like for them, and what we know of their stories. Due to this goal, we put less emphasis on the incredible physical details of the individual buildings.

On the Architectural Tour, we shift the focus onto the buildings themselves. Where did they come from? How were they moved to Heritage Village? What styles of architecture do they represent? How were they modified over time and why? And what are their peculiar quirks that give them character?

Dates for the tours will be:

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All tours will begin at 12:45 p.m. and will last approximately an hour and a half.

Have you ever wondered what was on the menu for the people who lived in our Village’s buildings? You can satiate your hunger for answers on August 15 from 6 - 9 p.m. at the hearth cooked dinner hosted by Heritage Village Museum and Educational Center. Cooking and preparation will be done in our own Kemper Kitchen. Our menu will consist of recipes from 1736 - 1805. Beef-stake pye, Indian succotash, mushrooms dressed, and a very different cheesecake will be served for your culinary enjoyment. 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.

Our free Open House on Aug. 5 from 1-5 p.m. is an opportunity for the public to visit the Village and learn more about our programs. The event will include vintage base ball matches played by 1869 rules, hands-on activities, quilting tutorials, tours of select buildings, and free Watermelon Ice to help beat the heat.

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

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 5, 2018</td>
<td>Open House</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 6, 2018</td>
<td>Myers Schoolhouse Bus Tour</td>
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<td>Aug. 15, 2018</td>
<td>Period Dinner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 16, 2018</td>
<td>Open House</td>
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<td>Oct. 12,13,19,20,26 &amp; 27, 2018</td>
<td>Haunted Village</td>
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<td>Nov. 16, 2018</td>
<td>Period Dinner</td>
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<td>Dec. 8 &amp; 9, 2018</td>
<td>Breakfast with Father Christmas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 8 &amp; 9, 2018</td>
<td>Holly Days</td>
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<td>Dec. 19,20,21 &amp; 28 , 2018</td>
<td>Train Days</td>
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Steve Preston giving historic details about the meal.
In August, we will partner with the Delhi Historical Society (DHS) for an all-day historic bus tour focusing on the Myers Schoolhouse. The tour will include Heritage Village Museum, the Delhi Historical Society, the original location of the Myers Schoolhouse, and the Sisters of Charity Motherhouse. Attendees will begin their tour at Heritage Village Museum at 10 a.m. and return to the Village by 5 p.m.

The Myers Schoolhouse, which stood on Neeb Road south of Delhi Pike for more than 100 years was the third school on the original site. The first school was a log building that was also used for meetings of the first trustees of the western section of Cincinnati as early as the 1830s. The second building was handmade brick, probably constructed around 1843, which was the year that District School #3 opened with 19 students and one teacher.

The last school built, Myers Schoolhouse, was constructed in 1891 and opened for class on October 4 of that year. It was named for Cornelius Myers, who was a longtime school trustee, as well as a township trustee. It was a fine building for its time, with a pyramid roofed bell tower at the front of the gable peak. The peak contains a datestone inscribed "1891 Dist. School No. 3."

It served Delhi students until 1926, when modern motorized transportation allowed for the consolidation of all Delhi one- and two-room schools into the new Delhi School at Anderson Ferry and Foley roads. The Myers Schoolhouse was auctioned at public sale and purchased by Henry and Emma Backus, who just happened on the auction while taking a ride in the country.

The Backus family built a white cottage attached to the back of the school. The three-room addition included a bedroom, bathroom and kitchen. In 1932, they built a colonial home behind the schoolhouse that now serves as the Sisters of Charity Earth Connection ministry.

In 1958, the Backus’ son, Harry, moved his interior design business into the old schoolhouse. He retired the business in 1986 and sold the property to Charles and Pauline Johnson for $107,000. Once again, the schoolhouse would be used for educational purposes. Pauline was a vision therapist who specialized in reading problems for students with dyslexia. Four years later, the Johnsons sold the property to the College of Mount St. Joseph (now Mount St. Joseph University). Two parcels of land adjacent to the school, still owned by Harry Backus, were also sold to the college.

The college used it for a pre-school, and once again the walls of the old building contained the laughter and chatter of students. It eventually became a day care facility for children of Mount adult students.

In 2004, Sister Barbara Hagedorn of the Sisters of Charity met with then DHS president Don Blaney, consultant Sue Ann Painter and Peg Schmidt to see if they would be interested in using the building with the stipulation that they would need to make some structural repairs. After having a structural engineer estimate $60,000 to $70,000 in repairs, they contacted Historic Southwest Ohio, which operates Heritage Village in Sharon Woods. HSO set about raising the money needed to deconstruct, move and reconstruct the building - brick by brick - from Delhi to Sharonville.

Today, the schoolhouse is undergoing continuing restoration in order to reopen to visitors at Heritage Village Museum.

Join us Monday August 6th for a field trip focused on this gem. Heritage Village Museum participants will meet at Heritage Village Museum at 10:00 a.m. for a tour of the Myers Schoolhouse and the village, followed by a catered lunch. Then they will depart by bus for Delhi Historical Society for a short talk on early schools in Delhi. Afterwards, the group will travel to the Sisters of Charity Motherhouse to hear about the Sisters’ part of the story and tour the Motherhouse. The group will arrive back at Heritage Village Museum around 5:00 p.m.

The Early bird rate is $35/member of Heritage Village Museum or Delhi Historical Society or $40/non-member and includes travel, admission, and lunch. Prices go up after July 30. Reservations are limited and required. Reserve your spot by calling 513-563-9484.
On July 3, 1792, a ten-year-old Oliver Spencer left the settlement of Columbia with his two sisters and some other guests aboard a military barge bound for Fort Washington. They were on their way to celebrate the Fourth of July, which promised to be a grand event and a respite from life on the frontier.

Military drills, parades, dinners, and a ball given by the officers of the fort were just some of the scheduled festivities. After the hour-long boat ride, the group arrived at the landing below the whitewashed wooden walls of Fort Washington. The young Spencer must have had a hard time sleeping that night in anticipation of the next day’s events.

Great pride and effort was put into the celebration as many of those within the fort and in the local settlements were veterans of the American Revolutionary War. Secretary of the Northwest Territory, Winthrop Sargent, soldiers such as Lt. Col. James Wilkinson, David Ziegler, and Cincinnati citizens such as Rev. James Kemper, John Riddle, Benjamin Srites, Col. Oliver Spencer, Sr., and the town’s largest landowner, John Cleves Symmes, were all involved in the fight for independence.

According to Oliver Spencer, the morning of the Fourth began with a 13-gun salute fired by the fort’s cannons. This was repeated at noon. Dressed in martial splendor, the garrison of Fort Washington performed military drills and paraded for the entertainment of the citizenry. This was also most likely an attempt to boost morale of both the soldiers and the citizens after St. Clair’s Defeat the preceding November. The American Army, under St. Clair had been routed by the force of 1,000 warriors of a pan-Indian confederacy, resulting in upwards of 80% casualties. Indian depredations continued unchecked and made day to day life harrowing for many settlers.

The dinner hosted by the fort was a wonderful affair filled with much wild game such as turkey, deer, and bear from the surrounding forest. Military staples such as beef, bread, and of course, whiskey, would have also been served. Large tables would have been set up on the parade grounds for guests and soldiers alike to enjoy the victuals prepared for the day. Many toasts would have been offered on behalf of those veterans in attendance, those fallen, and of course to George Washington. Everyone were until content or distracted by other festivities.

As night descended, Spencer spoke of a “brilliant exhibition of fireworks.”

Many of the same sorts of fireworks displays we enjoy today were available to those within the palisades of Fort Washington. Rockets fired that explode in the air, cone fountains with showering sparks, wheels spinning with sparks, and of course fire crackers. One can only imagine what any onlooking Native Americans must have thought at the sight.

The night then took a more formal turn as a ball was held by the officers of the garrison. Junior officers and senior officers alike would have been dressed in their best uniform, especially those young officers looking for a companion on the lonely frontier. Garrison commander, Lieutenant Colonel, James Wilkinson, was well known to have worn quite an ostentatiously styled uniform to such an occasion. Always the entertainer and socialite, he would have mingled his way through the crowd. Music was provided by the military band. Lively tunes would have been played as the guests danced minuets, allemandes, jigs, and reels. Dancing well into the night, the revelry would have been enjoyed by all.

The morning was probably a late morning by those who enjoyed the night a little too much. The fort and the soldiers garrisoning it awoke to business as usual. Guarding the settlements from marauding Indians, keeping an eye on boat traffic on the Ohio, and daily military tasks that were the routine of the frontier soldier. The men and women of Cincinnati, much like today, would have gone back to work as well, carving a living out of the wilds of Southwest Ohio and raising families. Children such as Oliver Spencer must have found more fun pursuits as he stayed an extra two days before being ready to depart for Columbia. But, as some of you may know, that’s another story.
**Vorhes House New Roof**

Restoration work and maintenance of the buildings within the Village is an ongoing concern. The Vorhes House is the next building to receive attention. Late last month Architectural Reclamation came onsite to begin tearing off the old roof that was held together by the moss and trees growing on the shakes. The roof will be synthetic shingles similar to the shingles on Somerset Church. Cost of the synthetic shingles is comparable to the wood shakes, but last at least 50 years which is 30 years more than the natural wood shakes.

The second part of the project will be to work on the box gutters which have failed. The cornice and soffit will be rebuilt to allow for a new K style gutter to be applied along the exterior face of the existing box gutter with a drip line free of the brick wall. A metal transition piece will be installed bridging from the new K style gutter over the top of the old box gutter and up onto the roof under the first courses of shingles. This is similar to what was done with the box gutters at Hayner House several years ago.

A generous donation by Bill Schott is making this work possible!

**Tytus Gates Refreshed**

As you visit the Heritage Village Museum and Educational Center today you will see the Tytus Gates that have marked the entryway since April 2008. When I arrived three years later in April 2011 the gates were showing signs of rust and faded paint. This spring it was decided that we needed to bring the beautiful gates back to life.

On June 5, Randy Meyer’s crew with assistance from Bill Schott and Guillermo Sanchez took the gates down to be painted. Two weeks later the gates returned looking brand new with the locking mechanism relocated to the inside for ease of locking the gate each night.

The gates originally arrived at the Village on February 2, 2001, from the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Tytus on Indian Hill Road in Cincinnati. On your next visit take a close look at the gates and appreciate the decorative work of the Fleur-de-Lis. –Bill Dichtl

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**Donations to the Collection**

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

Melonie McDonel: children’s 19th-century toys to use for Education Programs; includes 3 sets of stilts, 2 rag dolls, 3 sets of Graces, 6 Jacob’s Ladders, 6 buzzsaws, a chalk board and a basket to contain all items.

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Kaesmeyer: Round woven wool rug for Education usage.

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Kaesmeyer: Carpenter tools for Education programs; includes a small square, a spokeshave, 2 tools for marking tenons, another tool for marking tenon width, an adjustable ratchet handle and a small level.

Julie Dichtl: 2 blouses from the 1890s with lace, a chemisette circa 1880s, pink child’s dress circa 1920s, 2 petticoats from 1890s with tucks and lace insertion. Given in memory of Genevieve Summers.

Christina Solomon: Reproduction 1860s day dress in a blue print for interpreter use.

Diane Coning: Reproduction 2-piece Civil War dress in maroon plaid with crinoline for interpreter use.

Randy Meyer: 1 hand water pump for use with the Myers Schoolhouse.

Sylvia Brown: 2 school desks for use in the Myers School House; Given in memory of Clarence J. Brown.
Thank You to Our Volunteers

Since I took up my position as Director of Volunteer Services back in April, I have been impressed and inspired time and again by the dedication and hard work of our volunteers. From our event volunteers to those who contribute to the daily operation of Heritage Village, we could not do what we do without each and every volunteer regardless of the size of the contribution. I am now going to attempt to list all those who have volunteered since Spring in Early Cincinnati way back in April through our first Open House of the summer on July 1st, I apologize in advance if I leave anyone out, we just have so many incredible volunteers it gets daunting to keep track. A huge thank you to:


Your contributions are so incredibly appreciated by all of our staff members, Board of Directors and visitors. You make this whole thing possible and we would love to have the opportunity to thank you and celebrate all you have done over the past year at our Volunteer Recognition on July 21st from 10am until noon. —Lydia Christopher

Research Volunteers Needed for Diversity Project

Our Diversity and Inclusion Committee would like to research and implement programming that addresses the multi-cultural aspects of Cincinnati during the 19th Century. Many different cultural and ethnic groups are responsible for making the Queen City what it is today. We need to figure out how to present the information on these groups of people. We are looking for individuals to assist in the research and development of possible options to showcase this information. If anyone is interested in working on this project please call Steve Preston at 513-563-9484.

THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO!

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

July 21, 2018 | 10 AM - NOON
Heritage Village Museum and Educational Center
Hayner House

RSVP BY JULY 19, 2018 TO LYDIA AT 513-563-9484 OR lchristopher@heritagevillagecincinnati.org
Volunteer Awards

Heritage Village Museum & Educational Center recently had their annual meeting. During the meeting, the efforts of two of our much-valued volunteers was highlighted. Mary Lippert was recognized for her contributions to the Village spanning over 40 years. Beginning her service around the nation’s bicentennial, Mary continues her service today by helping with our educational programming. Mary has the distinction of being the longest serving interpreter of Kemper Log Home.

Melonie McDonel was awarded Junior Volunteer of the Year for her efforts. Melonie made 19th century toys and games for her “Gold Award” in scouting. She donated her toys as well as a sign for use with them at events. Melonie has been an active volunteer, even learning to hearth cook. She will be attending The Ohio State University this fall.

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

We have tons of Volunteer opportunities coming up, so if you or someone you know is interested in volunteering please contact Lydia, our Director of Volunteer Services, at 513-563-9484 or lchristopher@heritagevillagecincinnati.org.

August 5th from 1p.m. until 5 p.m. - Help us make our second Open House of the summer a huge success! We will need volunteers to interpret buildings and to run our hands-on station making Buzz Saws.

August 6th - We have partnered with the Delhi Historical Society for a historic bus tour! We will have two sessions of visitors throughout the day, so we will need two sets of tour guides* (4 guides per session). The first tour session will run from 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. and the second will be from 1:30 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Those who volunteer for both tour sessions will be provided lunch.

*Tours will be of the entire Village, so volunteers must be knowledgeable on all buildings to give a 90 minute tour.

August 7th from 5 p.m. until 9 p.m. - We will have a table at the Middletown Police Night Out. Bethany will be working the table, but would love some help, especially with set up around 3 p.m.

August 15th from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. - We will be hosting another of our Period Dinners. Steve will need help with the event from setup to serving drinks and food.

September 6th from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. - Help us make our final Open House of the season a success! We have partnered with Ohio History Connection for their Ohio Open Doors campaign, which means we will have additional promotion all across the state! Help us give visitors a taste of what we have to offer by volunteering to do anything from greeting visitors to interpreting buildings.

Looking ahead…Volunteer for Haunted Village from 6 p.m. until 10 p.m. the last three weekends in October!

Intern Spotlight

We currently have three interns doing fantastic work for Heritage Village Museum. Eric Goetz is about to complete his master’s degree in History at Northern Kentucky University. He has digitized the house files and photographs, created a PowerPoint presentation for the Chocolate, Champagne and Candelight event and digitized and catalogued books in our library collection. He is currently finishing up a video project that highlights the history of each of our buildings.

Jake Koch recently graduated from the University of Cincinnati with a bachelor’s degree in History. He researched and designed two panels: The Structure of the Military During the Civil War and Weaponry of the Civil War. Jake also put together a Civil War exhibit that contains the panels, artifacts, and prints. The Civil War exhibit will be on display in Hayner House until January 4, 2019.

Our newest intern, Robbie Due, is about to start his second year in the Public History Master’s Program at the University of Cincinnati. He has researched and written labels for the Child’s Play: Toys, Games, and Dolls exhibit, which will be on display in Hayner House until February 28, 2019. He is currently researching children’s activities that relate to the exhibit.
Support Heritage Village Museum by Shopping at

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!

Quilt Raffle

We are raffling off a quilt made by the Heritage Village Quilters. The “Comforts of Home” quilt measures 50” x 67” and is a modified 9-patch design that was popular in the mid-19th century. The 9-patch pattern predates the Civil War. The talented Heritage Village Quilters put in over 253 hours of work to complete this beautiful quilt. We would like your help selling raffle tickets. We have included some tickets with this newsletter. If you or someone you know would like to purchase a raffle ticket, please fill it out and return it along with $1 per ticket or $5 per six tickets to Heritage Village Museum. The drawing will take place during our Open House on Sept. 16 at 4 p.m. It is not necessary to be present to win.