COVID-19 has impacted all our lives in one way or another. It was a challenging 2020 for everyone including the Heritage Village Museum. Every year we write grants to help support the education programs, exhibits, and renovation of the buildings. This past year, our Education Director, Steve Preston, and I applied for 23 grants and we received nine grants. Support came from the following foundations and organizations:

*Charles H. Dater Foundation for education salaries and education programs - $20,000
*LCNB for summer camps - $500
*Kennedy Foundation for education salaries and education outreach - $2,000
*William E. Smith Family Charitable Fund for archival boxes - $500
*Paycheck Protection Program for payroll - $28,800
*OH Cares-Ohio Humanities Council for payroll - $10,000
*Meijer for A 19th Century Holiday tours - $200
*The Oliver Family Foundation for a researcher for the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 exhibit - $1,000
*William E. Smith Family Charitable Fund for telegraph equipment for education programs - $820

The staff and volunteers are busy planning events, programs, and exhibits that will educate entertain, and get you out of the house. The first few events will have timed tours like we did for Haunted Village and A 19th Century Holiday. This limits the number of attendees to maintain COVID restrictions.

In January two new employees joined the team. We would like to welcome Trevor Casper, Director of Volunteers Services, and Gale Sheldon, Assistant Development Director. Learn more about Trevor and Gale on page 7 of this newsletter.

Here's to staying healthy! We hope to see you at the Village!
**First Person Programs**

Our First Person Program series will run on Friday evenings July through August. Each program begins at 7:00 p.m. and includes dessert. Advance registration is required. Call 513-563-9484 to register. The cost for each program is $17 for members and $20 for non-members. Attend three or more programs, and take advantage of special pricing.

**Jul. 2 - John Quincy Adams**
U.S. President, statesman, and diplomat John Quincy Adams will talk about his life and his 1843 visit to Cincinnati for the dedication of the Observatory.

**Jul. 9 - Jean Rankin**
Jean Lowry Rankin was an abolitionist and pioneer in the antislavery movement who assisted slaves in their journey to freedom along the Underground Railroad.

**Jul. 16 - John Cleves Symmes**
Judge John Cleves Symmes purchased a land grant of 2 million acres between the Miami rivers and along with the first pioneers founded the first settlements that would grow into the river port of Cincinnati.

**Jul. 30 - James and Dolley Madison**
The Madisons will discuss their early lives, James’ political career culminating in serving as U.S. President, and significant historic events.

**Aug. 6 - Laura Ingalls Wilder**
Laura Ingalls Wilder will reflect back on her life and experiences and how they shaped her “Little House” book series.

**Aug. 13 - Aaron Burr**
After his duel with Alexander Hamilton, Burr heads west and conspires to carve a new nation out of Ohio, Kentucky, the Louisiana Purchase, and Mexico.

**Aug. 20 - Martha Washington**
Martha Washington was known for her great love and dedication to her family. Her style and social graces made her one of the true great ladies of her time.

Gen. John Hunt Morgan led the longest raid of the Civil War through Kentucky and Indiana and across Ohio.

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**Upcoming Events**

**Escape the Village**
Mar. 20, Apr. 17, May 15, Jun. 19 Jul. 17, Aug. 21, & Sept. 18
Noon, 1:30 p.m., and 3 p.m.

Escape the Village is an escape room adventure! Choose from two themes: “Morgan’s Raiders of the Lost Art,” based on the Gen. Morgan’s confederate raid in July 1863 or “Leaving the Station” based on the first train robbery in America, in North Bend, OH in 1865. Tickets are $25 per person. Please call 513-563-9484 to reserve your tickets.

**Period Dinners**
Mar. 24, May 19, Aug. 25, & Nov. 17
6-9 p.m.

Join us for a Period Dinner and sample some 18th and 19th century cuisine. You will enjoy a candle-lit dinner. 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. Reserve your seat by calling 513-563-9484.

**Heroines of Our History**
Apr. 24 11 a.m.-5 p.m. (timed entry)

Celebrate some of the extraordinary women in Southwest Ohio who made history! Meet reenactors in historical clothing portraying Harriet Beecher Stowe, Annie Oakley, Maria Longworth Nichols Storer, Jean Rankin, Helen Peabody, and five other notable women. This will be a timed entry tour. Admission is $10/adult, $5/child (ages5-11), $7/adult member, $3/child member (ages 5-11), and free for children ages 4 and under.
**Upcoming Events**

**Marching Through Time**  
**Date:** Jun. 12 10 a.m - 5 p.m.  
**Date:** Jun. 13 10 a.m - 4 p.m.

This timeline event will focus on military history going all the way back to the Roman Legion. Different periods in military history including Medieval Knights, Wayne’s Legion, Civil War, WWI, and WWII will be brought to life by reenactors. This family friendly event also includes music. This will be a timed entry tour. Admission is $10/ adult, $5/child (ages 5-11), $7/adult member, $3/child member (ages 5-11), and free for children ages 4 and under.

**Quilted Treasures**  
**Date:** Jul. 22-23 12-8 p.m.  
**Date:** Jul. 24 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Quilts from our collection will be on display throughout the Village. There will also be quilting and textile demonstrations. Admission is $10. Admission is free for members and children ages 4 and under.

**Exhibits**

**Transferware Exhibit**  
**Date:** Feb. - Aug.

Transferware is a china decorating style which began in the late 1700s in Staffordshire, England. It was a beautiful, yet affordable pottery made for the emerging middle class.

**Nancy Ford Cones Photography Exhibit**  
**Date:** Apr. - Aug.

Nancy Ford Cones was an early photographer who lived in Loveland, OH. Her pictorial style photographs depicting country life earned her many awards. Her photography was shown in art galleries around the world.

**Northwest Ordinance-1787 Exhibit**  
**Date:** Aug. - Sept.

On July 13, 1787, Congress enacted the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 which chartered a government for the Northwest territories, laid out plans for how to add new states, and established a bill of rights for settlers in the territory.

**Mark Your Calendar**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Registration required?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Escape the Village</td>
<td>Mar. 20, Apr. 17, May 15, Jun. 19, Jul. 17, Aug. 21, &amp; Sept. 18</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Period Dinners</td>
<td>Mar. 24, May 19, Aug. 25, &amp; Nov. 17</td>
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<td>Jun. 12 &amp; 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quilted Treasures</td>
<td>Jul. 21-24</td>
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<td>Free Days</td>
<td>Aug. 11-15</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>Columbia Settlement 1788</td>
<td>Sept. 11</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>Haunted Village</td>
<td>Oct. 8, 9, 15, 16, 22 &amp; 23</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>A 19th Century Holiday Tour</td>
<td>Dec. 1-4 and 8-10</td>
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<td>Breakfast with Mother Christmas</td>
<td>Dec. 11 &amp; 12</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Holly Days</td>
<td>Dec. 11 &amp; 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Train Days</td>
<td>Dec. 15, 16, 17, 22, &amp; 23</td>
<td>No</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* 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.
I think we can all agree 2020 was a challenging year. Having said that and despite the difficult COVID environment, Heritage Village still had 161 volunteers donate 4,574 hours of their valuable time to help us bring history to life! Except for Haunted Village and some other onsite events, with circumstances as they were, many of the 2020 volunteer hours were completed virtually or at home. Even though we had to adjust and cancel some of our events, and much of the volunteering was not onsite at the Village, these virtual and at home hours were still valuable time donated and were essential to our continued operations. We are so grateful for all our adult and junior volunteers who helped and participated with us this year. Whether it was your first time volunteering, or you have been helping for years, thank you so much for joining us in 2020. Most recently, we would like to thank those who volunteered and helped with A 19th Century Holiday Guided Tour in December, with our most recent event A Night FOR the Museum, and for all others who helped in any variety of ways.

We have some exciting events planned and scheduled for 2021! Two of these events, Heroines of our History on April 24 and Marching Through Time on June 12 and 13, will require onsite volunteer help. Heroines of our History celebrates some of the extraordinary women in Southwest Ohio who made history! Visitors can meet reenactors in historical clothing portraying Harriet Beecher Stowe, abolitionist and author of “Uncle Tom’s Cabin,” and Annie Oakley, sharpshooter and star of Buffalo Bill’s Wild West Show, among others. Marching Through Time focuses on military history going all the way back to the Roman Legion. Different periods in military history including Medieval Knights, Wayne’s Legion, Civil War, WWI, and WWII will be brought to life by reenactors. This family friendly event also includes citizens in period clothing, demonstrations, hands-on activities, and music. If you are interested in volunteering for these events, please contact me at: tcasper@heritagevillagecincinnati.org.

In addition to Heroines of our History and Marching Through Time, for 2021 our volunteer format will be the same as we have been operating since last Spring – mainly at home or virtual. See below for some of these opportunities and if you are interested in volunteering contact me so we can coordinate appropriately. If you have been coming onsite to volunteer in any number of ways, continue to do so.

Working with Heritage Village to conduct and share research on a variety topics, events, and aspects of life during the late 1700s through the 1800s

Let me know if you are reading a book, watching a video, or trying out a new craft, game or historic recipe and the time that you spend doing that could count as volunteer hours (or if you’d like a recommendation for something along those lines in which to partake)!

I would also be happy to discuss other at home/virtual volunteer possibilities with individual volunteers on a case by case basis, just send me an email at: tcasper@heritagevillagecincinnati.org

Once we have discussed your prospective virtual/at home volunteer opportunity you will be reporting your volunteer hours to me via email. I will record your hours in both our physical Volunteer Hours Binders, as well as online on our Volunteer Google Drive. Your emails reporting volunteer hours should include the following information:

- Date of activity
- Time you begin working that day
- Time you end working that day
- Total time spent working that day
- Description of what you did
Representatives from Realtors With Heart (RWH), came to the Hayner House to present Heritage Village Museum with an AED on March 3. Their mission is to make our cities and states more heart-safe through CPR training/AED placement and advocacy. By donating AEDs and providing CPR training, RWD helps to prevent unnecessary deaths due to cardiac arrest. Heritage Village Museum is thankful for their gift of the AED as it will add to the safety of visitors, volunteers, and staff at the Village. You can find out more about RWH by visiting their website: www.cabr.org/rwh

Civil War Camp: Jun. 7–11 (ages 6-12)
Learn what life was like for children in Southwest Ohio during the Civil War! Campers will learn close order drills from a Civil War Sergeant, write and decipher codes, make paper art, make and taste hardtack, and more!

Native American Camp: Jun. 21–25 (ages 6-12)
Campers will learn about the day-to-day life of historic Ohio tribes. Native American interpreters will teach Ohio Native American history. Campers will learn Native American songs and customs, make food eaten by local tribes, play games, and make Native American crafts, tools, and art.

Immersive History Camp (ages 13-15)
Week 1: Jul. 12–Jul. 16   Week 2: Aug. 2-6
This camp is designed for ages 13-15 who would like an immersive experience in Cincinnati area history. Each day of camp will cover a different period of local history. Topics will include: Native Americans, Early Settlers, Civil War, Architecture, and Surveying.

Funded in part by:

Charles H. Dater Foundation
Enriching Young Lives

I hope to hear from many of you soon to take advantage of some of these virtual/at home volunteer opportunities to help support Heritage Village Museum during these challenging times!

Once again, from all of us at Heritage Village, thank you so much for your valued contributions as volunteers. If you not currently volunteering and are interested in getting involved with this incredible group of volunteers in 2021 please visit the volunteer page on our website or contact me for more information about upcoming events and opportunities. Looking forward to a great 2021!

– Trevor Casper

Back Row L to R: Valerie Jacobs, Chair of RWH, Bill Dichtl, Executive Director of HVM, Mark L. Johnston, MHA BA EMTP EMS-I - Emergency Medical Services Coordinator, Heart & Vascular Service Line with Christ Hospital, and Bethany Jewell, Marketing Director of HVM. Front Row L to R: Yvette Briggerman, Staff Liaison of RWH, Stephanie Sudbrack-Busam, President of Cincinnati Area Board of Realtors, Sandra Sims, Vice Chair of RWH, Michele McDonel, President of the Board of HVM, Steve Preston, Education Director of HVM.

Realtors With Heart Donate AED
“I declare the earth is hollow, habitable within and constituted of a number of concentric spheres.” Those were the words of John Cleves Symmes, Jr. — not the founder of the Miami Purchase and original owner of the land on which Cincinnati was founded — but his namesake nephew, John Cleves Symmes, Jr. In the early 1800s, little was known about the North and South Poles or the earth’s core. But the namesake of his famous uncle had passionate and “scientific” notions to explain all of this.

John Cleves Symmes, Jr. was born November 5, 1779 or 1780 (records are not clear) in Sussex County, New Jersey. He was the son of Timothy Symmes, John Cleves Symmes’s brother. He was named after Timothy’s Revolutionary War hero brother. The “Junior” was simply attached to differentiate him from his famous uncle. “Junior would not just get his name from his famous uncle, he would also get help in obtaining a commission as Ensign in the United States Army in 1802. A captain during the War of 1812, Symmes Jr. saw action at the Battle of Lundy’s Lane and the Siege of Fort Erie. He left the army soon after the close of the war. After an unsuccessful stint as an Indian trader in St. Louis, he brought his family to Newport, Kentucky in 1819.

While living in Newport, Symmes would expand and publish his now famous yet debunked theory. While not a trained scientist, Symmes was educated and very curious. As a child, he was always reading. Despite his lack of scientific training, he would put forth the premise, as Isaac Newton and Edmund Halley before him, a theory that the earth was actually a hollow shell. He asserted that the outer shell, on which we live, is only about 800 miles thick. His theory also stated that there were openings at both the North and South Pole, roughly 1,400 miles across, that served as entrances to the four inner layers of the earth. His description of these openings seems akin to walking into the hole of a doughnut. The weather was believed to be temperate and suitable for vegetative, animal, and human habitation.

Symmes was adamant about this theory. He had 500 copies of a pamphlet explaining his theory sent to politicians, scientists and other learned individuals in America and Europe. He evidently attached proof of his sanity to those pamphlets. Symmes then went on a public speaking tour to promote his hollow earth theory.

Through his connections and efforts his theory attracted attention, even gaining support for an expedition to the North Pole to find the entrance into the inner layers. The Cincinnati Theater even held a fundraiser for such an expedition in 1824. His theory, despite critics gained some traction in the United States. His most impressive follower was one John Quincy Adams. Unfortunately, as Symmes was rising in public thought, his health was failing. He would die May 28, 1829. By this time, he had moved his family to Hamilton, Ohio and was buried there. In 1873, his son, Americus, received permission to erect a monument at his father’s grave. It still stands today. The monument is topped with sculpted earth with the center hollowed out.

While the hollow earth theory and John Cleves Symmes, Jr. seemed to be largely forgotten today, his work did have lasting impact. His calls for an expedition to the North Pole came to fruition and an expedition was sent by the United States in 1838.

Ironically, Symmes may have inadvertently given rise to the genre of science fiction. In 1820, an anonymous author, now thought to be Nathaniel Ames, published Symzonia: A Voyage of Discovery. This fanciful novel chronicled a fictional expedition to the center of the earth where the characters discovered long-extinct mammoths and a humanoid race of people who were driven underground. Later, Jules Verne would capitalize on this theme for his 1864 novel, Journey to the Center of the Earth.

The Verne novel would be resurrected in a 1959 movie of the same name, and in a 2008 remake starring Josh Hutcherson, a Northern Kentucky native. Even children of the 1970s enjoyed the theory with Saturday morning’s Land of the Lost. These science fiction spinoffs may not have been how Symmes wanted to be remembered, but nevertheless, he made his mark in the history of pop culture.
Meet Our New Staff Members and Intern

Trevor Casper
Director of Volunteer Services

Trevor joined Heritage Village Museum and Educational Center in January 2021 as the Director of Volunteer Services, where he focuses on working with our volunteers and members. Prior to this role, Trevor worked in human resources, most recently with The Home Depot and PepsiCo. He also has experience working construction, sales, and installation of home automation equipment.

Trevor holds an undergraduate degree in History from Brigham Young University, and a Master’s degree in Business Administration from Xavier University. He recently returned to school at Northern Kentucky University, where he is pursuing a Master’s of Public History degree.

Trevor served a two-year mission for his church, has volunteered with the Boy Scouts, and continues to volunteer with local community organizations. In his free time, he enjoys all things athletics, especially golf. He also enjoys reading, being in the outdoors (he grew up in the Rocky Mountains), landscaping & working outside, and spending time with his family. Trevor currently lives in Independence, Kentucky with his wife Trisha and their three boys, Trey, Duffy, and Que, who keep him busy on a continual basis!

Gale Sheldon
Assistant Development Director

Gale joined Heritage Village Museum in January 2021 as the Assistant Development Director. Prior to this role, Gale has been a Schoolteacher, Assistant Director of an organization for the Blind, and a Store Manager and Public Relations Director in Retailing. For 12 years she was Director of Development for two non-profits that serve people who exist in poverty.

Gale has a Bachelor of Science degree in Education from Butler University and graduate credits at St. Mary’s Seminary toward a Masters of Divinity degree. She also has a Certificate in Leadership Training from Indiana University and Certification in Education for Ministry from The University of the South.

Gale belongs to the following Organizations: The Ohio Society, Junior League of Cincinnati, and The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer. She has served on 14 Community Boards; including Cincinnati Ballet, Junior League, Stepping Stones Center for the Handicapped, and the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation Board. She is a Founding Director of Kairos of Ohio Prison Ministry and the Justice Volunteer Corps. For 7 years she served as a Docent leading Tours for the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Gardens. She is a Eucharistic Minister and Lay Reader at the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer.

Gale enjoys exercising, traveling, and spending time with family and friends. Throughout her marriage she and her husband raised their two children in the renovated Union/Anderson Township Schoolhouse, built in 1881. She currently lives on Prospect Hill in an historic house that was built in 1890. Gale is now widowed. She and her husband, a Lawyer, had two children, a son, who is a Lawyer, living in Cincinnati with his wife, a Doctor, and their four children; and a daughter, who is a Marine Scientist, living in Charleston, South Carolina with her son.

Seth Frost
Research Intern

Seth Frost is a research intern at the Village thanks to a grant from The Oliver Family Foundation. He is working on an exhibit on the Northwest Ordinance 1787 that will open in August.

Seth has a Bachelor of Arts in History from Northern Kentucky University and is continuing his education at NKU by pursuing his Master’s of Public and Applied History degree.

Seth’s prior museum experience includes his work as a Park Guide for the birthplace and boyhood home of William Howard Taft, a Museum Assistant for the NKU Museum of Anthropology, a Collections Intern at the Ft. Thomas Military and Community Museum, and a Gallery Attendant for the Cincinnati Art Museum.
As a friend of Heritage Village Museum, you can support the mission of Historic Southwest Ohio, Inc. each month with a donation using your credit card. By making this recurring gift, you will add to the financial stability of the Village. Just complete the form below and mail it or drop it off at the office.

___ Yes, I want Historic Southwest Ohio, Inc. to charge my credit card **monthly** in the amount checked below. I understand I need to tell you when I no longer wish to give.

___ $50 ___$25 ___$15 ___$10 ___$ (Any amount greater than $5.00)

Cardholder Name______________________________

Card number_________________________________________ Expiration date: ____/____/____ 3-digit security code______

Cardholder Signature_______________________________________________________________

___ My employer, ___________________________________________ will match my gift.

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**Join us for two new events in 2021!**

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Historic Southwest Ohio, Inc.

P. O. Box 62475

Cincinnati, Ohio 45262

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