

You can experience a little sunshine, during these dark winter days, at the Tiffin Historic trust.

The discovery of Rosina Brown's scrapbook which included antique Valentine's Day cards inspired the theme for the Tiffin Historic trust's first Valentine Tea of 2017.

You can enjoy the "Valentine's Tea: Love All Around" at 12:30 pm on February 11th at the Grammys-Brown House, 172 Jefferson Street. Seneca County Director, Tonia Hoffert, will present the program. Attendees will enjoy a variety of heart-shaped, pink and red homemade savory and sweet treats and teas prepared by our volunteers. Tiffin Historic Trust members and friends will serve the guests their refreshments on Miss Brown's Victorian era family china, including her fancy teacup, a collection from



around the world.

In 1989, Rosina Brown donated her Victoria era nine-room Second Empire style home and its furnishings to the preservation organization. Her gift was contingent upon the group restoring the home to its former elegance. Just as volunteers worked to fulfill Brown's wishes, they also continue to support the Tiffin Historic Trust by presenting educational programs on historic preservation; hosting events such as teas, the Holiday House Tour, and the Behind the Facade tours

while maintaining the lovely Victorian gardens and the Grammes- Brown House.

The donation fee of \$20.00 per guest includes the program and self-guided tour of the House Museum. New and current members receive a 10% discount off their admission donation (\$18.00).



## Repairs Abound At The Grammes-Brown House

As we continue to be responsible stewards of the Grammes-Brown house and property, there are a number of ongoing projects being explored, started, and completed. We hope to repoint and replace brick and foundation stone where they are loose and/or damaged; glaze, insulate with foam, and paint all windows and doors

- some sills will be replaced; repaint metal roof above the kitchen; refurbish the front door; add storm doors and windows; and repair thresholds and basement windows. We realize that some of these are expensive endeavors. However, we are committed to maintaining and preserving the property.

# Another Successful “Behind the Facade: Revel Around the Ritz.”



The Tiffin Historic Trust hosted its third version of the “Behind the Facade” walking tours in September. Nearly ninety citizens took advantage of the afternoon’s “Revel Around the Ritz!” to see some of the exciting things that are happening on South Washington Street and nearby. We appreciate everyone who opened their doors on the Sunday afternoon of Heritage Weekend, as well as all the tourists who ventured inside. The German Heritage Fest that was featuring German

food, drink, and much on South Washington Street between East Market Street and Riverside Drive complimented the event. Some patrons made it a point to enjoy both. Judy Ryder was the winner of two tickets for our next “Behind the Facade” tour in the Spring. Check the website, Facebook page and future newsletter for more details.

We sincerely thank Michael Strong, of the Ritz Theater and Diane Patel for her informative tours of our historic theater; the expanding Tiffin Glass

Community Foundation for showing off its new adaptation of an historic building; Maria Browne from Elmwood at the Shawn for allowing access to the elegance of the historic hotel; Dave Kreais of the Antique Mall for being open to the public to browse among items of the past; George and Jane Freeman, for opening the doors of the former Tiffin Savings Bank/Water Company to remind us how elegant a business could be in 1890; Larry Breidenbach, for showing us his efforts to date on

Museum and store, with explanations by Paul Coffman about the beautiful artifacts from our manufacturing history; Jodie Reinbolt of the Tiffin

the restoration of the 1871 Shoe Factory; and Natalie Wertz of Phat Cakes, for opening on Sunday and offering delicious refreshments to weary tourers.

We appreciate the publicity provided by Erin Snook, of the Heritage Festival Committee, and thank her for embracing our efforts that coincided with the German Heritage Fest downtown. We also received generous publicity from Dale Depew with multiple articles about “Revel Around the Ritz!” in the Seneca News Daily, and articles that appeared in the Advertiser-Tribune.

We are grateful for the continued interest of our fellow citizen who, like all of us, have a deep appreciation for history, and are eager to imagine what the future of Tiffin holds.

## Over 290 Tickets Sold for the 2016 Holiday Home Tour

The annual holiday home tour was a tremendous success again this year. Almost three hundred tickets were sold. The Tiffin Historic Trust board and membership would like to thank all the homeowners who graciously opened their homes. Conversations, with those who viewed the various homes, illustrated your hospitality and pride as was displayed in the choices of furniture, holiday decorations, and at some locations, food. We hope your experiences were as pleasant as ours were. Thank you.





## FOCUS ON HISTORICAL BUILDINGS

### Carnegie Library/ Juvenile & Probate Courts

In preparation for the opening of the new joint justice center, the county commissioners have been discussing the future of two of their properties on Jefferson Street. The former Carnegie Library at 108 Jefferson is the current home to the Juvenile and Probate Courts. According to the September 26, 2016 Advertiser-Tribune, those courts and their records will be moved to the Seneca County Courthouse Annex, leaving the old library vacant. The other building at 81 Jefferson Street is used for document storage. The commissioners would like to see more digitization of the older records. Discussion among the commissioners has included selling one or both buildings, keeping the Carnegie Library building and using it for document storage, tearing down the



## Tiffin - When and Where

*How much do you know about your community? Take this fun quiz... answers will appear in the next THT newsletter.*

1. What was the population of Tiffin in 1967?  
a. 18,340      b. 22,675      c. 10,000
2. When was Tiffin University (first known as Tiffin Business University) established?  
a. 1860      b. 1918      c. 1850
3. How many river bridges were swept away during the flood of 1913?  
a. six      b. three      c. four
4. The Pioneer Mill continued to grind flour and meal until?  
a. 1974      b. 1937      c. 1950
5. How much does the crystal chandelier in the Ritz Theater weigh?  
a. 1,000 lbs.      b. 12,000 lbs.      c. 2,500 lbs.
6. Where is the statue of William H. Gibson, the famous orator, located?  
a. Courthouse square lawn      b. Fort Ball area      c. Riverview Park

garages portion of 81 Jefferson Street, and other ideas for ways to repurpose the structures. Both buildings have an interesting history.

The Juvenile and Probate Courts building is known to the older members of the Tiffin community as Tiffin's Carnegie Library.

Industrialist and philanthropist, Andrew Carnegie never forgot that as a young boy working in a textile factory, he was permitted to use the owner's personal library. Once he amassed his own fortune, he determined to share his wealth with society, and of his seven areas of interest, free libraries ranked first. In 1881, Carnegie began granting gifts to communities to build new library buildings. According to Mary Ellen Armentrout in Carnegie Libraries of Ohio: Our Cultural Heritage, Ohio acquired one hundred eleven of the Carnegie library grants. Tiffin managed to get two of them, the other being the

1912 Heidelberg College Library.

Correspondence between Judge J. F. Bunn, president of the Tiffin Library Association and Carnegie and his secretary James Bertram garnered a grant of \$25,000 to construct a library building in 1912. The grant came with a proviso; the city would have to budget \$2,500 annually to maintain the building. In October 1913, the red brick with red tile roof, English Tudor style building opened at the corner of Jefferson and Market Streets. The architect was John Mengus Marriott of Columbus. By the 1950s, the collection had grown and the need for a children's area led to the development of a children's room in the basement. The former coal bin became the storage and mending area. By the 1970s, the library was again out of space. Seneca County bought the Carnegie Library in 1976 when the new Tiffin-Seneca Public Library opened further down the street.

*For more information on the history of Tiffin's public libraries, see the Tiffin-Seneca County Public Library web site <http://www.tiffinsenecalibrary.org/whoware/> (accessed 10.17.2016)*



P.O. Box 333  
Tiffin, OH 44883-0333

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I want to help preserve our architectural heritage. Please enroll me as a member in the following categories:

#### Annual Memberships:

- Individual \$10
- Family \$20
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- Patron \$50
- Business \$75
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BECOME A MEMBER TODAY AND RECEIVE A 25% DISCOUNT ON TEA EVENTS, AND RECEIVE OUR QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER PLUS ATTEND OUR ANNUAL CELEBRATION DINNER.

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Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_



P.O. Box 333  
Tiffin, OH 44883

www.tiffinhistorictrust.com  
tiffinhistoric@att.net  
419-447-4789

### Our Mission

*"To promote historic preservation in Tiffin by meetings, publications, tours, or other means. To act as a non-profit organization to apply for and accept any grants that may be appropriate to further the cause of historic preservation. To promote and develop any plan for the preservation and restoration of Tiffin and to work with all interested groups and individuals to put this plan into effect."*

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