

The Peninsula Record

The Newsletter of the Peninsula Valley Historic & Education Foundation

OECA GIVES FOUNDATION GRANT TO WORK WITH WOODRIDGE SCHOOLS

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In January 2010, the Peninsula Valley Historic & Education Foundation was awarded a matching grant from the Ohio & Erie Canal Association.

The OECA grant will be used in conjunction with the Jelms Foundation grant to fund the educational programs that the Peninsula Valley Foundation has started with the local Woodridge School District.

On April 16, 2010, forty students and teachers from Woodridge Middle & High Schools visited the Foundation's facilities in Peninsula. Tours were given at the Designer's Barn House Museum & Grounds, the G.A.R. Hall, Museum, and the Bronson

Church. The students also learned about the important historic preservation achievements of Robert L. Hunker, founder of the Foundation.

In addition to the matching grant funds from the OECA, the Foundation is excited to work with Nancy Desmond, Interpretive Coordinator for the Ohio & Erie Canalway; she is a free resource avail-

able with the grant. Ms. Desmond will offer training for our current adult docents as well as for the student docents from Woodridge High School.

Upcoming projects with the Woodridge students include making a multimedia presentation of the history of the G.A.R. Hall that will be shown during the Lincoln Exhibit, enlisting the students as docents during summer months, and training students to collect oral histories.

Funds from the OECA grant will also be used for preservation equipment needed by the Foundation.



Woodridge students got to tour the Designer's Barn House Museum with employee Kathleen Young

FOUNDATION COLLABORATES WITH LOCAL BOY SCOUT PACKS

The Foundation has teamed up with the local Boy Scouts in promoting the upcoming Abraham Lincoln Exhibit.

Dave Johnson, former Commissioner of the MOECOMDWS District of the Great Trail Council and a Foundation docent, has been working hard for many months to ensure that as many Boy

Scouts as possible get to experience the Lincoln Exhibit. Because of his efforts, the G.A.R. Hall will be open several evenings for special Cub Scout events during July. A few hundred Cub Scouts and their families are expected to view the Lincoln Exhibit at this time.

The Foundation also set up a booth at

the annual Boy Scouts' Jamborall celebration held at the Manatoc Scout Reservation on Saturday, May 22nd. The trunk of replica artifacts, such as slave shackles, hardtack, and a gunny sack, were on hand for the scouts to touch and experience history. These artifacts will also be available to the public during the Lincoln Exhibit.

T R A N S F O R M I N G P E N I N S U L A ' S S K Y L I N E



View of the Almatic Building looking south

After years of waiting, the Foundation's Almatic Building finally has a new roof. The building, which is currently home to the Peninsula Art Academy and Engineering Products Inc., acquired its addition in March and was assembled in record time, from first cut to being watertight in less than a day. All have considered this a welcomed addition to Peninsula's downtown district. The project was not without its interruptions; however the contractor, MBI Inc.,

pulled it all together and completed the process seamlessly. In the coming months we will be painting the new siding as well as applying the finishing touches.

If you are interested in seeing a slideshow of the project please visit <http://bit.ly/almroof>

Thanks to Steve & Debra Bures of Elements Gallery for taking the pictures and posting the video!

V I L L A G E O F P E N I N S U L A V A C A T E S B R O N S O N ' S H I S T O R I C D R I V E

The Foundation has received a deeply appreciated gift from the Village of Peninsula. The Village Council passed a resolution in April to vacate the historic carriage drive to the east of the Bronson Memorial Church, which was recovered in 2007.

The Foundation provided the

survey of the area as well as the vacation plat and ordinance and presented them to the Village Council at their monthly meeting where they urged from the support of local residents, overwhelmingly passed the measure to return the drive to the Foundation. This will help ensure that the Foundation maintains

it for the historical use of the drive for church visitors.

The Foundation Board of Trustees and staff would like to thank the Council members that voiced their support and voted to restore the historic carriage drive to the Bronson Church.



View of the Bronson Church's historic carriage drive

F O U N D A T I O N ' S B O A R D O F T R U S T E E S D E V E L O P S T R A T E G I C P L A N

With the passing of the Foundation's founder and President Robert L. Hunker, the Board of Trustees determined that a strategic plan of action for the Foundation was necessary.

A committee was formed of the trustees and three staff members. They spent several months developing a plan with the help of Foundation intern David Waldman, a student

pursuing his masters degree in non-profit management from Case Western Reserve University.

The committee clearly defined the Foundation's mission, vision, and core values; identified its strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats through a SWOT analysis; and developed goals and strategies to achieve those goals.

The final draft of the strategic plan will be completed and voted on and by the end of May 2010. It will then be available to view on the Foundation's website.

Special thanks to David Waldman for all of his hard work in helping the committee formulate the strategic plan.

UPDATE ON G.A.R. HALL RENOVATIONS

This spring has been an exciting time for the G.A.R. Hall. The Foundation has completed refinishing the floor, hanging the new drapes and applying a fresh coat of paint in the auditorium.

Countless other items have been spruced up including new flooring in the downstairs hallway and carpet in the museum room. The Foundation would also like to acknowledge Lois Unger for diligently cleaning

and refinishing the pictures hanging in the hall. Several of the most fragile pieces, such as the original G.A.R. Charter for the Waterman Post and an original newspaper from the day Lincoln was assassinated, were carefully preserved and given museum glass that protects the image from light damage.

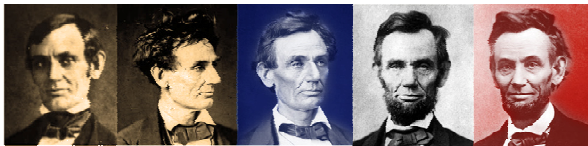
We will be continuing the facelift of the G.A.R. Hall prior to the Lincoln Exhibit in July by repainting

the exterior of the building and shutters. Also, the stage curtains and valances and the curtains in the basement will be replaced in the near future. We have received a set of encyclopedias from the 1880's thanks to a generous donation by the Peninsula Library and Historical Society. They will be housed in a custom built enclosure on the stage. We look forward to having you experience the updated G.A.R. Hall soon!



New drapes at the G.A.R. Hall

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR LINCOLN EXHIBIT



Abraham Lincoln: *Self-Made in America*

Interested in history? Excited about the 150th anniversary of the Civil War? The Peninsula Valley Historic & Education Foundation is looking for volunteers to be docents at the G.A.R. Hall & Museum in July when it hosts "Abraham Lincoln: Self-Made in America," a traveling exhibit sponsored by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum. Various shifts and days are available. Call or email the Foundation for more information. peninsulahistory@windstream.net

DOCENTS CORNER

The Friends of the Foundation are ready to kick off the 2010 season!

- A special reception for the docents was held on Saturday, January 16, 2010 at the Designer's Barn House Museum. Hors d'oeuvres and champagne were served and tours of the barn were given.
- The annual dinner for the docents was held on Thursday, May 6th at the G.A.R. Hall. Peggy Jo Whitman, President of the Friends of the Foundation committee, provided a wonderful dinner for all to enjoy. The keynote

speaker for the evening was Paul Huff, President of the Cuyahoga Valley Civil War Roundtable. He spoke about Robert A. Cassidy, a musician during the Civil War who later became mayor of Canton and was an honorary pallbearer at President McKinley's funeral.

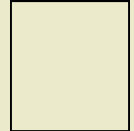
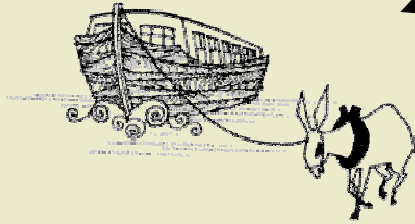
- The G.A.R. Hall and Bronson Church will again be open to the public starting Saturday, May 22nd which is also the weekend of the Spring Stroll.
- If you are interested in becoming a docent for the G.A.R. Hall, Bronson

Church, or the Designer's Barn House Museum, please contact Peggy Jo Whitman, 330-657-2607.



Docents Judy Lahoski, Rita Johnson, and Hazel Broughton at the Designer's Barn reception in January

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.PENINSULAHISTORY.ORG



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Preserving Peninsula's past for the future.

The Peninsula Valley Historic & Education Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) private operating foundation. It was established by Robert L. Hunker in 1997 for the purposes of preserving the historic architecture and character of Peninsula, Ohio and the surrounding area both within and proximate to the Cuyahoga Valley National Park; and to educate the public about the history of Peninsula and the Cuyahoga Valley with emphasis on economic and social development, architectural design and construction, decorative arts & crafts, landscape, gardens, and overall built environment.

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