Letters from the Executive Director

Summer is here and I look forward to seeing visitors strolling the grounds enjoying the Village and our beautiful setting. Visitors can take a self-guided tour or take a tour lead by Jim Smith or Skylar Stamper, our two tour guides until the end of September.

One of our challenges at the Village is to bring people in to learn about Southwest Ohio’s fascinating history. How do we do that? We offer guided tours, exhibits, and special programs such as the first-person programs, Hearth Cooked dinners, talks on early base ball in Cincinnati, and more. Having you, our members, come back on a regular basis is important to us. What can we do to bring you back? We have included a short survey on the back of this newsletter that you can return to me at wdichtl@heritagevillagecincinnati.org with your thoughts on what you would like to see at the Village. It is your Village and your thoughts are important.

As I sit in my office writing my column, I am listening to a generator outside of my office being used to power wash the roof of Hayner House so that it will be ready to receive a rubber membrane. The sound is not a 19th century sound but a sound that signals we are taking care of the buildings and providing a safe place for staff, volunteers and visitors to enjoy. This is not the only thing going on right now. An accessibility ramp for the Flatboat and Vorhees are being completed. The road across from Chester Park is having the gutter extended to control the flow of rain and help protect against muddy spots, and more is being planned.

We encourage you to come see all the improvements that are being made. Please stop in and enjoy summer in the Village.

William J. Dichtl
Escape the Village
Jul. 27, Aug. 24 & Sept. 28
Noon, 1:30 p.m., and 3 p.m.

Escape the Village is an escape room style challenge! The first challenge is held in Fetter General Store and is called “Morgan’s Raiders of the Lost Art.” Follow the clues to solve this art heist based on the historic Confederate raid in July 1863, when General John Hunt Morgan and his men rode through this area looting along the way. They couldn’t carry everything with them, so they hid some of their plunder along the way and left clues so they could find it later. Follow the clues to find a priceless piece of art. The art holds the key to your escape. Tickets are $25 per person.

Paint the Village
Aug. 9 7-9p.m.

Peruse paintings of the Village while enjoying, wine, cheese, and appetizers. Bid on your favorite paintings by artists Nancy Achberger and Bob Kroeger during the silent auction. This is a free event.

Hearth Cooked Dinner
Aug 21 & Nov 13 6-9p.m.

Join us for a Hearth Cooked Dinner and sample some 18th and 19th century cuisine by candlelight in the Kemper Kitchen. 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.

Lost Cincinnati
Aug. 13 Noon

Cincinnati earned its nickname of “Queen City of the West” with a wealth of fine theaters and hotels, a burgeoning brewery district and the birth of professional baseball. Though many of these treasures have vanished, they left an indelible mark on the city. Revisit the favorite locales from old Coney Island to Crosley Field. Along the way, author Jeff Suess uncovers some uniquely Cincinnati quirks from the inclines and the canal to the infamous incomplete subway. Join Suess as he delves into the mystery and legacy of Cincinnati’s lost landmarks, and highlights some places that need to be preserved. Cost: $5. Museum members and children ages 4 and under are free.

Clever & Unusual Escapes from Slavery
Aug. 29th 7p.m.

Desperate enslaved people of the pre-Civil War South devised all kinds of ways to escape from bondage. From hiding in plain sight, to disguises, to piloting a ship under Confederate guns, brave people on the run used all their daring and ingenuity to reach a better life. Hear their stirring stories when Millie Henley of Historical Connections presents “Clever and Unusual Escapes from Slavery”. Admission is $5. Free for members of Heritage Village Museum or The Ladies Living History Society of Greater Cincinnati.
UPCOMING EVENTS

Haunted Village
Oct. 11, 12, 18, 19, 25 and 26
6-10 p.m.
Heritage Village Museum will transform into a Haunted Village for a family-friendly, slight-fright event. Trick-or-treat through the Village meeting a headless horseman, a fortune teller, a mad scientist, ghosts, and witches along the way. Take a horse-drawn wagon ride. Walk through the haunted cemetery. Enjoy face painting, balloon art, games, storytelling, and more! Admission is $10. Museum members, veterans and active duty military members (with a military I.D.), and children under two are free.

Burr Conspiracy
Nov. 7 7 p.m.
This program picks up where the musical “Hamilton” ends. 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 intrigue stretched across the American landscape, both politically and geographically. It would involve sitting presidents and future ones as well. 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. Admission is $5. Museum members, military members (with I.D.), and children ages 4 and under are free.

Mark Your Calendar
Here’s a handy reference to keep track of upcoming events:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Registration required?*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 27, Aug. 24, &amp; Sept. 28</td>
<td>Escape the Village</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>Aug. 9</td>
<td>Art Auction</td>
<td>No</td>
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<td>Aug. 21 &amp; Nov. 13</td>
<td>Heath Cooked Dinner</td>
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<td>Aug. 13</td>
<td>Lost Cincinnati</td>
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<td>Nov. 7</td>
<td>Burr Conspiracy</td>
<td>No</td>
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<td>Dec. 14, &amp; 15</td>
<td>Breakfast with Mother Christmas</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 14 &amp; 15</td>
<td>Holly Days</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 8</td>
<td>Chocolate, Champagne, and Candlelight</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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* Call 513-563-9484 to register for programs and events. Online registration will be available for some events. Check HeritageVillageMuseum.org/events for more details.
Imagine the noonday sun blackened by what appears to be a moving and expanding cloud of smoke a mile wide that goes on for days. As you look closer, you realize it is not smoke but millions upon millions of birds, Passenger Pigeons to be exact. While today the Tristate will never experience this, the residents of the 1800s saw them quite often, with diminishing scope as the nineteenth century came to a close. The Passenger Pigeon played a role in the history and prehistory of the peoples who populated this area. The Passenger Pigeon was a large bird eighteen inches long, or slightly larger than the pigeons you see today around overpasses. The males had red eyes, a blue-gray back and head, with an orange neck and belly. Females were slightly smaller and rather drab, with a grayish-brown appearance. Described as a pigeon built for speed and maneuverability, they were the endurance athletes of the bird world, flying constantly in search of food or nest sites. By all accounts, Passenger Pigeons were also delicious, a fact that played into their eventual extinction. Since prehistory, residents of the Tristate area used these birds as a food source. In many archaeological sites in Kentucky, Ohio, and Indiana that deal with prehistoric cultures, the remains of Passenger Pigeons have been found. As with any migratory food source, location of Passenger Pigeon remains are often hit-or-miss. The fact they show up so readily in Ohio and Kentucky excavations indicates their significance to the prehistoric diet. Among historic Native American tribes, the Passenger Pigeon was both sacred and consumable, often on the menu of special “feast” events. The historic record has account after account of the sheer magnitude of this bird’s impact on the landscape of early America and the Ohio Valley. As a child in the 1810s and 1820s, United States Senator Samuel Cary remembered “Flocks of unnumbered millions of pigeons, which by their numbers darkened the sky, and by their movements produced a roaring like the waves of the sea, were often seen. Day and night the air was black with them. Occasionally a flock would alight in the woods in such numbers as to break large branches from the tree.” John James Audubon recounted a Kentucky flock that passed for “three days in succession.” He went on to state how the local populace fed upon the shot birds “for a week or more.” Mary Howitt of Hamilton County, Ohio recalled in 1857 a flock that, “with steady flight” over Northern Kentucky and Cincinnati, lasted for “several days.” Cincinnati resident F.W. Langdon described a flock from the fall of 1865 taking “the greater portion of three whole days” to pass. He recounted residents who ringed the hills around the Mill Creek Valley shooting at this flock. These accounts seem fantastical, but they were not, especially when you consider that there were similar reports of massive flights in other parts of the Eastern United States and Canada at the same time. It is estimated that the population of Passenger Pigeons at the beginning of the nineteenth century was in the billions. Sadly, overhunting took its toll of the Passenger Pigeon population across the entire United States. Natural reproduction could not keep up with the slaughter. Passenger Pigeons raised only one chick a breeding season. These young birds, known as “squabs,” were more sought after than the adults because of their tender meat. Hunters would sneak into nesting areas, which could be as large as three miles wide and forty miles long, and use a stick to knock the squab out of the nest. Adults were shot or caught with a net. Barrels of 200-300 birds would be shipped to restaurants. It only took man about a century to extirpate a species so abundant as to black out the sun with its flights. We all know the sad story of Martha—the lone surviving Passenger Pigeon who spent her last days at the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens, dying on September 1, 1914. She was the last of a species of bird that once accounted for anywhere from 25-40 percent of the total bird population of North America. It only took man about a century to extirpate a species so abundant as to black out the sun with its flights.
Sometimes, when I'm standing in the Eating Room of the Kemper Log House, in Heritage Village Museum, I like to imagine what it was like Friday evening, March 6, 1829, when the family gathered together for a special dinner. As it happened, all ten of the Kemper boys were home at the same time, one of them having travelled some distance. At the head of the table sat the youngest daughter, Agnes, age 32, giving out tea and coffee. To her right, along the side of the table, sat her parents, James Kemper, aged 74, and Judith, 73, together with five daughters-in-law. Left of Agnes, sat her brothers, seated according to age along the other side of the table: Elnathan (56), Caleb (54), Peter (49), Edward (46), John (42), Samuel (39), David (36) and Frederick (30). At the far end of the table sat Charles (26), the youngest of the Kempers, the one who had been born the day the family moved into the log home, and the one who, this evening, was doing the carving.

At first the conversation turned to politics, when one of the boys started talking about Andrew Jackson. The populist president had only just taken office and was proving to be extremely controversial. One of the other boys objected that the occasion was too important to them to be talking about Jackson; instead he suggested they take turns, each telling a brief history of their lives up to that night, and making sure to include any remarkable escapes from death they had had. As they told their stories, almost all had had at least one remarkable escape. When each of the boys had had a turn, they listened to their father who gave a short inspirational talk.

After supper, the table was cleared away and the boys measured their heights on the doorframe at the base of the stairs. Charles, the baby, was tallest at 6 ft.; Samuel was shortest at 5ft. 7in. (When the house was moved to the Cincinnati Zoo in 1912, part of the doorframe with the carved heights and initials was presented to Willis Kemper, great grandson of James and Judith.).

Next, as had long been their custom, they sang sacred music while Caleb accompanied them on the bass-oboe. They let their father choose the final hymn and then he led them in prayer at the close of the evening. This had obviously been an important time for them, and one of the boys suggested another of the boys write up an account of the evening, and give it to another brother to edit, and then a third should take it to the editor of the local newspaper for publication. A version of this account made it into Kemper Records (1946), giving us a glimpse into the life that long filled our historic building.

From April 11 through the 16, Seams Sew Easy in Fairfield featured an exhibit of 25 quilts from the Heritage Village Collection. The exhibit showcased many different styles of quilts from as early as 1850 all the way into the 1930s with eight of the pieces being signed and dated by their creators. Many of the quilts had biblical based patterns such as evening star and delectable mountain. There were also four crazy quilts. These quilts date back to the 1890s with patch work, velvet designs, and intricate embroidery. Among these many styles there was one quilt referred to as the Presidential Quilt. This unique quilt featured ink drawings of all the presidents starting with George Washington ending at Franklin Roosevelt. In addition to the many quilts on view for the public, on April 16, Heritage Village’s Collections Director, Kathy Luhn, hosted a presentation about the quilts and typical clothing of the time period.
Since our last newsletter in April, so many of our incredible volunteers have helped to bring history alive to our guests at Regency Rally, Jubilee Tea, Civil War Weekend, and a Hearth Cooked Dinner! To individually list everyone who generously volunteered their time to make these incredible events possible would likely take up the majority of the space I have here and in light of our recent Annual Meeting and the awarding of a few Volunteer of the Year awards, I would like to take the space to spotlight these outstanding individuals.

Each year we select one outstanding Adult Volunteer and one outstanding Jr. Volunteer to recognize as Volunteer of the Year. This is undoubtedly one of the most difficult decisions that the staff must make each year; narrowing down our incredible volunteers to just a couple of truly outstanding individuals makes me want to create more awards to give out as everyone truly deserves specialized recognition. As it stands, the choice was such a difficult one this year that we actually selected a dynamic duo for our Adult Volunteer award this year: Shirley Clancy and Pat Danneman. This past year Shirley and Pat not only continued their dedicated roles as Education Volunteers helping our Education Program to host over 5,500 local children, but also came out on weekends to volunteer for events such as Haunted Village, Holly Days, and Civil War Weekend. Shirley and Pat are also dedicated members of the Holly Days committee and put many hours both at the Village and at home into ensuring all the craft stations for Holly Days ran smoothly. On top of all of this, Pat and Shirley worked tirelessly last year and during the first half of this year to develop the Jubilee Tea which they hosted to incredible success in early May. To break down their incredibly hard work and invaluable contributions last year to numbers, Shirley volunteered a recorded 261 hours and 25 minutes, while Pat volunteered a recorded 233 hours and 27 minutes. It is due to their numerous contributions to the Village’s successes over the past year, as well as their continued dedication during the first half of this year, that we were all both proud and honored to award these ladies Volunteer of the Year 2018.

When it came to selecting our Jr. Volunteer of the Year there were again many outstanding candidates, but one young lady stood out of the crowd: Lydia Michel. During this past year, Lydia quickly set herself apart as one of our most dedicated and reliable volunteers regardless of age. Lydia came to nearly every scheduled Volunteer Meeting and event last year, in addition to volunteering for nearly every additional event or opportunity that arose during the year. Lydia volunteered for both first time events and off-site events, and her flexibility and knowledge are truly an asset to our volunteer program. Again, to break it down to numbers, last year Lydia volunteered a recorded 70 hours and 50 minutes, which does not include the additional 52 hours she volunteered as an intern gaining real life experience toward her bright future as a costumer. Again, it was the privilege of the staff of Heritage Village Museum to award Lydia Jr. Volunteer of the Year 2018.

Coming up on Saturday July 20th from 11am to 2pm we will be hosting our Annual Volunteer Recognition, to which all volunteers are invited so we can celebrate and recognize the incredible contribution everyone has made to the Village over the last year. All volunteers are encouraged to come and enjoy some lunch, games, and great company, whether you volunteered 5 hours or 500 I hope to see you there to yet again extend our sincerest gratitude. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please call the Village or email me at lchristopher@heritagevillagecincinnati.org, we truly have something for everyone!
Summer Camps

Kids love Summer Day camps at Heritage Village Museum. Campers will discover the past through games, toys, crafts, and hands-on activities. Camps run 9:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m. The camp fee is $150 per week for museum members and $175 per week for non-members. To learn more, visit our website, call 513-563-9484, or e-mail EducationDirector@heritagevillagecincinnati.org.

Although Our Native American Camp has past for summer 2019, keep an eye out for our 2020 dates!

Archaeology Camp Jul. 8–12
Campers will learn the basics of archaeology and do digs throughout the week. Our Village location is at the bottom of an old Ordovician Sea, and fossils abound. Campers will learn about artifacts, terminology and application, and interpretation.

Civil War Camp Jul. 29–Aug. 2
Campers will get to learn close order drills, write and decipher secret codes, make paper art, and make and taste hardtack. Campers will enjoy participating in daily activities from the 1860s.

Funded in part by:

Thank you, Sophie!

Sophie Grant got her start at Heritage Village as a junior volunteer, volunteering in both education tours and seasonal events throughout the year. From junior volunteer, Sophie quickly moved up to a camp director for the many summer camps hosted at Heritage Village Museum. Sophie later put her knowledge as a Special Education major at the University of Cincinnati to work as the Assistant Education Director alongside our Education Director, Steve Preston. Sophie also spent time on our Diversity and Inclusion Committee and helped develop the Universal Design program to make each education program inclusive and accessible to all. This past May, Sophie graduated from the University of Cincinnati with a degree in Special Education with that bringing her time here at Heritage Village to a close. Sophie always excelled in any position she was in and will always be a valued member of our team. Sophie will be spending a year living in Ireland and working at a home for special needs adults. When she returns, she hopes to take a position in Cincinnati Public Schools. Although Sophie will be greatly missed, we wish her the best of luck as she takes on the next chapter of her life and thank her for her time at Heritage Village Museum.

Summer Intern

Our Collections and Research intern, Alyssa Tepe, joined the Heritage Village Museum team at the beginning of May and will be with us the rest of the summer. Alyssa has been working along side our Collections Director, Cathy Luhn and Education Director, Steve Preston. Alyssa is a full time student at the University of Cincinnati double majoring in English and History and heading into her fifth year. After graduation, Alyssa hopes to write historical fiction and work in a museum setting. In her free time, Alyssa enjoys reading, writing, and drawing.

Our summer intern, Alyson Valenzuela, joined our team at the beginning of May and will be with us the rest of summer. Since starting at Heritage Village Museum, she has been working alongside our Marketing Director, Bethany Jewell. Alyson is a full time student at the University of Cincinnati were she studies Communications and Public Relations. After graduation, Alyson hopes to find a job in either Cincinnati or Columbus, where she is from. In her free time, Alyson enjoys visiting family, and traveling to new places.
SURVEY

What topics would you like to see as exhibits in the Hayner House? (Please be as specific as possible.)

What first-person program, lecture, workshop, or demonstration would you be like the Village to offer? (Please be as specific as possible.)

What special focus for a guided tour would bring you back to the Village? (Please be as specific as possible.)

Would you be interested in helping to develop any of your suggestions? If so, which one(s)?