

WHAT HAPPENED TO 2020?

We were so disappointed that we had to cancel all our activities. We had tours and speakers lined up – this was going to be a banner year. Then COVID-19 hit. And, well, you know the rest. No group events, heck, we even had a tough time leaving the house. But, hope spring eternal and we look forward to a much better 2021. We aren't even going to begin to schedule any events until spring of next year, so be sure to check out Facebook page, our website and watch for our Summer newsletter for up to date information.

OUR ANNUAL MEETING – NOVEMBER 15

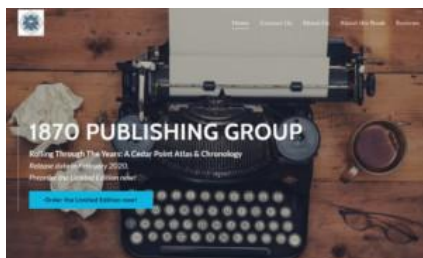
Unfortunately, this meeting, as has many others, has been downsized to a Zoom meeting. The Board will meet in person (with appropriate social distancing and masks) at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 15, at the Sandusky Yacht Club. There will be no speaker, and we will send out info on how to access the Zoom meeting the week of November 2. But never fear – if you aren't tech savvy, we will also recap it in our January membership renewal letter.

FACEBOOK – We are fast approaching 600 followers and last month our posts reached 2,000 people! We would like to acknowledge the Sandusky Library for their [History Blog](#). This remarkable resource contains hundreds of stories about our past. These always offer an interesting glimpse into this county's past and we try to share them all on our Facebook page: Erie County Historical Society (the one with the historic marker).

SUPPORT OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS



THE GOODTIME I - A Great Lake Day, begins with a cruise aboard *The Goodtime I* - a family owned business, providing luxury cruises along the Sandusky Bay, to Kelleys Island and to Put-in-Bay. They offer both public cruises as well as private events, to help make your summer on Lake Erie everything you could imagine, and more! info@goodtimeboat.com
<http://www.goodtimeboat.com/> 419.625.9692



THE 1870 PUBLISHING GROUP - If you go back in time a hundred years ago, the roller coasters were an afterthought. Cedar Point in the early days was all about getting away to the beach, catching a live show in the Ballroom, socializing on the Hotel Breakers porch, or having a fine picnic with your co-workers. Sure, the resort had roller coasters. And Ferris wheels. And haunted houses. And carousels. But these weren't the focus. **Rolling Through The Years** is a look

back across time at the development and changes at the Worlds' Greatest Amusement Park. Author Ken Miller has spent the last seven years exploring the history of the resort. Magazine articles, museum archives, and over 100,000 newspaper articles spanning 200 years were examined for this detailed history of Cedar Point. Over 75 historical maps of the peninsula and over 1200 images are included in the book. Click [HERE](#) for more info

ERIE COUNTY AND SLAVERY, AND THOSE WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE

Setting aside the fact that Erie County played a major part in the Underground Railroad, there were some pretty significant events, locations and people who supported the cause. Here are some items from the [Sandusky Library History Blog](#). We know these photos are small – but if you click on the links, you’ll be able to read the entire article and view more and larger pictures.



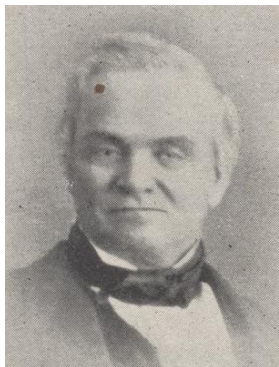
[Anti-Slavery Meeting at the Courthouse in Sandusky on March 6, 1844](#)

On March 6, 1844, at 6:30 p.m., ladies and gentlemen of Sandusky were invited to an anti-slavery meeting to be held at the Erie County Courthouse, which at that time was located on the east side of Columbus Avenue, just west of what is now Adams Junior High School. The names of fifty seven individuals appeared in the Sandusky Clarion.

[Sophronia Jefferson, Former Slave](#) - An article in the November 15,

1924 Sandusky Star Journal gives an account of local resident Sophronia Jefferson. Sophronia was born in Kentucky in 1842 “under the bonds of slavery.” She and her family moved to Indiana after the Civil War, where she worked for the Patterson family. (Mrs.

Patterson’s daughter married into the Van Camp family, which was well known for its canning business.) In 1868, Mrs. Jefferson moved to Margaretta Township where she was employed by a Dr. Gideon. Eventually she relocated to Sandusky ...Mrs. Jefferson discussed how during the Civil War slaves barely knew any of the events which were taking place in the free Northern states. News and rumors of news were brought by peddlers, mail carriers, and travelers. Sophronia states that Lincoln’s name was forbidden to be spoken to anyone of color. She said that the biggest event in her life was news of the emancipation in 1862. The second big event in her life was the news of Lee’s surrender in 1865.



[Joseph M. Root, Anti-Slavery Activist](#) - Joseph M. Root was born in

Cayuga County, New York in 1807, and moved to Ohio in 1829. Mr. Root was Sandusky’s Mayor in 1832 and 1833. In 1837 he was the prosecuting attorney of Huron County. Mr. Root was Representative to Congress from Ohio in the 29th, 30th, and 31st U.S. Congresses, and also served as a member of the Ohio State Senate for several terms.

By 1850, the Root family was living in Sandusky, Ohio. Rush Sloane, in an address to the Firelands Historical Society, named J. M. Root among the “early and earnest friends” on the Underground Railroad in the Firelands. In 1848, Joseph M. Root had introduced a [resolution to Congress](#) which recommended that New Mexico and California have Territorial governments, but slavery was to be excluded in those new territories.

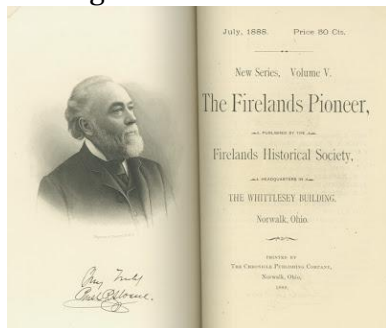
It has long been believed that the Root home at 231 East Adams Street was a “safe house” during the Underground Railroad. The Root home is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



THE ERIE CHRONICLE – This was the name of the original newsletter of the Erie County Historical Society. The newsletters were brief, often reporting exhibits from museums in the area, some interesting tidbits, and showcase the very wide variety of speakers that we attracted. You can read them all online [HERE](#).

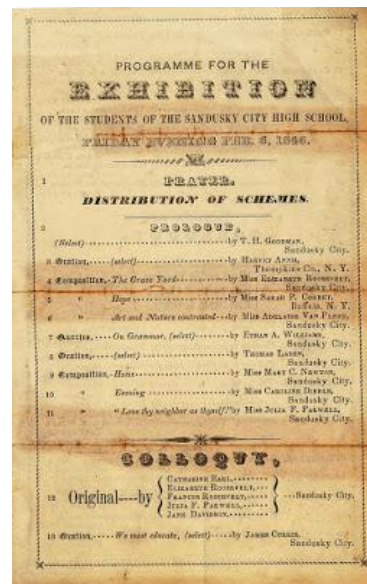
[George J. Reynolds, Carriage Maker and Underground Railroad Conductor](#) - Though there is not much personal information known about George J. Reynolds, his name has long been connected with the activities of the Underground Railroad in Sandusky, Ohio. He was an active conductor on the Underground Railroad, making the vital connections between the individuals seeking freedom and the persons in Sandusky who helped them achieve that goal. He showed an incredible amount of courage and determination for the cause of freedom.

WANTED at the new Carriage Shop, a good workman. Cash will be paid for such workman. Shop on Market street, between Jackson and Columbus Avenue, where can be found constant employment. **G. J. REYNOLDS.**
Sandusky City, March 18, 1851. dif



Rush Sloane's address on the "Underground Railroad in the Firelands" is found in the July 1888 issue of the "Firelands Pioneer." Sloane gives an account of the anti-slavery operations of several Erie and Huron County residents, including G. J. Reynolds. Leading officials of Sandusky, lawyers, ship captains, business owners, ministers, and many unnamed individuals all played a part in the clandestine activities necessary to aiding the fugitives make their way safely to Canada.

[Exhibition of the Students of the Sandusky City High School in 1846](#) - On Friday evening, February 6, 1846, students at the Sandusky City High School gave an Exhibition. Orations and compositions were presented throughout the evening." An oration on the topic of slavery was presented by Francis E. Parish, the son of well-known Sandusky lawyer and abolitionist, F. D. Parish. Mr. F.D. Parish had been elected as one of the school directors in 1838.



Two of the students listed on the last page of the program are of interest. Edmund G. Ross went on to become a U.S. Senator for the state of Kansas. He is known for casting the vote which acquitted Andrew Johnson during his impeachment trial in 1868, and he was one of the subjects of the book Profiles in Courage, the book co-authored by John F. Kennedy and Theodore Sorensen in 1956. During the 1846 Exhibition, Edmund G. Ross gave an oration on capital punishment. Richard R. Sloane, better known as Rush Sloane, gave his oration on the topic of the nineteenth century. Rush Sloane became a railroad official, Mayor of Sandusky, and was the owner of the Sloane House, a hotel that stood in Sandusky from 1881 until well into the twentieth century.

[The Liberty Party in Erie County](#) - According to the Firelands Pioneer, attorney F.D. Parish was the unsuccessful candidate for the Liberty Party in the 1844 Election. He had hoped to be elected to the 28th U.S. Congress. Hewson L. Peeke wrote in his book Standard History of Erie County, I (Lewis Pub. Co., 1916) that Parish helped to organize the Liberty Party in Erie County. This announcement appeared in the Sandusky Clarion on September 26, 1845.



F. D. Parish

"Liberty men" were instructed to assemble at Berlin Center on October 10, 1845, for the purpose of renewing and increasing the efforts to redeem the country from "the disgrace of the system of American slavery,

LIBERTY MASS MEETING.
By request of many Liberty men, the Liberty Central Committee of Erie Co. hereby appoint a mass meeting of the friends of constitutional liberty and equal rights, to be held at Berlin Center on Friday the 10th of October next, at 10 A. M. A large meeting is urgently invited and expected. No reasonable efforts will be spared to procure the attendance of able speakers from abroad. The domination and insolence of slaveholders call for renewed and increased efforts to redeem the country from the curse and disgrace of the system of American slavery, and to extend the "blessings of Liberty" to all the people of the land. Remember the "gentlemen" mobocrats of Lexington, Ky., and the Virginia kidnapers of Parkersburgh, and come up "en masse" to the gathering.
J. N. DAVIDSON,
R. J. JENNINGS,
F. D. PARISH,
JOSIAH FOWLER,
ORRIN ANDREWS,
Committee.
Sept. 22d, 1845.

and to extend the blessings of liberty to all the people of the land.”

The names of the 62 members of the Liberty Party in Erie County were listed in the May 28, 1849 issue of the Sandusky Clarion. Several of these individuals were also active participants in the Underground Railroad.

OUR WALKING TOURS ARE ONLINE - One of the events everyone really missed this year was the very popular Underground Railroad tour. These have become so well-attended that we often conduct two at the same time, led by different, very knowledgeable people. This and quite a few other walking tours can be found on our website: [Enjoy a walking tour](#). This is a great way to explore Sandusky, Kelleys Island, Milan and some other places without leaving your house. Other tours can be found under the Museums & Historic Sites tab as we discover more communities posting them.

SOME OF THE WIDE-VARIETY OF QUESTIONS WE ANSWERED

We don't always have the answer, but we usually know who does. We refer people to the various history museums, the Sandusky Library, and we post their queries on our Facebook page (Erie county Historical Society – the one with the historic marker). It is always interesting to read the responses. Here are some of the more unusual ones we received: Erie County Children's Home history, Cedar Point – Island or peninsula, Artist Drell Laubert, Ottawa Co. research and probate records, Info on Philip Neunan (map of Erie Co. 1863), Knute Rockne's time in Sandusky, Hobbs & Meyer (actually Herb & Myer) store c1904, History of 709 Washington St. bldg, Hudson Motor Co. & Frank Spring, Jacob Holzaepfel – died 1864, Captain Vessey and Kelleys Island., Cooke Bldg upper floor-performance halls on 2nd & 3rd floors, History of Volunteer Bay – Vermilion, Cement street in Castalia, History of Kerber's Grocers on First & McEwen Sts Sandusky, Frank Spring-Courier Motor Co., How did Wayne St get its name?, Info on Maple Grove Cemetery-Vermilion, Esmond Dairy (1955), Swiss architect Ulrich Mueller who lived in Sandusky 1850, Genealogy on Mulherin & O'Brien, History of a Milan home, History of Clyde house (Sandusky Co.), Jacob Hoelzer, House & Saloon, Wayne St., Brady Is. in Lake Erie

Little More about Pastor Ohly - We love it when our members come through with a suggestion or an answer. We posted your query in our Fall newsletter and got this response from Charles David: "If you don't have this info already - Nelson Ohly had a drug store at Columbus & Adams right across from our original SHS. He was the great-great-great (I think that many) of Pastor Ohly. Pastor was only here about 2 years and then went back to Germany." The response? "Phillip Ohly also had a pharmacy in Sandusky. Herman was a lawyer and Hugo Jr. was a mail bag thief, but I could never find anything about Herman the pastor. Thanks again"

THE HOLIDAYS - *Sandusky Register, November 30, 1869* – “Dealers in all sorts of goods are preparing for the holidays; the little folks are counting the days that intervene between now and the Merry Christmas time; business and professional men look forward to the beginning of the new year hopefully, anticipating a revival of business, and perhaps, the settlement of unpaid balances; young ladies are wishing that Christmas would come, wondering what presents they will receive, and scanning the future with eager eyes that see pleasure, merriment, and in some cases matrimony, in the vista of holiday week, while the young gentlemen are looking after the details of coming dances and parties, buying skating outfits for “threading the mazes” on the frozen surface of the Bay, and wishing for a fall of snow and a moonlit sleigh ride with *her*.

Everybody expects to have a good time, and many are the plans already sketched out for pleasure trips and visits. National holidays preserve the national good humor and content, and the merry Christmas and happy New Year bring pleasant memories, if nothing else, to all.

But this is not what we intended to say at the commencement. As the buying season is about commencing we desire to call attention to the attractive articles and good bargains offered by our advertisers. Advertised rhymes with patronized, the two go together, in fact, as well as poetry. “Those who are widest advertised, Are always the best patronized.” And he who does not know this, deserves not the title of “business man.”