

Randolph Historical Society Gettysburg Battlefields Tour

The Randolph Historical Society will be sponsoring a bus tour to the Gettysburg battlefields on November 2, 3 and 4th. Anyone interested in reservations can call either Bruce or Shirley Stanford (330) 325-1131 or Sandy Herring (330) 325-7330.

Itinerary

Wednesday November 2, leave 7:00 a.m. Portage County Fairgrounds (cars will be locked inside the gates). Our day will be spent learning more about the Gettysburg battle, enjoying each others company and just down right having a good time!

Lunch on your own and shopping at Boyd's Bear Country just outside of Gettysburg. 3:30 arrival at the hotel in Gettysburg. There are many establishments, attractions and shops of all types within a 3 block walk of

the hotel.

First evening we will attend the Gettysburg Battle Theatre. Bring your camera, you will be seeing Jim Getty portraying Abraham Lincoln.

Thursday November 3

Continental Breakfast at our hotel begins at 7:00 a.m. After our orientation at the National Parks Visitor Center and watching a 30-min. overview, including the electric map, we will pick up our guide and head for the Gettysburg Battlefields Tour. We are planning an extensive 4-hr. guided tour of the battlefields. After our tour we will stop for lunch and then head to the battlefields museum. We will then have time to freshen up for dinner. This evening we will all have dinner together at one of Gettysburg's finest historic restaurants. The rest of the evening is yours to explore at your leisure.

Friday November 4

Continental Breakfast begins at 7:00 a.m. & hotel checkout. We have arranged for a guide to meet us at 9:00 a.m. board our motorcoach and take us on a cemetery tour we will not soon forget! After lunch we will begin our journey home. Late evening arrival back in Randolph.

**Cost: \$280.00 per person
(based on double occupancy).**

**For more information and forms
contact:
WESTERN RESERVE TOURS
Sandy Herring, BusMom
P.O. Box 249
Randolph, Ohio 44265
330-325-7330**

The Randolph LEGACY

The Randolph Historical Society Newsletter

Town Hall Update

As of this writing, the work on securing the floor, the heating and the electrical has been completed. The township trustees have indicated that they wish to complete the interior "up to the dome." While there is much work

still to be done, and exactly which interior details will be completed have yet to be determined, we are encouraged by the trustees efforts to preserve the building.

Randolph Town Hall Fund

The historical society is seeking donations for the **Randolph Town Hall Fund** to secure monies for future preservation of the Randolph Town Hall. Under the guidelines of the ballot passed last November, all work must be completed by December 31, 2005. Any projects left to be done may not be funded. The historical society decided to set up

the Randolph Town Hall fund to provide the Township with an extra resource to continue the preservation efforts. If you'd like to make a donation, please send your donation, marked "**Randolph Town Hall Fund**" to:
Randolph Historical Society
P.O. Box 254 Randolph, Ohio 44265

Marilla's underground railroad mystery

By Carey Steele

This program, along with the "Make Change For History" Fundraiser, was our entry into the Save Our History Preservation Award, sponsored by the History channel. Their website is: www.saveourhistory.org

Marilla's Underground Railroad Mystery: Sharing Randolph's Legacy through Preservation and Education, is a part of an ongoing effort to educate the Randolph community about its anti-slavery/underground railroad history. Our town has a rich past that really teaches us about the value of freedom and how very important it is to preserve the stories of those who came before us and the places they called home. Efforts are currently being made to preserve the Randolph Town Hall, which is the center of much of the anti-slavery story. This program is a part of the Randolph Historical Society's campaign to raise awareness of the importance of the building and secure its preservation for generations to come.

In March, I spoke to Mr. Sever's 4th grade class at St. Joseph's School about the history of slavery and the anti-slavery movement. I dis-

cussed the different ways the citizens of Randolph fought against slavery and how they were a crucial part of the underground railroad. The following day, they had the opportunity to be unofficial underground railroad researchers. I've gathered a couple of years worth of research, simplified it and have put it together in a way that will hopefully be exciting for them. Here's the premise of the story:

Marilla was 14 when she experienced first hand the anti-slavery activities of Randolph, Ohio. Knowing that her family could face serious consequences if their activities were made known, she secretly collected bits of information through the years that individually, would tell little of the story, but together, when read carefully, gave away the story in dramatic detail.

In later years, she kept these documents in a wooden box, hoping

that eventually a descendant would put the pieces of the family history together,

The box eventually made its way through the descendants to the Randolph Historical Society, where it awaits someone to open it, and bring to life the true story of Marilla's Underground Railroad Station.

Although Marilla is a real person and her family's story is true, the story of the wooden box is my creation. The students were put in groups of five and tried to investigate one underground railroad conductor. "Marilla" had separated the documents in the box, wrapped in ribbon, to match one of the five people. Each group had a piece of the story and when they compared what they have learned at the end, Marilla's story was revealed: Her Uncle Oliver, Cousin William Stedman, future brother-in-law Truman Case, her minister Joseph



The Randolph Historical Society
P.O. Box 254
Randolph, OH 44265

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Marilla's underground railroad mystery continued

Meriam, and her father were all deeply involved in protecting fugitive slaves. They also placed a picture of the

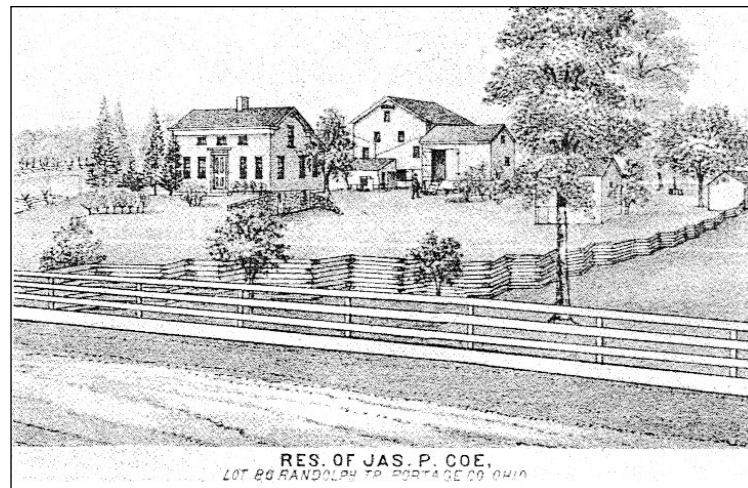
agents' house on a poster size copy of the 1857 map of Randolph. I want to thank Mr. Sever and Mrs. Permetti, the

Principal for welcoming me into the classroom to share the program with the students.

Edited by Myron Mullet

Wilbur Hankey's Recollections of Randolph

Wilbur's parents were Charles Franklin Hankey and Nettie Elizabeth Rodenbaugh. His brother Eugene was 4 years older than Wilbur. The old farm house on Wilbur and Joanne's property was originally located a bit to the north and closer to route 44 on a small knoll. Charles and James Coe lived there then. It was later moved to its present location in 1860 (across from what is now known as Friendship Acres). The Coe's operated a tile factory on this property and the clay quarry site is still in evidence. Wilbur has found several lengths of tile in good condition. George Knapp owned the house after Coe.



tools, clothing and shoes. Customers were known to barter or exchange eggs, fruits and vegetables instead of using money.

Wilbur and his older brother along with Lee Seifert trapped Breakneck Creek and swamplands for

George Case owned and operated a sawmill, lumber yard and cider press on the east side of route 44 across from the Town Hall. Wilbur remembers the long trough which Mr. Case had lined with pipes connected to his steam engine. The trough was filled with cider and the heated pipes boiled the cider down into the most delicious apple butter.

In addition to farming, Wilbur also painted barns and houses for a living. He also butchered hogs for some nearby farmers. One such customer was Emmett Bauer who lived of Bassett Road with his sister Frona (Fronnie). Emmett wanted the hogs stuck and the blood collected to make

blood pudding. This sounded repulsive to Wilbur until he learned blood and liver pudding wasn't eaten with a spoon like dessert pudding; but stuffed in a casing with other meats and spices, then sliced for making sandwiches.

Emmett drove an old Model T. The passenger side door was broken and jammed and could not be opened. Fronnie would always get in the driver's side and slide across the seat to the right side of the car. It was a common site to see her doing this at church, or the store, anywhere they happened to go. On one occasion some ornery boys attached a smoke bomb under the hood of the car without Emmett and his sister's knowledge. He opened the door and she got in and slid across to the other side, he then got in and turned the key. BANG! BOOM! Sparks and smoke

muskrats. One morning they found a skunk in one of their traps. While trying to release the unfortunate animal, the boys were sprayed with the skunk's offensive odor. Naturally the boys tried to wash off the obnoxious scent; but when Gene got to school the teacher immediately sent him home. Mr. Hankey took his son right back to school and informed the teacher, "This boy doesn't smell any worse than your perfume!"

Apples were a very important crop to the residents of Randolph Township. Large orchards were located on many farms: Sabin, Meacham, Honeywell, Merriman, Begue, Kibler, Fluharty, Brockett, Knapp and Moss to mention a few. Many varieties of apples were not only used for cooking and eating but for making cider and apple butter which were very popular in those days.

Mr. Chain was a barber in Randolph. His shop was in a small building just south of the present day Jenior's Ford Showroom. There was a town pump at the northwest corner of old route 224 (Waterloo Rd.) and route 44. It was a tall hand pump which was used by local citizens and travelers for drinking and for refilling car and truck radiators. Wilbur can recall the old spring-fed watering trough 1½ miles north of the center on the east side of route 44 (across from the trailer park).

There was a small building behind Lang's General Store/Post Office where Claude Lang did custom butchering. Other stores in the area were Bormet's at St. Joe and the Beersford Store (which is now Warner's Furniture Store). These stores sold a variety of food staples and also provided many hardware and miscellaneous items for sale, even

bellowed everywhere. When all the dust settled and the smoke drifted away, to everyone's amazement Fronnie had been able to open the broken door and jump out.

Another neighbor, Benny Bentz, was known to raise grapes and fruit to make his own wine - a lot of

wine, because Benny liked to drink. After he died, his possessions were sold at auction. The most popular items for bid were all those jugs of wine.....\$1 a gallon.

Mr. Hankey also remembers the depression years as being especially hard for people who lived in towns

and cities. They usually didn't have gardens and orchards for vegetables and fruit or animals for meat, milk, eggs and butter, etc. "We always had enough food, but it was still lard living for a lot of folks in Randolph Township".

Make Change For History Week! St. Joseph School

The Students in Mr. Sever's 4th grade class are volunteering to help kick off the **Randolph Historical Society's** fundraising efforts for the **Randolph Town Hall Fund**. This fund will be used to help our township repair and preserve the Randolph Town Hall.

The students in the 4th grade, along with members of the Randolph

Historical Society, will bake and sell baked goods at Saint Joseph's school, Wednesday, May 18th. We also plan to offer a raffle for additional money.

The school will also have a week long contest, donating "change" for the Randolph Town Hall Fund. Classes raising the most money will win a donut breakfast party from the Historical Society.

The Randolph Methodist Church to host the quarterly C.H.I.P.S. Meeting

The historical society will be hosting the quarterly meeting for C.H.I.P.S. at the Randolph Methodist Church on Saturday, October 8th from 9 a.m. to Noon. CHIPS is an association of local historical societies from Summit and Portage County that meet to share information, ideas and build

connections between the historical societies. The group was originally founded by Jim Caccamo, former director of the Kent Historical Society who died suddenly in 2002. Please call Howard & Carol Mangold (330) 325-8817, for more information.

NEW OFFICERS ELECTED TO THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

With the 1st of the year came the election of new officers

PresidentCarey Steele

Vice PresidentDan Kolasky

SecretaryShirley Stanford

TreasurerAudrey Smith

Newsletter EditorKathy Lang

Calendar of upcoming events

Monthly Meetings:	Every 4th Tuesday of the month 7:30 p.m. Randolph Community Center	October 8:	C.H.I.P.S. Meeting Randolph Methodist Church 9-Noon Contact Howard & Carol Mangold (330) 325-8817
Weekends of Oct. 15 & 22:	First Annual Randolph Cemetery Walk Tours start at the Rand. Com. Center Contact: Carey Steele (330) 935-2421	November 2-4:	Gettysburg Battlefield Tour Meet at Portage Co. Fairgrounds Contact Bruce or Shirley Stanford (330) 325-1131

Randolph Cemetery Walk

The Randolph Historical Society will be hosting its First Annual Randolph Cemetery Walk to benefit the Town Hall Fund. We will be walking through the Center-Disciple Cemetery located on State Route 44 the weekends of October 15th and 22nd. The cemetery was established in 1823 and many of Randolph's earliest and most noted citizens are buried there. We are currently planning the event and we will be sending out a separate mailer with more information. If you wish to receive the mailer and are currently not on our mailing list please email us at: Randolphugrr@yahoo.com

New woodcut of the Randolph Christian Church

The Randolph Christian Church wood cut will be available for the annual Memorial Day Parade. Located 1/8 mi. north of Randolph Town Center. Constructed in 1885.

