



# CHAMPAIGN CHRONICLES

## Address from the President

While this summer was fraught with many disappointments due to the cancellation of local sporting events, concerts, art festivals, parades, etc., we were fortunate to accomplish many things at the museum. Specifically, we:

- Received the bulk of the Urbana University's historical archives
- Refurbished our War Room and auditorium and converted the storage room into a Meeting Room;
- Secured the continued employment of a professional Museum Director;
- Held a program in July;
- Conducted a membership fund raising campaign, to which, 25% of our membership donated over \$12,000; and
- Received a generous donation of \$5,000 from a member who was supportive of our decision to hold our annual Oktoberfest.

Assuming no mandated government restrictions on outdoor festivals, we are looking forward to hosting the annual Oktoberfest.

I look forward to sharing our progress in the next Newsletter. In the meantime, please consider volunteering, identifying Oktoberfest vendors, attending Oktoberfest, and, visiting the museum to see our progress in many areas!

### Inside this issue

Address from Pres ....	1
Oktoberfest.....	2
Programs .....	2
UU Collections .....	3
Donations .....	4
Thank You!.....	5
Genevieve Allen .....	6
New Members .....	8

# Oktoberfest

We are still planning on having Oktoberfest on Sunday October 4, 2020 from 10-4. We strongly encourage facemasks be worn and would ask that everyone follow the social distancing guidelines. There will be craft and food vendors, and beer sales. If you are interested in participating as a craft or food vendor the applications can be found on our website at [Champaigncountyhistoricalmuseum.org](http://Champaigncountyhistoricalmuseum.org).



Oktoberfest 2019

## Upcoming Programs

*We ask that masks be worn for the duration of the program and that you remember the social distancing guidelines. We would also remind you that for the time being seating is limited.*

All Programs are scheduled to start at 2 pm.

## Programs



Our next program is scheduled for September 20th John Titus will be here to speak about losing his daughter in the 9/11 attacks and their peace initiative that arose from the tragedy.

On Sunday October 18th 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.



# Urbana University

Not too long after the last edition of the newsletter arrived in our members' mailboxes we took possession of a large portion of the special collections housed on the campus of Urbana University. This collection contains a little bit of everything, including special items such as the deed signing over the land from John H. James to the university and the copper plate used for printing some of the early degrees. These items are irreplaceable and we are happy to say that they are staying in Champaign county! As we go through the over 400 boxes we are going to be adding to an exhibit set up to honor the history of Urbana University. This will be a work in progress for a while. We have already sent 1 set of duplicate yearbooks to the Champaign County Library and 2 sets of the duplicate yearbooks to the Mechanicsburg Library. We are keeping 2 sets of yearbooks for our archives and this still leaves almost 100 excess yearbooks. Please keep an eye of our Facebook page for information on our progress.



*A small sampling of the boxes that have come over from Urbana University!*



## 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 Director, Cheryl Ogden, by phone at 937-653-6721 or by email at [champhistmus@ctcn.net](mailto:champhistmus@ctcn.net). More information can also be found on our website: [champaigncountyhistoricalmuseum.org](http://champaigncountyhistoricalmuseum.org)

# New Donations

We would like to thank the following people for their donation to the Historical Society.

-Shelby County Historical Society for the W.A. Nutt papers.

-An anonymous donation of a book of poetry about Urbana.

-Margaret Beilharz for the donation of family photo albums from the Ross family.

-Louie Scheiderer, in memory of his father, Don Scheiderer, RCA training manuals.

-Andrea Greene, items belonging to her father Charles Greene, uniform belt, hat, patch, and club.

-Bob Heitman, Uniform, paperwork, and photos belonging to Harry Baker.

-Sarah Carter, in memory of her husband, Addie Carter, a display case and scales

-Sally Tiel, a collection of Chester Hooley watercolors and photographs.

-The Georgia M. Paulig Trust papers and books covering the history of Champaign County.

-Chris Enders a photograph of the men's basketball team from Urbana University

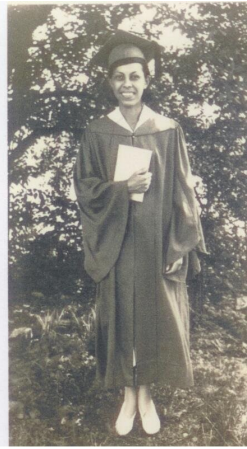
# Thank You!!!!

We have always known that our members were a special group, but this summer proved just how special you truly are! We asked for help covering a budget shortfall and you answered! Over 100 of our almost 300 members responded to our request to the sum of over \$12,000! This money will help us maintain our progress and keep us moving forward over the next year!

Thank you, from the Board of Trustees, the volunteers, and the staff!



## Clarence & Genevieve Dale by Candy Gilliam



*Genevieve Allen  
on her graduation  
day 1933.*

In 1933, Urbana High School did something they had never been done before. Of the 44 graduating students that year, they elected their very first African American as class valedictorian. Emma Genevieve Allen was born in 1915 in Urbana and attended the Urbana schools all her life. Ginny, as she was commonly known, was a very industrious student having never been tardy in all her 12 years of schooling. She was named a member of the National Honor Society and because of her high honors, she was awarded a full scholarship to Urbana Junior College. When she entered the college in September, 1933, she unknowingly brought integration to the campus, as the college initially tried holding separate classes just for her. The college's attempt to educate her "separate but equal" failed shortly after her admission as she excelled in her studies and became friends with the entire

student body.

After graduating Urbana Junior College in 1935, Ginny had plans to continue her education at The Ohio State University but this changed when the county auditor knocked on her door and begged her to work for him. She accepted his job offer and began her employment with Champaign County Auditor Earl Sexton. While there, Ginny began courting a fellow classmate, Clarence Jaxon Dale. Mr. Dale also grew up in Urbana, and attended Urbana Junior College. He graduated from Cleveland College of Mortuary Science, and received his funeral director and embalmer license in 1938. They married in August, 1940, and moved to Toledo, OH, where Clarence was working at a funeral home. After moving to Toledo, Ginny continued her education at Mary Manse College.

Ginny was familiar with the funeral home business as her immediate family had several members employed in the profession. Of Ginny's five brothers, four were morticians and her oldest brother opened the Guy Allen Funeral Home in Urbana in the mid-1930's. The Allen Funeral Home served the African American community around Urbana for over 30 years.

Times were tough when World War II broke out. Ginny worked as a claims examiner at the Bureau of Unemployment Compensation while Clarence continued working at a local funeral home as well as running an ambulance service. After the war, in 1946, they purchased the Wanzo Mortuary, which was the oldest black owned and operated funeral home in the city of Toledo. He changed the name to C.J. Dale Funeral Home, and averaged about 300 funerals a year until it was sold in 1992.

Genevieve Dale was also the first African American female deputy motor vehicle registrar in northwest Ohio, and for a time she operated the license bureau out of their

funeral home. She also received her license to become a funeral director, and became a member of the National Funeral Director and Mortician Association. Later, in the 1970's, Ginny served as vice president and trustee of the Northwest Ohio Funeral Directors Association. In 1977, she was the first woman, as well as the first African American woman, to serve as president of that Association.



*Genevieve & Clarence Dale*

One of the reasons for the success of the Dale Funeral Home was the partnership between Ginny and her husband Clarence. She was equal to him in his eagerness to succeed. The family business grew because of their straightforward dealings with people and their unselfish outlook. They always put other families first. Ginny is described as being the epitome of grace and style, and had a gentle presence. She was an elegant hostess, being soft, kind and friendly with a gracious open heart.

Clarence and Ginny were also involved in the community and civic affairs of Toledo. Clarence Dale served on the board of directors and later chairman of the former Mid-American National Bank. He was president of the Toledo chapter of the NAACP and a director of the YMCA, as well as a trustee of Central State University where he received an honorary doctor of laws degree in 1970. He was a founding member of the Toledo Alpha Phi Boule, the oldest African American fraternity in the United States. Ginny was also a member of several organizations, including the NAACP, The National Association of Black Business and Professional Women's Club, as well as being a lifetime member of All Saints Episcopal Church while chairing and supporting many of their church projects. She had an uncompromising Christian faith, and would also be seen most Sundays at Warren A.M.E. Church as she and her husband would attend worship services at both churches. Ginny was a founding member of the Toledo Chapter of the Girls Friends Inc, an organization that mentored African American students who faced financial obstacles to a college education by providing scholarships and other funding that would lead them to a better path in life.

In 2003, Clarence and Genevieve Dale were inducted into the Urbana University Hall of Fame (formerly Urbana College) as exemplary role models for the professional excellence and achievements in their lifetime. In the ceremony, Ginny was acknowledged as a forerunner in the era's Civil Rights movement by addressing and removing racial obstacles which opened the doors for many future African Americans at Urbana University.

The Dales had one son, Allen Jaxon Dale, who became a Funeral Director serving with his parents for over 18 years until their retirement in 1997. Clarence Dale passed away at age 87 years in 2002 and Ginny passed a few years later in 2007 at age 91 years. Both are buried in historic Woodlawn Cemetery in Toledo, OH.

## 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

Robert & Judy Ogden  
Danny & Tami Shambaugh  
Rose Marie (Kiser) Ross  
Vincent & Claudia Foulk  
Barbara Clark  
Marilyn Mason  
Sandi Arnold

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
MUSEUM



Est. 1934

NON-PROFIT  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
URBANA, OH 43078  
PERMIT NO 67