Notes from the Executive Director
By William J. Dichtl

The year is quickly coming to a close. However, we still have a few events this month. The second annual Breakfast with Father Christmas will be held on December 10th, with 9:00 & 10:30 sittings. Later on the 10th and again on the 11th will be Holly Days. Father Christmas will be traveling through the Village via a sleigh to greet children of all ages during Holly Days. Check inside this newsletter for more information about the Breakfast and Holly Days.

A new event this year is our Train Days, featuring operating model trains in the Hayner House and Chester Park Train Station. There are five layouts of model trains in the scale of G, O, HO, and N to keep your young ones and you mesmerized. We hope this will become a yearly event and one that grows.

In February and March the First-Person Program Series returns. The 2017 lineup includes First Ladies Dolley Madison and Edith Wilson; Civil War Confederate General L. L. Lomax, Union General U. S. Grant (native son of Southwest Ohio), Annie Oakley, William Wells, Judith Kemper (lived in the Kemper House located in the Village), and Buffalo Soldier Edger R. Aston who was born in Clermont County. Details can be found in the newsletter.

I would be remiss if I did not mention that Haunted Village was extremely successful. We had the highest number of visitors in the past six years-3,771 people, which was 400 more than the previous record. We also set a record with a net profit of $27,000. Each year we ask our membership to donate candy that we hand out to children each of the six nights. We are thankful for your kind donations as it cuts down on our expense. This year we handed out 17,000 pieces of candy. That is a little over 2800 pieces a night. That is a lot of candy! Thanks to all the volunteers who make this event possible! We couldn’t do it without you!

Are you looking for a gift for someone? Consider giving a gift membership to the Village. They will find something of interest throughout the year, whether it is an exhibit, program, or special event.

Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas! I hope to see you this December.
December 10 & 11: Holly Days

Travel back in time to feel the warmth and beauty of a 19th Century holiday season. Some of our historical buildings will be decked out with traditional decorations from the 1800's. See our Village come alive with storytelling, craft making, model train displays, music, holiday treats, and more!

This year we will also re-enact the historic 1788 Columbia Christmas—when settlers, Native Americans, and soldiers came together for dinner right here in Cincinnati.

Time: noon to 4 p.m.

Cost: $10 adults, $6 children 5-11.

Children 4 & under and museum members are free

See our website for a $2 coupon!

Saturday, December 10:
Breakfast with Father Christmas

Step back in time and enjoy breakfast, story time, and the chance to meet Father Christmas.

Cost: $8 for ages 12 & up (three children under 12 included with each paid adult)

Time: two seatings: 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Reservations required:
Call 513-563-9484 or register online

December 21, 22, 23, & 30: Train Days

Enjoy a relaxing afternoon away from your hectic holiday schedule. Some of our Heritage Village volunteers will bring in and set up their model trains—adding to the “Great Circle Line & Points North” O-Scale Model Railway that will be set-up during our Holly Days event.

There are five layouts of model trains in the scale of G, O, HO, and N.

Time: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Admission: $3 for ages 12 and up,
$1 for ages 5 to 11, 4 & under and members are free
On Exhibit: The Grailville The International Crèche Collection
Now until January 13, 2017

Grailville—a Center for The Grail in the U.S.—is pleased to exhibit this selection from our extensive International Crèche Collection for the Christmas season. The Grail, an international women’s movement; has been in Loveland, Ohio, since 1944.

The International Crèche Collection was acquired over the 72 years of Grailville’s history in Loveland, Ohio via three main sources:

- original works created by the thriving artists’ colony at Grailville during the early years;
- gifts donated by Grail members from around the world; and
- sets purchased in support of liturgical artists.

The crèches selected for this display represent 11 countries on 5 continents. You can see them when you come for Holly Days, a self-guided tour, or

Chocolate, Champagne & Candlelight

Mark your calendars for this date-night fundraiser. On February 18, 2017, this event will feature chocolate, wines, appetizers, and music. Tickets are $35 each; advance registration will be required; see our Facebook page or website for more details!

First Person Speaker Series

Once again, historical personalities will be visiting Heritage Village Museum this winter. Advance registration is required for these programs (deadline is Wednesday prior to each program). These Friday evening programs begin on February 3—watch our website and Facebook page for details.

We will be joined this year by a Buffalo soldier, U.S. Grant, William Wells, Dolley Madison, Annie Oakley, Judith Kemper, General L.L. Lomax, and First Lady Edith Wilson. Programs include dessert afterwards—while you mingle with history!

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.
Mike Fink

Some may remember the larger-than life-Walt Disney character of Mike Fink, the lovable big galoot that is always bragging and getting into tight-but-funny situations. Does anyone know the historical Mike Fink? You may not want to. The historical Mike Fink only shows up in two court records: One for non-payment of a debt and the other for shooting the heel off a slave. Sound lovable now? While he may be a bit nefarious for our times, he was quite in keeping with his time and his chosen occupation.

Mike Fink, or has he liked to spell it, Miche Phinck, was born around 1770-1780 in what is now the Pittsburgh area. In the violent world that was the late 18th and early 19th century, he navigated through it gaining a reputation as an excellent marksman and riverman. By all accounts, the historical Mike Fink was not shy at bragging about these qualities. Riverman who worked on keelboats were known as the roughest of sorts. Fighting, hard-drinking, and womanizing were not vices to these men, they were a way of life.

Fink was not only your typical riverman, many would argue that he was king of them—and the loudest argument would have come from Fink himself. All the braggadocio and hard living caught up with Fink in 1823 when he was living out west as a fur trapper. While trying to shoot a cup off a friend’s head, he missed and killed him. In retribution for the miss, another friend who witnessed the event, shot Fink dead.
Echoes From The Past, continued

Red-Haired Nance

“Red-Haired Nance” or “Red-Headed Nance” walks the line between historical and mythical. She gained her notoriety for the price she paid to survive the worst defeat of the American Army ever recorded, known as St. Clair’s Defeat. Born Catherine Miller, she came west to Cincinnati with her infant when her husband joined the nascent United States Army in 1791. Arriving at Cincinnati’s Fort Washington, Miller found herself a camp follower heading north into “Indian Country.” The army’s orders were to chastise the area’s tribes for recent attacks on area settlers. Fate had other plans.

St. Clair’s force proved to be ill-trained, ill-supplied, and ill-prepared for the confrontation—so much so that a group of militia deserted and threatened to plunder a supply column moving up to feed the army. This caused Miller to be separated from her husband prior to the battle, as he was tasked with hunting down the deserters. She was left to care for her infant, cook, and launder for the other soldiers, set up in the center of camp. The attack that ensued from the confederacy of Ohio Tribes made even the center of camp a killing zone. In the early morning of November 4, 1791, nearly a thousand warriors from various Ohio Valley Tribes attacked and encircled the army. The scared and inexperienced army was decimated by the Native force. Fighting grew to hand to hand. It is reported that Miller fought off warriors with a cast iron frying pan. So many victims lay scalped in the snow that it moved a Major Fowler to state that, “the bodies of the dead and dying were shrouded with smoke and in the heavy morning frost looked like so many pumpkins in a cornfield in December.” Of around 1,200 troops, over 800 were counted as casualties.

Somehow, the remnants of the army managed to break out of the encirclements and a headlong retreat some 20 miles to Fort Jefferson ensued. Included in these shattered souls was Catherine Miller. At some point in her flight, she became exhausted or desperate and put her infant down in a snow bank and continued without it. Legend says that the infant was saved and adopted by those in the Wyandot Tribe in Upper Sandusky. Years later, when settled back in Cincinnati, it is said that a shattered Red-Haired Nance would sit and tell her tragic story to anyone that would listen.

Memorial Gifts

Mr. and Mrs. William R. Oligee gave in memory of Kenneth K. Wright
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Kirkland gave in memory of Jean Anderson
Mrs. Dilly Dooley gave in memory of Jean Anderson

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.
Pathway to History

The installation of a memorial brick Pathway to History has begun. The memorial bricks are replacing the plain bricks on the pathway at the bottom of the ramp at Hayner.

It is not too late to order a memorial brick or one to honor someone special or even to place your family’s name in the Pathway to History. To order a brick, mail your check for $250 or call Bill Dichtl with your credit card number. Be sure to include what you want printed on three lines (20 characters per line).

If you have questions call Bill at 513-563-9484.
Mail to: Historic Southwest Ohio, P.O. Box 62475, Cincinnati, OH 45262

2017 Family Events:
Spring in Early Cincinnati: 1803 Muster and Social—April 22 & 23, 2017
Civil War Weekend—July 8 & 9, 2017

2017 Summer Camps:
Native American Camp: June 19-23
Archaeology Camp: July 17-21
Civil War Camp: July 31-August 4
Mark your calendars

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

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<td>January 25–July 30, 2017</td>
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<td>February 24, 2017</td>
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Donations needed

Are you cleaning out your closets, garage, or basement? Keep an eye out for these things Heritage Village Museum can use for upcoming projects:

- A snowblower
- Sewing machines
- Old-fashioned toys for the hands-on room (Lincoln Logs, blocks, etc.)
- Bed sheets (all shapes, sizes, and colors)
- Tea cups (of any sort)

Thanks for your help!
Board of Directors

President: Rob Carter, Vice President: Marshall Tucker, 2nd Vice President: John Seeck
Treasurer: George Euskirchen, Secretary: Wayne Purintun
Rudy Beaujon, Sally Connelly, Roxann Dieffenbach, Sonya Kirkland, Amy Roell, Park Board Liaison

Check out our website, www.heritagevillagecincinnati.org for all the latest news and upcoming events happening at the Village!