
SUFFIELD HERITAGE SENTINEL

Suffield Township Historical Society

Volume 19 Fall 2019



Calendar of Events

Mark your calendars for these fun filled and educational events

Sunday October 13-

The Suffield Fire Department will be having their annual open house. In light of the event the museum will be open for visitors 11am to 3pm. Come in to see our collection and read through our wonderful library! Coffee and cookies will be available.

Sunday November 17- A guest speaker will be joining us in the Suffield fire station community room at 4pm. Look for more details on the Suffield Township website, the township electronic sign as well as the Record Courier. There will also be a short board meeting beginning at 3:45pm. The museum will be open 2:30 to 3:15pm for visitors.

Sunday January 19- Board meeting to be held at the museum beginning at 2pm.

**Support the Suffield
Township Historical Society
by renewing your
membership today!**

Membership Fees:

Student \$5

Adult \$10

Family \$20

Senior Citizen (62+) \$8

Senior Citizen (80+) FREE

Lifetime \$100

Send your tax deductible check to:

Suffield Twp. Historical Society

1241 St Rt 43

Suffield, Ohio 44260



Officers for 2019

President- John Saxe

Vice President/Secretary- Bev Persons

Treasurer- Elizabeth Vence



Plants a Plenty

Our annual spring plant sale was yet again a success!

We would like to thank all of those who donated plants and those who helped set up, sell, and of course clean up from the sale. Thank you also to Zeller Farms for their kindness.

Springing Ahead... Our 2020 plant sale is tentatively scheduled for May 1st and 2nd. As always we welcome plant donations as well as any individuals wishing to help with the sale. Look for further details in our spring newsletter.

Saturday October 26, 5pm to 9pm at Wingfoot Lake Park we will be passing candy out at a Halloween party hosted by the Suffield League



Bring the kids and grandkids for a fun filled evening!

Check it out!

We're excited to announce we recently purchased two metal signs for the museum. The road dept. was kind enough to hang the larger of the two signs on the south side of the museum and the smaller sign on the west side.



View of sign on south side of museum



View of sign on west side of museum

THE POWER OF *Writing*



Sharing Memories

We invite you to share your memories of Suffield in our *Looking Back* column. Whether it is a funny story, a treasured memory, or news from our past, we would love for you share your experiences with our members.

Please send your memories to:
Suffield Twp. Historical Society
1241 St Rt 43
Suffield, Ohio 44260

Looking Back...

The first installment of our *Looking Back* column, the following is a letter from Donald Schmiedel written to the historical society's founder, Gene Mettle. The letter is dated November 5, 2002.

Dear Mr. Mettle:

My dad's cousin,

Mary Jane (Cook) Vadasz sent me a copy of the Suffield bicentennial book and I just thought I would drop you a line to say how much I enjoyed it and to express appreciation for your work as "unofficial historian." I have just a few fond memories of visits to Suffield but they are vivid ones.

Ruth (Schmiedel) Cook was my grandfather Frank Schmiedel's youngest sister; Oliver was her brother and Blanche Bletzer Fox her ½ sister. I remember them well.

It was great to see family pictures, especially the portrait of the Ewell family, of which I have a large framed copy.

Frank Ewell & Harriet Swinehart are my great grandparents. Mary Ewell (married to Frank Schmiedel) is my grandmother. What a thrill to see that old picture on p. 40 of her along with her brothers Milo & Edward.

I never knew my grandfather Frank because he died in 1940 when I was less than a year old. He was superintendent of Brimfield schools and later (1920) mayor of Kent.

My sister and I are also distant cousins of all those Wises but I have never made contact with any of them.

Letter continued on next page

My grandmother Mary and Bertie Ewell Wise were cousins, descended from Lorenzo Ewell & Eliza Hildreth.

I do have one curious vivid memory of when we used to visit uncle Milo before new 224 was built. The traffic on the old highway was horrendous...especially those steel trucks that used to roar past Milo's and Edward's farms!

One small sour note...all too common when you have an uncommon name: Schmiedel is spelled wrong all through the book. Even Karl Grismer couldn't get it right in his 1932 history of Kent!

Thanks again for all your work. I would be happy to hear from you if possibly I can fill in any information about family or the town. Maybe we'll meet someday. We visit Stow at least once a year. My mom Dorothy, 88 years old, still lives there across from Fox Den Golf Course which my dad, Frank Jr. built.

I'm a Spanish professor, retired after 34 years at University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Best Wishes,
Don Schmiedel

The second installment is a memory of sorts shared with us from Josephine Demboski titled "Suffield Huckleberry Swamps"

Suffield Huckleberry Swamps

I was born on the Fred Saal Farm (aka Walnut Drive Gardens) and I lived there till I was five years. In the summer my mother, brothers and I walked up to the farm from Vincent St. We helped with the planting till July when the huckleberries were ripe. There were three huckleberry swamps in the area- Fred Saal, Jim Wise, and George Beltz. The swamps were full of water until the drain tile was opened on July 1st. The water flowed from Saal's to the Wise swamp then to Beltz's swamp then a road culvert. The Wise swamp also has a bottomless lake. I started to pick huckleberries at an early age and until I entered Nursing School. The huckleberry is smaller than a blueberry. It took about one hour to pick a quart. We got 10 cents a quart. One had to wear knee high rubber boots, long pants, long sleeved shirt and a head cover. Why? Mosquitoes and wet muck (ankle high). The east side of the swamp was home for the muskrats so one got a wet foot if you stepped in a hole. We tied an old necktie around the waist to hold our picking bucket and had a 10qt. bucket on the back. One poured the berries into this bucket later. One had to be aware of bees nest and an occasional snake. The Tamarack trees were landmarks if you were lost. One also had to be aware of Henrietta (a heifer) who was pastured on the west side of the swamp. She would chase you and how fast can you

run with full buckets? We persuaded Grandma to sell her. You heard a lot of news as the ladies liked to gossip. Many women came from Ellet area and the money earned bought groceries etc. The husbands worked only two or three days a week at the rubber plants. These were the depression years. One lady even walked from Ellet area. Grandma took one share and pickers got two shares of the picked berries before cleaning them. Cleaning meant removing twigs, leaves and green berries. The berries were sold at the Farmers Market on Beaver St. I remember when they had a problem selling the berries. How could they pay the pickers? Fortunately a produce buyer from Marietta wanted the huckleberries. He even came to the farm to get more berries. It was a happy day for us. The price of a box of berries (1 qt.) gradually increased from 10 cents to 65 cents. Many families from Mogadore (Murphy, Murdoch, Kline etc.) also came to pick huckleberries. The area was probably a summer camp for the Indians as many arrowheads etc. have been found. The huckleberry swamp provided an economical help for many local families during the depression. I know because that is how I was able to buy a bicycle and clothes for school.

Puzzle Fun!

Using the name of the Suffield Township founder see how many words you can make

ROYAL PEASE

Thank you for all your support!
Wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday season!





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