



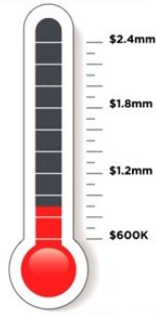
Champaign County Historical Society and Museum
Est. 1934

Jan/Feb 2023

CHAMPAIGN CHRONICLES

\$2.4 MIL. CAPITAL CAMPAIGN OFF TO GREAT START!

Champaign County
Historical Museum
EXPANSION PROJECT



The Capital Campaign Committee consisting of Dave Case, Vince and Sandy Gonzalez, Dan Walter (Chair), and Ken Wright, whose mission is to raise funds for the much-needed modernization and expansion of our museum, began their work this Spring by formulating a campaign strategy and designing marketing materials. Throughout this first year of the campaign the committee has made presentations before a number of organizations and met on an individual basis with both businesses and individuals. So how are we doing so far?

Donate Today!

In addition to the \$600,000 appropriated by the State of Ohio, the museum is in receipt of \$18,400 from businesses, \$50,000 from foundations, \$14,800 from our board/staff, \$17,200 from our members, and \$12,150 from our operating funds for the feasibility study - for a grand total of \$134,695.

A large progress thermometer has been erected on the front lawn for all to see, and as the campaign wraps up a very successful Year 1, the thermometer “temperature” will be updated to reflect recent gains.

The committee also wishes to remind donors that a \$1 donation results in \$2 of grant money; therefore, your donation represents three times the amount donated - up to the \$600,000 appropriated by the state. Moreover, the campaign is now receiving stock donations; simply contact your broker to discuss potential tax benefits.

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**The banner photo above is of High Street circa 1930.*

Pictured below, Vincent Gonzalez receiving a donation from the president of Peoples Saving Bank.



2022 MEMBERSHIP DINNER

The annual Christmas dinner was held Dec. 4, 2022 and the guests were welcomed with holiday music and decorations including poinsettias and flickering candles. The evening began with a social hour which included a charcuterie service of assorted cheeses, veggies, crackers, wine, beer and iced tea. The president, Candy Gilliam, welcomed everyone and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. She spoke of the meaning of Christmas and invited all to enjoy the new exhibit of artist Chester Hooley's paintings, signs, and "Hooley pictograms".

Sandy Gonzalez, event chairman, spoke of the events held in 2022 and encouraged everyone to watch the video prepared by Cheryl Ogden, Museum Director. She reminded everyone there were 2022 Barns of Champaign County calendars and the book *Historic Barns of Ohio* still available for purchase. Dan Walter, Capital Campaign Fund Raising Chairman, reported on the status of the Campaign and encouraged everyone to remember the CCHS with their year- end donations. He offered the invocation, and everyone was treated to "sit down service" thanks to Girl Scout Troop #32191 and their leaders!



HOOLEY EXHIBIT OPENING

Thank you to all who attended the opening reception for the Chester Hooley exhibit at the Champaign County Historical Society on December 8th. The event was well attended, and we would especially like to thank Steve Hooley, Chester and Sylvia's grandson, who not only made the 8 hours trip to be here, but he also donated two of his grandfather's paintings to the museum. The exhibit will run through 2023. The Champaign County Historical Society is open Tues. – Fri. from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. and on Sat. from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. year-round and is free to the public.



Steve Hooley and Board of Trustees President, Candy Gilliam



Paintings donated to the museum by Steve Hooley. These are on display in the Hooley Exhibit.

2023 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 22	Annual Membership Meeting	2:00 p.m.
March 23	Antique Appraisal Fare	5:30 – 8:30 p.m.
April 14	Dr. Robert Kroeger <i>Round Barns of America</i> Book Signing and Barn Stories	12:00 p.m.
May 20-21	Mid-American Band Organ Rally https://www.mechanicalmusic.org/band-organs	10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
June 17	Antique Car Show Showcasing cars – 1890-1930	10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
July 16	Ice Cream Social	2 p.m. – 5 p.m.
August 27	Picnic on the Lawn	1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
October 1	Oktoberfest	10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
November 5	Bowling Party	1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
December 10	Christmas Dinner	4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

2023 ANTIQUE APPRAISAL FAIR

What is it worth? Do you have an old object art antique or a family heirloom that you want to know about? We may have a solution for you!

The Champaign County Historical Museum is hosting the Fourth Annual Antique Appraisal Fare on March 23, 2023 from 5:30-8:30 pm. Save the date and stay tuned for details!



UU Yearbooks for Sale

Champaign County Historical Museum received a generous donation from Urbana University when they closed in 2020. After cataloging copies for our collection and distributing copies to various local libraries, we have multiple copies of Urbana University yearbooks (various years) available for sale to the public.

We are offering these extra yearbooks for \$5 each and the proceeds from this sale go toward care of our collections.

They will be available for purchase at the museum, we are open Tues. – Fri. from 10-4 and Sat. 10 – 2. Unfortunately, we are not able to ship them at this time.

You can message us through our Facebook page, Champaign County Historical Museum – Urbana, OH. Or email us at champaigncohistory@gmail.com, to check availability.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS



Jerry Benedict in his short bed wagon delivering the mail, circa 1918.

THE HISTORY OF NORTH LEWISBURG 1826 – PRESENT

“In 1826, Gray Gary liked the valley of Big Darby Creek so well he laid out this village. The name Lewisburg was in honor of General Andrew Lewis, whom

he held in high regard, and it was incorporated in 1844.” The North Lewisburg motto is “Where family, friends, and traditions stay for a lifetime.”

On January 22, 2023, at 2 p.m., following our annual membership meeting, Max and Janice Coates will be presenting a program on the history of North Lewisburg at the Champaign County Historical Society located at 809 E. Lawn Ave. Urbana, Ohio. Join us on the 22nd of January to find out fun and interesting facts about this area of Rush Township.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

In February Sadie Steffan and Amanda Goodwin will present a program for Black History Month. The date is yet to be determined so be on the lookout for updates on the website, our Facebook page, and in the Urbana Daily Citizen.

**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**

CHESTER HOOLEY "HOOLEY DID IT!"

by Candy Gilliam

Chester Raymond Hooley was born in 1899 and grew up in Salem Township, Champaign County, OH. He was described as having a medium build, with light brown hair and blue eyes. He attended the Kingscreek Schools and graduated from Salem High School in 1918. After high school, he went on to graduate from Moore's Business College in Urbana. As a young man in 1920, he was working as a painter, painting tin cans. He briefly moved to Columbus in the early 1920's, where he received some formal training in painting. In 1927, Chester married Sylvia Davis, and together they made their home in Urbana. Here they raised two children, Joanne and Raymond Hooley. In 1929, Chester started his own sign business, advertising himself as "Hooley the Sign Painter". He was gifted with an artistic mind, he loved doing creative layouts and designs, but most importantly, he had a very steady hand. Each sign he created was easily identified as his with his sign-painting signature of "Hooley Did It!". As the years went by, Chester Hooley's business expanded, and he not only painted billboards and large signs, he also painted many business windows in the downtown square. He painted the windows of McLaughlin Jewelers, Stadlers Men Store, Main News, Guild Galleries, Boldman Printing, several banks, and various attorney offices. He was ambitious and energetic, and soon had a reputation as a wonderful sign and billboard painter! Signs were more than signs to him; they were works of art.

One day in May 1930, Hooley won a challenge that rewarded him with tickets to an air carnival. On that day, an unknown aviator, wearing a helmet and goggles, landed in a meadow on the Hooley farm. This man challenged him to a game of horseshoes, saying if Hooley won he would receive two tickets to the Great Air Carnival held in Fairfield, OH. But if he lost, he would have to purchase those two tickets at the gate price. Hooley gladly accepted the challenge. The aviator produced a set of golden horseshoes and a set of silver horseshoes... and the game began! Hooley won the contest and received two free tickets to the Fairfield Air Carnival. Then the stranger twisted his propeller and flew away.

Between 1938 and 1948, Chester Hooley became interested in making film movies. He frequently carried a small camera with him, and as he worked on his daily sign painting assignments, he would stop to film people or events. He made short movies of the

*Ad from the Urbana Daily Citizen,
April 17, 1929.*



**MAKE YOUR
ADVERTISING
HIT
THE MARK**

SEND FOR
HOOLEY
THE SIGN PAINTER

Have him paint you some new signs
during Clean Up and Paint Up Week.

His price is small but the results
you derive from an attractive
sign are large.
See him today!

CHESTER HOOLEY

421 N. Kenton St.

Phone 758

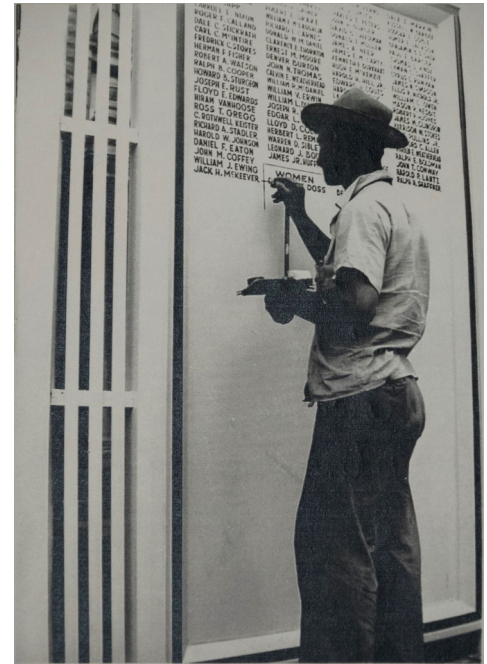
Shop over Boston Store

CHESTER HOOLEY "HOOLEY DID IT!"

by Candy Gilliam

local area, including some of the most memorable events in Urbana. Some of the events he covered were the last show shown at the Clifford Theater in 1941, a ceremony at Grimes Manufacturing Company when they won the Army-Navy "E" Award in 1942, and the Court House fire in 1948. He made these into delightful films and enjoyed showing them to the public. He frequently played these movies for various clubs and church groups around Urbana, where he was often a guest speaker.

During the years of WWII, the Champaign Court House had displayed on their lawn several panels with the names of Champaign County men and women who were serving in the Armed Forces. Each panel contained the names of 292 individuals. The Gloria Theater donated and installed the panels, while Chester Hooley painted the names of each person on the panels. He also donated his time to create and paint small window signs displayed at the war ration office. Each sign described what inflation meant to the consumer.



Hooley adding names to the World War II Honor Roll.

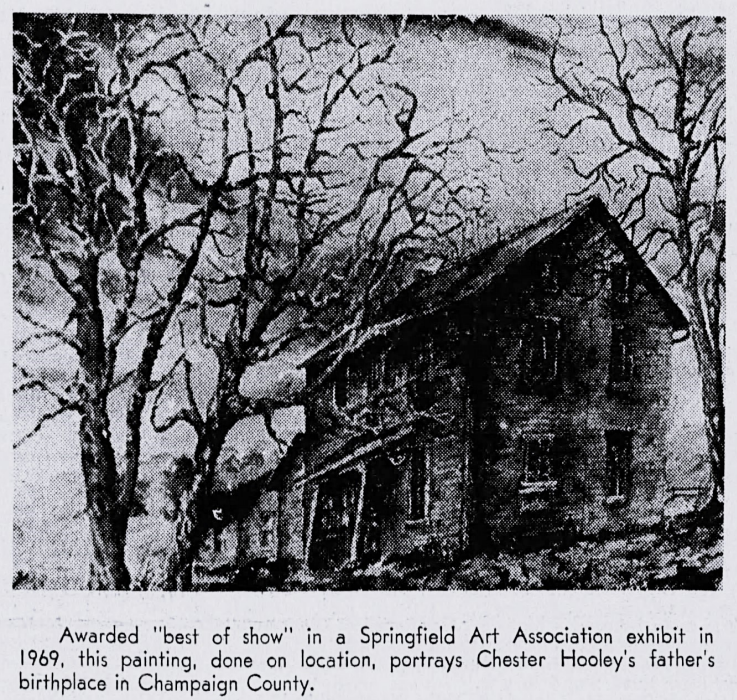


Hooley Sign from 1954.

In 1954, Chester Hooley suffered a serious heart attack and help was needed at work. His son, Raymond, stepped up to the task, learning the trade firsthand from his father. Raymond would eventually take over the business, expanding the services to include sandblasting redwood signage for several golf courses throughout Ohio. In 1955, Chester Hooley was recognized nationally when he won two awards in an outdoor sign contest. He submitted signs

for Perpetual Federal Savings & Loan and Butler's Inc. The signs were reproduced in a booklet entitled "America's Best Outdoor Signs". During the months Chester was recovering from his heart attack, his daughter encouraged him to take up a hobby and suggested water coloring. He enjoyed it so much that after his retirement in 1967, he took up watercolor painting full time. He created a patio in his backyard in the shape of an artist's palette. Chester displayed a controlled but loose style in his watercolors and was very much interested in transparent water coloring. His favorite subjects to sketch were historic landmarks, tobacco barns and covered bridges. He joined the Springfield Art Center, taking lessons from artists such as Ralph

Creager and Ethel Cook. By 1969, Chester was showing his collection of paintings at exhibits, fairs, and festivals all over Central Ohio. Some of his paintings were also featured in the lobbies of local banks, restaurants and cinema's. A few times he was commissioned to watercolor portraits of personal homes in the area. Mr. Hooley loved entering art shows because he could associate with other artists who shared the same interests in painting as himself. He was also given much recognition and won many awards. His highest award was taking First Place and Best of Show at the Springfield Art Association with a painting titled "My Father's Birthplace". The Urbana Soroptimist Club sold stationary with Urbana scenes, all drawn by Mr. Hooley. Those drawings were of The Man on the Monument, Castle on the Hill, Simon Kenton, and The Hunter. Other organizations Hooley was a member of was the Columbus Art League, The Columbus Gallery of Fine Arts, and The Central Ohio Watercolor Society.



One of the most memorable things Chester did for his family and friends was to send them "Hooley Pictograms". The envelope of each letter or card he sent would have a personalized, hand drawn and painted scene on its cover. Many of these treasured "Hooley Pictograms" have been saved by his friends to remember him by. Chester thoroughly enjoyed his retirement years, stating he was in the fun and hobby phase of his life. Chester died unexpectedly in 1977 but left his family with his philosophy that "it is never too late to do something worthwhile in your life".

Tombstone of Chester and Sylvia Hooley located in Oak Dale Cemetery



Mission Statement

The Champaign County Historical Society collects, preserves, and interprets relevant artifacts, documents, and other resources from Champaign County to educate current and future generations about our history.

Welcome New Members

- Teresa Mott
- Ellen Donnelly
- Ernest H. & Cathy L. Winterhoff
- Joe & Helen Mott

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**CHAMPAIGN COUNTY
 HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 MUSEUM**

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