

As we approach the end of the year we thought it would be a good idea to share some of our accomplishments from this year.

### *WE WERE CERTAINLY BUSY IN 2018*

- February 3 – Andy Gibbs appeared as Underground Railroad Conductor John Parker in the Sandusky Library Program Room, presented the Erie Co. Historical Society
- April 18 – Jay Cooke: Shaping Sandusky and the U.S., presented by the Erie County Historical Society – at the Sandusky State Theatre.
- May 6 – ECHS held a MEMBERS ONLY historic walking tour of Washington Park. The tour ended with an optional social hour and dinner at the Sandusky Yacht Club
- May 19 – International Museum Day – Museums across Erie County celebrated with free admissions and activities. This was a great opportunity to explore the history of our communities.
- May 23 – Walking Tour of Washington Park
- July 4 – SPEAKERS SERIES –The Sandusky Bicentennial Commission History Committee organized a “History Festival” at Adams School which included displays of historical artifacts from the area. Speakers included: John Hildebrandt: “Top 10 Significant Events in Sandusky History”; Jim Semons: “Sandusky’s First Photographer, Ernst Niebergall”; Jackie Mayer: “Early Life and Becoming Miss America”; Ron Davidson: “Daily Life in Sandusky 1818 and 1918”; Jim Miller: “Maritime History”.
- June 27 – Walking Tour - Sandusky & The Underground Railroad - This tour was conducted in memory of Esther Bates, Elaine Lawson, LoyBelle Poole and Janet Senne, founding members of the Sandusky Underground Railroad Education Center. They provided valuable information regarding Sandusky’s role in the URR movement, and they will be missed.
- July 25 – Walking Tour – Discover hidden gems in Downtown Sandusky
- August 22 – Walking Tour – Downtown Sandusky
- September 26 – Walking Tour of Washington Park
- October 7 - Annual Membership meeting at Chet and Matts Pizza. Randy Koch appeared as the Confederate soldier Charlie Pierce, who gained infamy for his many attempted escapes from Johnson’s Island.
- November 18 – [Attend our Annual Meeting & Banquet at the Sandusky Yacht Club](#)

### *HAVE YOU TAKEN OUR HISTORY QUIZ?*



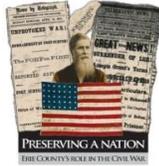
The first 25 questions appeared on our website and so many people took the quiz. Everyone was surprised at how much (or how little) they knew about Erie County. Watch for the next 25 questions which should be appearing soon. Will you be a Historian, Expert, Apprentice, Amateur or Newbie? Take the test to see how much you know about this area.

## OUR WEBSITE

More changes appeared on our website this summer. We added a few more pages so you can keep up with all the latest news affecting Erie County. This year the Sandusky Register provided a wonderful variety of materials that we thought was pretty historic. Here are some of the new pages.



[NEWS](#) – We have a page for NEWS. Yes, your one-stop for all the news that appears in the papers and online that pertains to Erie County and its impressive history. This year there was a series on all the historic churches in the county. Surprisingly, some date back to the 1830's. Make sure you check in regularly to see what has appeared lately.



[ERIE COUNTY & THE CIVIL WAR](#) – Randy Koch organized a series of award winning articles about the Civil War and Erie County which appeared in the Sandusky Register. We are working to get those articles onto our website. We have already starting loading them, and will work on this through the winter with a couple more added each week. Keep checking back. Just click on CIVIL WAR in the menu.



[REMEMBER WHEN](#) - We also share some pretty historic photos. Many of them appeared on the Register's series. Old photos from Sandusky, Cedar Point and surrounding areas. We show them in a series of slideshows.

[SANDUSKY HISTORIC WALKING TOUR](#) – So much more here now. We combed old newspapers for historic tidbits about some of the buildings, there are quite a few new links to the Sandusky Blogspot so that you can read more about the people, places and things that once would have been observed downtown, and we added quite a few more photos. You can almost picture yourself walking down the streets and frequenting the stores.

## OUR ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING



A record crowd of 65 people showed up at Chet & Matt's Pizza for Randy Koch's presentation as the Confederate soldier Charlie Pierce, who gained infamy for his many attempted escapes from Johnson's Island. Unfortunately, the restaurant was not prepared for such a large crowd and service suffered. For that we apologize. But Randy's presentation (Randy is on the left) certainly made up for it!

## YOU CAN HELP US MAKE HISTORY

Did you know that membership in the Erie County Historical Society is only \$10 a year? What a deal. Please, support our efforts by joining us today – use our handy [ONLINE FORM](#).

## *A SAD GOODBYE*

It was with a sad heart that we mourned the passing of Board Member John Schaeffer who left us in April. John was a farmer, a public official, an active member of his church, a conservationist and a public official. But the longtime local resident, who died age 90 on April 7 in a Bellevue nursing home, is particularly remembered for his efforts to preserve local history.



He was a county official for many years, serving as an Erie County Commissioner from 1972 to 1976, and Erie County's recorder from 1980 through 2000.

He worked to help create Lyme Village, a collection of restored 19th-century buildings near Bellevue, and helped find artifacts displayed in a barn at the Erie County Fair. Schaeffer helped move some of the buildings to the village and served several terms on the board, said Dennis Bauer, Lyme Village's treasurer. "He was a main character in the development of the village," Bauer said.

He also found many artifacts for the village. "Most everything he collected, he brought out to Lyme," Bauer said. "We have quite a collection of artifacts because of everything he had found." His wife, Alvina, was the curator for Lyme Village. "He was one of the founding members of Historic Lyme Village, he and my mom," Kautz said. He helped move several houses and a brick schoolhouse, Kevin Schaeffer said. "They spent so many hours at Lyme Village," Kautz said. "If we couldn't find them at home, we'd say: 'They're probably at the village.'"

Schaeffer talked about his interest in history, and his artifact collecting, in a 2016 feature article for the Register about the Heritage Society of Erie County, a group Schaeffer and his wife have been involved in. Each year, the group displays historic objects in a barn at the annual Erie County Fair. The display included an old road sign that said: "Clyde, Home of Private Rodger Young, Whose Heroic Deeds Inspired World War II Ballad." Don't remember Rodger Young? He won the Medal of Honor in World War II.

## *A LITTLE HISTORY*

### **HUDSON'S STORE – A Palatial Establishment in the [Schmidt Block](#)**

Sandusky Register, **March 28, 1894** - It will be Opened to the Public Today Under Very Favorable Auspices

Mr. J. Peffer Hicks, the enterprising local manager for John L. Hudson, the clothing king, says Hudson's new store in the Schmidt block at the corner of Market and Wayne streets is the best appointed store of its kind in Ohio.

That's a big statement to make, but nevertheless it is true, 'Farmer' Hicks never lies. It is his George Washingtonian honesty in business matters that has made both himself and the firm he represents in this city so popular. The public will be able to prove his assertion when they attend the opening, which occurs at 1 o'clock today. A Register reporter had a private view yesterday.

The store occupies the southeast corner of the handsome stone and brick block which Mr. A. Schmidt, junior, has erected, and contains two floors 100 feet deep and 43 feet wide.

As the visitor enters today by the main door he will find himself confronted by a sort of triumphal arch with the word 'Welcome' worked out in large letters. He will not know which way to turn at first, but if he follows the example of our reporter he will first turn to the left and gaze with fondness upon the choice and dazzling stock of neckwear and gents' furnishing and still keeping to the left will inspect the new styles of hats and caps that are shown. Passing down between the long row of tables he will have an opportunity to inspect the spring styles of clothing and some pretty styles they are. To look at the patterns of high brown checks and greys will make him long for seventy in the shade and Cedar Point; and when he goes further and sees the countless styles and prices of clothing he will agree with Shakespeare that "the apparel oft proclaims the man." There are clothes for men in all walks of life; clothes for stout men, clothes for thin men, clothes for medium sized men and clothes for men whose purses are fat or slim.

William Gerald has charge of the gent's furnishings and hats and caps, and our old friends Wm. Schumacher, John Haley and Charles H. Goss will be perfectly suave and patient while patrons are making up their minds amidst the bewilderment of choice as to which suit of clothes is best for them and their purses.

At the south end of this walk the visitor will peep into the cozy dressing and toilet rooms which have been fitted up for patrons, and looking up he will see a balcony office where the cashier will sit in receipt of customs and where the popular J. P. H. has his desk so that he can command a full view of the store and smile down graciously upon the old and new friends who are going to call on him. He will also see the steel wires converging in the office above from every direction of the store, upon which will run the cash carriers whose clocking as they dump their contents at the cashier's desk will be sweet music to the only J. P. H.

Then the visitor will make the acquaintance of Mr. P. H. Schneider, who has charge of the dry goods department, with a corps of able lady assistants. And this is a dry goods department. It extends the whole length and occupies one half of the store, with two rows of counters, elegant show cases etc. Mr. Schneider is an old and trusted employee of John L. Hudson and he received the greater part of his experience in the Detroit store. He is not unknown in this part of Ohio and will be better known soon. Hicks says what Schneider doesn't know about dry goods isn't worth knowing, and as Hicks is the manager he ought to know. Schneider is proud of his department, and justly so. He points with pride to the admirable arrangement of the shelving and the counters and descants upon the beautiful stock that those shelves contain. Dress goods are to be seen in all styles, shades and prices; silks, laces, trimmings, linens, calicoes and other dry goods are shown in great profusion of design and price and there is a line of notions that can not be beaten. One great point about the stock is that it is all brand new and admirably chosen. It is worth a man's while to inspect this stock if only to get an advance view of the pretty prints which the summer girl is going to wear very soon. These are choice and increase the longing for the boat rides and trips to Cedar Point which will soon materialize.

When he has completed his tour of the first floor the visitor whose curiosity knows no bounds will ask what's to be seen on the second floor. Anticipating the answer he will receive we will tell him that that is used as a surplus stock room and as soon as the shelves on the lower floor are depleted, their stocks will be renewed from this source. He'll not want to leave so soon and he can just examine the fittings which are all hardwood and of fine workmanship. It will also be noticed that the store is well lighted by windows, lofty and airy, with arc and incandescent electric lights and gas chandeliers.

When the reporter visited the place yesterday he found the window blinds drawn. Of course he wanted to see inside the dust proof window cases and was given a private view, but only under a promise not to reveal what he saw. It can be said, however, without a breach of faith that the windows will surprise the visitor when the blinds are raised and their contents displayed to view.

To put it shortly, pointers have been taken from J. L. Hudson's mammoth stores in Detroit, Cleveland, Buffalo, Toledo, St. Louis and St. Paul and the best of each has been incorporated in the arrangement of the Sandusky store. With so many stores to stock, Hudson's buyers have a pull in the market which smaller concerns have not and the purchasing power of this big concern is turned to the benefit of Hudson's customers. Another thing that enables profits to be cut fine is that a strictly cash business will be done.

The store will open at 1 o'clock to-day and Mr. Hicks has hired an orchestra to entertain the guests at the house warming.

### *OUR MISSION*

To discover, collect, and preserve whatever relates to the History, Biography and Genealogy of Erie County, Ohio; to obtain members living in Erie County or elsewhere who are interested in these subjects, or who have special interests that could be classified as historical; to hold meetings for the instruction and entertainment of its members and the general public; to extend knowledge of the society's collections by publications or other means; to enrich the heritage and to preserve tradition within the area to be served; to create interest in items and events of a historical nature; to conduct programs or events designed to illustrate or celebrate events of a historical nature; to act as a conduit to support other area historical organizations. *November*

*27, 2013*

**2018 Dinner and Annual Meeting**

Sunday, November 18, 2018

At the Sandusky Yacht Club

**Annual Meeting Schedule:**

- Social Hour and Cash Bar Beginning at 5:00 p.m.
- Dinner at 5:45 p.m.
- Business Meeting and Presentation to Follow Dinner

This year's speaker will be Mr. Jerel Scott, who will present on the history of coal loading in Sandusky

AVAILABLE MEAL OPTIONS (Price Includes Tax and Gratuity)	COST
<b>Meal "A"</b>	\$40.00 each
<u>Prime Rib Au Jus</u> : Includes salad, asparagus with roasted tomatoes, herb roasted redskins, dinner rolls, and a vanilla ice cream dessert	
<b>Meal "B"</b>	\$29.00 each
<u>Stuffed Boneless Pork Chop</u> : Includes salad, asparagus with roasted tomatoes, herb roasted redskins, dinner rolls, and a vanilla ice cream dessert	
<b>Meal "C"</b>	\$22.00 each
<u>SYC Light Pasta Dinner</u> : Includes salad, spaghetti & meatballs with marinara sauce, a breadstick, dinner rolls, and a vanilla ice cream dessert	

**NOTE:** All meals include your choice of iced tea, coffee, and hot tea

Questions: Call 419-609-9046

Please detach below at the dotted line and mail reservations with payment to The Erie County Historical Society, P.O. Box 944, Sandusky, OH 44871-0944.

**Reservations and Payments Due By Saturday, November 10, 2018**

Your Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Choose Your Meal:		Number of Meals	Total Amount
"A"	Prime Rib Au Jus at \$40.00 each		\$
"B"	Stuffed Boneless Pork Chop at \$29.00 each		\$
"C"	SYC Light Pasta Dinner at \$22.00 each		\$

Grand Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_