A Look Back At 2005

As the year ends, many people enjoy looking back over the previous 12 months to remember and reminisce. So here is some of what the Heritage Village Museum did in 2005.

A rainy Civil War Weekend in May brought in a record of over 180+ reenactors, covering sutlers, civilians, infantry, artillery and cavalry. They all set up wonderful Union and Confederate encampments and presented 2 great battles for us to watch. What a great addition the roles of cavalry and horses brought to the fights!

The new J.C. Fetter Store re-opened as a general store exhibit. Our Gift Shop re-located to the Hayner House. In addition to so many artifacts covering the shelves of the Fetter Store, there are a lot of hands-on items. Visitors are not only allowed to handle the objects but they are encouraged to do so! School groups have loved their visits to the store!

Our Volunteers at Work

Elaine Krick – Mrs. Kemper
Haunted Village

Jr. Volunteer/ Kelly Schmidt

Runaway Slave Program

In 2005, the number of scout programs has grown very nicely. The Heritage Village now offers 3 programs for Cub Scouts, 9 for Girl Scouts and 2 for American Heritage Girls.
We are coming rapidly to the close of another year for Historic Southwest Ohio, the Heritage Village and the Hauck House Museum. Time flies when you’re having fun. First and foremost, I want to thank the volunteers for their wonderful support and service to the organizations. We’ve said it many times in the past but the phrase, “we couldn’t have done it without you” continues to ring true. The way we interpret the village and the Hauck House Museum is unique to museums and it is what makes us special. Our volunteers are the best in the business and we are proud to have you working at the village.

During this past year we have made significant progress on improving the buildings, making our buildings accessible for the disabled, and adding to the beauty of the grounds. In the future you will see more flowers by the houses and a more inviting look in the village. We have added the Schram Printing Company and found a permanent home for the Wilkens Washhouse. The American Association of Museums has conducted a Collections Assessment and gave us a very good report on how we are handling and preserving our museum collections. Our visitation numbers are holding up and we are encouraged by those in the community who continue to tell us what a valuable service we are providing. These are only a few of the highlights to what I consider a very good year. Thank you to everyone for your help.

Bing Spitler

It is sometimes difficult to imagine that things that happen on the other side of the world can have such a direct impact on our little village here in Sharonville, but they do. The tsunami last December, Hurricane Katrina, and the earthquakes in Pakistan have been terrible tragedies. Each of these disasters has placed a heavy burden on the citizens of those areas. The financial outpouring of help to those affected has been a testament to the human family. Unfortunately, we are impacted because we rely upon your generosity, as well, to keep the historic legacy of southwestern Ohio alive. Our museums, like most across the country, are experiencing a dramatic slowdown in financial support. However, we believe our mission is noble and our buildings, collections, and programs are valuable assets for today’s children and for future generations. Please help us with your generous donation.

Thank you and have a wonderful holiday and New Year.

Jeff Schloemer

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In addition to the thanks from the Executive Director, the staff of the Heritage Village Museum would like to add their thanks to all of the volunteers that continue to come and share their time and talents. We know that our volunteers are dedicated to the purpose and goals of the Village, and we know that you are the best! Every volunteer hour, whether it is once in a while or every week, is acknowledged and greatly appreciated by each of us. Merci beaucoup, muchas gracias, danke!

Carolyn  Fran  Karen  Kathy  Lisa  Lori
At the turn of the last century, Goetlieb Schram started his print business in Covington, Kentucky and there served the Cincinnati community for generations. His son, John, later took over the business and enjoyed the life of a successful printer and entrepreneur. The Schrams were of typical German stock with their attention to detail and incredible work ethic. Alas, there came a point in time when the business was no longer viable and the shop closed. John Schram’s daughter, Bonnie Owens, elected to save his equipment and, for 10 years, stored it in her basement. One day in the summer of 2004 she contacted the Heritage Village Museum and asked if she could donate the printing press and related printing pieces to the museum. We always wanted a print shop in the village because it was such a significant part of community life in the 19th century so we accepted her offer. Several months later, Mrs. Owens’ daughter called and offered to build a replica building in the village to house the printing equipment. This is a wonderful gift because it provides a great place to showcase the print press, type set and a number of other important pieces of the printing business and will serve as an additional educational facility for the thousands of children who visit the village every year. The building is complete and we are in the process of moving the equipment inside. When finished, it will represent one of the finest displays of 19th century printing in the area. We are and will forever be grateful for the insight, generosity, and thoughtfulness of Mrs. Bonnie Owens and Rob and Stacy Crapsey.

We are grateful to Rob Crapsey and Chris Gillis, Crapsey and Gilles Contractors, Inc., for constructing the Schram Printing Company addition onto the J.C. Fetter Store. We extend our deepest appreciation to the following contractors for providing their expertise and workmanship to the construction of the Schram Printing Company building.

Crapsey & Gilles Contractors, Inc.
8887 Glendale-Milford Road
Loveland, Ohio 45140-8908

Advanced Electric
9066 Sutton Place
Hamilton, Ohio 45011

Construction Solutions
2350 Cardiff Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45209

Evans Landscaping
3700 Round Bottom Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45244

Kurzhals, Inc.
6847 Menz Lane
Cincinnati, Ohio 45233

John Pater Designs
5298 Hartford Pike
Aurora, Indiana 47001
In a recent conversation with HSO member, Judy Ruthven, it was indicated that her husband John had a collection of printing presses that he had been saving for over thirty years. She suggested that John consider donating them to the Heritage Village as a means of finishing out the Schram Printing Company building. John agreed and so did Stacy Crapsey, the force behind the Schram Printing Company building and an owner of some of John’s paintings. With the addition of the Ruthven presses, our visitors will see a beautiful and complete print shop. Thanks John and Judy for your wonderful gifts.

By now you should have received an appeal letter from Historic Southwest Ohio for your consideration. It is important that you return this request with a generous gift. The museum industry is increasingly finding itself competing with natural disasters and other organizations for public gifts. This is especially true for the Heritage Village. Located in Sharon Woods Park, people believe that the park brought the village here and that we receive a large amount of funding from the Hamilton County Park District. Although we enjoy our relationship with the Park District, it is people like you that have paid for the buildings that make up the village and support its existence. Please review the appeal and give generously.

The Heritage Village recently received a generous donation from Carl Lindner for $10,000. We deeply appreciate Mr. Lindner’s support, and for the wonderful things he has done and continues to do for the Cincinnati community.

Bing Spitler
We are pleased to announce that we have received $90,000 in donations towards a goal of $370,000 for the relocation and preservation of the Meyer’s Schoolhouse. As reported earlier, we have received grants from the Sisters of Charity, The Greater Cincinnati Foundation and the Louise Taft Semple Foundation. In addition, we have made contact with a number of organizations and a number of grant requests are still pending. If a sufficient amount of funds can be received, we would start the relocation process in 2006. Please help. Do you know of a group or organization that would like to contribute to this wonderful project? Let them know or better yet, give the names and contact information to Bing Spitler and he will explain to them how they can help bring this beautiful building to the village.

Upon your next visit to the Heritage Village, you will see behind the Hayner House the foundation for the Wilkens’ Washhouse. The foundation was poured in mid November and the building is to be moved into place before the end of the year if the weather holds up. Once on its new foundation, our trusted volunteers have pledged to work on its restoration. The foundation was a gift from Baker Equipment and Materials (BEAM) of Franklin, Ohio and the cost of restoration, as we stated in our last letter, will be funded from a gift from Mrs. Kimberly Wilkens Messing.

With significant assistance provided by Mother Nature, a "Spring" surprise is beginning to sprout for future enjoyment of museum members. During the past month, an assortment of bulbs and rootstock - all familiar favorites of 19th century gardeners - was planted in the vicinity of Benedict Cottage, Elk Lick House, and Kemper Log House. As daylight hours lengthen in February, clusters of Snowdrops will bravely endure the bluster of late-winter snow flurries. When their blossoms begin to fade away, the nodding heads of narcissus will burst forth and produce a fragrant flower show, which should extend into the last week of April. Be prepared to introduce yourself to miniature yellow- and white-headed friends blessed with endearing names such as Colleen Bawn (Irish for "fair-haired girl"), Hoop Petticoats, Rip Van Winkle, and Twin Sisters. They will be nestled along the brick foundation supporting Benedict Cottage. Maximus and Texas Star and Victoria will stake a claim around the base of our flagpole. Rugged naturalizers, some propagated as far back as the 1200's, will emerge from the shadows of the split-rail fence separating Kemper Log House and Vorhes House. Princeps and Pheasant's Eye will line the promenade in front of Elk Lick House. A whiff of Lilly-of-the-Valley will announce the arrival of May. Stop by and savor the performance. Even more varieties, than we have just mentioned, will be on display.
Miss Katarina Tothova, a citizen from the Slovak Republic will be joining the village staff this January as an intern. Katarina is the sister of Karol (Karesz) Toth and will be sponsored by Board of Directors member, Bill Schott. Katarina received her degree in Industrial Engineering with a background in Ergonomics and Human Resources. During her internship, Katarina will be working with Bing and the staff on a number of internal projects including organizing files and collections documentation. We look forward to her arrival and the contributions she will make to Heritage Village and the Hauck House.

Kathy Luhn, Heritage Village Museum, Collections Coordinator, was awarded the PROMISING FUTURE LEADER award by the Association of Midwest Museums (AMM) at their recent annual conference. The AMM is the major museum association for hundreds of museums located in the central part of the United States. Annually, they present two awards to worthy recipients in the museum industry. Their awards are particularly prestigious because they recognize only the best of the best.

Kathy, a long time volunteer and employee of the Heritage Village rose above the competition for the award by her dedication to the museum and continued education in museum studies. She has lead the way in identifying, documenting and photographing over 7,000 artifacts in the Heritage Village and Hauck House collection. We should all feel proud that Kathy is on the staff.

Never one to rest on his laurels, Mike O'Donnell tackled another "home improvement" project this past summer: Dr. Langdon's Medical Office required a great deal of work to restore the building's distinctive wood latticework. The lattice, which envelops three sides of the structure, required lots of tender loving care. Each rotted piece had to be delicately pried away from sounder companions and its original geometry replicated in a fresh strip of wood, which was then carefully glued into its final position. Finally, as our unusually hot days of August yielded to more pleasant Fall weather, Mike and his granddaughter Katie Garber, persevered at the tedious tasks of scraping and filling and sanding and priming the lattice. Their final coat of paint looks great! This past year, Mike has also been responsible for repairing the rotten boards on the box gutters above the front of Hayner House and fixing the window trim at Somerset Church.

Thanks Mike!

Bill Schott

Happy Holidays from the Board of Directors

Jeffrey Schloemer    Lori Jeffries    Russell Sims
Charles Weilbaker    Sandi Cloppert
Mark Albertz        Gina Anaple      Florence Beaujon
William Duke         Nadine Friedmann
Stephen Jones        Sonya Kirkland  
Murry Monroe, Jr.    Duncan Muir     John Peck
William Puthoff      Jim Rahtz       William Schott
Randy Smith          Richard Wendel, MD

Handy Irishman

Michael O'Donnell
Eagle Scouts Complete Projects
At Heritage Village

During the past summer, the Heritage Village hosted three separate Eagle Scout projects. Alex Craven, a longtime Junior Volunteer at the village led a crew in clearing the churchyard next to the Somerset Church. This was no easy project that involved the removal of trees, stumps, rocks, dirt, and rocks and did I say rocks? With the work completed, Alex finished all of the requirements and was formally awarded his Eagle Scout designation on October 22 at the Somerset Church.

Robert Crapsey began his final phase of becoming an Eagle Scout last May and selected building the wood crates that cover the village garbage cans. He designed the crates, selected the building materials and then built a prototype for review. It worked perfect so he then enlisted the help of 19 other boys to help him put the other six crates together. It was a wonderful job that had been a Village wish for years. It was completed in a matter of several weeks and now Robert will soon receive his Eagle Scout Award.

David Hagee is also a long-time Junior Volunteer at the village and he choose to construct a log fence around his friends newly leveled churchyard at the Somerset Church. Again, in the heat of the summer, David and his associates stripped the bark off of trees, dug the postholes, and built a fence around the church. This was exactly what the church needed to maintain its rich 19th century look. David will soon be receiving his Eagle Scout Award.

We congratulate each of these fine young men for their contribution to the Heritage Village and their community. It is no easy feat to dream and then, year after year, drive to accomplish that dream. Here are three young men who did just that. We are proud of them and proud that we had a small part to play in their success. Congratulations on a job well done.

Lunch and Learn Lecture Series
2006

January 14, 2006
Antique Dolls—A Holiday Tradition
By Nadine Friedmann

February 11, 2006
History of the Concertina
By Greg Jowaisas

March 11, 2006
Tall Tales
By Rick Sowash

April 8, 2006
Shoes, Gloves and Fans
By Dwight Blubough

May 27, 2006
19th Century Herbs and Their Uses
By Laura Noyes

June 24, 2006
Clothing Inside and Out
By Seams of Time

All lectures will be Saturdays, 11:30 to 1:00
Cost:
Per Lunch & Lecture: $20 for HSO members
$25 for non-members
6 Lunch & Lectures: $100 for HSO members
$130 for non-members
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Historic Southwest Ohio Staff

Your HSO Staff is here to assist you. You may contact any of our staff members by calling (513) 563-9484.

Bing Spitler, Executive Director
Kathy Luhn, Collections Administrator
Carolyn Adams, Executive Assistant
Lisa Egan, Education Coordinator
Lori Adams, Education Administrative Assistant
Karen Kirksey, Bookkeeper
Fran Reeves, Gift Shop Manager
HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Dec. 3-4
HOLLY DAYS
“A Dickens of a Christmas”
Sat. 12:00-4:00 pm,
Sun. 1:00-5:00 pm

Dec. 10
CANDLELIGHT DINNER
16 Reservations Required
Seating 7:00 pm
17
Seating 5:00 & 7:00 pm

Jan. 14
LUNCH & LEARN LECTURE
“Antique Dolls - A Holiday Tradition”
Sat. 11:30-1:30

Feb. 11
LUNCH & LEARN LECTURE
“History of Concertina’s”
Sat. 11:30-1:30

Mar. 11
LUNCH AND LEARN LECTURE
“Tall Tales”
Sat. 11:30-1:30

Apr. 1
Heritage Village
OPEN 2006 SEASON
Sat. 12:00 - 4:00
Sun. 1:00 - 5:00