

Comments from the President, John Bing



The continuities that bind past, present and future reach lives across the years, extending memories and wisdom, redeeming hopes and dreams. The Tiffin

Historic Trust embraces preservation in the full stream of time. Our "trust" is a service to present and future as well as to the past. We support present-day achievements that will win the hearts and minds of the future and preserve their past. In this way we honor our own past. What we save today will stand with what we build today, what our children will seek to save in the future. Our craftsmanship will be their inspiration. Our present commitment to excellence will sustain the values of our past.

What does it mean to "preserve?" It is not only passing on to the future the artifacts of the past that we esteem, it is calling attention in our own daily work to detail, to love of craft, to the spirit of excellence that has been the living meaning of this community over its entire history. We do this by offering examples of past achievement as inspiration and by expecting these values to be re-experienced and reinterpreted in the work of contemporary artists, artisans and leaders. In that way they are preserved, by us and through us. That is our trust.

For this reason it is important that we contribute to the Justice Center Time Capsule. The committee that is developing ideas and materials seeks to preserve the spirit of today as well as the collective memories of the community. Its members include Mark

Steinmetz, John Bing, John Huss, Ben Gillig, Jill Gosche, Keith Hodkinson, Deb Martorana, Brad Rees, Brittany Cook, Aaron Gerlach, Theresa Sullivan, Father Murd, Dale E. Thornton, Shayne Thomas, Mike Kerschner and Stacy Wilson. The capsule will hold some current materials and a hard drive that con-



This photo illustration is taken from www.facebook.com/SCJCTimeCapsule

tains many memories and pictures. We are seeking to preserve the things that are easily lost, moments in time that are not stored in museums or archived in libraries. We plan to invite fifth-grade students to interview their grandparents or family friends. We will interview community members at the Tiffin University TV studio. [If any of you would like to be interviewed please call me at 419-618-0872.] We have also asked all the local schools to provide video of school activities and projects. While we have a temporary deadline of December 1, we will be continuing the project as time permits. Let me know if you have suggestions. All ideas are appreciated. This is a community project that will celebrate our past and our present, capturing a view of Tiffin in 2017 for future Tiffinites of 2067.



This time capsule generously donated by Tiffin Metal Products and Matt Dysard.

Celebrate the Holidays with the Tiffin Historic Trust Board of Trustees

Annual Holiday Chili Supper for Members and Friends

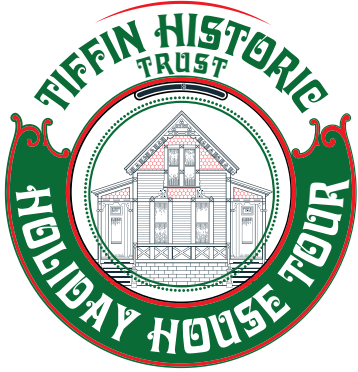
**Monday Evening
December 4
starting at 6:30 p.m.**

Join the members of the Tiffin Historic Trust for a casual supper and conversation on the evening after the Holiday House Tour. RSVP to Jackie Fletcher at 419-585-2075 or 419-618-9728. www.tiffinhistorictrust.org.



Ruth Wahlstrom checks out the Chili at the 2016 Holiday Supper.





Annual Holiday House Tour

December 3, 1:00-5:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 and are available at Tiffin Ace Hardware, 1550 W. Market St., and on the day of the tour at the Grammes-Brown House, 172 Jefferson Street.

Contact Joan Martin at 419-618-0698 for further information.

This year's Tiffin Historic Trust Annual Holiday House Tour includes historic homes never before featured within the Historic District, as well as one just north of town. A repeat visit to a downtown loft apartment reveals the versatility of the older spaces.

Homes on Tour, December 3, 2017, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

- **The Schriener/Tiffin University Home**
North State Route 53
- **The Troxel/Boehler Home**
47 Clay Street
- **The Empire Block Loft**
140 South Washington Street
- **Another Loft Apartment**
- **The Luidhardt Home**
28 Grandview Court
- **The Grammes-Brown House**
172 Jefferson Street



The Schriener/Tiffin University Home, North State Route 53

In 2001 Mary Schriener, the widow of Dr. Robert Schriener, bequeathed her spacious 1950's brick home on North State Route 53 to Tiffin University, along with 25 acres of land. The residence was remodeled to accommodate entertaining guests and is now home to the Tiffin University President, Dr. Lillian Schumacher and her family.



The Troxel/Boehler Home, 47 Clay Street

The Troxel/Boehler home exemplifies the elegance of large homes built in the late 1800's in the Queen Anne style and later "modernized" by H. Lynn Troxel to the Georgian Style. The current owners, the Boehlers, bought the home in 1987 and undertook renovations while being careful to retain its earlier characteristics.



The Empire Block Loft, 140 South Washington Street

The Empire Block on South Washington Street is one of the downtown buildings that have experienced rejuvenation due to the investment of several local business people and the city's Façade Enhancement program. This two-story loft apartment has been included on the tour in the past, but the current tenant has found ways to reconfigure the space through the use of furnishings and art work. Another loft apartment will also be on tour.



The Luidhardt Home, 28 Grandview Court

This south side stucco ranch was built in 1999 and features an open-living layout. The home is located on a double cul-de-sac off of Linda Lane. The Luidhardts find that their home is perfect for entertaining guests or enjoying a quiet night of relaxation.

Plan Ahead for the Valentine Tea



Last year was the first time we served a Valentine Tea, and it was a great success. Facsimiles of the many antique Valentines sent to Rosina Brown decorated the seasonal tree in the front parlor of the Grammes-Brown House.

Contact Phyllis Watts at 419-448-8312 to reserve a place at our next Victorian Valentine Tea on

February 10, 2018, at 12:30 p.m.



As an incentive for joining the Tiffin Historic Trust, members are eligible for a 10% discount off her or his \$20 ticket donation.

Restoring the Carriage House

By Jackie Fletcher

Here is a challenging question for everyone. How can we best use the Carriage House? Please consider this an invitation to make suggestions, ask questions, and think outside the box. Do you have ideas that will generate interest in this building?

This charming historic two-story brick building behind the Grammes-Brown House garden was built in 1911 to house an income business. It most likely was used as a repair shop for automobiles, a rather forward-looking venture for the time. It has a good roof, but needs some brick repointing and other basic maintenance.

The carriage house is wired for electricity which most likely needs to be updated and inspected. The building has been used for storage without major renovations and could be again. To use the building for other purposes, water for kitchen/bathroom, insulation, and heating/cooling would be needed.

After much effort spent cleaning and preparing, we hosted a successful graduation party in the Carriage House in July. The house and garden were also open for the event.

One exciting future proposal from Theresa Sullivan for next October is to be included as a host for the "Trolley Tour." That's a start and we are hoping you have more ideas.

Let us know your ideas by calling Jackie at 419-585-2075 or writing fletcher8901@gmail.com.

The Halloween Tea



On October 14, during the Halloween Tea, Lisa Swickard and Lindsey Lawson described the ghostly activities at Little Hedges Park. Before its time as a city park and children's playground, the site was the burial ground for victims of a cholera epidemic that killed many of Tiffin's early residents.

Help Grow the Endowment Fund with a Year-End Donation



Tiffin Historic Trust, established in 1976, focuses on architectural and historic preservation and education in Tiffin.

When you are planning your end-of-year contributions, please keep the Tiffin Historic Trust in mind. In 2016, we transferred money in our Endowment Fund to The Tiffin Community Foundation. The original fund began with a \$10,000 grant from the Osceola Foundation with the support of Barbara Beinecke-Spitler. This past September's financial report showed that the endowment has grown to more than \$30,000. At this time we are allowing the fund to grow in order to provide income for special projects as needed.

We invite you to help Tiffin Historic Trust continue to be an essential organization in our community by contributing to our Endowment Fund. Send your tax-deductible gift payable to The Tiffin Community Foundation at 31 S. Washington Street, Tiffin. Be sure to designate that it is for the **Tiffin Historic Trust Fund**.



The Carriage House is located at the back of the property.





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



Annual Holiday House Tour

1:00 - 5:00 p.m.
(see details on page two)

Membership Dues Will Increase Starting January 1, 2018

If you have received a renewal notice for your membership dues, pay it before the dues increase takes place on Jan. 1st!

The Tiffin Historic Trust Welcomes You To Become A New Member!

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

Annual Memberships: Renewal New Member

- Individual \$15
- Family \$30
- Sponsor \$50
- Patron \$75
- Business \$100

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY AND RECEIVE A 10% DISCOUNT ON TEA EVENTS, AND RECEIVE OUR QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER PLUS ATTEND OUR ANNUAL CELEBRATION DINNER.

Name _____

Address _____

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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Carnegie Library Update

The Seneca County Commissioners are discussing what to do with the Seneca County documents and legal materials that have been stored in the former doctor's office and Commissioners building at 81 Jefferson St. They are also discussing what to do with the former Carnegie Library building at 108 Jefferson St. that currently houses the Juvenile and Probate Courts. Those courts will move into the justice center and the county annex when the new justice center is completed.

Suggestions have included building a new storage facility or placing the materials in another county-owned building. The former Carnegie Library building was evaluated by John Logsdon, Seneca County supervisor of buildings and grounds maintenance,

and according to the September 20, 2017, *Advertiser-Tribune*, he determined that building repairs could cost between \$370,000- \$390,000. The September 20 *Fostoria Review Times* gave Logsdon's estimates as \$150,000 for a new roof and \$100,000 to install an elevator. Commissioners Holly Stacy and Mike Kerschner do not believe the former library is suitable for storage. Commissioner Shayne Thomas pointed out that, as a library, it was built for storage and it should be given further consideration. Kerschner and Stacy advocate selling the building instead of repairing and repurposing it for county use.

Please contact the Commissioners if you believe the 1913 Carnegie Library is an important feature of the

Downtown Historic District. Phone: 419-447-4550, Commissioner Mike Kerschner, ext. 105, mkerschner@seneca-county.com, Holly Stacy, ext. 104, hstacy@seneca-county.com, Shayne Thomas, ext. 106, stthomas@seneca-county.com.



**The Former Carnegie Library Building
81 Jefferson Street**

Local Preservationists Support the September 17, Behind the Facade: Riverside Ramble

By Vicki Ohl

The Tiffin Historic Trust would like to thank everyone who was involved in our Behind the Facade walking tour, "Riverside Ramble," on Sunday, September 17, 2017, 2:00-5:00 pm, which explored structures on Frost Parkway, Adams Street, and North Monroe Street. It was a fitting complement to the Heritage Festival and provided an opportunity for more than 130 citizens to see completed, planned, and ongoing renovations in one of Tiffin's most historic neighborhoods. Beginning with the newly applied seal commemorating Erastus Bowe on the sidewalk near the Patriot's Memorial, travelers could view the Indian Maiden statue and the iconic Sycamore tree marking the Fort Ball supply depot during the War of 1812. Several properties dating back to the Civil War period included the Tiffin Train Station on North

Monroe St, which was built in 1862 and purchased, restored, and landscaped by Larry Breidenbach in 2004. His current project is the former Ohio Stove Works (1860) at 66-74 North Monroe St, which he



is converting to apartments and space for businesses. Yet to be developed is the Hotel Berlin, a successful brothel built at 36 Hudson Street in 1892 by Tiffin's madam, Mattie Ross Nisonger.

Investor Andrew Kalnow has completed renovations on the Victorian duplex at 99 Frost Parkway, at the

corner of Miami Street. He obtained an historic tax credit to update the apartment house known as "Tunison Flats" at 105/107 Frost Parkway. Also on the tour were two more of his properties, the former Fort Ball Bed and Breakfast at 25 Adams Street, and the former Christian Science Church and Tiffin Women's Club at 155 Frost Parkway. The Trust

was especially pleased that three members of the Tiffin Women's Club, Elaine Barth, Janet Booth, and Sally Hannay welcomed visitors to their former clubhouse.

Thanks to the financial investments, time, energy, and vision of both Andrew Kalnow and Larry Breidenbach, we are enjoying the extensive

renovation of properties at opposite ends of the block that have begun to revitalize the area. We appreciate their willingness to open these properties to public viewing.

Thank you to Eric Elchert, of Fort Ball Pizza Palace, and to Julie and Ralph Smothers, of Ralph's Joy of Living, for hosting our tourists and providing special snacks that afternoon. Thanks also to the Tiffin Advertiser-Tribune and to the Seneca News Daily for promoting the event. And thank you to all who purchased tickets and toured the sites. We hope you sensed a growing confidence, enthusiasm, and reinvestment in our city that benefit us all.

Sue Hoppes was the winner of 2 tickets to this Riverside Ramble tour.

Kristine Riedel's name was drawn to win two tickets to our next, to be announced, *Behind the Façade Tour*.

Historic Trust Receives *Ohio Historic Inventory Records* and Other Documents

Dr. Barbara Howe came to Tiffin in the 1970s to serve as the first Ohio Preservation Officer responsible for inventorying the important historic properties in Seneca County, the city of Tiffin, and other counties. While in Tiffin, she was a faculty member in the American Studies Department of Heidelberg College (now University). Barb was also instrumental in the establishment of the Tiffin Historic Trust. On October 12, 1976 she, along with Bill Fletcher and Mary Lewis, signed the Articles of Incorporation, agreeing to serve as the group's first trustees.

Over the years, Howe's records and those of her successors were stored at Heidelberg. The University has decided to redistribute those records, and the Tiffin Historic Trust is the recipient of many of the files. During this past summer, Tiffin Historic Trust members Ruth Wahlstrom and Nancy Rubenstein worked to help remove the files from their storage area at Heidelberg.

Recently, Dr. Howe was visiting family in Tiffin and offered to help with further sorting of her old files. She joined Nancy at the Trust's office separating the items. Of particular interest are the copies of the Ohio Historic Inventory (OHI) forms describing hundreds of homes and businesses in Tiffin and the county. A set of these records is already at the Seneca County Museum, but the Trust looks forward to having a set of its own. There are also papers pertinent to the early years of the Tiffin Historic Trust.

The Ohio History Connection website describes the Ohio Historic Inventory program as being established to provide an accurate and ongoing record of the architectural and historic properties currently existing in Ohio. The Ohio Historic Inventory form provides a brief description of the location, background and architecture of a building, site, structure, or object of architectural or historical significance. There are hundreds of records entered for Seneca County. www.ohiohistory.org/preserve/state-historic-preservation-office/hpsurvey/about-the-ohio-historic-inventory. (accessed 11-04-2017)



Dr. Ruth Wahlstrom peruses files to determine their usefulness to the Tiffin Historic Trust.



Dr. Howe examines the documents that are now at the Trust's office, waiting for further sorting.

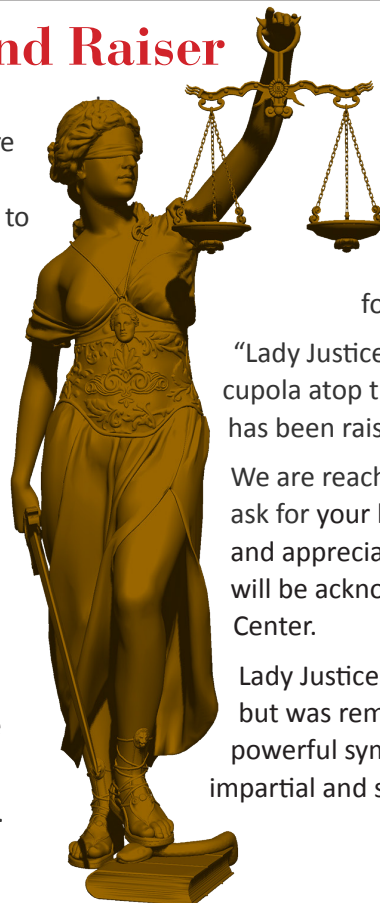
Lady Justice Statue Fund Raiser

If you would like to see Lady Justice return to the Tiffin skyline atop the Joint Justice Center, here is an opportunity to help that happen: you can contribute to the GoFundMe account established to help pay for the statue.

A group of citizens approached the Tiffin Historic Trust earlier in the year asking if our organization could help them raise funds to pay for the representation of Lady Justice that typically graces many courthouses and justice centers. After some discussion, the board agreed to assist by collecting the funds needed to complete the project. It is also making a contribution to the fund.

Please Note: Tiffin Historic Trust (THT) will not be the beneficiary of funds collected. THT is the acting agent to collect and then distribute to the Lady Justice Fund.

The GoFundMe page at <https://www.gofundme.com/seneca-co-lady-justice-statue>



[com/seneca-co-lady-justice-statue](https://www.gofundme.com/seneca-co-lady-justice-statue) explains the fundraising appeal.

“Seneca County Joint Justice Center is well on its way to completion. This stately, elegant structure will be the focal point of our City Center (Tiffin, Ohio).

“Lady Justice” is being cast and will soon grace the cupola atop the Justice Center. Although over \$30,000 has been raised, an additional \$30,000 must be raised.

We are reaching out to our community members to ask for your help. Any donation amount is welcome and appreciated. Donors who contribute \$250 or more will be acknowledged on a plaque inside the Justice Center.

Lady Justice graced Seneca County many years ago, but was removed. The new statue will restore a powerful symbol of our county's commitment to the impartial and swift pursuit of justice.”