

THE ERIE CHRONICLE

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September 2008

"Nothing Left Behind" - A New Look at an Old Murder

Abigail Dobrow, online producer of the Sandusky Register Web site, will present her video "Nothing Left Behind" for the Erie County Historical Society at Grace Episcopal Church on September 21st. The documentary reviews an Erie County murder committed in April of 1968. Victims included the mother, father and daughter of one family. The mystery continues.



Sunday

2:00 p.m.

September 21, 2008

Grace Episcopal Church

315 Wayne St.

Sandusky, Ohio

From the ECHS President

Welcome back to another year of learning about the history of our area. We have some interesting programs planned for you. They are listed in the newsletter.

Since we met last spring, we have been busy. Signs defining the entrances to the Firelands that were made by the Erie County Engineering Department will soon be erected. John Schaeffer is working with the townships on this.

Relda Niederhofer and George L. Mylander have composed text for markers to be placed at Firelands College, Huron and the Firelands Regional Medical Center, Sandusky explaining the history of the Firelands name.

The 1953 Time Capsule will be given to the Follett House Museum of the Sandusky Library so the contents will be available to the public. When

the capsule was buried, all contents were to become property of the historical society when retrieved in fifty years. Later that historical society became the Follett House Museum.

On July 12 during "Venice Days" we helped the people of the past Village of Venice retain their identity by sponsoring and helping dedicate a new historic marker telling their history, at the corner of Route 6 near Margaritaville. This is near the first marker we ever erected, marking the site of Fort Sandusky.

I hope you can all come to our meeting Sept. 21st starting at 2:00 P.M. Guests are always most welcome at our meetings and refreshments will be served.

Janet Senne

Celebrating the Fire Land Bicentennial

Looking ahead to the 2009 anniversary of the territory of the Fire Land, ECHS will erect historic markers at Firelands Regional Medical Center in Sandusky and at Firelands College in Huron, Ohio. We hope to celebrate the Fire Land Bicentennial with dedication of these markers at our May 2009 meeting.

The legend for these markers is offered by Relda Niederhofer and George L. Mylander, approved by the Dean of Firelands College and the Executive Committee of Firelands Regional Medical Center as well as the ECHS Board. The text follows:

The Firelands

The history of the Firelands is linked to the American Revolutionary War. During the British raids of 1777 and 1779 the Connecticut towns of Danbury, East Haven, New Haven, Fairfield, Norwalk, Greenwich, Groton, Ridgefield and New London were destroyed by fire. In 1781 the last British raid was commanded by Benedict Arnold, who had turned traitor. Lives were lost and many resident's homes and shops were burned.

For ten years the townspeople petitioned the General Assembly of Connecticut for relief. The Assembly was sympathetic with their plight but they were unable to make restitution. Finally on May 10, the Connecticut legislature set aside 500,000 acres of land for the sufferers. The tract was in the western most part of the Connecticut Western Reserve in what is now the state of Ohio, named the Fire Sufferers Land or Fire Land. The tract consists of all of the present-day counties of Huron and Erie as well as Danbury Township in Ottawa County and Ruggles Township in Ashland County. Many of the new Firelands communities were named for their Connecticut counterparts.

After thirty years of delay, only a few of the original "Sufferers" were able to move to the new land; most were too old to migrate. Their younger heirs made the move.

New Venice Marker Dedicated

Venice Days in July celebrated the past, when Venice was larger than Sandusky; the present with the unveiling of the Village of Venice historic marker, and the future as they look forward to repeating *Venice Days*. ECHS sanctioned this marker as a project of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Congregation. Photo below: ECHS President Janet Senne speaking at the dedication ceremony.



Knute Rockne Marriage

Recently St. Mary's Alumni News recognized Gary Erney for his effort in the historic marker project commemorating the marriage of legendary Notre Dame football coach Knute Rockne on July 15, 1914 at the rectory of Sts. Peter & Paul Church, Columbus Ave. in Sandusky. The marker was dedicated May 18th with Knute's granddaughter Anne present.

Annual Dinner Meeting

Plan ahead for our annual meeting at the Sandusky Yacht Club on November 16th. Becky Hill, Head Librarian at the Hayes Center in Fremont will present a program on "German Roots of Area Residents".

ECHS Marker Program

Our March meeting will be at Grace Episcopal Church. Ida Teasel will do a program on the history of this project, including our recently published brochure.

Erie County Historical Society
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