

Remarks from President, Nevin Martin

Greetings Board Members, Members and Preservationists



The Trust has been a bit quiet the past few months due to summer and holidays. The board will not meet this September because of Labor Day, but activities are resuming!

The Grammes-Brown house will be open to the public on Heritage Festival Sunday for the "Ohio Open Doors" program. I recommend you stop on by to tour the house including its second floor. We finally have electrified the Carriage House out back. Once schools are in full swing we will recruit the Sentinel Electrical Trades program to finish the job. Thank you Tiffin Metal and new board member Jacob for your

donation of \$500.00 to get this process rolling!

We are looking forward to an exciting fall with a tea on October 8 followed by the Mystery Bourbon Tasting in the newly electrified carriage house on October 16. Dave Spridgeon will again serve as our host and instructor. Your ticket includes a souvenir bourbon drinking glass, 4 tastings, and heavy hors d'oeuvres. Let's hope for good weather and a successful event!

Mike Pinkston has been busy updating our website and writing online self-guided walking tours. The tours will be a good way to highlight Tiffin's historic building inventory while promoting the goals of the Historic Trust as it dives deeper into its mission of

promoting and educating about historic preservation.

At our last meeting I informed the board I would be stepping down as board president and board member once my term is complete. It has been exciting, but I feel I am needed elsewhere. During my terms we have built relations with the city and TSEP, continued renovation on The Grammes-Brown House, and created new fundraising events that helped fulfill our mission. I hope for much success to the Tiffin Historic Trust, and I appreciate its members entrusting me with the position of board President. Finally, thank you to all of our volunteers and members. None of it is possible without you!

Explore the Grammes-Brown House

September 18, 2022
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.



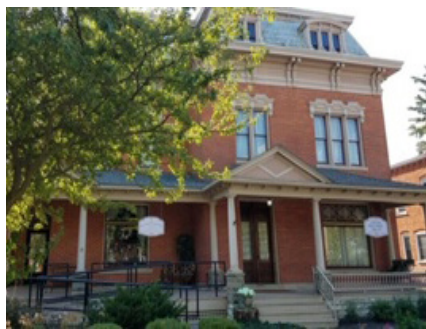
Participate in the Ohio History Connection Open Doors Program

Take advantage of this opportunity to see more than just the main floor of the elegant Grammes-Brown House when Tiffin Historic Trust opens its headquarters and garden to the public for free tours Sunday, September 18, from 1-4 pm. The open house is part of the Ohio History Connection Open Doors event being held at historic sites all over Ohio from September 9 -18.

The Ohio History Connection created Ohio Open Doors in 2016 to promote and inspire pride in Ohio's heritage and to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson on October 15, 1966.

The Grammes-Brown House was erected in 1884 and contains antiques, treasures and collections belonging to three generations. In 1988 the property was donated to Tiffin Historic Trust by the late Rosina Brown, granddaughter of the original builder of the home, Peter Grammes, with the proviso that the Trust maintains and preserves the property's historic and architectural significance. Volunteers spent many years restoring the Second Empire style home which features beautiful

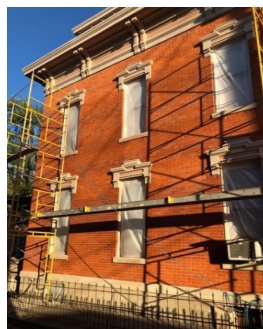
woodwork, furnishings, and ornate wall papers characteristic of the Victorian era. View the children's room with its antique dolls and toys; see original dresses, shoes, gloves and handbags belonging to the women in the family; marvel at the autograph books, travel diaries and postcards kept over the decades. Guides will be stationed in the various rooms, including on the second floor, to provide background on the home and its owners.



The Grammes-Brown House, 172 Jefferson Street, Tiffin



In this portrait of Rosina Brown set against the decorative wall paper, she seemingly shows her approval of the restoration work done in the music room. Mimi Lange Johnston is at the Steinway piano.



Most recently roof, window and masonry restoration work was done on the façade, with assistance from Downtown Tiffin Façade grants.



The garden behind the Grammes-Brown House is maintained by volunteers.

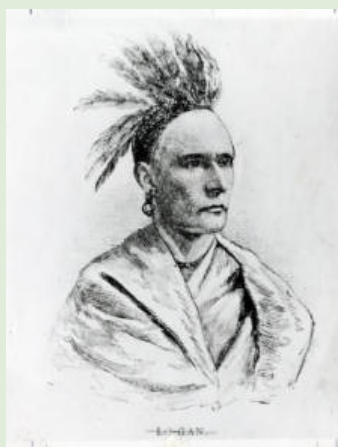
October 8th Tea

Stories of Native Americans in Seneca County
Program Presented by Lisa Swickard

As Tiffin is celebrating its 200th year, we are focusing our October tea on Seneca County history going back to 1822 and even earlier. Once again, local author and historian Lisa Swickard is opening a door to the past with her latest program of "Stories of Native Americans in Seneca County." We can only imagine the spine tingling stories Lisa will tell



Invite your friends and join us for a lovely tea and a great time at the Grammes-Brown House, 172 Jefferson Street, Tiffin.



Ohiohistorycentral.org

For Required Reservations, phone Mary at 419-448-0370.

Tickets are 25 per person.

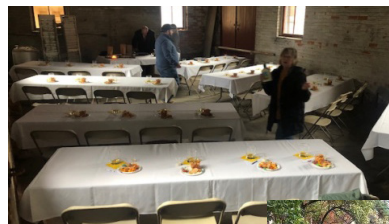
MYSTERY BOURBON TASTING

by Nevin Martin

Join in on the fun at this year's Mystery Bourbon Tasting, Sunday, October 16, from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. in the Grammes-Brown Carriage House and Garden. Dave Spridgeon from The Renaissance of Tiffin will introduce the participants to a variety of bourbons while entertaining them with stories of the distilled American beverage. Heavy hors d'oeuvres will complement the four tastings. The newly electrified Carriage House will provide shelter if the weather turns less pleasant. This has become a very successful fundraiser for the Tiffin Historic Trust. Last year more than thirty people signed up and we hope for even more this year.

Advanced thank you to our sponsors, including Reineke Family Dealerships and staff for the tables, chairs and help with set-up and publicity; Mike Pinkston and Joan Martin for the hors d'oeuvres and, of course, Dave Spridgeon for his enthusiastic participation. Your support and generosity are greatly appreciated!

Tickets are \$45 each, and will soon be available through our website and linked on our Facebook page.



Setting up the Carriage House in 2021

Enthusiastic participants in 2019



Annual Meeting in Review

The Historic Trust held its June 16 Annual Dinner and Awards celebration at Ironwood Steakhouse. Following dinner, Matt Wiederhold, the newly appointed executive director of Heritage Ohio, spoke on “Preservation in Today’s Vibrant Communities.” Wiederhold has worked with Main Street communities in Ohio for over twenty years and has personal experience restoring numerous homes and other historic buildings. He reminded the guests that there is a natural evolution to everything, including architecture. What is now old was once new and possibly controversial at the time it was built!

A highlight of the meeting was the announcement of the Historic Preservation Awards. Mollie Luidhardt presented the Nevin E.B. Martin Award for significant maintenance and preservation of Tiffin’s historic architecture to Robb and Shellie Mack for their home at 498 S. Washington St. Doug Collar presented three Historic Preservation Plaques to: The

Barn at Winterberry Farm, 2721 North State Rt. 53, owned by Sabrina Schnepat; Bear’s Den Tavern at 68 East Perry Street, owned by Gwynn and Dennis Wickert; and the Queen Anne at 25 Adams Street, owned by Andrew and Cindy Kalnow.

During the business meeting the membership approved the election of new trustees Jacob Price and Jade Wagner for the term ending 2024, and Doug Collar, Mary Lewis, Joan Martin, Mike Pinkston and Nancy Rubenstein for the term expiring in 2025. Reelected as officers were president Nevin Martin, vice-president Jackie Fletcher, treasurer Mike Pinkston and secretary Nancy Rubenstein.

Mike Pinkston announced that the purchase of special software would result in a series of online Tiffin Walking Tours beginning with a “pub crawl.” The tours will be accessible from the Trust’s web site. He also announced that Tiffin Metal Products made a generous donation to upgrade the electrical connection to the Carriage House.



498 S. Washington St.



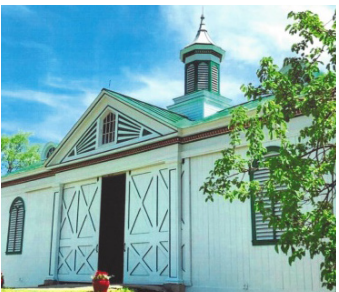
Robb and Shellie Mack



The Bear’s Den



Dennis and Gwynn Wicker



Winterberry Farm



Sabrina Schnepat



25 Adams Street



Cindy Kalnow

Meet the Newest Members of the Board, Jacob Price and Jade Wagner

Greetings, we are Jacob Price and Jade Wagner. We are excited to join the Tiffin Historic Trust Board for a few different reasons. First, we think it is important to preserve history. Secondly, we feel it is important to educate others about the importance of historic preservation so future generations can enjoy parts of the past. Lastly, we think it is important to give back to the community we live in. We are looking forward to serving all the Tiffin Historic

Trust membership and the public. We moved to Tiffin, Ohio about four years ago, first living in the Fort Ball Historic District, and then purchasing a historic home on Sycamore Street. We hope you had the opportunity to tour our house during the annual Christmas Holiday Tour in 2021. In our free time, you will find us enjoying the Sandusky River and Bay.



Jade Wagner

Jacob Price

Rosina's Grand Niece Stops for a Visit

What a wonderful surprise! In late June, Cynthia Christopher was finally able to visit the home in Tiffin where she and her brother Charles lived with her Great "Aunt Sena," better known as Rosina Grammes-Brown.

When Rosina retired as a school psychologist in Cleveland, she returned to her family home in Tiffin. This was in the 1960s and it seemed to be a very fortunate time for both Rosina and the two children.

Even though many decades have gone by, Cindy recalled many pleasant memories of her time in Tiffin. Mary Lewis and Jackie Fletcher enjoyed meeting Cindy and her husband for a lovely afternoon.



Heidelberg First Year Students Attack the Greenery



The Grammes-Brown House Garden was a benefactor of Heidelberg University's BergServe program. On August 13, twelve first year students lent a hand in the garden by trimming many overgrown shrubs. Jackie Fletcher reported that the students were so much fun as they helped out and they were quite

interesting and friendly. She says her faith in youth is again reinforced!

BergServe is designed to help freshmen students acclimate to college life and their new home away from home. One student, a future history major, even decided to join the Tiffin Historic Trust! We look forward to involving more students in our activities.



The Garden Tour

The June 19 Father's Day Garden Tour couldn't have been on a more beautiful day! The choice of holding

it on Father's Day may have reduced attendance, as fewer than forty people toured the gardens, but the

ten sites were lovely and the tour raised \$558 for the Historic Trust. Jackie Fletcher thanks all of the gardeners

for welcoming us to their outdoor homes.



Victorian Teas at the Grammes-Brown House



After years of working to restore the Grammes-Brown House, the volunteers decided it was time to show off their achievements. They had previously offered children's story hour breakfasts in the garden, but the uncertainty

of the weather made that a risky endeavor. In 2002 they hosted a Victorian Tea with a tea leaf reader for the program. In September 2004 they hosted a Tea and Treasures for grandparents and grandchildren. The Victorian Teas became a regular event in 2011 when there was a tea a month throughout the summer. The teas are now a mainstay of the programming and fundraising activities, usually with three offered each year.

Among the highlights has been Rosina Brown's birthday tea in late summer, which drew many ladies dressed in their finery. The October Halloween Tea is always a hit, as is the Valentine Tea, with seasonal menus and programs. This past year's St. Patrick's Day Tea provided a joyous break from the concerns of the pandemic as Mimi Lange Johnston lead the guests in a rollicking Irish-themed sing-along.

The Grammes-Brown House came with many fine porcelain dishes and teacup sets collected from around the world by the Brown family. Our tea committee members select a menu appropriate to each event and present the finest foods using the best ingredients, beautifully displayed on three-tier servers. The savory and sweet delights are chosen to "tickle your palate" according to committee member, Karin Brown, and are accompanied by English and flavored hot teas. Each event features a thematic program plus a self-guided tour of the 1880s Victorian era home and garden.

This year's Fall Tea on October 8 at 12:30 p.m. includes a presentation by Lisa Swickard, who is changing the theme from Halloween to local history – specifically Stories of Native Americans in Seneca County.

Save the date but don't wait too long to make your reservation; phone Mary at 419-448-0370. The teas usually sell out!

Upcoming Events

September 18, Sunday, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. – Ohio Open Doors at the Grammes-Brown House, 172 Jefferson St. Free.

October 8, Saturday, 12:30 p.m. – Tea with Lisa Swickard, Stories of Native Americans in Seneca County. \$25 per ticket. For reservations phone Mary at 419-448-0370.

October 16, Sunday, 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. Mystery Bourbon Tasting in the Grammes-Brown House Garden and Carriage House. Tickets, \$45 each, will be available through our website and with links on our Facebook page.

December 4, Sunday, 1:00-5:00 p.m. Tiffin Historic Trust Holiday House Tour. Tickets can be purchased at Great Lakes Hardware for \$20 each around the middle of November. Mark your calendar!

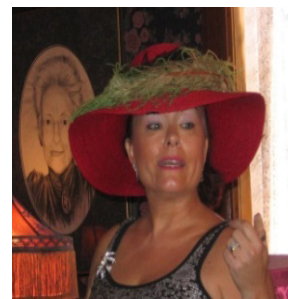
December 5, Monday, 6:30 p.m. Holiday Chili Supper for House Tour hosts, members and friends. Chili, appetizers and desserts provided by the Historic Trust board members.



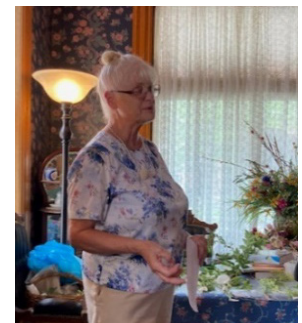
Teas from the Past - Guests



Kitchen Help and Wait Staff



Guest Speakers





P.O. Box 333
172 Jefferson Street
Tiffin, OH 44883-0333

Participate in Ohio Open Doors



Tour the Grammes- Brown House

Sunday, September 18, 1-4 pm

Give The Gift of a Membership To Someone You Know!

I want to help preserve our architectural heritage. Please enroll my friend/relative as a member in the following category:

Annual Memberships: 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
tiffinhistoric@att.net
Tiffin, OH 44883
www.tiffinhistorictrust.org

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."

Tiffin Historic Trust Board of Trustees Officers

Nevin Martin (President)
Jackie Fletcher (Vice-President)
Mike Pinkston (Treasurer)
Nancy Rubenstein (Secretary)

Term Expiring 2023	Term Expiring 2024	Term Expiring 2025
Jan Betz	Karin Brown	Doug Collar
Brook Edwards	Vicki Ohl	Mary Lewis
Jackie Fletcher	Jacob Price	Joan Martin
Robb Mack	Jade Wagner	Mike Pinkston
Nevin Martin	Ashley Woodruff	Nancy Rubenstein

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