

Mount Healthy Historical Society



November 2015

Officers:

President

Penny Huber

Vice-President

Lori Stanley

Treasurer

Dottie Betsch

Secretary

Julie Turner

Corresponding

Secretary

Karen Arnett

Board of Trustees:

Dave Huser

Jay Klenk

Ken Scheffel

Mt. Healthy Historical Society

1546 McMakin Avenue

Cincinnati, OH 45231

Phone: 513-522-3939

Hours: 9-11 a.m. Tuesdays
and Saturdays, 1-3 p.m. the
first Sunday of the month or
by appointment.

Have questions? Email:

mt.healthyhistory@yahoo.com

Visit us online at:

www.mthealthyhistory.org.

*Newsletter created by
Monica Lubiani*

Around the Society...

Fall is here and the holidays are right around the corner. We have some exciting things planned for next month.

Our first event is our annual Christmas dinner, which will be hosted at 6pm Wednesday, December 2, at the United Methodist Church. We invite everyone to attend. Just bring a covered dish and make sure you R.S.V.P. (More details about the dinner are on page 5.)

Our second event is our Christmas Open House from 1-3pm Sunday, December 6, at the museum.

This year we'll have plenty of activities for everyone. The children can enjoy a craft and storytelling and visit with Santa. There will be Christmas carols played on a hammered dulcimer and you can see a turn-of-the-century knitting machine in operation. There will also be a basket raffle and refreshments.

Hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

Penny Huber

Notable History

Mt. Healthy Garage Gets New Owners, New Life

By: Karen Arnett

The Mt. Healthy Garage is beginning a new chapter in its life, thanks to loving restoration by residents Susan Frank and Ken Weaver. The old service bay that was on the south side of the building will be home to Susan's art studio (she's a painter); the main area will hold another business. They're hoping to find an entrepreneur whose small business will add value to the uptown. The old garage, along with the Main Theatre, when that is finally renovated, may serve as an anchor for a renewed Mt. Healthy uptown.

The Mt. Healthy Garage was opened in 1932 as a full-service Sunoco gas station and garage, under the proprietorship of Herman Muehlenhard. There were two pumps and a service bay with lift; Adolph Bobinger was the mechanic.

Ron Blum was the garage's only employee; he began work there when he was 14. Under Adolph's mentoring, Ron gained the skills that allowed him to buy and operate his own Sunoco station on North Bend Road, later a Sunoco at Hamilton and Adams, and finally an auto repair garage.



From left, Adolph Bobinger, Ron Blum, and Herman Muehlenhard stand in front of the garage in the early 1950s. Photo Provided.



Adolph Bobinger, left, and Ron Blum inspect a vehicle at the Mt. Healthy Garage. Photo provided. Undated.

After Herman died, Adolph became the proprietor. Later, despite efforts by Ron Blum to purchase the business, Adolph hung on to it and operated the garage until the 1990s. After his 60-year tenure, the garage was used for the storage of construction materials by Bayes & Sons.

Just as in most small towns, the station was a perfect place for kibitzing: a group of older guys hung out there—among them Oscar Bobinger, Joe Neihard, Vierling Blum and someone named Fritz, according to Joe Bobinger.

Notable History

The garage sat empty and deteriorating for a period of years, until Susan and Ken, relatively new to Mt. Healthy, saw the potential in the charming structure and decided it was worth restoring it. Susan said that it was in much worse shape than it had appeared from the outside. It was basically just a shell of a building.

They completely rebuilt the roof, which was falling in. Ken, a gifted carpenter, built the doors from scratch with a dense African hardwood, and he says they will be durable through many years of weathering and exposure to the elements.

If you would like to see the garage's new look, it will be open for a Christmas Ornament Exchange hosted by the Mt. Healthy Renaissance Project from 4-6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12. The garage is located at 7420 Hamilton Avenue.

Mt. Healthy Garage Scrapbook



Dear Neighbor-
Do you recognize the picture? Here you get real service and the most for your money. The New Blue Sunoco is today's greatest value. Double-quick starting-full knockless power instantly-and it still sells at Regular Gas Price

Mr. Wm. H. Bonaffel,
7432 Elizabeth Ave.
Mt. Healthy, Ohio

Clockwise from top left, the front and back of a Mt. Healthy Garage postcard mailed to customers in 1932; the newly-added gallery space in the garage; the former garage space renovated for a small business; and the exterior of the Mt. Healthy Garage renovated by Susan Frank and Ken Weaver. (Photos Provided.)



Uncovering History

Safe Harbor for Displaced African Americans

By: Karen Arnett

Last summer's internship focusing on the history of African American residents of Mt. Healthy unexpectedly opened a new vein of research into our community's rich antebellum black history.

Our intern said she enjoyed tracing individual residents through the census; including, Henry McGrath, a gentleman of color who lived in Mt. Healthy around 1860. Henry was a native of Arkansas whose mother was a free black woman born in Nova Scotia, and his father is listed as originating in Ireland. By 1870 he was back in Arkansas, working as a farmer. By 1874 Henry was on the Board of County Elections Supervisors for his home county of Desha, in Arkansas. In the 1900 census, he was a practicing physician and a 63-year-old man of means in Desha County. It was not uncommon for people of color to return to the south after the Civil War, their hopes raised for civil equality by the early promise of Reconstruction. Since Henry attained public office, it seems likely he was part of that wave. We wanted to learn more about the McGraths, a mixed-race family who had emigrated from freedom to a slave state in the years when cotton and slavery ruled.

We dug in to see what the internet could provide. One exciting find: "An Appeal To The Christians Of The World," a letter published in early 1860 in William Lloyd Garrison's *The Liberator*, and several other antislavery newspapers, jointly signed by a number of people from Arkansas. Among the signers were Henry McGrath and a few of the same people listed in his household in Mt. Healthy!

A relatively unknown law today, the Arkansas Free Negro Expulsion Act of 1859, ordered free blacks in that state to leave the state by January 1, 1860 or be enslaved. Hundreds of free African American residents scrambled to dispose of their possessions and find a new home. The Appeal, which was published in newspapers as far away as England, was an attempt to make the world aware of their plight. Many of these exiles were well-educated and of considerable financial means, but they had difficulty finding new homes. Ohio may have been the only border state that did not turn them away. Some faced kidnapping in Kansas, as it was lucrative to fraudulently capture and sell people of color into slavery. Some prominent abolitionists in Cincinnati agreed to host up to 40 exiles, and in the end, over 200 arrived here. A smaller number found welcome in Mt. Healthy. Henry McGrath was among a number of exiles who found safe harbor here.

A bit more digging into this topic led to Dr. Brian Mitchell, a historian and professor at University of Arkansas who is doing groundbreaking research in this chapter of his state's history. I have been in contact with Dr. Mitchell and we have discussed the possibility of a collaborative effort to research locally about these exiles in the greater Cincinnati area. This mutually beneficial project would both further our understanding of our own local history, as well as to support the work of Dr. Mitchell. We are exploring a possible internship for summer 2016. For a fascinating hour-long lecture on this topic by Dr. Mitchell, go to

<http://arstudies.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/singleitem/collection/p15728coll5/id/785/rec/3>

Historical Society Happenings

Celebrate Christmas with the Historical Society

By: Lori Stanley

The Mt. Healthy Historical Society is hosting our annual Christmas Party at 6 p.m. Wednesday, December 2. in the Fellowship Hall of the Methodist Church in Mt. Healthy, 7612 Perry Street.

This is a potluck dinner, and everyone attending is asked to bring a dish. Please R.S.V.P. to Penny Huber at 513-931-6420.

This year, we are having a speaker from the Butler County Historical Society. Kathy Creighton will be speaking about Victorian Holiday traditions. Highlights of the talk include the origin of the Christmas tree, the sending of Christmas cards, and the impact of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol on current holiday traditions.

It will be a wonderful chance to celebrate the upcoming holidays and to catch up with friends! If you can attend, we would love to see you there!



SAVE THE DATE



Mt. Healthy Historical Society Holiday Open House

1-3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6

1546 McMakin Ave.

Santa Claus, Crafts, Treats, Music, Demonstrations and More

Paul R. Young Funeral Home Holiday Open House

4-8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12

7345 Hamilton Ave.

Live Animals Nativity Scene, Carriage Rides, Tours and More

Mt. Healthy Renaissance Project Ornament Exchange

4-6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12

7420 Hamilton Ave.

Bring ornaments/holiday décor to swap for your holiday trimming.



Preserving History

Saving History One Scan at a Time

The Historical Society Scan Day, hosted on Sept. 19, helped preserve some of our rich history. We hope that this will be an annual or semi-annual event to gather our past.

We know that there are many historically interesting photographs in private collections, and we want to retain this history in our archives for the benefit of future generations.

Since the Scan Day several people have brought in or sent in their old photos, and we hope you will too. Feel free to share them at the museum during our open hours: 9-11 a.m. Tuesdays and Saturdays, and 1-3 p.m. the first Sunday of the month or by appointment.



At right, Julie Turner scans photos shared by Arlette Merritt. (Provided.)

Hometown History



**Do you remember
when city hall used to
be all decked out for
Christmas?**

Notice the star atop the building, the tree on the roof and, if you look closely, reindeer ready to take flight off the left side of the building.

*What a magical way to
celebrate Christmas!*

Mt. Healthy Historical Society Business Members

Please Support These Business Members!

Tom's Barbershop

7816 Hamilton Avenue - Cincinnati, Ohio 45231
513-238-2596

NEW HOURS EFFECTIVE 1/7/2010

Thurs & Fri. 9:00 - 5:00
Saturday 9:00 - 2:00
Closed Mon. Tues. Wed. & Sunday



No matter what the personal plague is....

David R. Hoffman
Ph: 513-602-5424
Fax: 513-931-3801

We have the Knowledge
We have the Technology
We have the Desire to help you

7421 Hamilton Ave Cincinnati, OH 45231
www.merlinspestcontrol.net merlinspestcontrol.net@gmail.com



7508 Hamilton Ave. (Rt. 127)
Mt. Healthy, Ohio 45231
513-521-5739

Wide Variety of
Antiques &
Collectibles

HOURS
Mon-Sat
10:00-6:00
Sunday
Noon-6:00

HALL & ASSOCIATES INC.

ACCOUNTING • BOOKKEEPING • TAXES • MANAGEMENT

ROBERT L. HALL, MBA
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

7811 HAMILTON AVENUE (513) 521-4255
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45231-3105 (513) 521-HALL
(Mt. Healthy) FAX (513) 522-3752
E-MAIL rhall@hallsr.com CELL (513) 659-1517
www.hallsr.com
"We help others achieve their goals"

HILLTOP GLASS & MIRROR, LLC

1588 COMPTON RD. CINCINNATI, OH 45231 513-931-3688

SERVICES AVAILABLE:

- INSULATED GLASS • CUSTOM MIRRORS
- FURNITURE TOPS • SCREENS
- SAFETY GLASS • SHOWER ENCLOSURES

COMMERCIAL / RESIDENTIAL

We Cut Glass Any Size

CHUCK COLLINS

JACK HOWELL

MT. HEALTHY AUTO REPAIR

"Complete Foreign and American Repair"

www.mthealthyaautorepair.com

1432 COMPTON ROAD
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45231 PHONE (513) 522-9555



Daniel G. Applegate
President

2145 Compton Road Phone: (513) 521-7003
Cincinnati, Ohio 45231 FAX: (513) 728-4574
arlingtonmemorialgardens.org dan@amgardens.org



Dwight L. Moody Ins Agcy Inc
Dwight L. Moody, President

7800 Hamilton Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45231-3106
Bus 513-772-6061
Fax 513-772-5690
dwight.moody.gh4@statefarm.com

Good Neighbor Agent since 1993

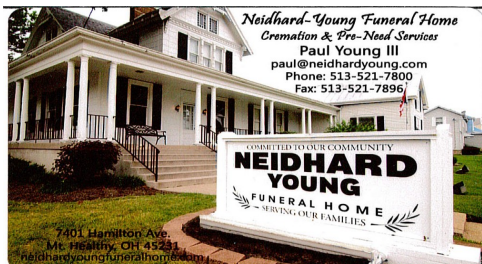


Chris Girmann
3rd Generation Baker

7611 Hamilton Ave. Tues - Sat.
Mt. Healthy, OH 45231 Hours: 6am - 5pm
www.littledutchbakery.com

Wedding Cakes
Party Cakes • Tea Cookies
Breads • Coffee Cakes
Donuts • Danish

(513) 931-3550



Neidhard-Young Funeral Home
Cremation & Pre-Need Services
Paul Young III
paul@neidhardyoung.com
Phone: 513-521-7800
Fax: 513-521-7896



Rhea Pettway
Owner/Hair Stylist

Studio 914 Hair Salon
"specializing in you"

1612 Compton Rd
Cincinnati, OH
45231
Salon: 513-521-2800
studio914hairsalon@gmail.com



FIBONACCI
BREWING COMPANY

Bob Bollas
CHIEF OF ZYMURGY

1445 Compton Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45231

P 513.832.1422

fibonaccibrewing
@gmail.com



fibbrew.com



Northwest Office
9940 Colerain Ave.
Cincinnati, Ohio 45251
Office: (513) 385-0900 • Fax: (513) 322-7492
Cell: (513) 633-3606
E-Mail: dkallmeyer@starone.com

Diane M. Kallmeyer
REALTOR®
Residential Sales

one goal. one passion.



Mt. Healthy 7345 Hamilton Ave. Phone: (513) 521-9303
Hamilton 3950 Pleasant Ave. Phone: (513) 863-7077
Oxford 5086 College Corner Pike Phone: (513) 523-4411

www.paulyoungfuneralhome.com

Thank You to our Business Friends of the
Mt. Healthy Historical Society:
Paul Young Funeral Home
Merlin Pest Control

Be A Part of History: Join Us!

Individual Form

Mt. Healthy Historical Society

1546 McMakin Avenue Mt. Healthy, OH 45231 Phone: (513) 522-3939

The Society meets the first Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the basement of the Mt. Healthy

United Methodist Church (formerly Epworth) located at

7612 Perry Street Mt. Healthy, OH. Visitors are always welcome!

Dues are \$10.00 per individual and your membership will be good through June 30.

Please remit \$10.00 (check or cash) to: Mt. Healthy Historical Society

c/o Treasurer

Membership Supports the Society! 1546 McMakin Avenue

Mt. Healthy, OH 45231

Membership Form – Effective July 1

(Membership fee is \$10.00 per individual)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Mount Healthy
Historical Society



1546 McMakin Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45231

Find us on
Facebook!