



Champaign County Historical Society and Museum
Est. 1934

July/August 2020

CHAMPAIGN CHRONICLES

Oktoberfest 2020

We have been receiving a multitude of phone calls asking if the Oktoberfest is still going ahead as scheduled. We are happy to report that we are indeed going forward with Oktoberfest! This is subject to change should the Governor feel that more restrictions are necessary, but at this moment we are planning a full fest with food, crafts, and beer. If you are interested in being a vendor applications can be found on our website

www.champaigncountyhistoricalmuseum.org/ or can be picked up at the museum. If you have any questions please feel free to contact us via email at

champhistmus@ctcn.net or by phone at 937-653-6721. And we can always use extra volunteers to help set up or to man the gates, work the beer tent, or act as a docent inside the museum.

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Fresh Paint

While the we were shut down to the public in March, April, and May, we decided to do a little spring cleaning! Our military history gallery got a fresh coat of paint and a lighting change! We also reworked the exhibits and labels in the room for a completely new look! It is still a work in progress but come in and take a look.



Pictures of the Military History Gallery.

Upcoming Programs

We are excited to announce that after several months of cancellations we are back to having our monthly programs! There will be limited capacity and we encourage face masks be worn.

July—July 19, 2020
Lornette Dallas –
Women in Armed
Services.

Celebrating Women's Suffrage

As you might have noticed, all the newsletters this year have featured a prominent Champaign County woman. We are doing this in celebration of the 100 year anniversary of women gaining the right vote! This will continue through the rest of the year. If you have person or item in the museum that you would like to see featured in next year's newsletters just let us know, you can send an email to champhistmus@ctcn.net or call us at 937-653-6721.



Address from the President

First and foremost and as always, we hope everyone is staying safe out there.

As everyone is aware, the Museum was closed for the better part of three (3) months due to COVID-19. In my last newsletter address, I spoke of my goals as president for the 2020 year. In this address, I would like to inform all members of the initiatives and goals we've completed over those three (3) months. In that short amount of time, we have:

- Networked all computers to each other;
- Worked on re-designing our website
(www.champaigncountyhistoricalmuseum.org);
- Continued to immerse ourselves in the StEPs Program for better implementation of our internal policies and procedures;
- Re-painted the Military History Gallery (it's a very nice shade of gray that really enhances our military collections);
- Drafted, proofed, passed, and implemented an Investment Policy and Purchasing Authorization Matrix;
- Recruited new individuals who are excited and passionate about getting to work;
- Applied for historical society-based grants from the State of Ohio; and
- Each committee chair has been tasked with compiling a list of items and goals for volunteers to assist.

As can be seen, we have been hard at work to make the Museum a better place for all Champaign Countians! Once the Museum closed, the majority school of thought within the Board was to capitalize on the COVID-19 closure vs. remain stagnant.

On another positive note, on or about June 10, 2020, our Museum was given the green light to re-open to the public by Governor DeWine. We didn't waste a moment and re-opened that same day! Rest assured, we are keeping the Museum clean and sanitary by using cleaning procedures that will not harm our precious and timeless artifacts while also remaining in compliance with social distancing and State of Ohio standards.

In closing, I would like to thank each and every one of you for your membership to our great organization and invite each of you to come into the Museum at your earliest convenience to see all the new and improved areas and items! See you soon!

Gregory L. Harvey, Esq.
President

Did You Know...

There are nine Medal of Honor recipients honored in the Champaign County Historical Society and Museum?

Cecelia Malone McCarty by Candy Gilliam

Cecelia (Sibbie) Malone was born in 1857 near Columbus, OH, the oldest of several children to Irish immigrants. About 1879, she married Patrick McCarty, a fellow Irishman who was the owner and operator of a saloon called the Washington House located on Court Street in Urbana. Within eight years, her husband Patrick died leaving her with four children to raise. If this wasn't harsh enough for the young mother, she soon discovered her husband had abandoned a first wife and daughter who were living in Ireland. This first wife, Mary McCarty, traveled from Ireland and sued for Patrick McCarty's estate as his legal heir in 1887. After several months of legal battles in court, the matter was finally settled with the Ireland wife receiving a large monetary payment, while Sibbie was to keep the house and saloon.

Now the sole owner of Washington House, Sibbie began her notorious life as a criminal. This started by opening her saloon and selling alcohol on Sundays. For the next 5 years, she was consistently brought up in court on a variety of charges from selling on **Sunday, selling to minors, theft and prostitution**. In 1889, she married a second time to Robert Burchard, a previous star pitcher with the minor league baseball teams. They met when he came through Urbana one evening when the hotels were full and he needed overnight lodging. He was not a good influence on Sibbie, as they were frequently arrested together for misdeeds at her saloon.

Because of the constant litigations, Sibbie filed for bankruptcy and sold her saloon to her brother Charles Malone. But this only lasted a few years, as by 1896 she was back on Court Street with a new saloon business called the Cottage Hotel. Here she not only served liquor but also served lunches, had billiard tables, and rented the upstairs rooms to tenants. She was also back to her old illegal shenanigans, often being arrested or fined for selling whiskey on Sundays. It seemed no amount of lectures from the courts could keep her from doing what she wanted to do. In 1902, while feeling that she alone was constantly being prosecuted, the infuriated Sibbie met with Mayor Stone and told him of all the illegal and sinful things other saloons were doing in the neighborhood, stating that if the other offenders were not brought up for their misdoings, she would take the matter to city council with a long string of affidavits showing they were also in need of observation.

But the next few years did not prove better for Sibbie McCarty. From 1902-1904, she was charged with robbery and larceny several times after

being accused of spiking her customer's drinks and stealing their money when they passed out. In 1903, she was charged with exchanging expensive cigars for a lesser inferior brand. Suddenly in 1904, her saloon was raided and she, as well as her son Charles McCarty, were arrested for serving alcohol on Sunday and selling liquor with no license. After a fist fight in 1905 with a previous tenant over stolen silverware and china, Sibbie was arrested for assault and battery, serving 10 days in jail. Again in 1906, she was back to serving alcohol on Sunday as well as arrested for conducting a house of ill fame, of which she was found guilty, fined and served more jail time. During her arrest in 1908 on the same previous charges, she threw a fit with such force and vigor in the jail that she could be heard all over the city building. Between 1909-1925, numerous complaints, investigations, charges, and arrests were made against Sibbie and her husband Robert for the illegal sale of whiskey, having barrels of beer on her property, giving away intoxicating liquors, bootlegging and unsanitary conditions at her establishment. Sometimes these charges were dropped, other times she was fined and served jail time. During the mid-1920's, with Sibbie now in her 60's, her saloon was raided several times. Each liquor search turned up "lard can stills" where she was making rye mash in her cellar. Also found were half pints of hot whiskey stored in stone jars. Although she never made a personal appearance in court for these charges because of her ill health, she did plead guilty and was fined.

Sibbie McCarty died at her hotel from complications due to kidney disease in 1933 at the age of 76 years, and is buried in Oak Dale Cemetery. Shortly after her death, the City Board of Health ordered the Hotel to close citing unsanitary conditions, plus her estate was behind on its mortgage and taxes. Eventually the property was forfeited in 1938.



Source for picture: Champaign Democrat - May 22, 1902

Mission Statement

The Mission of the Society is to tell the Champaign County story and to administer the collection, preservation, and display of our county's artifacts, documents, and other historical resources.

Welcome New Members

Gene and Sandy Westcott

New Donations

We would like to thank the following people for their donation to the Historical Society.

The Champaign County Preservation Alliance—The 1916 ledger from American Tool and the 1880-1889 Diary of Franklin Lutz.

Rebecca Pyle—The Urbana Daily Citizen from 09/12/2001.

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MUSEUM



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