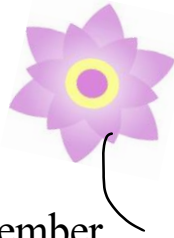




# Renewed Remembering: The Newsletter of the Conneaut Area Historical Society and the David Cummins Octagon House



April 2024      Volume 2 Issue 16



## We Remember

“Remembering” was the name of the original Conneaut Area Historical Society newsletter. Joan Barnett was the last editor, and with her death and the Covid pandemic the newsletter has not been published for a time. It seemed fitting to name this new version of the old newsletter “Renewed Remembering,” in honor of the former editors including Louise Legeza and Joan Barnett who edited and published the newsletter for so many years. We hope you enjoy it!

## The President’s Paragraph

The Conneaut Area Historical Society wants to thank you for your continued support. As always, new members are welcome. You can call: 440-599-6011 with further questions or write to Conneaut Area Historical Society, P.O. Box 563, Conneaut Ohio, 44030. Our Historical Museum street address is: 518 Mill Street and our David Cummins Octagon House address is 301 Liberty Street. We are reopening the Octagon House along with the Conneaut Area Historical Museum in May. We hope that you will come and visit both.

Jim Jones, President

Please pick up a copy of this newsletter and share it with your friends. Or read your copy on our Conneaut Historical Society website:

<https://capturingconneauthistory.com/>

Time Travel Tuesday

Kathy Warnes presents a program about  
Maxine Morgan and the McDowell Music  
Clubs

In this issue:

Barn Quilt Square No. 4

Dock Talk Tales The Top of the  
Octagon Civil War Corner #1

Conneaut Creamerie

We need Enthusiastic and Dedicated Volunteers to help us help the Conneaut Area Historical Museum and the David Cummins Octagon House realize their full historical potential. Even though we are closed for the season, we have not stopped working to improve the Conneaut Area Historical Museum. We could use some help organizing collections and updating the inventory. Lend us your willing hands, hearts, and minds to help our museum grow. Be a Museum Volunteer!

### Museum Steering Committee

Karl Rowbothan  
 Pat Jones  
 Jerry Anderson  
 Debbie Herbel  
 Delmas Bennett  
 Mo Tanner  
 Jerry Janco  
 Nancy Lamb  
 Jim Jones  
 Kathy Warnes  
 Debbie Jones

### Museum Officers

President- Jim Jones  
 Vice President – Jerry Janco  
 Secretary-Debbie Jones  
 Treasurer- Pat Jones  
 Historian-Kathy Warnes  
 Newsletter Editor- Kathy Warnes  
 Printed by Andy Pochatko,  
 Topky Library

### Membership Dues are Due

If you haven't already paid your membership dues, please don't forget to do so. Dues are: The dues period runs from January through December.

Single \$15.00

Couple \$20.00

Family \$25.00

Patron \$50.00

Conneaut Area Historical Society,  
 P.O. Box 563  
 Conneaut, Ohio 44030



## Barn Quilt Square No. 4

Last fall, Steering Committee Member Debbie Herbel painted our museum Barn Quilt and it is proudly displayed on the front of our museum. We are thrilled to be a square in the Ashtabula County Barn Quilt patchwork and a traveler on the Ashtabula Barn Quilt Trail. The barn quilts celebrate Ashtabula County's agricultural heritage, including the Underground Railroad network, natural areas preservation, and Great Lakes maritime history. Barn quilts stretch from the Ashtabula Lighthouse to the Pennsylvania borders and

into Lake and Trumbull Counties. These trail guides take visitors to the heart and stories of Ashtabula County history. More than 110 barn quilts on both public and private buildings display the tourism and historical attractions of Ashtabula County. For more about the history, purpose, and quilt creators of the Barn Quilt Trail, go to their website at [Ashtabula County Barn Quilt Trail](#)

We plan to expand our Barn Quilt by using our historical collections to create a notebook library of Quilt Squares featuring people, places, and events in Conneaut and Ashtabula County history. If you would like to contribute material for a quilt square, please contact a member of the Steering Committee.

## Ashtabula County Historian Walter Eugene Jack

Ed Edinger took this photo of Ashtabula County historian Walter Jack's birthplace in North Richmond in October 1995. Writer and historian Walter Jack was born in Pierpont, Ohio on January 31, 1883. He became a well-known journalist and photographer and served as city editor of the Hillsdale Michigan Leader. He wrote features for the Detroit Free Press and the Ashtabula Star Beacon and old Erie Dispatch. Later he joined the Erie Times News as a historical feature writer. After he retired, he returned to his native Pierpont to farm.



The Daughters of the American Revolution awarded him the Award of Merit, and he held a membership in the Sons of the American Revolution based on the Phelps branch of his family tree.

Walter married Sally Warren on June 19, 1906, at Hillsdale, Michigan. They had three children. Sally passed away on September 9, 1943, and Walter married Alice G. Pease on October 12, 1947, in Ripley, New York.

He died on September 2, 1961, and he is buried in Evergreen Cemetery in Pierpont. The Jenny Munger Historical Museum in Geneva-on-the-Lake has a memorial library featuring his life story and some of his newspaper writing and photographs.

## Dock Talk Tales

February 1978

### Dock Talk's Past Lives

“The Conneaut Harbor Hairpin, It’ll Go to Your Head.” Was published from about August 1942 to August 1944 or 1945 by Editor Raymond H. “Rimmer” Welsh. It was an 8 1/2x 14 mimeographed sheet which carried some of Rimer’s prose, poetry, and lyrics. It’s underlying theme was to win the war and keep up the morale of our servicemen. It poked fun at the regime in Washington and its system of rationing – for example note this quote from the June 1943 issue:

### Rimer’s Revised Table

4 gills = 1 pint; 2 pints= 1 quart; 4 quarts= 1 gallon; 4 gallons = 1 coupon.

The Harbor Light came into being in February 1951. Editor Bill Cornell who died August 14, 1977, at the age of 53, presented five 8 ½ x 11 mimeographed pages in the first issue. He was aided in the production by the following staff: Art Editor, George Kitinoja; Chief of Publications, Jean Nichols; Circulation Manager, Howard Morton; and reporters Ken Burdick; Roy Cheney; Dan Hathaway; Elmer Kintinoja; Frank Lengyel; Pat Nemilli; Harold Puffer; Dusty Rhodes; and Ray Woods.

Five years later in February 1956, the last issue of a seventeen-page production rolled off the press. The editor was J.C. Ocshier and Bill Vibbard. Chief of Publications was Cynthia A. Davis; Circulation Manager was Howard Morton; and reporters were Ken Burdick, Elmer Kintinoja. Frank Lengyel, Pat Nimelli, Gordon Gasch, Bill Vibbard, and Herbert H. Hopkins.

This publication was dedicated to the safety and welfare of the employees. During its existence it found a warm place in the hearts of the employees, and even today some referring to Dock Talk call it the Harbor Light.

The Harbor Light has provided the basis for the “25 Years Ago” column in Dock Talk.

Glimmer made its appearance on October 30, 1959, declaring : “Not a Harbor Light this sheet will try to be a glimmer until someone suggests a better name.” No one ever did!

Glimmer’s editor was Fabian Moeller. A weekly newsletter which varied from letter to legal size, utilized the back side of the bowling sheet when the P&C Dock Bowling League was in action.

Like The Harbor Light it reminisced about Dock Company history by uncovering and publishing many old-time pictures. A series dating “Happenings in Conneaut” began in June 1961. Bowling teams during that period had names as well as numbers. They were The Clutchers, Flintstones, Bulldozers, Burdicks, Uhas, Expendables, Lucky, and Beef Trust.

The last issue of Glimmer was produced on December 26, 1961.

Dock Talk was born in February 1968, as the Unnamed Monthly Magazine. It became Dock Talk from the second issue as a result of an employee contest in which Tower Clerk Bill Webster submitted the winning entry.

### Dock Talk and the David Cummins Annex of the Conneaut Historical Museum Library

Part of our archives located in the David Cummins Octagon House are Dock Talks ranging in dates from the 1960s to 1980s. Emil Bartone, a long time Pittsburgh & Conneaut Dock employee amassed a collection of historical photographs, timelines, and several copies of the *Glimmer* and *Dock Talks*. His historical notebook is located in the Octagon House research library.

Raymond Welsh, the author of *The Conneaut Harbor Hairpin, It’ll Go To Your Head*, was one of Conneaut’s important early twentieth century historians. He wrote numerous historical articles that were published in local newspapers and magazines. For many years he worked as a time keeper on the Pittsburgh & Conneaut Dock and contributed to its publications. There is a collection of his writing and music in the Research Library at the David Cummins Octagon House. One of his music compositions called “Down Park Avenue Way” can be found on the Melodeon in the living room of the David Cummins Octagon House.

## The Top of the Octagon- Cummins Cupola Chronicles



Maxine Morgan Photo of the Octagon House

### Come Visit Us at the Octagon House

The David Cummins Octagon House Requests the honor of your presence at our Open House on Saturday June 1, between 12:00 and 5:00 p.m.

There are entertaining stories in every room as well as a research library which is a continuation of the Historical Museum library, period antiques, exhibits featuring Conneaut history, "The Children's Corner," and some surprises as well as light refreshments. We will present a short historical program about the house at 2 p.m. that we hope that you will come and enjoy it.

We also hasten to add that the Conneaut Area Historical Museum and the David Cummins Octagon House are both operated by the Conneaut Area Historical Society. Both are our museums and both will be open to the public with the same 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. hours on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from Memorial Day to Labor Day. We hope that you will tour both of them, because together they reveal

the scope and impact of “little Conneaut” on Ashtabula County history and well beyond Ashtabula County.

We plan to keep the Octagon house open for tours in the winter for (hopefully) school visits, history programs, and for people who want to use the library. We can anticipate this because the Octagon House has heat and is better climate-controlled. Despite its historical atmosphere and many interesting artifacts and exhibits, the Historical Museum has neither heat nor climate control.. We can hardly wait for Christmas this year. We have already signed up for the Conneaut Holiday Tour of Houses and are making plans!

Many people have helped to awaken the Octagon House from its nearly decade long nap, partially brought on by the Covid Epidemic. The possibilities of an Octagon House renaissance grew immensely last year when Jim Jones, President of the Conneaut Area Historical Society and Diane Spencer, an Octagon House neighbor and community minded Conneaut resident, worked together to bring about the repainting of the Octagon House.

Christie Joslin of the Conneaut Savings Bank has generously decided that Octagon House visitors can park in the bank parking lot that abuts Liberty Street. We no longer have to worry about very limited parking on the grass and we thank her profusely for her community and historical spirit.

Bob Lebzelter is creating a video virtual tour of the Octagon House cupola to allow people to experience the view and adventure of the top of the house cupola without undertaking the hazardous climb up the winding staircase.

Sandy Gauckel spent many hours sorting, washing, ironing, folding, and storing her vintage clothing that has been donated to the Octagon House Museum over the years. She packed them into acid free boxes and garment bags and dressed the manikins who preside over the stories in each room.

Jerry Janco and Jack Coville are working on cataloguing the books in the Octagon House research library and Bill Kennedy made several trips to inspect the military uniforms and identify their insignia. Fred and Jon Lemmo set up the toy train in the Kid's Corner and Jeff Morrell identified the musical instrument in the parlor as a Melodeon, a 19<sup>th</sup> century pump organ, opening the door to more research and repair possibilities with the goal of eventually filling the parlor with its music. Mark Black and his mother Ginger have long been caretakers of the Octagon House and Ginger will continue to guide visitors through its rooms. Mark takes care of the yard work and since he is also a musician, we hope to use his talents indoors as well!

The names of people contributing to the renaissance of the David Cummins Octagon House stretches past the stairs to its cupola and beyond. Karl Rowbotham who helped us haul sixty boxes- few if any duplicates of material- of museum archives from the historical museum to their new home in the Octagon House basement because the Octagon house has much better climate control for the documents, books, and photographs as well as the ability to stay open in the winter.

Jerry Anderson, Delmas Bennett, handy men and helpers extraordinaire, and all of the volunteers who have decorated the Octagon House, presented programs, guided tours, and appreciated it for its historical value belong on the thank you list for contributing to the renaissance of the Cummins Octagon House.

Jack Mathay's name is posted near the top of the list of Octagon House contributors. As well as serving as Conneaut Historical Society President and on the Steering Committee, Jack scoured Ashtabula County and beyond for Civil War Era antiques. He and Jerry Anderson and other volunteers carried antique beds, a sofa, chairs, a desk, cradle, and other items up and downstairs to new 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century phases in their long lives. He found tables that Amirus Darrow, Clarence Darrow's father made in his wood working shop located next door to their octagon house where Clarence spent most of his childhood.

The David Cummins House has stories to tell and they are Conneaut history stories with connections to the rest of the world. We hope you will come and explore the Octagon House and Conneaut history with us.

We would also appreciate volunteers. We have custom made tasks just for you. If you are an outgoing people person, you can welcome visitors and take them on tours like Jim and Ginger and Jerry do. If you would rather sit back and do a less public job we need people to help Jerry and Jack with the cataloging. We need people to make handmade labels for archival boxes and notebooks. We need people to help make poster exhibits to hang up. We have a Mount Everest high stack of photographs and framed pictures that need to be sorted and organized. We have over 60 boxes of documents, papers, and miscellaneous items that need to be put in folders and an inventory list made for each box.

We have plenty to do and would gladly welcome your help. The David Cummins Octagon House is a unique Conneaut treasure that needs the tender loving care and appreciation that you can provide.



## CIVIL WAR CORNER #1

This is a trial feature by which you can learn more about this period on your own.

Each month we will present a short introduction to a topic and the term needed to place in the Youtube search window.



## OHIO IN THE CIVIL WAR

During the [American Civil War](#), the [State of Ohio](#) played a key role in providing troops, military officers, and supplies to the [Union army](#). Due to its central location in the [Northern United States](#) and burgeoning population, Ohio was both politically and logistically important to the war effort. Portions of Southern Ohio followed the [Peace Democrats](#) and openly opposed President [Abraham Lincoln's](#) policies. Ohio played an important part in the [Underground Railroad](#) prior to the war, and remained a haven for escaped and runaway slaves during the war years.

The third most populous state in the Union at the time, Ohio raised nearly 320,000 soldiers for the Union army, third behind only [New York](#) and [Pennsylvania](#) in total manpower contributed to the military and the highest per capita of any Union state. Several leading generals were from Ohio, including [Ulysses S. Grant](#), [William T. Sherman](#), and [Philip H. Sheridan](#).

During the Civil War, Ohio provided 230 regiments of infantry and cavalry, 26 light artillery batteries, 2 heavy artillery regiments, and 5 independent sharpshooter companies. Some of these units were organized as reserve infantry, U.S. Colored troops, or independent battalions or companies. Ohio suffered 35,475 casualties, including 6,835 killed in action.

The state was spared many of the horrors of war as only two minor battles were fought within its borders. [Morgan's Raid](#) in the summer of 1863 spread fear but insignificant damage. Ohio troops fought in nearly every major campaign during the war. Its most significant Civil War site is [Johnson's Island](#), located in [Sandusky Bay](#) of [Lake Erie](#). Barracks and outbuildings were constructed for a prisoner of war depot, intended chiefly for officers. Over three years more than 15,000 Confederate men were held there. The island includes a Confederate cemetery where about 300 men were buried.

## Recruitment

At the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, in response to a call to arms by President Lincoln, Ohio raised 23 volunteer infantry [regiments](#) for three months' service, 10 more regiments than the state's quota. The 19<sup>th</sup> OVI formed at Camp Giddings in Jefferson, OH was one. When it became evident that the war would not end quickly, Ohio began raising regiments for three-year terms of enlistment. The 29<sup>th</sup> OVI was one of them also formed at Camp Giddings. At first the majority were stocked with eager volunteers and recruits. Before the war's end, they would be joined by 8,750 draftees.

Ohio had the highest percentage of population enlisted in the military of any state. Sixty percent of all the men between the ages of 18 and 45 were in the service. There were 6,835 men killed in action, including 402 officers.

Dozens of small camps were established across the state to train and drill the new regiments. Two large military posts were created: [Camp Chase](#) in [Columbus](#) and [Camp Dennison](#) near [Cincinnati](#). Camp Giddings was located in Jefferson, OH at what is now the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds.

Soldiers from the 29<sup>th</sup> OVI fought in the Valley Campaign against GEN Stonewall Jackson, were at Antietam, held in reserve, at Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburg before moving to the western theater.

It is reported that President Lincoln had a habit on the eve of a battle of asking how many Ohio men would participate. When someone inquired why, Lincoln remarked, "Because I know that if there are many Ohio soldiers to be engaged, it is probable we will win the battle, for they can be relied upon in such an emergency."

SOURCE: WIKIPEDIA

## HOW CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CIVIL WAR?

There are few wars that have more written about it than the American Civil War. Though fading in significance there are many ripples from that period that continue to impact us today.

Of all the positive and negative things the Internet has brought to us the opportunity for self-study in an easy to manage mode is possible through YouTube. This FREE window into history is amazing with regards to the number of presentations that are available at your fingertips. Though initially daunting to the novice it can provide **years** of enlightened study and enjoyment.

## HOW TO WATCH YOUTUBE AT HOME

- From a computer or tablet put [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) in the search window.
- In the YouTube search window type in the subject you would like to learn about such as
  - **Military focus: Origins of War: The Bombardment of Ft Sumter.**
  - **Political/Military Focus: Liberty and Union- A walk Through the Civil War**
  - **As you view any presentation advertisements will periodically appear. Just hit “skip” and they will go away.**
- If you have a streaming service like Spectrum the YouTube application (AP) is probably on your screen where you select Spectrum. Select YouTube, go to the search window and type in the term of what you want to watch, One you open one Civil War show the built-in algorithm will offer other Civil War selections.
- **If you have any questions, comments or feedback please send them to Bill Kennedy at [whk3oh@gmail.com](mailto:whk3oh@gmail.com).**

Confederate Cemetery on Johnson’s Island



March Time Travel Tuesday

## Conneaut Creamerie: The Top of the Creamerie Crop The Chronological Conneaut Creamery



Ike Hoskins (right) and Glenn and Agnes Kobernik discuss how ice cream is packaged in this late 1950s photograph.

(This information was compiled by Mrs. L.P. Bertha Kovisto from the records of Elman "Ike" Hoskins).

1908 Frank Wolcott who had worked for the state of Oregon and Frank Watson, his partner he took in after a year of business, start a local creamery producing pasteurized milk. The business was located at the foot of Watson Hill, corner of Route 7 and Underridge Road. (Shiedler Farm).

1909 The business has a loss and Wolcott and Watson sell it to a group of Conneaut doctors and friends. The original stockholders of Conneaut Creamery were Dr. B.M. Tower; Dr. W.H. Leet; Mott Watson; Solicitor E.D. Jacobs; Attorney LaMot Spaulding; W.S. Payne; and Gerald Smith. The doctors realized the importance of milk pasteurization and wanted to implement the process in the community. Dr. Leet was president until his death and Dr. Tower served on the company's board of directors until his death.

1910 The new company moves from the farm to the southeast corner of Main and Harbor Street. The Fraternal Order of Eagles now occupy the building.

- 1910 Iva Phelps is hired. She serves as president and general manager after the death of Dr. Leet in 1943. She served 54 years with the company.
- 1918 The company moves to 234 Harbor Street to a one-story building. The company built and operated a cheese factory in Orwell for several years. The factory manufactured 90-pound wheels of cream cheese.
- 1924 Butter plant and ice factory added. Forty persons employed in the factory. Home delivery is made by horse and wagon.
- 1930 An increase in the Creamery's ice cream business requires a second story addition.
- War Years The Creamery contracts to provide butter to the Navy. Up to 55 percent of the Creamery's output goes to the government. Employment is around 50.
- 1964 Iva Phelps retires. Lockie-Lee Dairy of Painesville buys the "Creamerie" trademark, home delivery, and wholesale business, 12 vehicles, supplies, and ice cream cabinets. Lockie-Lee purchases the real estate two years later.
- 1975 The former Creamery plant is torn down. An apartment building now stands at the location.
- 1984 Ike Hoskins begins the tradition of Creamery Reunions.

The Creamery was very important economically to this area, creating a market for area farms. In the early days it was a seasonal business. The company hired 14 extra employees from May 1 to September 1. This gave summer jobs to high school and college students. The company once had plans to open a branch in Englewood, Florida.

Ike Hoskins, who worked at the Creamery from 1929 to 1964, supervised ice cream production at the Creamery except for the war years when he made butter.

"There was some kind of spirit in that Creamery that I never saw anywhere else except in a few high schools." Ike Hoskins

## How It All Began

The Conneaut News-Herald of June 27, 1908

The youngest industry in Conneaut, and yet one that will perhaps make its influence more heavily felt in the territory more immediately adjacent to this city than the larger plants located here, is the Conneaut Creamery Co. This plant opened for business on June 8.

The Creamery is located in the new two-story block just completed for Henry Neumer, at the foot of Harbor Street on Main adjoining his saloon building on the east, and it occupies the entire ground floor, a space of 30x30 feet. Every inch of the floor is cemented, and so constructed as to furnish instant and perfect drainage. A portion of 20 feet of the front of the room will be used for office purpose, with F;W; Wolcott in charge.

### Equipment of Creamery

Only the latest and most improved machinery is used in the establishment. The apparatus includes an H.P. engine and a 15 H.P. boiler, and a belt shaft enabling the instant connection of every machine with the operating force. Other machines are the Miller-Tyson freezer, pasteurizer, 600-gallon cream vat, and 600-pound churn. The apparatus was erected by Henry Geisen, a Miller-Tyson expert from Canton.

By means of the pasteurizer whereby the milk is heated and cooled to certain temperatures, all bacteria is removed from the fluid. This line of the business will receive considerable attention, and daily delivery of the pasteurized milk will be made by a wagon. The pasteurizer is a complicated machine, but all its parts are thoroughly protected and the pans and plates are German silver lined throughout.

### Unique Freezing Process

The freezing process whereby ice cream is manufactured is unique in this section. By the system used at the creamery, the cream is frozen by cold brine instead of by ice. The freezer has a capacity of six gallons in ten minutes. Frank Watson, superintendent of the plant, has had wide experience in creamery work, and his name assures the thoroughness of the work.

At present, the creamery company is operating three wagons, through the country near Conneaut, collecting cream from the farmers. One wagon runs to Kelloggsville, another to Clark Corners, and the third out the Center Road. The company pays within one cent for the highest grade and three cents for a poorer grade of cream, of the Elgin market price for butter fat. Every bit of cream is thoroughly tested at every stage of the manufacturing process.

The Conneaut Creamery Company expects to supply practically all the local trade with butter.

## Conneaut Creamery People

Fred Wolcott and Frank Watson formed a partnership and started the Conneaut Creamery. Fred Wolcott, 1860-1940, was a truck farmer in Kingsville who had spent some time working in an Oregon creamery. He is buried in Edgewood Cemetery, Ashtabula.

Frank Watson-1872-1940. Fred Watson was a farm laborer and dray operator. He is buried in Glenwood Cemetery. Polks Directory lists him as the manager of the Conneaut Creamery in 1912.

After a year, a group of doctors and lawyers took over the Creamery.

Dr. William Leet-Born 1879-Died, 1943. And he is buried in Glenwood Cemetery. During WWI, he was a lieutenant colonel in the medical corps and spent a year in France. A prominent Conneaut physician.

Dr. Bryant M. Tower-1858-1934 and he is buried in Glenwood Cemetery. In 1880, he was 21, single, and already a doctor. He lived on Liberty Street.

Dr. Fred Watson- 1874-1962. He is buried in Glenwood Cemetery.

LaMott Spaulding- 1878-1922 and he is buried in Glenwood Cemetery. He was an attorney.

E.D. Jacobs. He was a tracking solicitor.

Wayland Stephen Payne- 1879-1951. He worked at the P&C Dock and was a mailman. He is buried in Oakdale Cemetery in Jefferson.

Gerald Smith- Gerald's father Irus Smith worked at the Pittsburgh& Conneaut Dock as well as being a farmer. Gerald wasn't born until 1916, so he was too young to be one of the original Creamerie Group.

This group of Creamerie founders administrators convinced the Conneaut Council to pass in ordinance in 1909 which said that no dairy products could be sold in Conneaut without being processed in Conneaut. It was not repealed until 1983.

Sarah and Iva Phelps. Sarah Phelps was the grandmother of Iva Phelps-1882-1966. Her son George-1843-1862- died of disease in the Civil War. Sarah Phelps – 1824-1913- was President of the Ladie's Aid Society during the Civil War and an active member of the Woman's Relief Corps in Conneaut and helped many veterans. Her

granddaughter Iva Phelps was her son Milo's daughter. Iva worked her way to become manager of the Creamerie and worked there for 54 years.

Paul and George Gates. Paul Gates worked at the Conneaut Creamery for 32 years in various capacities including bottle washer, driver, salesman, milk bottling, cheese making, ice cream mixer, milk, and bottle processor. His son George worked at the Creamery one season and recorded his father's reminiscences of working at the Creamery.

Wesley Elman "Ike" Hoskins – 1912-2006. Worked for the Conneaut Creamerie Company for 32 years and the Lockie-Lee Dairy for two years. He initiated the Annual Conneaut Creamerie Retirees Picnic at Township Park and spent 31 years making Creamerie and Reunion ice cream.

John and Jerry, Richard, and Jim Janco

Our Historical Society Vice-President Jerry Janco's father John Janco was a milkman for the Conneaut Creamerie. Jerry wrote a reminiscence about his father's employee at the Creamerie.

I was a lucky teenager. My father John Janco was a milkman for the Conneaut Creamerie and my two brothers Richard and Jim and I often went with him on his rounds. He would get to the Creamerie and back his Divco milk truck out of the garage and drive it up to the main building where most of the products were made. These included milk, of course, ice cream, sour cream, and cottage cheese. In an adjacent building, butter was made from the milk fats.

Once he got to the main building, he parked his milk truck next to the loading dock next to the building. There he would begin loading metal crates. These crates contained either quarts or half gallon glass bottles containing milk or cream which were in half pints. The bottles were covered with a cardboard bottle cap with the name Conneaut Creamerie printed on each of them. These crates were very heavy, especially for a kid my age, but I did my best to compete with my brothers in picking up these crates and loading them in the milk truck.

Originally in the past, chipped ice was thrown on the cases of milk, but in the late 60's refrigerated milk trucks became the way to keep the milk cold. The major portion of the truck in the rear of the vehicle was where the milk was stored. There was a metal wall between the rear of the truck with a sliding door that separated it from the front. The front of the truck had a seat that allowed the vehicle to be driven while standing up or sitting down. There was a gas pedal along with a clutch and a brake pedal on the floor. Mounted on an angle on the dash were a matching



pair of pedals. It was an interesting vehicle to learn how to drive, especially for a teenager like me.

At the main Creamerie building I remember backing up to the loading dock. There, all of the empty glass cases were unloaded. Being that they were empty, they weighed less than when they were loaded onto the milk truck, but they were still heavy. The milk bottle washing machine was in this area of the plant. It was operated by one worker. The bottle washer was very loud and there always was steam coming from the washer.

It was interesting to see how the worker loaded the trays that were loaded on a conveyor belt that put them through a hot water and soap bath. After a steamy bath, the conveyor belt took the bottles into the bottling room. That wasn't quite as loud. In this room, several workers watched as the clean bottles came out on the conveyor belt and into machines that filled the bottles with milk.

After the bottles were filled they were capped with cardboard discs with the name Creamerie printed on them. Once they were bottled and capped they were placed in metal cases. Some were designed for quart bottles and others designed for half-gallons. There were other metal cases that were meant for the small half-pint bottles of cream or milk. Again they were capped with the cardboard discs.

From there they were taken to the huge cooler which was adjacent to the side entrance where the milk trucks were loaded. There were areas of the Creamerie which I was not as familiar with. The Creamerie building which was on Harbor and State Street had an alley on either side which led to the rear of the building. Located to the west was a two-story wooden building, where butter was made and packaged.

Another interesting memory is that on the same side of the building as the loading dock was a small basement window. This is where sour cream and cottage cheese were dispersed.

My brother Richard's first job as a teenager was wrapping the butter. Each half-pound quarter stick was wrapped in glossy wax paper and then packaged along with three other sticks to make a pound. Richard earned a walloping \$1.31 an hour, which was a lot in the early 60's.

## Patron's Pages

### Join Our Patrons Program

The Conneaut Area Historical Museum is excited to announce a new Merchant Patron program which is available to any local business who desires to help our museum to function and improve. For \$50 per year (January to December) we will include your business name and phone number in the publications the museum produces, including a monthly newsletter, any future books the museum produces, and our website. If interested, send your donation of \$50.00 to P.O. Box 563, Conneaut, Ohio 44030. We will include you in our list of great merchants and businesses in this area.

Angela's Café

268 Lake Road

Conneaut, Ohio 44030

440-593-6060

Conneaut Creek Vet Clinic

382 West Main Road

Conneaut, Ohio 44030

American Legion Post 151

262 Broad Street

Conneaut, Ohio

Castaways

877 Broad Street

Conneaut, Ohio 44030

Biscotti's Restaurant

186 Park Avenue

Conneaut, Ohio 44030

Conneaut Dairy Queen

1009 Main Street

Conneaut, Ohio 44030

Chris Brecht, State Farm  
Insurance Agency

216 Main Street, Suite B

Conneaut, Ohio 44030

Crafty Shanty

183 Park Avenue

Conneaut, Ohio 44030

Jennifer Betts

Gerdes Pharmacy  
245 Main Street  
Conneaut, Ohio 44030

Kathi's Golden  
Retrievers of Albion  
11790 Penside Road  
Albion, PA 16401

Leslie & Donald O'Bell  
2 Bretenahl Place  
Suite C  
Bretenahl, OH 44108

Lynn  
Armington 48  
Ranch Road  
Willoughby, OH 44094  
440-951-3122

Marcy Funeral Home  
208 Liberty Street  
Conneaut, OH 44030

Photo Cabin O' Bliss taken in 1925.  
Grandparents Irus and Ellen Sheldon.  
Bliss experienced as they grew up in  
Conneaut in the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup>  
Century.

Maureen "Mo"  
Tanner  
930 Main Street  
Conneaut, Ohio  
44030

Susanne Trigg Canfield, OH  
Normal for Norway is a culture  
shock humor podcast where in  
each episode two foreigners  
living in Oslo discuss one weird  
thing about Norway. Listen to  
Normal for Norway wherever  
you get your podcasts!

Port Conneaut FCU  
1002 Broad Street  
Conneaut Ohio 44030  
440-593-7350

Instagram: normalfornorway

# Conneaut Area Historical Society

## Membership Application



The dues period runs from January through December.

Single \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Couple \$20.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Family \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Patron \$50.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be willing to volunteer at the Museum or at the Octagon House during the summer months or help us with winter projects?

The Conneaut Area Historical Museum is open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from noon until 5 p.m., starting on Memorial Day and ending on Labor Day.

The David Cummins Octagon House is open from Memorial Day to Labor Day from noon until 5 p.m. We also plan on keeping the Octagon House open during the winter for special programs and tours. What day or time is best for you?

Thank you for your membership.

P.O. Box 563. Conneaut, Ohio 44030