

Well, this certainly has been a busy year for us. We finally rebounded from those Covid years and once again held some fun events.



OUR ANNUAL MEETING – *The deadline for reservations is November 8-and you can order your tickets online or by check) and you probably got your invitation already).*

Tickets are \$40 each for Members and \$45 each for Non-Members (but, really, for just \$10 you can become a Member!). You can order your tickets online [HERE](#) on our website) or send a check to confirm your reservation

(make sure you include your name, email and mailing address). *Make checks payable to* Erie County Historical Society and mail to our Secretary: Leslie Korenko, P O Box 525, Kelleys Island OH 43438. If you have any questions – our email is echsohio@outlook.com

Dinner - We will have that magnificent Commodore Buffet with house salad, dinner rolls, coffee, hot tea, iced tea, carved top sirloin, seafood scampi, green beans almondine, roasted redskins, and veggie pasta and the Sandusky Yacht Club's famous bread pudding.

Speaker – This will be an exciting program as Will Cummings presents “E W Roberts and the early days of aviation in Sandusky”. Make sure to check out our [website page](#) for some great vintage pictures to peak your interest along with links to order your tickets online.

Program/Time at the Sandusky Yacht Club

- 5:00 Social hour (cash bar),
- 5:30 A very short business meeting and Board meeting
- 6:00 Buffet dinner, with dessert served at the table
- 7:00 Speaker program
- 8:00 Silent Auction bidding concludes

EVENTS – Even though we had to cancel an event or two, we were still quite busy this year.



Leslie Korenko did a presentation about Kelleys Island at one of the Sandusky Library's Lunch & Learn events. Randy Koch (L) - Randy presented a program: The 'Great Escape' That Never Happened, the Story of the 1864 Attempted Escape from Johnson's Island. Lou Schultz (Middle) – Talked about the 1819 Murder of John Wood & George Bishop by three Ottawa Indians, their Capture, Escape, Recapture, Trail & Subsequent Execution in Norwalk. Mike Gilbert (R) – Gave a great presentation on the life of Rutherford B. Hayes.

OLD NEWS - June 28, 1894 - Medicine Men - Chief Spotted Horse, better known as Geo. Squires, the Indian Medicine Man, accompanied by his wife and two sons, John Grey Horse and Jake Big Trees, arrived in the city Monday from Beaver Falls Pa. They have pitched their tents on Townsend green at the corner of Scott and Wayne streets and are selling an Indian medicine. So far they have been quite successful with their sales and the medicine is reported as being very good for the diseases they specify.



BOAT TOUR CANCELLED—September 21 was the date for a Sunset Cruise of Johnson’s Island, Cedar Point, and Marblehead & Lakeside. Unfortunately, we did not have enough people and the cruise was cancelled. We think we’ll try again next year. Maybe it was a good thing since just 2 days later, the *Goodtime* had engine problems on a trip to Kelleys Island

HURON STUDENTS EXCELL IN HISTORY

■ On April 22, seven Huron High School students will head to Delaware, Ohio, to Ohio Wesleyan University to participate in the Ohio History Day competition. All students researched and created a presentation around the theme "Frontiers in History."

Three Huron teams advance out of the Region 2 state competition in the exhibit category including Grant Bauer and Joseph Schaeffer (V-2 Rocket: The Frontier Breaker of Space), Jehrod Smith and Benjamin Harkelroad (Bismark and the Founding of the German Nation) and Reece Kieffer and Owen Mueller (Technology Throughout the Stars).

Additionally, Huron student Rachel Merckens will compete in the individual documentary category on the topic "Privacy: Right, or Just Respect? The Legal Frontier of Privacy in American Legal Theory."

Seven Huron High School students moved forward towards the finals for Ohio History Day. Great write up in the Register. Several schools participated including Huron, Vermilion, Galion and Hillsdale.



MARK GROSS LAW

WE WELCOME NEW BUSINESS MEMBER MARK GROSS LAW - A

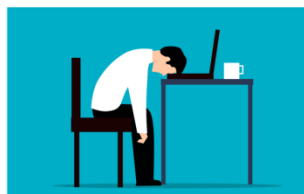
virtual law office providing timely and high quality legal services including: *Estate Planning & Probate* (Estate & Succession Planning, Wills & Trusts, and Probate Estate & Trust Administration). *Business* (Small Business & Startups, Limited Liability

Companies & Corporations, Contracts & Business Transactions, Liquor Permits). *Real Estate* (Residential & Commercial, Purchase Agreements & Leases, Development & Owners Associations, Real Estate Tax & Zoning Matters). Mark Gross Law LLC, 419-609-5000 <http://www.grosslaw.net/>

FACEBOOK – We are now following all the local history groups – which makes sharing all the exciting stuff that is happening in Erie County so much easier. We



also have an Event page on our website where we try to list all the big events coming up (but Facebook is always the best place as so much occurs on short notice). If you don’t already, Join the 1200 people who Follow Us to keep on top of new, events and fun historical stuff. You can also visit our [Events & Tours](#) page.



OUR NEW (OLD) WEBSITE - You might have noticed that our website was acting up in July. We moved our web presence over to another host, saving lots of money, providing more security and updates, and giving us more control of the content, but, as you can imagine, all did not go well. It took a couple of weeks, with items slowly coming online (most problems occurred with images,

documents and links), but we finally got it all (OK, mostly) straightened out. So if you see missing things, bad links or something that just doesn’t look right, copy the page address and send us an [email](#) with that link and the problem. Leslie says she will jump right on it! Did you know – our website has 67 pages, 109 sub pages (or posts) and 1600 media items (documents & photos). Yes, it is a massive [website](#). If you haven’t looked at it recently, have some fun Exploring!!! There’s a lot to see. Oh, and we fixed the Search problem – now when you search it will show ALL the pages that your topic appears on, instead of just the main pages.

CITY SUFFERS \$400,000 FIRE LOSS

SCHMIDT BLOCK, HOUSING FIVE STORES, DESTROYED; HELP QUICKLY SENT

Losses On Stocks Heavy

Losses incurred in the fire were reckoned and spoken of optimistically by those who suffered most. The loss was roughly estimated at \$900,000, including the buildings all owned by the Schmidt estate, and the merchants who occupied the store rooms, while the insurance will amount to about \$220,000. The new Schmidt block at the east end of the block, which was just recently occupied, is not insured at all, and it was seriously threatened.

The furniture store of Dilgart and Bittner was completely gutted and was a replica of the one which destroyed the store when located in the next block west, where the Uhlman store now stands. That fire occurred in February, 1907. The loss from the present fire was estimated at \$45,000, with two-thirds insurance.

The J. H. Herman furniture store was destroyed and while the exact loss could not be learned it was said that a large shipment of stock just received would bring the total up to at least \$40,000. Mr. Herman will realize about one-half insurance.

The clothing and shoe store of Morris Nobil, which was the first to be destroyed, was nothing but a mass of charred ruins when firemen declared the danger past. Mr. Nobil estimated his loss at about \$50,000, stating that he had just recently received his complete stock for the summer business. "I have about one-half insurance," said Nobil.

The Bismark cafe, owned by the B. J. Sexton Co., adjoining the new Schmidt block, was ruined at a loss of about \$15,000, according to the manager, Conrod Kreimes. The fire spread rapidly into this section of the block from the Nobil store and the only thing saved was the large electric sign in front.

The J. J. Healy drygoods store was the last to take fire and while it was not so seriously burned as the others the loss is placed at about \$20,000, largely due to smoke and water, with 80 percent insurance. The Bowser and Sharp store on the second floor incurred a loss of about \$5,000 on furniture and stock. Much stock was removed.

When the wind shifted to due east after the fire had gained full headway in the Schmidt block it was feared that the flames would spread to the Cohn, Herb and Myers and Scheuer stores in the next block west, but only the awnings were burned. Part of the fire department responded to a call from the rear of the Knox store but no blaze was found except a few

sparks smouldering on the concrete ruins of the Mahala block.

The barn in the rear of the Wassner saloon, owned by Philip Wassner, was totally destroyed with its contents, of hay, several light wagons and two buggies. Damage was not estimated. Practically no insurance.

The Wassner saloon and residence, owned by Wassner, was not badly damaged by fire. Water and smoke did considerable damage to the rear of the residence. Two-thirds of this entire property is covered by insurance.

The residence adjacent to the Wassner saloon, owned by Philip Wassner occupied by Mrs. Etta W. Brown, was not damaged by fire. Water and smoke caused a light loss.

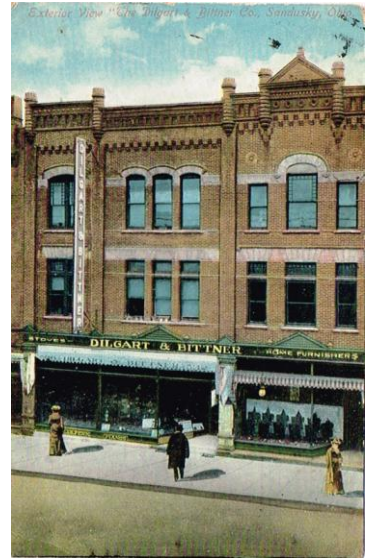
The garage of Dr. C. R. Knobler, in the rear of his residence on Wayne-st., was totally destroyed. Paint on the house was badly scorched, and repainting will be necessary and there was slight damage to the roof. Loss estimated close to \$100. Insurance, half of loss.

The fire began to yield to the hard fighting at 10:15 and within the next half hour appeared to be under full control.

Spruts of flame, however, prevented any official from making a positive declaration that the battle was won, and at 10:45, the third floor ceilings on the west end of the ruined building gave trouble. Flames shot through the windows and another line of hose was added to the two that had already been placed. George Upp, express wagon driver, handled one nozzle and held his position in the face of a blasting heat. The pressure of water, at times, appeared to drop and then pick up with a force that nearly jerked the firemen from their dangerous position, high above the heads of the crowd of spectators.

Police, members of both the night and day force, were doing emergency work and in many cases, were compelled to use force to keep people back of the fire lines. The lines were early established but hundreds broke through them.

City Manager Ward was on the scene soon after the alarm was first sounded, making the trip in the police patrol. He directed the work when the blaze was yet confined to the small barn. He later surrendered his place of authority to Fire Chief Hegemer, but throughout the hours of fighting, he kept in close touch with the small army of firemen.



Read more about the Schmidt Building [HERE](#).

SUPPORT OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS



FIRELANDS ADVENTURE TOURS - Seasoned tour guides pick you up at Jackson Street Pier, the heart of downtown Sandusky's vibrant waterfront neighborhood, where your journey begins. Discover the hidden truths of the Underground Railroad and learn about the significant role that Sandusky, Ohio played in the lives of so many freedom seekers. Enjoy the Firelands area, Sandusky Bay, and Lake Erie in the comfort of a 20 passenger bus. Life is an adventure!
info@firelandsadventuretours.com

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



HURRICANE MARINE TRANSPORT INC. – Your boat transportation experts. 877-657-9049 - Operating from our home base along the south shore of Lake Erie, from Toledo to Port Clinton and Sandusky to Cleveland and on to Conneaut, our customers have made us the premier marine transportation provider for the entire Great Lakes region.



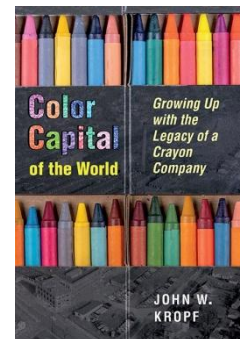
SHORES & ISLANDS OHIO - A place where time moves a little slower, loved ones feel a little closer and there's a Great Lake between you and your worries. From island

hopping to bird watching, record-breaking roller coasters to water parks, wineries to dockside dining, plus hidden gems that keep the fun going all year long. However you like to coast – you'll find it here; event lists, places to explore, and lots more. Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/shoresandislands/>



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. **Rolling Through The Years** by Ken Miller is a look back across time at the development and changes at the World's Greatest Amusement Park. Click [HERE](#).

COLOR CAPITAL OF THE WORLD (THE AMERICAN CRAYON COMPANY) – John Kropf has written a great book about a bit of Sandusky's history. Color Capital of the World – Growing up with the Legacy of a Crayon Company. The story of the American Crayon Co. brings together three innovative families who created a high-successful crayon company to make the city of Sandusky into the Color Capital of the World. 140 pages, several color photos.



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