

TREMONT

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TRUMPET

News from
The Bellevue Historical Society

Fall/Winter 2009

Mission Statement

Our mission is to preserve the history of Bellevue, Ohio, for future generations through the preservation of historic buildings and artifacts pertaining to the growth and development of Bellevue.

Recent Events-

Tremont Open House Tour

Once again the Directors of The Bellevue Historical Society opened the Tremont House to visitors so that they could see what a wonderful structure the building is. The tour was held on September 20th. As with previous tours, once people saw the inside of the Tremont House and the way it was constructed, they marveled that it could ever have been accomplished. Remember, this three-story structure was built in 1846. Most people wonder how they could have gotten whole trees up to the attic to make the framework for the building.



While Bill and Dorothy Stedman and Jerry and Dottie Wilker could not make the September 20th date, they did manage to squeeze in a tour while in town for Bill's 60th class reunion. They especially enjoyed the view from the third floor balcony that overlooks the building where Stedman's News Stand was in business for many years.

Gift Idea

Looking for a good stocking stuffer? Bill Oddo's book *Chapman & Harkness versus The Mad River Railroad and other historical notes* is still available at The Golden Acorn, 106 South West Street, for \$10. This 53 page, 5" X 8" softbound book includes a copy of the court case in the District Court of Ohio, Huron County, April Term 1853 in which Frederick Chapman and Lamon Harkness fought to keep the Mad River's main route going through Bellevue, plus other anecdotes involving The Mad River Railroad and its impact on Bellevue's growth. It should appeal to anyone interested in Bellevue history. If you wish it to be mailed to you, we will be happy to do so for an additional \$2 shipping charge. Mail your request to The Bellevue Historical Society, P.O. Box 304, Bellevue OH 44811.

ReDial

THE DIAL

From the November 21, 1952 edition of The Dial

Teachers Visit Industry on Business Education Day

While students enjoyed a day of vacation, their teachers were extending their education by participating in the annual B-E day. This day was created so that teachers can understand America's economic system.

The businesses and plants that co-operated in B-E day were: General Electric, Nickel Plate Railroad, Ohio Edison, Akron Candy Co., Klein Steel, Union Bank, Bellevue Manufacturing Co, First National

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Bank, R & R Drug Store, Spencer Kellogg, Mitchell's Furniture Store, Grant's Store, The J.C Penny Co, Schug Hardware, Bellevue Garage, and The Northern Ohio Telephone Co.

From the May 29, 1958 edition of The Dial

N.A.S.S. Accepts 6 New Members

Dave Ball, Phil Beachey, Jere Crosby, Eric Johnson, Jim Vogel and Paul Yoder have been accepted into the National Athletic Scholarship Society.

By maintaining high grades and acquiring at least one major sports letter, these six new members have become eligible for membership. Mr. Lowell Shaffer is adviser of the group.

Old members of the group include Robert Bailey, Cleidith Franks, Larry Frost, Gary D. Norman, David Stratso, Edwin Wagner, and James Walters.

Historical Happenings

From the Bellevue Gazette, January 30, 1902

New Street to Be Opened

G.W. Freidley, who recently purchased the Boardman tract, has let the contract for opening the new street between the Boardman house and the residence of Chas. Matz, to John Vickery and Uriah Matter.

On Tuesday afternoon these men commenced active work of cutting down trees and opening the new thoroughfare. The new street will be 66 feet in width and at present will be opened a distance of 450 feet, or as far as the grove, but eventually it will be extended to intersect with Union Street.

The contractors, Messrs, Vickery and Matter, have quite a task before them as there is quite a hill to be cut through and 3,500 yards of earth to be removed. Mr. Friedley reports that he has sold a number of lots already and has several more prospective buyers in view.

These lots are well located and will afford some of the most desirable building sites in the city, and we

predict a building boom in that quarter when spring opens.

From the Bellevue Gazette, June 18, 1896

Death of a Former Citizen

On Tuesday of last week at his home in Pasadena, California, occurred the death of one of the early settlers and pioneer landlords of Bellevue. Mr. Wm. Sloan, aged 76 years; after an illness of three days with pneumonia. Mrs. N. A. Barnes of this place is a sister of deceased, and by the older residents who remain Mr. Sloan will be remembered as the genial and popular landlord of the Tremont House. This was in the stage coach days and at a time when the Tremont House was by travellers [sic] recognized as one of the best and most popular inns in Ohio. The building is now occupied by D. B. Callaghan and R. Haensler for grocery store purposes.

From the Bellevue Gazette, July 8, 1897 (This article is referring to the alley that runs behind the Tremont House and all the stores on the north side of the 100 block of E. Main Street.)

Should be Shown the Frosted Hand

The suggestion advanced at last evening's council meeting that the city might properly defray a certain portion of the necessary expense to drain the so-called You-be-Dam alley should, by the street committee or council, be shown the frosted hand. This alley is now, and has been for several years past, a nuisance and one detrimental to the public health, in that foul and nauseous matter is allowed to stand in same, and in warm weather emits an offensive odor, frequently noticeable to travelers passing the alley on the east side of North West Street. This alley is now, as it has been for some years, a nuisance which the board of health might have and should require owners of abutting property to abate at once, but not at the expense of the general taxpayer.

There has not been in the past and should not be now, any good reason for city funds being used to drain any person's private property or cess pools at the expense of the tax payers, and there will not be

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in this case if the council is awake to its duty when the members meet on the premises Friday. Besides such action would be in direct violation of an ordinance some of the present council assisted by their votes to legalize. The general tax payer has no objection to public improvements, but should, and has, if public funds are used to advance, private interests in building sewerage outlets.

Tremont News

Tremont House Structural Review

On September 10, the Directors of The Bellevue Historical Society met with Poggemeyer Design Group structural engineer Phillip Whaley and architect Gregory Kissner, to discuss their findings, after a structural analysis of The Tremont House and The Annex. Earlier this year, Mr. Whaley conducted an inspection of both the Tremont House and the Annex buildings, accompanied by John Miller. Their presentation included many photos and was encouraging.

The results of the analysis indicate that The Tremont House is in stable condition, but will require significant structural repairs during its renovation including some additional supports, bracing and blocking. The roof framing and stone foundations are generally in good condition. However, the floors of the upper levels, plastered walls, windows and the exterior masonry will need some attention.

The Annex building to the north of The Tremont House is in generally very good condition with a few minor issues in the basement which will require supplemental framing to correct. If this building is to house the elevator and a stairway, a third floor addition over at least part of it will be necessary.

The next step in preparing The Tremont House for rehabilitation is to empty the ground floor and to remove the tin ceiling, which is a later addition. Already the directors are working on these measures. Removal of the "popcorn room" on the west side is also an early priority. This room is in very poor condition and was not a part of the original structure.

Tremont House Gets Ready for Winter



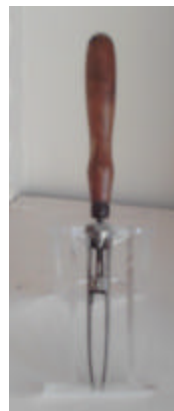
John Miller and Bellevue Historical Society volunteer Chris Fortney get the annex ready for winter by removing the window air conditioners

2009 Holiday Market

Support the downtown, and shop in downtown Bellevue at the Bellevue Holiday Market, to be held in the former Ben Franklin Store building on the Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays in December, after its Monday, November 30th Grand Opening. Wander Main Street for other shopping ideas; drop in at the Golden Acorn (at 106 South West St.) for gifts and decorations; and enjoy the HO-gauge model train collection on display in the former Loudy's store!

This year's Downtown Bellevue ornament will again have the Downtown logo; and on the reverse, the 'Sandusky' engine, from a print loaned by Bill Oddo. It's a strictly limited edition. Only 110 ornaments are made, so get yours early. Jim Andrews, our local artist who designed the logo, will hold 2 signing sessions.

Historical Item Found



Are you in need of some dental work? Mary Palmstrom recently donated this dental instrument. The tool says HIGGINS DENTAL MFG. CO. on one side and BELLEVUE, O. PAT. PND. on the other. The upstairs apartment of John and Judy Miller was once the dental office of Doctor Higgins.

The Bellevue Historical Society

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We hope you had a good
Thanksgiving.

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Visit our web site:

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Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for
a Happy and Prosperous New Year!