Notes from the Executive Director
By William J. Dichtl

In October the board voted to change our mission statement to one that could easily be repeated. Our mission was to promote discovery and appreciation of Southwest Ohio’s heritage, starting with 19th century life and emphasizing its impact on our culture. We also seek to use our historic buildings, collections, and settings to create experiences that engage, enrich, educate, and entertain people of all ages, interests, and backgrounds. The new mission statement reads Historic Southwest Ohio brings history alive, focusing on life in the late 1700s through the 1800s.

The new statement reflects the expanded time period that we have been interpreting for the last couple of years. We have determined that the late 1700s is an important component in the development of early Southwest Ohio.

As you know we have many interesting educational programs, events, and exhibits throughout the year. Last year we hosted an eight-part first-person program series that was well-received. The second series will be in February and March of 2016. Below are the programs and dates. (See the next page for fee information.)

February 5    Jefferson Davis
February 12   Abraham Lincoln: His Early Life
February 19   Tecumseh & The Prophet
February 26   General Sam Houston
March 4       Mary Todd Lincoln: An Intimate Conspiracy
March 11      Abraham Lincoln: Siege of Cincinnati
March 18      George Croghan
March 25      Edith Wilson

Happy Holidays!

Village Hours
May-September
Wednesday-Saturday
10:00 am-5:00 pm
Sunday
1:00 pm-5:00 pm

October-April
Wednesday-Friday
10:00 am-4:00 pm

Office Hours:
Monday–Friday
8:30 am—4:30 pm
(513) 563-9484

Private tours, school programs and scout programs available year round by appointment.
American Glass Exhibit

The “Brilliant Impressions: A Century of Glass” exhibit has been extended through the holidays. If you thought you missed your chance to see these pieces, you have a second chance before they’re gone. This exhibit highlights different variations of nineteenth-century glassware, ranging from everyday objects to symbols of economic status.

Exhibit admission is $2/adults, $1/children 5-12. Children under 5 and museum members are free. *Exhibit admission is included with the purchase of a self-guided tour.*

First-Person Programs

On page one of this newsletter, Bill listed the historical personalities that will be visiting Heritage Village Museum this winter. Advance registration is required for these programs (deadline is Wednesday prior to each program).

The cost for each program is $17 for members and $20 for non-members. Attend three or more programs, and take advantage of the special pricing below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Programs</th>
<th>Member Cost</th>
<th>Non-member Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Three programs</td>
<td>$49.50</td>
<td>$58.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Four programs</td>
<td>$64.00</td>
<td>$76.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Five programs</td>
<td>$77.50</td>
<td>$92.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Six programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seven programs</td>
<td>$101.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eight programs</td>
<td>$112.00</td>
<td>$136.00</td>
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</tbody>
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Follow us on social media:
Heritage Village Museum Presents:

Holly Days

December 12 & 13, 2015
12:00 pm-4:00 pm

Enjoy the sights and sounds of a 19th century Christmas with live music, Victorian crafts to make, storytelling and holiday treats.

Admission: $8 adults, $5 children 5-11
Children under 5 and museum members are free

$1.00 off coupon available on our website, www.heritagevillagecincinnati.org

New!

Breakfast with Father Christmas

Step back in time and enjoy pancakes, story time, and the chance to meet Father Christmas. Remember what Christmas was like before batteries and shopping mall madness—even if just for one morning.

Saturday, December 12
9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Cost: $5 per adult
three children under 12 free with each paying adult

Seating is limited; advance payment only
Support Heritage Village Museum while you shop!

You can support Heritage Village Museum and do your Christmas shopping at the same time. Just click on the Amazon Smile link on our Facebook page before you start shopping, or go to http://smile.amazon.com/ and type in “Historic Southwest Ohio.”

Then start shopping! Historic Southwest Ohio and Heritage Village Museum will get 0.05% for every purchase you make.

Last chance to get your raffle tickets for this gorgeous quilt made by our own Heritage Village Museum quilters. All proceeds from this raffle support the village, and the drawing will be held on December 13, 2015. Stop by our gift shop to pick up your tickets.

On display now in our gift shop

Buckeye Beauty
Hand-sewn 110” x 98” quilt
Raffle tickets available: $1 each (6 for $5)
Coming Soon!

Sewing Circles

Our once-a-month sewing circles will begin again in January. At the sewing circles, volunteers can learn how to sew themselves a historically-accurate outfit to wear in Heritage Village. If you’re new to sewing, you’re still welcome—gentlemen and ladies alike! (Previous sewing circles have focused on making an 1860’s outfit. In 2016, we will help volunteers finish any incomplete 1860’s outfits, and begin working on Regency clothing for coming events.

Please RSVP and let us know what you’d like to work on so we can be sure to have the right patterns handy and let you know what supplies you’ll need. We can also use sewing volunteers to work on clothing items for our closet as well as items to donate to our gift shop.

To be placed on the Sewing Circle e-mail list so you’ll know when we have dates scheduled, call the office at (513) 563-9484 or e-mail Dana at CommunityOutreach@heritagevillagecincinnati.org.

Chocolate, Champagne & Candlelight

Mark your calendars for this date-night fundraiser right before Valentine’s Day. On February 13, 2016, this event will feature chocolate, wines, and music from the Chris Cromer Trio. Tickets are $25 each; advance registration will be required; watch for more details!

Spring in Early Cincinnati: An 1808 Muster and Social

Before the war of 1812, militia musters were social events for the whole family. The men met for their drills, and the ladies came along for the social opportunities. Then they both joined up at the end of the day for a ball.

This spring, Heritage Village Museum will host a new 1808 Muster and Social event on April 23 & 24, 2016. The event will include militia and civilian reenactors for the era—as well as plenty of hands-on crafts and activities for families. More information coming!

(Interested in learning how to sew an 1808 outfit for this event? Check out the Sewing Circle information at the top of the page.)
Way back in 1788, the land we know as Cincinnati was no more than a settlement—but we were already making history. Our own Education Director Steve Preston tells us about a Christmas moment from our city’s very beginning.

The settlement of Columbia was little more than a month old when an extraordinary occurrence took place. It hardly seemed possible after losing two settlers to an Indian attack in Limestone (Maysville, Kentucky) that a momentary peace could be found in the Miami Purchase. Yet, during an unusually warm Christmas Day, peace prevailed between settler, soldier and Indian.

Flatboats waited cautiously on the Kentucky side of the Ohio River. A canoe of men headed to the land just west of the mouth of the Little Miami River. A predetermined signal was to be given if all was clear. Upon hearing the signal, the flatboats poled their way over and the settlement of Columbia began. Predating Cincinnati by about a month, this settlement was the first of the original three of the Symmes or Miami Purchase. Losantiville (Cincinnati) and North Bend followed in successive order.

The settlers of Columbia, led by Benjamin Stites, had planned ahead and stopped at Limestone and cut planking for roofing and collected heartwood for chinking. Upon arrival, the men began dismantling their flatboats and used the finished wood along with the timber being cut on site. Soon, a fort they christened “Fort Miami” was up and the first permanent inhabitants of the Cincinnati area were reasonably safe from threats outside its walls.

As the new inhabitants acclimated themselves to their new environs, the holiday season was upon them. The settlers were mostly Baptists and of Scots-Irish descent, and Christmas Day was a time for celebration and giving thanks. December 25, 1788, proved a mild day. The women of Columbia decided to move their tables outdoors for the Christmas dinner. A small detail of soldiers—tasked with protecting the settlement—were invited to share in the day’s events. What happened next was a most unexpected turn of events.

The settlement of Columbia and Fort Miami were built on land originally claimed by the Shawnee Indians. They had signed a treaty in 1786 giving away their claim to most of Southwestern Ohio to the fledgling United States. It was not a treaty they wanted to sign, and hard feelings still existed two years later. Needless to say, the Shawnee were suspicious of the Columbia settlement. They went so far as to cut down trees in what is now Alms Park in order to observe the settlement. Despite the suspicions, the Shawnee made fairly frequent visits to the settlement for trade and maintained an amicable relationship with the settlers.

On Christmas Day, 1788, a Shawnee hunting party was in the area. To their surprise, the settlers invited them to be part of their celebration. This moment of peaceful co-existence was nearly destroyed by the arrival of the troops who had also been invited. After some tense moments, the Shawnee were reassured enough to remain and enjoy the festivities. According to documents that survive, a pleasant, entertaining time was had by all. Thanks and celebration of Christmas turned into a multi-cultural event that managed to continue the fragile peace in frontier Ohio. When you think of the typical Thanksgiving narrative of Pilgrims and Indians, remember that on a mild Christmas day 227 years ago, the very same event occurred within the area we know as Cincinnati.
The Education Department at Heritage Village Museum has a need for gently-used toys for our Hands on History area as we improve it for our youngest visitors. Toys that address agriculture, cooking, education, general home life, and other pioneer-themed toys would be appropriate. The following is a sample list:

- Lincoln Logs (or some version of them)
- Barnyard play sets with animals
- Fake play food
- Unused cooking utensils
- Building blocks
- Hammer and peg activities
- Farm or pioneer themed puzzles
- Wooden toys
- Simple machines such as inclined plane, wheels, pulleys, wedges, lever, and screw

The above is by no means a complete list—it’s a guideline and starting point. As our museum increases attendance, you can help us be effective even as we aim to educate and entertain our smallest visitors. Thank you for your help in making us successful!
Have Your Wedding at Heritage Village

Interested in having a wedding ceremony at the Village? The Somerset Church offers an intimate indoor setting and can accommodate up to 100 guests.

The Hayner House front porch is available for a romantic outdoor setting and can accommodate up to 200 guests.

Museum members receive a 10% discount on wedding ceremonies at the Village!

For more information, contact Kimberly Koch at 513-491-3350 or weddingsatheritagevillage@gmail.com

Mark your calendars

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 12, 2015</td>
<td>Breakfast with Father Christmas</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 12 &amp; 13, 2015</td>
<td>Holly Days</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 5, 2016</td>
<td>First Person Program: Jefferson Davis</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 1, 2015</td>
<td>Heritage Village Museum opens for weekends and guided tours</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 9 &amp; 10, 2016</td>
<td>Civil War Weekend</td>
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Many magazines of the nineteenth-century included a “Juvenile Department” or a page of “activities for boys and girls.” The activity below comes from the 1893 “American Girl’s Handy Book” by Lina and Adelia Beard. Try it out this holiday season!

**Living Christmas Cards**

“To impart seeming life to the little figures painted on the Christmas cards is a performance intensely amusing to the little ones. A moving toy whose actions are life-like is always of great interest; but when a little flesh-and-blood head is seen nodding and twisting upon the shoulders of a figure painted on a card, the children fairly shout with delight. Here is the method of bringing life into the bits of pasteboard.

Select cards with pretty or comical figures, whose faces are the size of the ends of your first or second finger. Carefully cut the face out of a card; then with ink mark the features on your finger, and put it through the opening, as in Fig. 248. Place on this little live head a high peaked tissue paper cap, and the effect will be exceedingly ludicrous (Fig. 249). A little Santa Claus who can really nod and bow to the children will be very amusing, and there are quite a number of Christmas cards which portray the funny, jolly little fellow.

Floral cards may have nodding fairies peeping out from among the petals of the flowers, whose heads are crowned with little fairy caps, as in Fig. 250. If among your collection you have a card with a picture of a house on it, it will be amusing to thrust a little head wearing a night-cap out of one of the windows. Round holes will, of course, have to be cut in the cards wherever the heads are to appear.”
When your holiday season gets too hectic, pull out your crayons or colored pencils.
Looking for some unique gift ideas? Look no further than the Heritage Village Gift Shop! We’re open Wednesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day, and we’ll be open during Holly Days (December 12 & 13) as well.

Every purchase in our gift shop helps to support Heritage Village Museum.
Check out our website, www.heritagevillagecincinnati.org for all the latest news and upcoming events happening at the Village!