VOL 4 ISSUE 6 NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2021

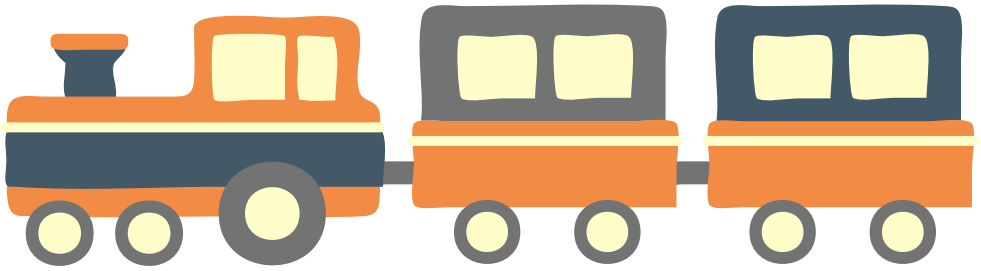
The Time Traveler

Scioto County Past and Present

By Kaitlin Setty

Local History Toy Drive

Join us for our annual toy drive as we collect new toys and clothing for children for Christmas. We are once again working with Operation Grace to help local school aged children in Scioto County.
You can bring toys to the main library or any of our branch locations at Lucasville, New Boston, South Webster, or Wheelersburg.
Toy pickup will be December 6, 2021.



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Tween Programs

Limited Space

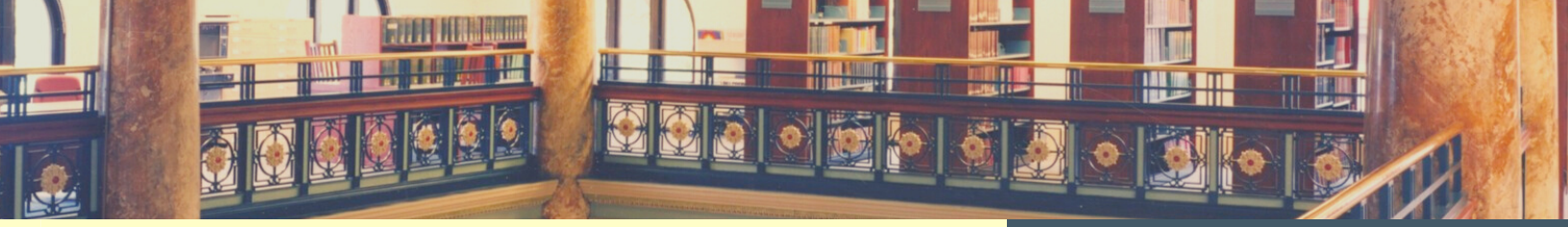
Please contact Local History at 740-354-5304 to register

November 9, 2021 at 4 pm
Autumn Fox

November 18, 2021 at 4:30 pm
Wooden Block Turkey

December 7, 2021 at 4 pm
Pasta Ornament

December 9, 2021 at 4:30 pm
BB-8 Star Wars Ornament



Timeless Treasure:
Scioto County Medical Society Visits Indiana

Our November/ December Treasures is this black and white photo from June 15-17, 1983. Pictured are members visiting Eli Lilly Pharmaceutical Company in Indianapolis. Dr. Frank Mynes, Jean Sheets, Dr. Jerome Sheets, a Lilly Rep, Lilly Rep, Don Gilner, Mrs. Kulscar, and Dr. Kulscar are shown.

Guests of Eli Lilly and Company SCIOTO COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY PORTSMOUTH, OHIO June 15, 16, 17, 1983

The Legends of Bloody Run

The stream called Bloody Run was located near the hills of Otway, and there are many romanticized tales about how the waterway got its name. One is that a horrific massacre took place near the stream. The blood of the victims ran into the water and turned it crimson. Another story, allegedly set one hundred years ago, tells of a nobleman of the forest who won the affections of one of the settlers, but the girl's father did not approve of the match. They would secretly meet by the stream in question. One day, the couple was resting beneath the tree's branches discussing trivial things when a man suddenly came up behind the girl, pulled her hair back, and slit her throat. Her body fell into the stream, thus giving it the name Bloody Run. Rumors spread that the girl's spirit remained near the waterway, and that she was always searching for the back part of her hair that her murderer tugged out when he jerked her head back to expose her throat. Another tale claims that in 1839, a hunter was traveling through the nearby woods. He encountered a bear, and they had a scuffle. The bear dragged him down into the stream, and just before it was about to eat him, the man's hunting companion came upon the scene. He quickly removed his rifle and killed the bear. Unfortunately, the hunter beneath the bear's paws died as well. The river ran red with the combined blood, and was then called Bloody Run.

Who am I?

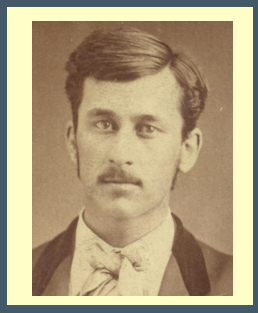
Clue 1: I was born on October 9, 1851, near Piketon, Ohio.

Clue 2: I attended school in Pike County, then the Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware, Ohio.

Clue 3: I settled in Portsmouth in 1872 and went into business with the J. M. Rumsey & Co. until 1875.

Clue 4: I was a member of the legislature of Pike County from 1888-1890 and even attempted to run for governor, though I never reached the nomination.

Clue 5: I was made the aid-de-camp with the title of Colonel by Governor Bushell and serve during both his terms.



Hold your copy up to a mirror to view the answer!

Rutherford B. Hayes

Do you know this place?

Clue 1: This place is a small settlement on Turkey Creek.

Clue 2: It used to be a noted location for cooper shops in Scioto County.

Clue 3: It is located in Nile Township.

Clue 4: In the early 1800s, this area had a single post office called Bradford.

Clue 5: Al Bridwell, a famous Major League Baseball player, was born here on January 4, 1884.

Clue 6: According to the 2010 Census, this place had a population of 351.

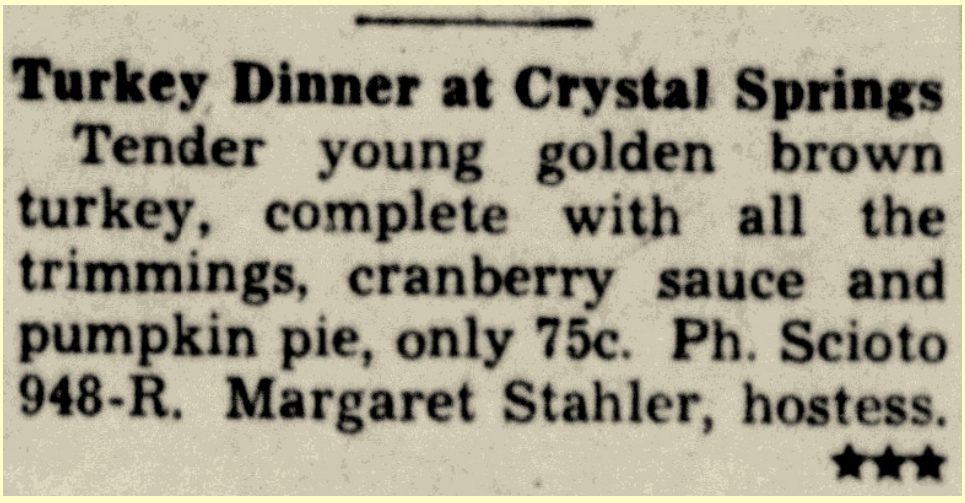
Answer in the next issue!

Mysterious Grave in "Wilds" of Scioto County Holds Secret

Known as the lonely grave in western Scioto County, a small grave was located along the right bank of Twin Creek in Dead Man Hollow. This area actually got its name from the grave. Inscribed upon the stone is the words "H. T. Aug. 13, 1824. A. D. Dead M." While no one had been able to solve the puzzle of who the stone was referring to, there were many theories, but one has become more popular than the others. Mr. Stockham, local resident, claims that the story of a traveling salesman coming to Scioto County has been passed down through the years. It was thought that he sold items around Buena Vista and was eventually directed to take his items to a foot trail to upper Turkey Creek. The way was marred by hills, so there was some speculation that perhaps tumbling down one of these was how the traveler met his death. That, however, was never recorded. Mr. Stockham, though, has his own ideas about what occurred. He thinks that maybe the salesman was venturing out in the hills after dark and was set upon by rogues and murdered. This made people believe that Dead Man Hollow was haunted. Further adding to this speculation was a tale that claimed that years later, the flood waters washed over the grave and revealed a large bag of jewelry from beneath the dirt. The gravesite remained a mystery, according to the Portsmouth Daily Times Article from where this information was retrieved.

How much was a Turkey Dinner in 1938?

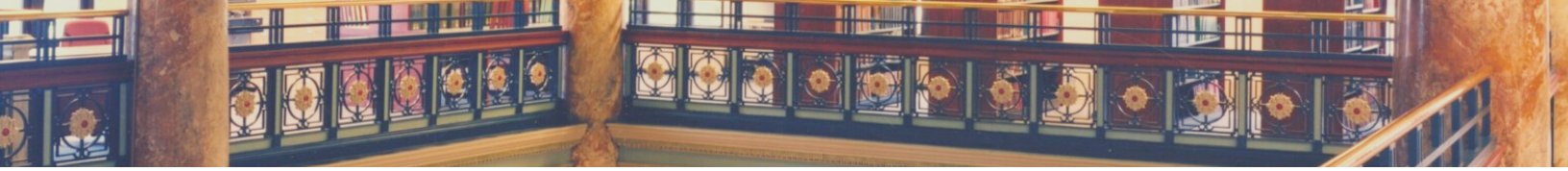
Portsmouth Daily Times, November 23, 1938



Turkey Dinner at Crystal Springs
Tender young golden brown turkey, complete with all the trimmings, cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie, only 75c. Ph. Scioto 948-R. Margaret Stahler, hostess.
★★★

Louisiana Moore Ricker Diary Entry from Wednesday, December 25, 1896

Wednesday, December 25th, 1895
Weather mild as spring. I closed up the fire place yesterday in the sitting room before putting up the Christmas tree and had the windows open when sweeping. Today does not seem at all like Christmas. We did not rise early as we did when the children were small, they, like ourselves, enjoy an extra nap and can wait for the surprises until a reasonable hour. Margaret sat up late last night and put what presents she could find on the tree, after Mary had decorated it. The tree was an unusually large one which Miss Bowman had used in her school and given to us. After breakfast we gathered about the tree and found that every one had been well remembered. I had some beautiful writing paper from Miss Bessie, a beautiful handkerchief from Jennie and one from Clara Ricker made by herself, I think. Carl had ordered a patent burner for the gas, but it had not come. Carl gave each of the three girls a silver bracelet, he and Margaret worked and planned together and bought several things together. We were all at home to dinner which we enjoyed very much. It being Wednesday there was prayer-meeting but I was not feeling well enough to go which I regretted as Jas. (James). Is so seldom here to go with us now. He and the girls went without me. Altogether we had a very pleasant day.



Local Mystery: Murder on Tygart Creek

In October of 1894, Edward Perry vanished in the waters of Tygart Creek near Bennett's Mill in Greenup County, Kentucky. Several days after he disappeared, Perry's body was found in the creek by two local fishermen. There was a rope tied twice around his body. It was tightly secured to a heavy rock beneath the surface, successfully weighing down Perry's body and drowning him in the water. Many speculated that it was suicide, but investigators quickly dismissed the idea. The knots were tied too tightly to have been done by someone bobbing beneath the surface of the water. The rope was new, making it nearly impossible to tie a knot tight enough. Someone else had to have done it. This assessment was further aided when Perry's cause of death was discovered. Coroner's found a deep wound on the left side of Perry's head. This led them to conclude that he was killed before being tied in the water. Was it someone Perry knew? Or was some unknown assailant to blame for the murder? Police began to investigate.

Circumstantial evidence led to warrants of arrest to be issued to three men. Each one had some connection to Edward Perry. They were John Walker, Thad Bennett, and William Rice. There was rumored to be bitter feelings between Perry and the men, as he was alleged to have unsavory relations with two of their wives: Mrs. Bennett and Mrs. Rice. In fact, the day before his disappearance, Perry was discovered with Mrs. Bennett "combing her hair for her," (Portsmouth Daily Times, October 27, 1894). Bennett then made several threats against Perry, thus calling into question his involvement with Perry's sudden disappearance a few days later. The same was said of William Rice, as he too had made threats against Perry because he had been found spending time with Mrs. Rice, whom Perry had been intimate with before her marriage. This amount of evidence was enough to have the men taken to the Greenup County Jail. They were held there but then released due to the lack of evidence for the case.

Excitement soon began to wane on the case. Months passed with no leads. Then, years went by. Still nothing new had emerged. Then, an article ran in the Portsmouth Daily Times on June 11, 1897. It was entitled "Confessed on his Death-Bed to the Murder of Edward Perry." The contents of the article first laid out a brief summary of the case. Then, it claimed that the murderer of Edward Perry had written a confession letter before he died. That person was a man named Andrew Waddell.

Waddell had been living on a farm in Greenup County after coming from Virginia in 1894. He and Edward Perry were both members of the Order of the Mules, an organization similar to the Masons. Soon, the two men struck up a friendship, but things quickly turned sour. The day before Perry's murder, he had come to Waddell's home to demand repayment for a debt of $100 that Waddell owed him. An argument ensued, and Perry left saying he was going to go to Plum Church. Believing that the argument was over and done with, Perry went to service as usual. Unbeknownst to him, Waddell was lying in wait on the path that Perry normally traveled on after church. When the service ended, Perry made his way along the path. Waddell met him, and the two men walked into the forest along Tygart Creek. Once they were under the cover of the trees, Waddell made his move. He struck Perry on the side of the head with a heavy piece of iron he'd carried with him. Perry fell to the ground, instantly unconscious, but was not dead. Waddell surveyed his surroundings, then took a rock lying near by and tied it tightly to Perry's waist. He rolled him into the river, made sure he was secured beneath the water, and then quickly fled the scene.

In his confession letter, Waddell claimed that since the murder, he had suffered untold horrors in his mind. Guilt had made him ill, and he had suffered in silence. He said that he believed that his death, which he had felt coming for a year, was retribution for killing Perry in cold blood. At the end of the letter, he said that upon his death, he was giving all his money to Edward Perry's only sister, who was living in Champaign, Ohio at the time.