



CHAMPAIGN CHRONICLES

Address from the President

First and foremost, we hope everyone is staying safe out there. Secondly, I would like to inform all members of my 2020 Goals as President.

Goal #1: Increase Foot Traffic into the Museum

Goal #2: Comprehensive Review of Museum's Collections/Exhibits

Goal #3: Complete Phase One of the StEPs Program

Goal #4: Create & Maintain a Robust Volunteer Program

We believe that all of the above-mentioned goals will push the Museum in the right direction while simultaneously providing making the Museum better for all Champaign Countians! Specifically, with Goal #3, we have recently immersed ourselves in the StEPs

Program. This program is a self-paced program that allows us to create, maintain, and track guidelines, policies, and procedures of the Museum. We all believe that this program will provide guidance will allow us to build a very solid foundation for future endeavors. The program has many phases and we are working hard to complete Phase One by the end of 2020. As always, there will naturally be some hurdles along the way... • The decision was made to close the Museum to the general public shortly after Governor DeWine enacted the "Stay at Home" order; • Although the Museum is closed to the general public at the current time, all operations remain continuous and we are still working hard to meet our goals—albeit from home and at a much slower rate. However, please be assured that our Museum will continue to work hard to meet our 2020 Goals. In closing, please keep in mind that **tough times don't last, but tough people do.**

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Caring for the Collection

Several week ago the Champaign County Historical Society purchased a new adjustable vacuum. This vacuum was purchased for the purpose of helping us take care of our textile collection. Three volunteers, (pictured right, from left to right), Karen Headlee, Anne Tulleners, and Cheryl Walter have started working on that project! They are starting with the extensive collections of hats and then they are moving onto the rest of the collection which includes dresses and a variety of uniforms.

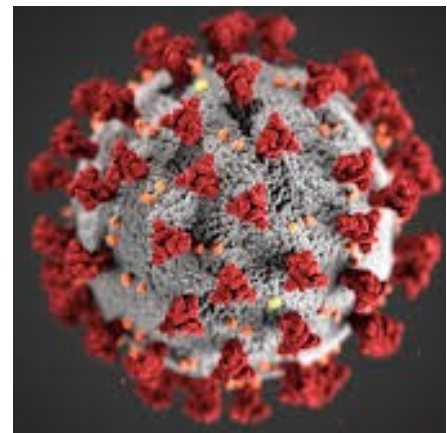


Upcoming Programs

We hope to resume our programs as soon as possible, but for now they are all on hold. We will post on our [Facebook page](#) and [our website](#) as soon as we are able to continue.

Response to COVID-19

This has been a trying time for everyone in Champaign County. The “stay at home” order has impacted every person and every business in our county. The Historical Society is no exception. We have postponed the Antiques Appraisal Fair and all our programs for the foreseeable future . But know that we will come through this and still be here for our community! During this time we would ask that you not bring in items to donate and that you email us with any questions or research requests you may have. We will open up again as soon as we are able.



Changes to the Grounds

Keep your eyes open for changes to the grounds around our building. As soon as the weather breaks a group of master gardeners from Champaign county and some of our volunteers are starting on a project to refresh the landscaping



around the building. We will post pictures of the work in progress and the results of all the hard work!

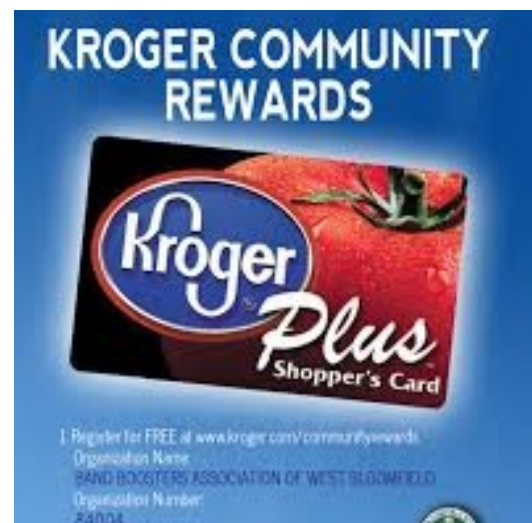
Did You Know...

There are two tombstones on display in the museum?

After the quarantine is over come in and find out whose tombstones are on display.

Kroger Community Rewards

Did you know you could donate money to the Champaign County Historical Society without spending anymore than you already do? Well the Kroger Community Rewards Program wants to help you do just that. All you have to do is go to the community rewards page and choose the Champaign County Historical Society. They will then donate a portion of your purchase without affecting your fuel points! It is painless and helps CCHS keep the museum free to the public.



ELIZABETH BRAND by Candy Gilliam



Elizabeth Brand 1935

Elizabeth Brand was born in 1881 in Urbana, and came from a long line of prominent Urbana families. Her great grandfather, William Patrick, was an early mayor and the man who planted the famous Willow Drive near Oak Dale Cemetery. Her grandfather John Brand was also mayor of Urbana. Her mother, Frances Patrick Brand, was an early crusader of the Temperance Union who worked diligently in the 1870's to eradicate saloons and liquor sales. Elizabeth was the sister to a US Congressman as well as a cousin to the ambassador of Belgium during

WWI. She was born to do great things.

Unfortunately at the young age of 4 years, Elizabeth contracted scarlet fever leaving her partially deaf in both ears. Her mother was determined this would not become her handicap, explaining there is a difference in deaf and hard of hearing, and if a person can use their voice and understand words, they should continue to live a normal life. Frances Brand often made Elizabeth read poetry out loud so she would always know her voice. Elizabeth graduated from Urbana High School, Class of 1900, then went on to graduate from Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware, OH, in 1902. Known for her literary skills, she was a gifted writer with a great imagination. From 1902-1915, she was employed with the Society Department of the Urbana Daily Citizen. Here she was devoted to social activities, often writing about the many clubs, church affairs and social interests of Urbana. During these years, her hearing worsened and she often took trips abroad searching for a cure to her hearing loss.

In 1914, after trying every medical aid known to science, Elizabeth learned of a doctor in New York who evolved a method of lip reading. Now entirely deaf, she took his course at the Nitchie School for Lip Reading in New York City, and a year later she moved to Pittsburg, PA, to teach this new concept. In 1918, she became the organizer and principal of the Pittsburg School of Lip Reading, then in 1919 was founder of the Pittsburg League of the Hard of Hearing. During and after WWI, Elizabeth offered free lessons to soldiers deafened by shell shock or other causes suffered during the war.

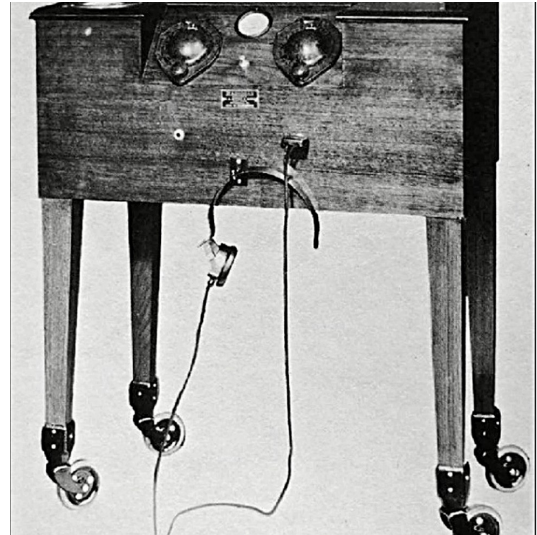
Shortly after her mother died in 1923, Elizabeth moved to Toledo to become secretary and teacher for the Toledo League of the Hard of Hearing. While teaching here, she was contacted by a former Pittsburg student, Edward A.

Myers, who had become a mechanical engineer and inventor despite being deaf his entire life. Mr. Myers had invented the "Radio Ear", a microphone instrument that helped a deaf person to hear the telephone or radio when placed near the receiver. This early hearing aid device was contained inside a 185 lb cabinet on castor wheels that permitted it to be moved about the home. Elizabeth was one of the first people to use his device.

Elizabeth Brand moved to Dayton in 1927 to become executive secretary of the National League for the Deaf, serving the next 12 years here. She taught night classes in auditory and voice training as well as lip reading to adults. She worked with employers to get suitable work for her hard of hearing students, and encouraged these students to participate in social activities to give them a purpose, often holding picnics, arts & crafts, and sewing classes.

In 1939, Elizabeth moved to Washington DC to take the position of secretary for the Washington Society for the Hard of Hearing, then later as finance chairman raising over \$50,000 for the League. During the 1940's, she moved back to Dayton because her interest centered more on teaching children, hoping to prevent future learning problems. Elizabeth retired to Urbana in 1953, often wearing a hearing aid tucked beneath her hair and a microphone hidden in her dress. Elizabeth is described as a person with great optimism and a good stock of common sense. She had a sense of humor

coupled with the keenest sympathy for those afflicted with hearing loss. Her life work was to teach others to "listen with their eyes" and it was a pleasure for her to open avenues of hope to countless others in all parts of the country. During her lifetime, she taught over 1000 students and 65 soldiers to read lips. Elizabeth died in 1961 and is buried in Oak Dale Cemetery next to her parents.



One of the Radio Ears invented by Myers



Elizabeth Brand 1952

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

Neil Evans

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MUSEUM



Est. 1934

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