



The Historical Society Chronicle

February 2024

Trivia Corner

Can you guess what this is?



Answer at bottom of newsletter.

Happy Leap Day

We hope you have a wonderful plan to take advantage of this extra day that only comes once every four years.

Fun Fact: "It takes approximately 365.25 days for Earth to orbit the Sun —

a solar year. We usually round the days in a calendar year to 365. To make up for the missing partial day, we add one day to our calendar approximately every four years. That is a leap year," according to NASA.

Village Happenings

School tours are already being booked for 2024 and volunteer docents will be needed to help with the tours. Please consider volunteering. Please contact our volunteer coordinator Megan Martin at 614-565-3210 or nutmegoh50@aol.com.

Teacher's Tea will be held Saturday, March 19th, 1-3 PM at the Museum. This will be held for area retired teachers to show them our volunteer opportunities. The event coordinator is Kathy Chandler (614-620-1135) https://kathy_chandlerhohs@hotmail.com

Spring Cleaning of the village will need to be done. Ed Olenhouse (614-312-6263) eehouse@yahoo.com has organized a couple cleaning sessions, Saturday, April 6th and Sunday, April 7th. Please volunteer to help – “many hands make light work”

Docent training will take place Saturday Apr 20, 2024 · 10am – 12pm. To sign up contact Kathy Chandler at 614-620-1135 or https://kathy_chandlerhohs@hotmail.com or Megan Martin at 614-565-3210 or nutmegoh50@aol.com.

Walking Tour of Old Hilliard will take place Saturday, May 18th starting at 10 AM at the Historical Society Library, 5274 Norwich St. Our resident historian Tim Woodruff will be the tour guide. He will provide an educational and entertaining tour. Space is limited and on a first come-first served basis. You can reserve a spot at our website HilliardOhioHistoricalSociety.com. The fee is \$10 per person.

Profiles in Stewardship



Dawn Steele

Dawn Steele, prosecutor and staff attorney for the city of Hilliard, is Vice President of the Hilliard Ohio Historical Society. She became involved and became an expert on the Merchant family that is highlighted in the museum after researching potential names for a new city park. She went on to create the museum's Merchant Family exhibit.

[Read More about Dawn](#)

Black History Month



Black History Display in the Museum

The Hilliard Historical Society wants to further share black history in the Hilliard area as part of Black History Month. Ohio was established as part of the Virginia Military District where soldiers were often “paid” with land but many of them had fruitful land in the colonial states and no desire to move to the wilderness of Ohio.

This land became available for freed slaves looking for a place to make their home and remain free, some of which were gifted the land from their previous owner. From 1820-1830, several families of freed slaves made the challenging journey by wagon from Virginia and made their home in the area.

The African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church knew that for freed slaves to prosper they needed an education system, so they bought 172 acres of land on Roberts Road in Brown Township for freed slaves to live as farmers and be educated.

In 1847, Bishop John M. Brown along with Mrs. Frances E. Watkins Harper (first black woman to publish a short story) began providing advanced education for blacks at Union Seminary in Brown Township until 1858 when financial issues caused closure and transfer all assets to Wilberforce University.

By 1850, there were one-room schools for black children in Mudsock and at the intersection of Norwich and Grove Streets near the eventual site of the Hilliard AME Church. In 1875, Hilliard’s segregated schoolhouses were deteriorating so Hilliard Schools decided to tear them down and build a new consolidated school. The Hilliard Consolidated School, which still stands today as the Freemasons Hall on Main Street, was built in 1878 to

serve children of all races together and Hilliard schools remained integrated throughout history.

The first known black landowner in the area was freed slave Yammer Merchant who settled here with his wife Tabitha and their family after leaving Virginia to maintain freedom. They operated a farm in Norwich Township District 38 in present-day Brookfield Village. The Merchant Family recounts yearly family reunions attended and supported by the entire Hilliard community.

The general store donated flour for baking and candy for the children to enjoy. Neighbors came by and joined in the festivities. The local blacksmith would shoe horses free of charge for family members who traveled to the reunion. It is likely this sense of community and surviving the wilderness together, regardless of race, contributed to the decision to create a consolidated school more than 50 years before the start of the civil rights movement. Black History Month is a great time to reflect on that early black history and focus on carrying forward that sense of community and support.

Submitted by Dawn Steele

Venue Rental

If a wedding or reception is in your future, please keep our venues in mind. We have the Colwell chapel for weddings, the Norwich pavilion for receptions, graduation parties, reunions and more. Our gazebo at the Village is great for music and we have the SBC pavilion for smaller parties. To learn more, go to our website

<https://www.hilliardohiohistoricalsociety.com/>, click on the menu, then click on Venues.

Archival Library

Do you have a question for our archival library? They are open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 10:00AM to 1:30PM or call 614-876-5880 with your questions. You may also contact them by email at [**HilliardOhioHistoricalSociety@gmail.com**](mailto:HilliardOhioHistoricalSociety@gmail.com).

Country Store- (on our website)

We have a variety of **Holiday Greeting Cards** along with other printed materials available. Please go to our website at <https://www.hilliardohiohistoricalsociety.com/>, click on “Visit” in our menu then select “Country Store” to see the selection and prices. Below are a few examples.



Upcoming Events

March Teacher's Tea will be held Saturday, March 19th, 1-3 PM at the Museum. This will be held for area retired teachers to show them our volunteer opportunities. The event coordinator is Kathy Chandler (614-620-1135) [https://kathy_chandlerhohs@hotmail.com](mailto:kathy_chandlerhohs@hotmail.com)

April Spring Cleaning of the village will need to be done. Ed Olenhouse (614-312-6263) eehouse@yahoo.com has organized a couple cleaning sessions, Saturday, April 6th and Sunday, April 7th. Please volunteer to help – “many hands make light work”

April Docent training will take place Saturday Apr 20, 2024 · 10am – 12pm. To sign up contact Kathy Chandler at 614-620-1135 or [https://kathy_chandlerhohs@hotmail.com](mailto:kathy_chandlerhohs@hotmail.com) or Megan Martin at 614-565-3210 or nutmegoh50@aol.com.

May Walking Tour of Old Hilliard - Saturday, May 18th, 10 AM - noon, starts at the Historical Society Library, 5274 Norwich St. Fee is \$10 per person.

June Art & Craft Show – Saturday, June 15th, 10 AM – 3 PM at Weaver Park, featuring local artists with original art. Food and drink available. FREE admission (donations welcome).

A Special Thanks

We want to give a special thanks to our President Emeritus, Tim Woodruff, who has stepped up to take over the HOHS president's duties while our incumbent president, Bob Eggerichs, is out on temporary medical leave healing from various surgeries.

Contact Us

By Mail: Hilliard Ohio Historical Society

5274 Norwich St., Hilliard, OH 43026

By Phone: 614-876-5880

By Email: HilliardOhioHistoricalSociety@gmail.com

By Website: <https://www.hilliardohiohistoricalsociety.com/>

Trivia Corner Answer:



Vintage Hair Clippers

Hair clippers are tools used to cut **hair** very short and close to the **scalp**. Hair clippers work on the same principle as **scissors**, but are distinct from scissors themselves and **razors**. Similar but heavier-duty implements are used to **shear sheep**, but are called handpieces or **machine shears**. Hair clippers are made up of a pair of **sharpened comb**-like blades in close contact, one above the other, and the sides which slide sideways relative to each other, a **mechanism** which may be manual or electrical to

make the blades **oscillate** from side to side, and handles. The clipper is moved through the hair so that hair is positioned between the teeth of the comb and cut with a scissor action when one blade slides sideways relative to the other. **Friction** between the blades needs to be as low as possible, which is attained by choice of material and finish, and frequent **lubrication**.

Hair clippers are operated by a pair of handles which are alternately squeezed together and released. **Barbers** used them to cut hair close and fast. Such haircuts became popular among boys, mostly in schools, and young men in the **military** and in **prisons**.

Manual clippers were invented around 1855 by **Nikola Bizumić**, a Serbian barber. While they were widely used in the distant past, the advent and reduction in cost of electric hair clippers has led to them largely replacing manual clippers. Some barbers in **Western countries** continue to use them for trimming. They are also used in the **Russian army**: when conscripts enter **boot camp**, they cut their hair close to the skin, sometimes using manual clippers.

Leo J. Wahl invented the first electric hair clipper. He first designed a hand-held **massager** for his uncle, Dr. Frank Wahl. Frank Wahl opened a manufacturing plant in **Sterling, Illinois** to produce and sell Leo's massager. Leo sold massagers to barbers and noticed an opportunity to improve upon the tools barbers were using at the time.

Modern electric clippers often come with "guards". The guards can be attached to the blade to determine how short the hair will be cut. The largest guard is often a #8, which leaves the hair an **inch** long (**25mm**). The smallest guard is a #1, which cuts the hair to 3mm. When there is no guard, the clipper completely **shaves** the hair.

Source: Wikipedia

To see manual hair clippers in use click on <https://youtu.be/uii4GN2ESbU?si=eXhT8HmapfLyfDG7>



Hilliard Historical Society | 5274 Norwich St., Hilliard, OH 43026

[Unsubscribe bibleka@gmail.com](mailto:unsubscribe_bibleka@gmail.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent byhilliardohiohistoricalsociety@gmail.compowered by



Try email marketing for free today!