

Alliance Historical Society NOW & THEN



Volume 17, Issue 2

Spring 2024



Off to a great start in 2024

Dear Members,

The Society is off to an exciting start in 2024 and I have some great news to share — we have expanded by acquiring new property.

On December 27, the Alliance Historical Society became the owner of 807 North Union Avenue, which features a 1,392 square foot building with a new roof and furnace as well as a small bathroom and office roughed out on the inside.

The acquisition was made possible by an anonymous donor who believes in the vision of the Historical Society to create an Alliance History Center.

This form of expansion wasn't exactly in the plans, but when the property became available, it just seemed like good sense for the Society to purchase it. The board of trustees recognized it had an opportunity it couldn't pass up and voted unanimously to make a bid on the property.

Many have asked us, though, why this property?

First of all, it is a quick and convenient solution to one of the major shortcomings of the Society at this time, and that is a lack of storage space.

The Mabel Hartzell Historical Home is our headquarters and it serves us well as a restored home, our Victorian gem, displaying artifacts that fit into the setting as it was when the Earley Family or Mabel Hartzell lived there. However, the house does not function well as a true museum.

Of course, we do have the Mini Museum on the property, but it is filled to capacity.

See **LETTER** Inside

Haunted Or Not?

Paranormal Investigators Weigh In on Mabel's

One question lingers for any house the age of the Mabel Hartzell Historical Home. Is it haunted?

On November 25, 2023, Rogues Hollow Paranormal Society, featuring Medium Missy and Medium Megan with a crew of four other investigators, made the first-ever attempt to make a definitive determination of whether or not there are any resident spirits or ghosts inhabiting 840 North Park Avenue.

Built in 1867 by Matthew and Mary Earley in one of the oldest parts of the Carnation City, the house which is full of both history and historical artifacts has served as the headquarters of the Alliance Historical Society since 1954 when it was willed to the society by Mabel Hart-



Investigators from Rogues Hollow Paranormal Society set up equipment inside the Mabel Hartzell Historical Home on the evening of November 25, 2023. It was the first time that such an investigation took place inside the headquarters of the Alliance Historical Society, which was built in 1867.

zell, the adopted daughter of the Earleys and a founder of the Society.

With the Italiante-style structure being owned by only one family, much of its history is known.

See **HAUNTED** Inside



The dial on Campbell's Automatic Electric Fireless Cooker Range shows that it was manufactured in Alliance. The Society acquired one of the stoves in 2023.

A Hot Acquisition

Campbell Stove in Society's collection

William Campbell was the Ron Popeil of his day, according to Dave McMahon, an Alliance Historical Society trustee.

Popeil peddled Ronco products through direct marketing in the 1970s and '80s.

Campbell sold various "fireless" cooking apparatuses during the 1910s and '20s, manufacturing them in Alliance and selling them through advertisements in national publications of that era.

Read a blog by Dave McMahon about William Campbell and his work at alliancehistory.org/william-campbell-stove

See **ACQUISITIONS** Inside

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

March 26 — Alliance Area Preservation Society will hold its annual meeting with esteemed architect Elizabeth Corbin Murphy as the keynote speaker.

June 3 — Ahead of the 80th anniversary of D-Day, Sid Zufall takes a look at the life of Winston Churchill, the British prime minister who led England through World War II.

TBD — Frank and Michal Barrett will deliver "In Search of an Old Abolitionist," which details their research into a man named Jonathan Morris, a conductor on the Underground Railroad, that uncovered an unlikely romance and a closer look at the life of 19th Century Quakers in the area.

The programs will be held at Rodman Library and registration will be required online at rodmanlibrary.com

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Find us on the web:
www.alliancehistory.org
www.facebook.com/alliancehistory
[YouTube.com/alliancehistory](https://www.youtube.com/alliancehistory)

Historical Society plans Trivia Night competition



The Alliance Historical Society has planned another night of food, fun and fellowship with its fourth semi-annual Trivia Night competition scheduled Tuesday, March 19, from 6 to 9 p.m.

The fundraiser, which has grown in popularity since it was started in October 2022, again will be held at A-Town Burgers and Brews.

Teams will consist of four persons and each team should register with a descriptive name and prepare for a good time. Entrance fee is \$80 per team of four and includes A-Town's burger bar.

Teams may register by going to alliancehistory.org/trivia-night.

As in previous nights, there will be six rounds of 10 questions each in categories including general knowledge, entertainment, sports, and of course, local history.

Drinks will be available from the cash bar and includes a selection of craft beers, sodas, and incredible milkshakes.

Other fundraising activities will include a 50-50 drawing, table and round sponsorships, and basket raffles. Prizes will be given to the winning team.

Trivia Night is a fun way to support the Society's mission of sharing stories and preserving Alliance's history.



The Woke Warriors — Leigh Mainwaring, Gretchen Wearstler, Jane Wearstler, and Sam Swank — won the Alliance Historical Society's October 2023 Trivia Night.

ance's history.

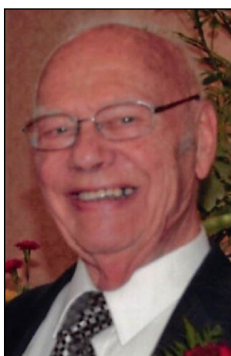
Those who would like to become a sponsor or donate gift cards or raffle baskets should send an email to alliancehistory@yahoo.com. Table sponsorships are \$100 and Question Round sponsorships are \$50.

IN MEMORIAM

FRANK WOOLF

MARCH 27, 1925 – DEC. 16, 2023

The Alliance Historical Society board of trustees was saddened to learn of the passing of longtime former member Frank Woolf, who held emeritus status, at the age of 98. Woolf, a past member of the Castle Crusaders, was still active in the local Lions Club and was honored during that group's Rose Day Victory Dinner a month earlier where his work to preserve Alliance's history and the countless tours he gave of Glamorgan Castle and the Mabel Hartzell Historical Home were noted. Current board member Jack Weber gave the program "Five Extraordinary Alliance People You May Have Never Heard Of" during the dinner, and afterward spoke with Woolf, who knew one of the people mentioned in the program personally when he was a boy and shared some stories with Weber. Woolf, who was also known for his award-winning photography, was a World War II veteran and an Alliance Machine retiree. His love for sharing stories with a smile will be missed.



Announcements

OPEN HOURS AT MABEL'S

Tours of the Mabel Hartzell Historical Home and Alliance History Mini Museum are offered every first weekend of the month, March through November. Reservations are required for these first-weekend open hours.

Tours are given at 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. sharp on Friday. Saturday tours are given at 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. sharp. On Sundays, tours are given at 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. sharp.

Those wishing to take a tour should visit our website (alliancehistory.org) to book a reservation.

The suggested donation is \$5 per adult. Members and children under 12 years old are admitted free.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities to volunteer with the Alliance Historical Society abound, including workdays at Mabel's on every first Wednesday of the month. To learn how you can get involved, call 330-736-1116.

HAUNTED

Continued from Front

That's why it was really no surprise to any skeptic that the during their initial walk through of the home, the mediums said that they could sense a burning smell. Of course, with Earley's work as a tanner, he would have carried such an odor about him.

However, a few stories are not as well known or often told, such as one of an attempted suicide by Matthew Earley in one of the upstairs bedrooms in 1908 when he tried to slash his leg with a pen knife following a failed business venture which threatened the city leader with financial ruin.

That's why it was a very surprising when the mediums sensed in that bedroom a feeling of dread and Medium Missy heard words like "falling into despair" and "no hope" but also sensed that a man was making "a very serious financial decision" but could not understand why it would fit into that room being that it was a bedroom and had not been used as an office.

The mediums also got a sense of sadness in that bedroom, which was meant for a children's bedroom, sensing that no children had ever been born in the house.

This was also verified by Alliance Historical Society Vice President Michelle Dillon, who filled the crew in on the history of the home during their visit.

But what happened when the lights went out?

Even the investigators seemed a bit surprised what they caught with their cameras and other equipment, especially since there was very little reported regarding prior experiences among visitors.

In fact, the only previous experience mentioned was that trustee Jack Madison, who was on the set, said that he sometimes felt like he was being watched while going through the home while getting it ready for a tour. Madison said it wasn't a feeling that something evil was lurking. Only that something was watchful and curious as to why he was there.

Of course, they caught a knock or two and some orbs – some-



The orb pictured in this screen shot travels out of the shot, over the bed as if bouncing on it, and then to the other side and eventually under the bed on the video posted on the Rogues Hollow Paranormal YouTube channel.

We could explain everything paranormal investigators captured on November 25, 2023, but we think you should watch it instead.

Look for Season 2, Episode 3
The Mabel Hartzell Home Investigation on
www.youtube.com/@RoguesHollowParanormal

thing investigator Trevor Tolley says is common. However, one of those orbs proved to be very interesting.

But cameras and recorders also captured quite a

bit of EVP (electronic voice phenomenon) activity, including some believed to be from a grumpy Matthew Earley; lots of interaction with a para-light while playing music in the parlor, and even an unexplained shadow in the basement – a rarity in paranormal investigations.

So, back to the age old question: Is the Mabel Hartzell Historical Home haunted?

We urge you to watch the episode on Rogues Hollow's YouTube Channel and decide for yourself.

LETTER

Continued from Front

Many of our smaller and paper artifacts are currently housed in the basement of Rodman Public Library. Our bigger items are housed in a couple places around the city.

And unfortunately, the lack of storage space has limited the Society over the years in acquiring some interesting and

important artifacts like one we received last year -- Campbell's Automatic Electric Fireless Cooker Range that was manufactured in Alliance. (See related story).

The inability to gather items as well as share them with the general public is not conducive with our mission of preserving and sharing the history of Alliance.

This new property is perfect in that it is adjacent to Mabel's, an added plus being that it will provide visibility for the Alliance Historical Society and the Mabel Hartzell Historical Home from Union Avenue.

The extra land will allow for adequate bus parking, making it easier to host larger groups and field trips from area schools.

The location is also ideal for a railfanning viewing platform as 70-plus trains pass by the property each day.

It goes without saying that we feel 2024 is off to a great start as the Society continues to work closely with the Alliance Area Preservation Society and the Castle Crusaders in our individual pursuits and our collective goal of preserving Alliance's history.



ABOVE: The Alliance Historical Society recently purchased the property at 807 North Union Avenue. The Mini Museum can be seen in the background. **BELOW:** Jim Perone holds a sign found when the Society took possession of the building.



ACQUISITIONS

Continued from Front

In 2023, the Society added an automatic rapid electric fireless range made by the "Original Fireless Cooker Man" to its collection.

It was one of the hottest acquisitions of the year as the Society collected 589 individual artifacts, photos, slides, books, drawings, etc. from 61 donations/acquisitions.

Other notable acquisitions, included:

♦ A framed panoramic birdseye depiction of Mount Union College campus, ca. 1908.

♦ Three small paintings by Alliance resident Sara Lembright, depicting the Alliance Railway Station, Rodman Park, and Mount Union Conservatory.

♦ Donations of photo materials of our former curator Harold Vogus, including a number of his cameo restorations.

♦ Two McCaskey Register cash registers formerly used in the old Hillcrest Market

Alliance Historical Society

P. O. Box 2044
Alliance, Ohio 44601

Perfect Background for Photos

Are you looking for a unique background for a photo? Perhaps you should call 330-736-1116 and book the Mabel Hartzell Historical Home, Alliance's Victorian gem, just like Jessica and Kendell did for their wedding on November 25, 2023 — a first at the Alliance Historical Society's headquarters. Jessica said she had always admired the 1867 home built by Matthew and Mary Earley and had always wanted to get her wedding pictures there. The home is perfect for wedding couples, senior portraits, family portraits, and more. Call the Alliance Historical Society to inquire about availability and pricing.



Jessica and Kendell stopped by the Mabel Hartzell Historical Home on Nov. 25, 2023 to get some wedding photos — a first at Alliance's Victorian gem.

WANT TO HELP SUPPORT THE ALLIANCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY?

You may make a tax-deductible donation to the Alliance Historical Society at any time.

Make your check payable to Alliance Historical Society and mail it to:
**PO Box 2044,
Alliance, OH 44601**

Donations may also be made through PayPal via our website, www.alliancehistory.org.

You can reach us by calling 330-736-1116.