

**Tiffin Historic Trust Annual Holiday Home Tour 2019**

Sunday, December 8, 1:00-5:00 p.m.

Tickets for the Holiday Home Tour will be available to purchase after Thanksgiving at Great Lakes Ace Hardware, 1550 W. Market Street, until the day of the tour. On Sunday, December 8, the tickets will be sold at the Grammes-Brown House, 172 Jefferson Street, beginning at 12:30 p.m. The ticket donation is \$10 per person. Contact Joan at 419-618-0698 for further information.

The Tiffin Historic Trust embraces the beauty of older homes, and this year's holiday tour features houses in traditional Tiffin neighborhoods. Included are two homes on Clinton Avenue, two on Melmore Street, one on South Monroe Street, the Jefferson Street headquarters of the Tiffin Historic Trust, and the majestic North Washington Street former residence that now serves as a funeral home.



If you do not have your tour ticket by Sunday, December 8, begin with a stop at the Grammes-Brown House, **172 Jefferson Street**,

purchase your ticket and take time to tour the lovingly restored

home of the Tiffin Historic Trust. The ornate interior wallpapers and numerous

collectibles are typical of Victorian interiors, and the slate-sided mansard roof is representative of Second-Empire style architecture.



Built in the late 1890s for area clothing merchants, the Sommers family, the limestone home at **135 North Washington Street** is the largest and grandest on this year's tour. The

darker exterior limestone was quarried in Bloomville and is believed to have been mined near Bellevue. There were eleven fireplaces throughout the home, and a portico for hitching horses and carriages for family outings. In 1939 the home was converted to a funeral home by Adams A.

Turner. In 1958 Turner's daughter and son-in-law, Phil and Rayella Engle, purchased the funeral home. In 2004 Eric and Jennifer Shook bought and took it over as the Engle-Shook Funeral Home and Crematory. Although there has been a change of ownership over the years, the original building has always been preserved to show the uniqueness and beautiful craftsmanship of the elegant home.



The 1906 Greek Revival style home at **186 South Monroe Street** differs from other Victorian-era styles in that it includes exterior pillars and fewer but larger

rooms. The land the home sits *cont'd page 2*

**Remarks from President, Nevin Martin**



The Tiffin Historic Trust has been a beacon for preservation of historic Tiffin for over 40 years. Today with all the exciting developments in our city, it is more important than

ever that the Trust continue to be a model in the preservation and maintenance of our classic architectural assets.

With that mission in mind, the Board has identified the most important needs for the upkeep of the Grammes-Brown House. Following up on a comprehensive professional evaluation of the building, we have prioritized 3 projects:

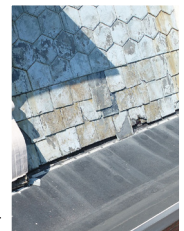
- Repair and replacement of the slate mansard roof
- Replacement and repair of rotting wooden windows and frames
- Tuck pointing of several areas of brickwork

Discussions have begun to find ways to support these necessary repairs. A committee led by Mary Lewis is exploring a fund-raising plan. We have also examined how the endowment fund might be used to jump start the roof project. Soon, we hope to have bids on each project.

What can you do to help? As a tax exempt organization, your donation prior to January 1, 2020, is eligible for a tax deduction, as the law permits. Please consider making an end-of-year

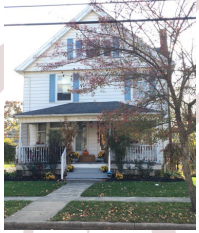
contribution to our building fund now. In doing so, you will support the mission of the Trust and insure that the Grammes-Brown House will continue to be a key asset in the historic inventory of Tiffin's Victorian architecture.

You can send contributions of any amount to The Tiffin Historic Trust, P.O. Box 333, Tiffin, Ohio 44883, designating the Grammes-Brown House in the check's memo line. Please feel free to contact any THT board member for more information. You can also learn more about these projects by joining us at the Holiday Chili Supper, 6:30 p.m. Monday, December 9.



*Home Tour cont'd*

on was sold for \$1.00 in 1898 by Charles and Rosa Miller to Henry and John Miller. After the death of John's wife, Mary, he sold the home to Katherine Miller for \$1.00; she owned the home for the remainder of her life. Rob and Deb Bish bought the home in 1997. They then sold the home to its current owners, Ben and Shirley Williams, in 1999.



Also built in the early 1900s, **174 Melmore Street** is a colonial four-square home. Tim and Cathy Demith purchased the house in 1994. The Demiths have done extensive work on the entire house,

including finishing the basement and the third floor. The home retains the beautiful original walnut woodwork with an eye-catching staircase to the second floor. The traditional Christmas décor includes five Christmas trees ranging from seven to nine feet. An eight-foot Irish tree graces the dining room, along with a Hinkley chandelier that hangs over the large table. Also on display are a snowflake tree in the family room and an Ohio State-themed tree in the office. This home definitely embraces the Christmas spirit!

**214 Melmore Street** is another four-square house built in 1915 by Andrew Sacksteder, who also built the two homes on either side. In 1918 Mr. and Mrs. Edson and Lillian



Carrick took over the \$5.00 mortgage. In 1936, dentist Dr. Gerald Boner and his wife Lillian purchased the property. Mrs. Boner was the first elected president of Penthouse Club,

a local women's social club that still exists. Brad and Allison Rees purchased the property in 1996 and began a twenty-year-long renovation. During the process they finished the basement, complete with a heated tile floor, transformed the attic into a third-floor master suite, built an addition onto the back of the house, completely remodeled the kitchen, and more! When Ben and Erin Gillig purchased the property in early 2018, they made only minor cosmetic changes to the house and landscaping.



On April 26, 1904, the land at **100 Clinton Avenue** was purchased by John Fiegelist from Leah Myers for \$1.00. It is situated in the Myers, Bunn and Statlers

Addition in the first ward. C. F. Morlock

completed building the home in August 1904. It is the third example of the American four-square style, being the typical 2.5 story home with a monitored dormer in the attic. Each of its two stories is quartered into four equal spaces. In the early 1970s a family room was added to the rear of the home, and in 1978 a garage was built on the property. Chris and Judy Hafley purchased the home in August of 1992 and have completely remodeled every room. Initially decorated in the Victorian style, the Hafleys have chosen to redecorate with a more modern feel. They have found the home to be a wonderful place to raise their children, and now enjoy sharing it with their grandchildren. Note how homes that look similar on the exterior can have unique interiors!



In March of 1887 Benjamin Myers built a "spec house" under contract with Charles and Nancy Goetz who took title in May, paying

\$2,500.00 for the home at **117 Clinton Avenue**. The red brick home is in a modified Queen Anne style. The Goetzes expanded their residence in 1896 with a frame addition at the rear. Randy and Christie Wisner are the current owners.

## Annual Holiday Chili Supper

Celebrate the Holidays with the  
Tiffin Historic Trust Board of Trustees

For Members, Friends, and Home Tour Hosts

Monday evening, December 9, starting at 6:30 p.m.

It is a long-standing tradition for the Tiffin Historic Trust board to invite the members, friends and Holiday Home Tour hosts to come to the Grammes-Brown House for a get-together the Monday evening after the annual holiday tour. Join us on December 9, starting at 6:30 p.m., for conversation over a casual supper. Bowls of chili, appetizers, and desserts are provided by the Trust board members in appreciation of your support of our organization and for all that you do to keep preservation alive in Tiffin.

**RSVP to Jackie Fletcher at 419-618-9728.**

*But, if you forget to respond, come anyway – we always have plenty to eat!*



## Upcoming Event

Save the date for the always popular  
**Valentine Tea**  
February 8, 2020 at 12:30 p.m.



Contact  
Nancy at  
419-447-0302  
to place a  
reservation.

If you leave a message, please include your contact information so we can get back to you.

The Tea Committee is looking to add some new members to help with planning, preparing, setting-up, and serving for the Victorian teas. The teas have been a regular fundraiser for the Tiffin Historic Trust. If you enjoy entertaining, this is the committee for you!

Contact Nancy at 419-447-0302 if you would like to lend your help

# Greenlawn Cemetery Chapel Assistance

Several members of the Greenlawn Cemetery board of directors contacted the Tiffin Historic Trust for some ideas about potential uses for the Barnes Memorial Chapel that is situated on their grounds.

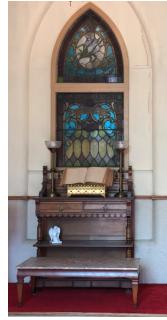


Many of us are aware of the devastation that the tornado in November 2017 caused to the cemetery. Nearly 150 markers were damaged, many of them historic and beyond repair. Eighty trees were lost and many more were damaged. Clean-up is ongoing.



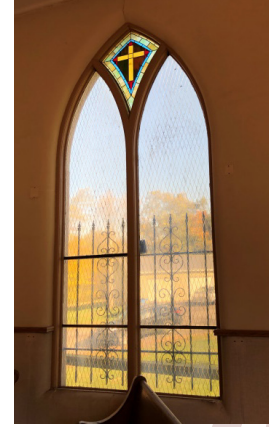
What may not be so obvious to the public is the damage done to the chapel windows. A large branch was driven through one of the side windows, and a smaller limb through the stained glass window over the entrance.

Unfortunately, years ago most of the original stained glass that had been in the windows was replaced with opaque plexiglass, so their insurance reimbursement only covered the cost of replacing the plexiglass. The west window has been covered with plywood for the past two years, and the cemetery board would like to repair it. It has sought estimates to rebuild the original stained glass, to replace it with another type of art glass, or simply to replace it with plain opaque glass. The chapel has seen little use in the past few years, and the Board is questioning how much to invest in this structure. Before launching a fund-raising campaign, the Board wants to assess their needs in order to develop more definite plans for the chapel's future.



Linda Ellinger, treasurer of the Greenlawn Cemetery board, sought ideas from the

Tiffin Historic Trust about the value and possible uses of the chapel. This is well within our mission, which includes the following goals: "To promote historic preservation in Tiffin by meetings, publications, tours, or other means...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."



To that end, on October 22, Jackie Fletcher, Nancy Rubenstein, Doug Collar, and Vicki Ohl met at the chapel with board member Linda Ellinger and Superintendent Bill O'Connor. After viewing the property and surveying the

damage, they learned a bit of the chapel's history. The group then brainstormed about future uses of the chapel including potential fund-raising opportunities, such as holding public events at the cemetery co-sponsored by the Tiffin Historic Trust and the Greenlawn Cemetery Board. Discussions will continue.

## Past Events

- Patricia Abrahamson attended the August 10, Victorian Accessory Tea and won two tickets to a future tea.
- *Behind the Façade Tour: East Side Corridor from Carnegie to Campus* on September 22 featured the Carnegie Library Building, the new National Corner, and the historic buildings on the Heidelberg University Campus.
- *The Mystery Bourbon/Whiskey Tasting* fundraising event on October 6 included a presentation by Dave Spridgeon of the Renaissance, Tiffin, Doug Collar playing jazz recordings,



Vicki Ohl and Char Pope on the piano, and hors d'oeuvres for the attendees.

- Tiffin Historic Trust board members were invited to the October 8 Arts and History meeting to consider ways to improve area tourism.
- Sabrina Schnepat joined Lisa Swickard as the speakers at the October 12 Halloween Tea, *Winterberry Farm Spirits*. Schnepat described the intense work she has done to restore the historic barn on her property, while Swickard referred to the spirits of the place.
- Several board members met with Greenlawn Cemetery representatives on October 22 to look at the Barnes Chapel and suggest ways to raise funds to restore the building.



*Thank You to Ty Cooper of Jeffrey Jewelers for his donation of the glassware given out at the Mystery Bourbon Tasting event.*

### Board Change

President Nevin Martin expressed thanks to David Selnick for his service on the Tiffin Historic Trust Board of Trustees. Selnick submitted his resignation in October.

If serving as a Tiffin Historic Trust board member is on your bucket list, please contact Doug Collar, Joan Martin or Nancy Rubenstein, the current nominating committee members!





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

**Save the Date**  
Holiday Home Tour Dec. 8th  
Tickets on sale after Thanksgiving!

### 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       Patron \$75
  - Family \$30         Business \$100
  - Sponsor \$50

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.org  
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."*

### Tiffin Historic Trust Board of Trustees Officers

- Nevin Martin (President)
- Jackie Fletcher (Vice-President)
- Mark Levans (Treasurer)
- Nancy Rubenstein (Secretary)

Term Expiring 2020	Term Expiring 2021	Term Expiring 2022
Jackie Fletcher	Karin Brown	Doug Collar
Mark Levans	Vicki Ohl	Mary Lewis
Nevin Martin	Fred Shelt	Joan Martin
Phyllis Watts	Lisa Swickard	Michael Pinkston
<b>VACANCY</b>	Ashley Woodruff	Nancy Rubenstein

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