



Champaign County Historical Society and Museum
Est. 1934

March/April 2020

CHAMPAIGN CHRONICLES

New Board Elected

The annual membership meeting for the Champaign County Historical Society was held on January 19, 2020. Over 60 members attended the annual meeting and program that followed. The Board of Trustees meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month (except in November which is the 3rd Wednesday and December, no meeting), at 6pm. The meetings are open to all.



L - R (rear): Hayla Parker, Dan Walter (Past Pres), Terri Marratta (Secy), Joe Rizzutti, Gregory Harvey (Pres), Ken Wright (Treas), Fred Krift, Charles Emory, Larry Headlee. L - R (front): Beth Adair (Vice Pres), Dan Gilbert, Candy Gilliam, Bill Bean. Not pictured: Sarah Finch, and Nancy Donohoe

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Champaign Lady - Champaign County's Own B-17

On Sunday March 15 at 2:00 pm Bill Albers will present the story of the B-17 heavy bomber under construction at the Champaign Aviation Museum, a project that began on Jan. 6th, 2006. He will also explain the uniqueness of the Champaign Aviation Museum, its mission as a Warbird showcase, and what the future for the museum may look like.



Upcoming Programs

March 15th—
History of the
Airport Museum

April 19th—
Women's Suffrage

Did You Know...

There is a jail inside
the Champaign
County Historical
Society and
Museum?

Address from the President

Thank you all for electing me President for the next term. I am very much looking forward to continuing the great work that has been done with and for our community's Museum. I would also like to thank Former President Dan Walter for his years of dedication to the Museum and laying the foundational groundwork that I will utilize and hopefully expand. We are looking forward to the implementation of numerous new programs this year, as well as continuing the traditional ones that our community holds near and dear. In closing, once again, I would like to thank each and every one of you for your vote and confidence in me with ushering the Museum into 2020.



CCHS President Gregory Harvey, Son Fin, and wife Jennifer



Freshwater Farms wine and cheese spread. L-R Beth Johnson, Dr. Dave and Carol Smith

Current Projects

Medal of Honor Wall—This will provide a place of honor for those people from Champaign county who have earned the Medal of Honor. We are planning on opening this new exhibit later this year.

Antiques Appraisal Fair 2020

We are pleased to announce that Freshwater Farms of Ohio will once again sponsor our Antiques Appraisal Fair this year after hosting our very well attended inaugural fundraiser last year. This year's event will be held at the museum on Thursday evening April 23.

As the committee works to finalize details, appraisers from a number of different disciplines have volunteered to guide attendees bearing antiques and artifacts to help determine "What it's worth." The price of admission will entitle those who attend to present more than one item for appraisal and in the meantime enjoy a variety of complimentary wines and cheeses especially selected by Freshwater Farms. Appraisers who have committed as of this writing include Jacob Berner (antiques/fine art), Dan Faucett (collectibles), Buzz Jackson (military items), Greg Shipley (Native American and early American items), and, new this year, Steve Stout (sports memorabilia) and Barry Roberts (sports cards).

A special addition this year will be the raffling of a pilot episode script of the famed television series "The West Wing" donated by Dayton native Martin Sheen. In addition to autographing the cover of the script (1/16/2020), Martin has also added his character's name "Jed" and "1999-2006," the years the series ran.

Volunteers Needed

The Champaign County Historical Society is always looking for volunteers to help with everything from being a docent, to researching exhibits and programs. If you would be interested in becoming a volunteer please contact the museum operations manager, Cheryl Ogden, by phone at 937-653-6721 or by email at champhistmus@ctcn.net.

Grace Fern Heck

Growing up the daughter of a school superintendent in the early 1900's, Grace Fern Heck knew the importance of education. Grace was born in Tremont City in 1905 and attended schools in Millerstown and St. Paris before graduating high school in Greenwich, Huron County, OH, in 1924. She moved to Columbus to attend Ohio State



Mary Heck and 23 month old Grace.

University and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1928, being one of two female law graduates that year. She went on to graduate with Highest Honors at OSU College of Law in 1930, standing second in her class of 54 men. She received the degree of Juris Doctor and since she was in the top 10 percent of her class, she joined the Order of the Coif, an honorary scholastic society. Grace was very active in social sororities, joining Phi Beta Kappa, Kappa Beta Pi, Alpha Nu Chapter as well as several others.

Grace was admitted to the Bar in 1930 and set out to find employment at a time when few women worked outside the home. After being rejected by a Cleveland law firm in favor of a man, she accepted a research position with Wickersham Commission at Yale University at the recommendations of her law professors. She studied federal court procedures and administration. Later that year she was an examiner for the National Committee on Law Observance and Enforcement in Columbus, Ohio. There she tabulated data on criminal and civil cases pending in the district courts of Columbus, Dayton and Cincinnati. In 1931, she took a position with Ohio Judicial Council and Law Institute at Johns Hopkins University.

By 1932, Grace moved back to Champaign County to start a law practice and was the youngest attorney in Urbana. She set up her own reception committee to run for Prosecuting Attorney. By walking door-to-door and farm-to-farm introducing herself to every citizen, she won that

election and became the first Ohio woman to be elected as a prosecuting attorney, serving two terms from 1933-1940. Her office was located in the Citizens National Bank Building on Monument Square.

During the 1940's, Grace Heck spent time helping her college sororities. As president -then later as trustee- of the Alpha Zeta, Urbana Chapter, she was active in the National War Project in purchasing equipment for the rehabilitation of soldiers returning with war injuries. In the 1950's, Grace helped with the Magnetic Springs Foundation, a polio rehabilitation center located in Union County, Ohio.

In 1943, Grace was employed by a law firm in Springfield as their first female attorney, but was "let go" in 1945 when men returned from their WWII service and they were given the jobs first. She decided to open a law office in Springfield in the First National Bank Building to engage in general practice on her own. She was secretary of the Clark County Bar Association from 1945-1956. Grace Heck was endorsed for the position of Probate Judge of Champaign County after the death of Judge Frank Bowers in 1951, but she declined saying she preferred to remain in private practice. However, by 1954 she changed her mind and was elected Champaign County Municipal Judge. Her salary as Judge was \$3000 per year. Sadly, being overworked and underpaid, Grace resigned her judgeship in 1958 to continue her practice in Springfield. She stated, "While I regret the necessity of this decision, I can see no alternative, as I cannot financially afford to sacrifice my private practice. There seems to be no solution other than to resign the office of Judge." In 1960, she went to Washington DC to be admitted to practice before the US Supreme Court.

The 1960's and 1970's were spent in private practice, OSU Alumni work and traveling. In 1977, Grace married for the first time to fellow attorney Leo Faust of Troy, Ohio, and the couple received dual awards from the Ohio State Bar

Association. Grace became the first woman to receive OSU's highest honor, The Distinguished Alumni Award, in 1990 for her many contributions to the welfare of the University. Grace Fern Heck Faust never considered herself a feminist nor a crusader, but rather a woman who walked her own path. Her high standards of performance earned her the respect of countless clients. Grace died in 1994 at the age of 88 years.



*Honorable Grace Fern Heck
Judge,, Municipal Court,
Urbana, Ohio, August 1, 1954 .*



Grace and Leo Faust

Mission Statement

The Mission of the Society is to tell the Champaign County story and to administer the collection, preservation and display of our county's artifacts, documents, and other historical resources.

Welcome New Members

Hayla Parker
Tracy Dilts
Becky Pyle
Marianne Ober
Frank Drain
Adam Drain
Julia Smith

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MUSEUM



Est. 1934

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