



Champaign County Historical Society and Museum  
Est. 1934

Nov/Dec 2022

# CHAMPAIGN CHRONICLES

## VISITOR SURVEY

One of the most unwelcome phrases in the English language is “Would you take a survey?” However, the fact is, we would appreciate your feedback. Our museum is here to preserve the history of Champaign County. In order to serve the community we need to know what you would like to see in this museum. What is important to you? What do you like about what we are doing? What do you want to see more of? What do you think we could do better?

To help us with these questions please go to our website ([champaigncountymuseum.org](http://champaigncountymuseum.org)) and fill out the survey. If you give us your name and phone number you will be entered in a drawing to win a \$50 gas card. The winner of the drawing will be announced on December 4th at our annual dinner.

### Inside this issue

Survey .....	1
Oktoberfest .....	2
Calendars.....	2
Upcoming Events .....	3
UU Yearbooks .....	3
Expansion Update .....	4
Annual Dinner.....	5
Dr. Forward .....	6
New Members.....	10

\*The Banner photo is of a watercolor by Chester Hooley

# 50th OKTOBERFEST A HUGE SUCCESS!



The Champaign County Historical Museum lawn was buzzing with activity during the recent 50<sup>th</sup>. Annual Oktoberfest. The gate receipts reflected an attendance of 1938 people who came to explore the crafters and vendors, enjoy the food, and entertainment, and visit with friends! Vendor spaces were sold out with 97 vendors displaying their wares – 38 of those were new to the Oktoberfest this year. In addition, Schmidt’s, Childers’ Chimney Cakes, Farmers Daughter and Poppy’s Smokehouse food trucks sold out by the end of the day.

Many thanks to Director, Cheryl Ogden and staff for creating the new ‘Scavenger Hunt’ game which brought a lot of people into the Museum. Participation by the Triad

High School Band was a great addition to the entertainment schedule – thanks to Lois Monroe for arranging their appearance.

Beginning with the Friday set-up crew, preparing for the event requires a lot of time and volunteers. Co-chairs, Dick Virts and Sandy Gonzalez, extend a very special thank you to all those who erected fencing, measured booth spaces, set up the food tent tables/chairs, volunteered in the Museum, beer trailer, food tent and gates and helped with tear down – the Oktoberfest would not be possible without your help! A sincere thank you for your time and efforts!

The Oktoberfest is the largest fundraiser for the Museum and monies generated from this event support the general operations of the Museum. We are grateful to our corporate sponsors, those who attended the event and the volunteers who made it operate smoothly.

## 2023 “BARNES OF CHAMPAIGN COUNTY”

Last call for the “Barns of Champaign County” 2023 Calendar. Price is \$15.00 and is available at the Museum or by mail order.

For mail order: Send \$15.00 check or money order to:  
Champaign County Historical Society  
809 E. Lawn Ave.  
Urbana, OH 43078

Indicate “calendar” on the check and include a return address and phone number. Museum hours are Tues-Fri 10-4 and Sat 10-2.

The calendar is comprised of 12 paintings by Cincinnati artist, Dr. Robert Kroeger, who photographed and sketched the barns during a visit to Champaign County. He created the paintings using the impasto method of oil painting bringing the barns “to life”!

Visit the following website to see the barns included in the calendar as well as an essay on each. [www.barnart.weebly.com](http://www.barnart.weebly.com) Click on Ohio Barns A-C Scroll down to Champaign Co.

The calendars are unique and have stunning colors. They are not only a collector’s item, but, also, a great Christmas present – get yours today!



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## SCAM AVOIDANCE PROGRAM



On Sunday November 13, 2022 at 2 p.m. at the Champaign County Historical Society, Sergeant Todd Pratt and Sgt. Shawn Schmidt will be speaking with those in attendance about current Scams and how to avoid them and how to spot a scam. These scams are commonly started via phone and email and include Charity Fraud, Online Dating Scams, Identity Theft, IRS imposter Scams, "You Won" scams, Work from Home Scams, etc.

## CHESTER HOOLEY EXHIBIT

The Champaign County Historical Society is currently working on a new exhibit featuring local artist Chester Hooley. This exhibit will feature Hooley's watercolors but will include some of his other works as well.

The exhibit will open on December 4, 2022 at our annual Christmas dinner and will run for all of 2023!



### UU Yearbooks for Sales

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.

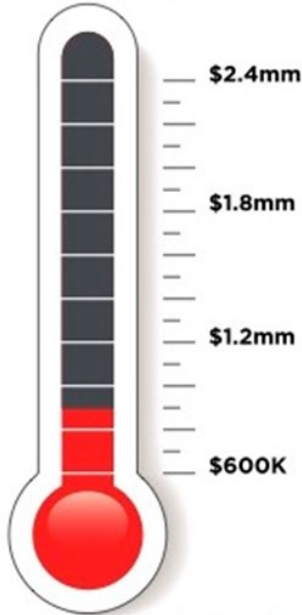
We are offering these extra yearbooks for \$5 each and the proceeds from this sale go toward care of our collections.

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](mailto:champaigncohistory@gmail.com), to check availability.

# CONSTRUCTION GRANT UPDATE

## Champaign County Historical Museum EXPANSION PROJECT



**Donate Today!**

### Background

Earlier this year, we shared with you the good news that the Ohio State Capital Budget passed in June 2022 included two cultural facilities construction grants totaling \$600,000. **NOTE:** To access those funds, we must raise \$300,000 from non-state sources by June 2024. These grants and private funds raised will go towards the construction of two new buildings – an Exhibit Gallery and a multipurpose room for hosting programs and events – and renovating the existing facilities. A conceptual design study completed in early 2022 indicated a total price for this project to be \$2,400,000.

### Capital Campaign Launched

Once informed of the grants awarded, our Construction Grant-Capital Campaign Sub-Committee went to work on creating and distributing campaign materials, speaking to clubs and organizations and meeting with business leaders to obtain financial support.

To date, these efforts have resulted in our raising nearly \$100,000. By intensifying our fund raising efforts, we anticipate we can raise the additional \$200,000 necessary to access the entire \$600,000 in grant funds. With \$900,000 total funds in place, this should add a spark of excitement for the project among civic and business leaders, and hence, receive the financial support necessary to “break ground.”

### New Industrial & Agriculture Gallery Exhibit Theme

While in the very early stages of research and development, the exhibit theme of the gallery will be “Why Champaign County?” The vision is to tell the story of why the farming industry formed and thrived here, how industry evolved from serving the local farming community to developing, manufacturing, and distributing a diverse line of products to the world. To achieve accuracy, and a “sense of ownership” for the ultimate exhibits, individuals directly involved in industry and agriculture are being asked to provide the history of their farm or business and donate photos and artifacts that will support the theme of the exhibit.

### How You Can Be a Part of the Project

In addition to supporting us financially, you may participate in the project in the following ways:

Assist in the research of topics supporting our theme “Why Champaign County”

Solicit donations of photos and artifacts that support the exhibit theme

Serve on the Capital Fund Raising sub-committee – e.g.,

- Identify and make introductions to potential donors and project sponsors

- Promote the project on social media

- Perform clerical tasks such as mailings, distribute campaign materials, etc.

Etc.

If interested in any of these roles, please either go to our website and fill out a volunteer application, or, contact the museum at 937-653-6721.

# CHRISTMAS AT THE MUSEUM

The annual Christmas dinner will be held Dec. 4, 2022 beginning with social hour at 4:00 pm. Dinner, catered by Amy Forest of In Good Taste Catering will be served at 5:00 p.m. by the Girl Scout Troop #32191 and adviser, Ashley Skinner. The cost will be \$20 per person paid in advance.

The social hour will offer wine (for a donation) and a charcuterie service of assorted cheeses, veggies, and crackers. The meal will include brown sugar glazed spiral sliced ham, au gratin potatoes, green beans almondine, rolls, butter, and assorted small bite desserts. Beverages of water, tea, and coffee will be available.



In order to have a comfortable dining experience, we have a reservation limit of 60 people. Please mail the reservation form located below to CCHS, 809 E. Lawn Ave., Urbana, OH 43078 or call the Museum, 937-653-6721, Mon – Fri 10-4 and Sat 10-2 to reserve your spot. RESERVATIONS ARE NOT FINAL UNTIL THE MONEY HAS BEEN RECEIVED.

Holiday music, flickering candles, delicious food – who could ask for more!



R.S.V.P.

I/We \_\_\_\_\_ will be attending the Dinner on December 4, 2022

I am making reservations for (total number in the party) # \_\_\_\_\_.

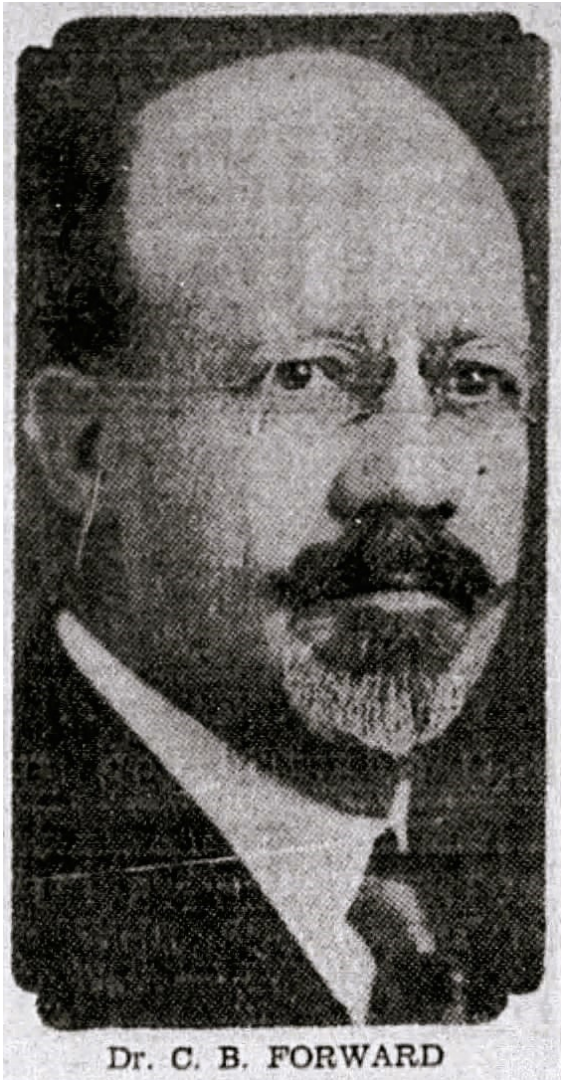
Please find enclosed my check or money order for \_\_\_\_\_ (\$20 per person).

My contact phone # is \_\_\_\_\_.

*office use only*) total number attending \_\_\_\_\_

# DR. CHAUNCEY BLAIR FORWARD

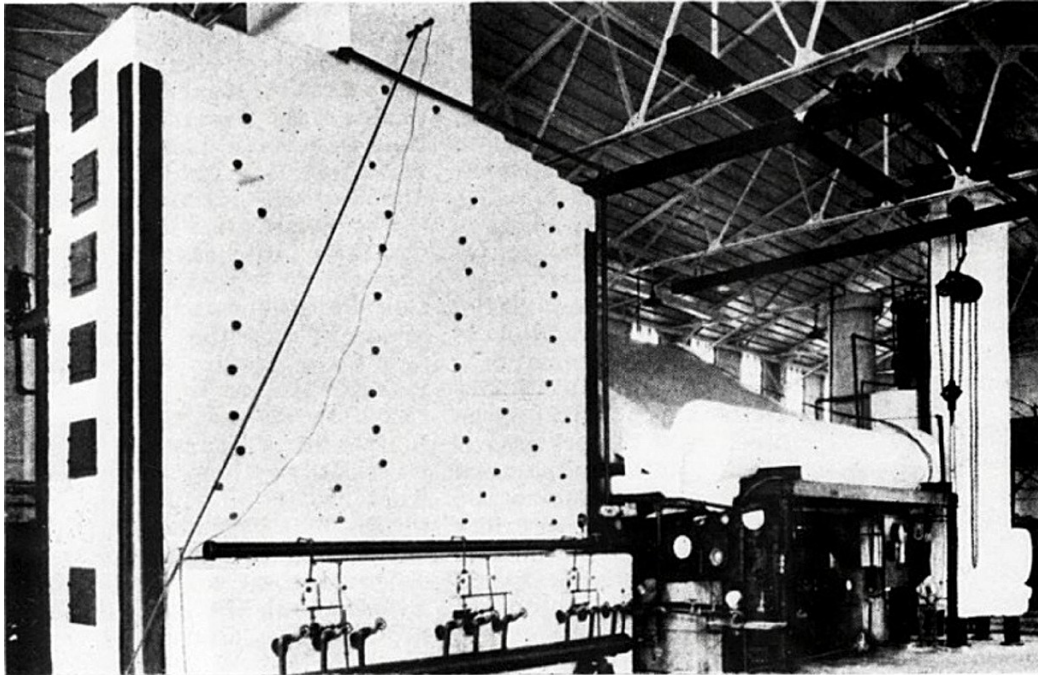
by Candy Gilliam



Born in 1861, young Chauncey Blair Forward moved with his family from Pennsylvania to Cincinnati, OH, shortly after the Civil War in 1865. While still a young teen, he decided school was not for him, and left early to become a carpenter. After three years learning the carpenter trade, he decided to once again change occupations. He spent some time studying shorthand, and obtained a position with the General Freight Office of the Atlantic & Great Western Railroad Company in Cincinnati. About 1880, the Erie Railway gained control of the railroad, and moved their company to Cleveland, OH. Chauncey was offered a promotion to the Claims Department and, along with his older brothers, moved to Cleveland with the railway. While living there, Chauncey met a bright and attractive school teacher, Annie Griffith, who he married in 1884. Shortly afterwards, he became interested in the mining business and moved to Colorado. Annie became very ill while living there, and they were soon forced to move back to Ohio where better medical attention could be found. In 1888, Chauncey was stricken with a severe attack of sciatic rheumatism, that nearly paralyzed him from the waist down and left him crippled for over two years. The couple was \$6,000 in debt (approximately \$185,000 in 2022), forcing Annie back to teaching school to support the family. Being discouraged and unable to work, Chauncey briefly moved to Beaumont, TX, for a climate change. After a few months, he returned and entered the Cleveland Medical College, where he could attend classes while still using his crutches. In 1892, he graduated with honors and practiced as a physician while his health improved.

While practicing medicine, Dr. Chauncey Forward became very interested in the oil industry from his previous time spent in

Texas. Knowing of the abundant oil fields, he moved back south where he leased several hundred thousand acres of land in Kansas, Louisiana, Texas and Indian Territory to prospect for more oil. Under his direction, several complete drilling outfits and experienced men were kept busy with prospect work. They were rapidly spending money on more land, improvements, buildings and storage tanks. He successfully struck oil, but the problem was no refinery was located close enough to make profitable use of the oil he found flowing so freely. In 1897, Chauncey formed the Forward Reduction Company, a corporation organized for the purpose of perfecting a process of refining crude oil to manufacture gasoline. If liquid fuel was to be the fuel of the future, he wanted to be among the first to share in the profits of its introduction. He built the first pipe distillery to evaporate the moisture from crude oil to ever be constructed in the United States. The heavy oils did not yield easily to mechanical treatments so Chauncey created a secret process to reduce the oil, known as his vapor phase cracking process. He also took a trip to the oil fields of Russia, acquiring additional knowledge on foreign methods of production and refining. To raise money for his refineries here in the U.S., a block of stock was placed on the stock market, being offered to small investors. He advertised a doubling of their money within two years. Unfortunately,



The experimental installation of the Forward vapor phase cracking process, at Urbana. Left is the flash boiler delivering steam at 300 pounds pressure and temperature of 1200 F. The horizontal pipe at the bottom is for feeding waste gases to the boiler. At the left are the coils, surrounded by superheated steam, and the carbon precipitating chamber, where a small percentage of free carbon, similar to carbon black is precipitated. The oil vapors go from the top of the chamber to the condenser or the dephlegmator

*Interior photo of the Oil Refining & Development Co, Urbana OH. Published in the National Petroleum News, April, 1933*

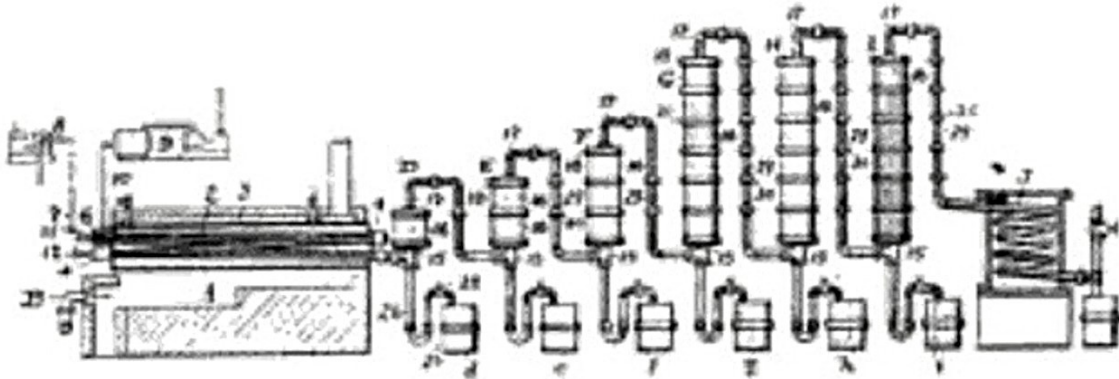
a general slump in oil stocks came in 1902, just as a large number of payments were due of his lands and machinery. Chauncey worked tirelessly to extend his company's obligations, but was forced into bankruptcy while owing nearly a half a million dollars. He was left penniless. Still determined to develop and perfect his refinery business, Chauncey moved back to Cleveland, where he equipped a machine shop for experimental work. He was employed by the Eclipse Car Fender Company, creating and manufacturing street car fenders. Chauncey was an extremely inventive man, and as he created new ideas, he sold his patents or organized companies to market them.

In 1905, Annie Forward died, leaving Chauncey with their two young sons to raise. Needing help, Chauncey moved to Urbana, OH, to live with his sister where she could help raise the boys. He worked in her little back yard shed on Scioto St, tinkering for hours every day with crude oil and chemistry equipment. Gradually he raised enough money to obtain a building south of Miami Street near the Erie Railroad tracks, naming his new business the Oil Refining & Development Company. Chauncey took out patents on his methods, continuing to perfect the process of extracting gasoline, promising to revolutionize the industry by creating a superior grade of gasoline. His vapor phase cracking process was to pass crude oil through a series of coils and pipes, surrounded by steam that was superheated to 1200 degrees, a temperature so high the pipes near the 16 different boilers glowed red hot. The vapors went to the top of the chambers into a condenser to reach a desired amount of "cracking", thus producing high compression gasoline. The gasoline was said to be "water white, sweet and free of carbon". He knew the growing automobile industry would be increasing its demand for a superior gasoline. By 1916, Dr. Chauncey Forward held the interests of several prominent companies, such as The Standard Oil Co. and Sinclair Oil & Refining Corp. Leading chemists of these larger companies admitted the process looked promising. Not wanting to take anything for granted, Chauncey felt he had impressed them enough to secure negotiations. The Standard Oil Co. visited Dr. Forward and made a tour of his refining plant,

# DR. CHAUNCEY BLAIR FORWARD

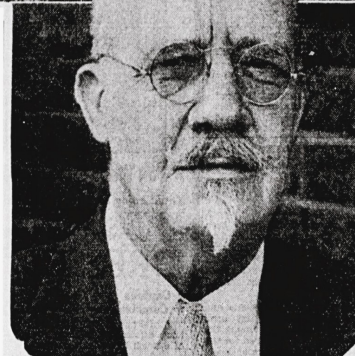
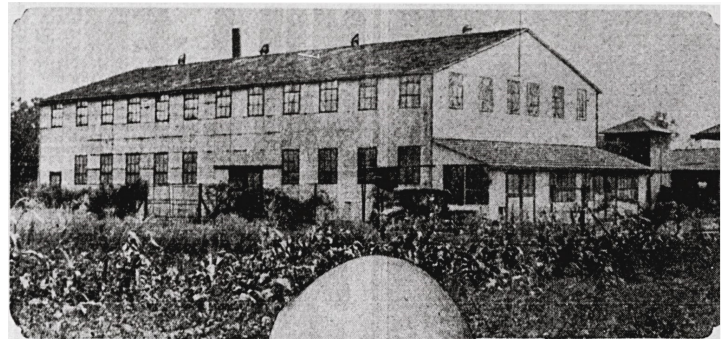
by Candy Gilliam

1,088,693. APPARATUS FOR CONTINUOUSLY DISTILLING CRUDE OIL AND OTHER SUBSTANCES. CHAUNCEY B. FORWARD, Urbana, Ohio. Filed June 7, 1913. Serial No. 772,270. (Cl. 196—5.)



*One of Dr. Forward's patents.*

with favorable reviews. Dr. Forward built a new and expanded laboratory in 1918, but it was suddenly destroyed by a fire in 1922 when an oil pipe burst near the furnace. This was a sad loss for the doctor, as Sinclair Oil was expecting to start operations at his company, bringing their own labor, chemists and oil. Although the building was a loss, it was covered by insurance and quickly rebuilt. The new structure was much larger, made of red brick with steel and concrete to prevent any future accidents. Now in his 60's, Dr. Forward continued his experiments on a larger scale, often working days at a time with little sleep. This tenacity produced a new gasoline with more power and quality than any others on the market. His new formula was placed before some of the best engineers in the world. In 1932, the Oil Refining and Development Company caught the attention of the Doherty Research Company of New York City. After sending representatives to study Dr. Forward's process, they offered financial backing and in 1933, joined together to form the Forward Process Company. This new

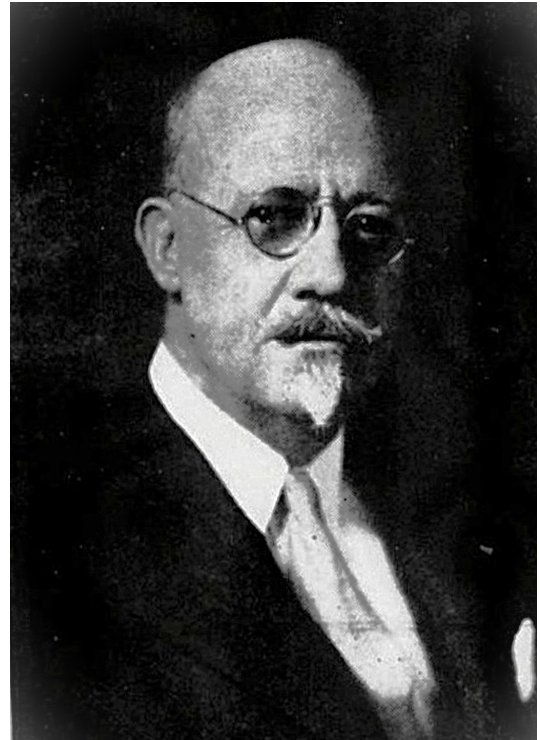


*Photo from The Springfield News Sun, August 27, 1933*



Forward Process Company now owned over 30 patents secured by Dr. Forward, and they moved the company to New York. They were preparing to put his refining methods into general use.

Just a few months later, Dr. Chauncey Forward suffered a fatal heart attack, and he died quietly at his home at the age of 72 years. He is buried in Honey Creek Cemetery, and at the time of his death in 1933, his net worth was over one million dollars. He held more patents on oil refining than any other person in the country. Not only had he been one of Urbana's leading industrial men of his era, he was also active in promoting its social life. He was a class teacher in the Methodist Church, president of the Kiwanis Club, and a huge sponsor of the many Chautauqua's in Urbana from 1918-1925. Despite his intense need to conduct experiments, he did manage to find time for personal interests. He married a second time in 1907, and raised a daughter along with his sons from his first marriage. He took the Boy Scouts on camping trips, sometimes taking his daughter along as the mascot. Chauncey helped to establish a Community Center where boys and young men could go to enjoy the benefits of game rooms and gymnastics. Through his faith and persistence, Dr. Chauncey Forward endured many hardships and disasters, but accomplished much more by earning the gratitude and respect of his family and friends.



*Photo from National Petroleum News, April, 1933*

*Dr. Forward's Tombstone, Honey Creek Cemetery, Christiansburg, OH*



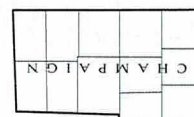
Mission Statement

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

Heather & Jeff Tiefenthaler

809 East Lawn Ave.  
Urbana, Ohio 43078  
Phone: 937-653-6721  
www.champaigncountyhistoricalmuseum.org  
Email: champhistmus@cccn.net



CHAMPAIGN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM

ADDRESS SERVICES REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
Urbana, OH 43078  
Permit No. 67