

*Renewed Remembering: The Newsletter of the
Conneaut Area Historical Museum and the
David Cummins Octagon House*

March-April 2026



*A Snow
Island
brings
the hope
of spring,
Next,
may we
hear the
cardinals
sing!*



*In this issue: The Farm
A Center for Warmth and
Hope in Conneaut
The Tale, Tragedy, and
Timelessness of Conneaut
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We Remember

“Remembering” was the name of the original Conneaut Area Historical Society newsletter. Joan Barnett was the last editor, and with her death and the Covid pandemic the newsletter has not been published for a time. It seemed fitting to name this new version of the old newsletter “Renewed Remembering,” in honor of the former editors including Louise Legeza and Joan Barnett who edited and published the newsletter for so many years. We hope you enjoy it!

The President’s Paragraph

The Conneaut Area Historical Society wants to thank you for your continued support. As always, new members are welcome. You can call: 440-599-6011 with further questions or write to Conneaut Area Historical Society, P.O. Box 563, Conneaut Ohio, 44030. Our Historical Museum street address is: 518 Mill Street and our David Cummins Octagon House address is 301 Liberty Street, Conneaut, Ohio 44030. Come and visit us.

Jim Jones, President

Museum People Steering Committee

Kathy Warnes

Delmas Bennett

Jerry Anderson

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Jerry Janco

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President: Jim Jones

Vice President: Jerry Anderson



Secretary: Debbie Jones

Treasurer: Pat Jones

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Warnes

A special thanks to Andy Pochatko at the Topky Library in Ashtabula who has faithfully and consistently printed our newsletter for us for the past three years. We couldn't have accomplished this without him!

Andy as Reverend Rufus Clark, one of the key figures in his presentations about the Underground Railroad in Ashtabula County.



A heartfelt thanks to our former Steering Committee member Debbie Herbel who recently moved to Chicago. Thank you Debbie for your many contributions to the Conneaut Area Historical Society and to the community.

Barn Quilt Square

In the fall of 2023, Steering Committee Member Debbie Herbel painted our museum Barn Quilt and it is proudly displayed on the front of our museum. We are thrilled to be a square in the Ashtabula County Barn Quilt patchwork and a traveler on the Ashtabula Barn Quilt Trail. The barn quilts celebrate Ashtabula County's agricultural heritage including the Underground Railroad network, natural areas preservation, and Great Lakes maritime history.



Barn quilts stretch from the Ashtabula Lighthouse to the Pennsylvania borders and into Lake and Trumbull Counties. These trail guides take visitors to the heart and stories of Ashtabula County history. More than 110 barn quilts on both public and private buildings display the tourism and historical attractions of Ashtabula County. For more about the history, purpose, and quilt creators of the Barn Quilt Trail, go to their website at [Ashtabula County Barn Quilt Trail](#).

The Farm

By Jerry Janco

“Thirty six and a half acres,” was what my dad told us when he decided to buy a small farm on South Ridge Road. Against my mother’s advice, my father bought the farm. Even then, back to 1962 and me being only 12 years old, the “and a half” sounded rather snobbish. If it was only



thirty six acres, I guess my father didn’t think that sounded good enough for his relative and friends.

It was a bittersweet time for our family. We had lived at 152 Welton Road when my father had the inkling to purchase land in the country.

He was a milkman with dreams. For instance, besides being a milkman, he also was part owner in a local feed store. He also briefly ran Johnnie’s Market along with a friend named Johnnie too. He was in Lion’s Club and was a city councilman.

When he bought the farm, I remember the first thing he did was fence off the front of the farm with posts and barbed wire. He and my older brother Jim went to Jamestown, Pennsylvania, to buy a herd of Hereford cattle. At some point the cattle got loose from the trailer that had hauled them up Route 7 to South Ridge Road, but eventually all twenty cows were rounded up and put in a new barn that was being built.

Next came the ponds. My dad had hired a guy to bulldoze dirt to create several small ponds. He had three of them built. There also were natural ponds in the rear of the property near Conneaut Creek. Another project my father undertook was building a log cabin made with pine logs from Leo Schor’s farm. Leo was given the task of cutting down the trees and debarking them. Then with the help of my dad and brothers the cabin was built. It was roughly 30 feet by 50 feet.

I remember that once the logs were place, we had to stuff insulation in between the logs.

Dad bought several rolls of fiberglass insulation. My aunt, dad’s sister, and her husband came over from Girard to help with the project. It was a job that took several days so my aunt and uncle spent the night at the cabin, sleeping on the fiberglass filling. I guess we weren’t used to

fiberglass so the next morning everyone was itching, but we were still able to start covering the fiberglass in between the logs with concrete.

The cabin had several windows and also included a potbellied stove and a propane gas stove and two propane lights. It didn't have any plumbing so there wasn't a bathroom. A small clump of trees nearby was the only place to relieve yourself. We used flat shale rocks to construct a patio in front of the cabin.

Once the cabin was done, the farm became a popular destination for our family and relatives. Of course there were plenty of difficult times. My poor brothers Jim and Richard being older than I, in winter, were forced to wake up early and drive out the five miles to the farm to chop a hole in the pond near the barn so the cattle could have water.

I remember the time when we put in a large garden, but we didn't fence it in so the cattle



destroyed it. Not a good time, especially for my mother, since for some reason my father blamed her.

Another difficult time was when the lower portion of the unfinished barn began collapsing. The barn was going to be built into the side of a hill but the weight of the dirt eventually began pushing against the wall. The barn was never completed when we owned the farm.

The cattle posed several problems as well. One of the Herefords began walking into one of the ponds and refused to get out. Eventually, we got her out but it was too late. She died. We never knew why she did that.

All in all, the time we had the farm was a good thing, but after owning it for four years, my father sold it to Dan Ashman, who built a house near the road. Years

later, after I moved back from Dallas, I stopped at the Ashman house to see if it was okay to go back and look at the log cabin. They gave me permission. Surprisingly, the cabin was in very good condition. However, the young sapling trees that were there when I was a kid were not mature trees. The Ashmans also enlarged one of the ponds. My dad's unfinished barn is no longer there, but a larger barn now sits near the house.

I miss the farm and my parents, but I am grateful for the experience.

A Center for Warmth and Hope in Conneaut



“Not every homeless person looks homeless,” Brenda Nadeau, director of The Hope Center Warming Station at 253 Liberty Street in Conneaut, told the audience at the February Hump Day History Wednesday program at the Octagon House in Conneaut. Commenting that there are even homeless people with degrees, she explained that homelessness people aren’t always standing on the side of the road holding signs asking for help or huddled in doorways with their possessions spilling out of a shopping cart.

According to Brenda, homeless people can be visible and invisible. Some are very easy to identify by their carts stuffed with belongings

or their seats in places like libraries, abandoned buildings, store fronts, parks, alleys, doorways. In more rural areas like Ashtabula County they establish camps in the woods, under bridges, and sometimes in the same places as their urban counterparts. Sometimes they are invisible, walking like people with homes to shelter them when the day is over, hurrying purposefully through stores and public places, mingling seamlessly with people actually doing home. Many of them have jobs hurry to jobs like people with homes to return to after work. In all of their physical spaces, homeless people are both visible and invisible.

Homelessness has a history just like people do. The word homeless like the circumstances of individual homeless people has evolved alongside the condition itself. Before it became officially labeled, homelessness surely existed in America. Many people crossed the ocean without a home waiting for them at the end of their voyage. Many people traveled across counties and states searching for better opportunities and affordable land. When they finally buy their land, they still technically homeless until they had built their home.

During the Colonial Era as defined between the 1640s to the 1700s documents exist that label the homeless people as “wandering poor” or “in transients.” Authorities and ordinary people often blamed them for their circumstances. The Industrial Revolution of the 1800s motivated people to move to cities for work and homelessness increased when they couldn’t stretch their often scanty wages to cover living expenses.

By the 1870s, people were using the word “homelessness” to describe drifters riding the railroads searching for work. Drifters or tramps increased during the 1930s Depression and

homeless tent cities called “Hooverilles” symbolized the poverty and joblessness that forced people from their homes.

The 1970s ushered in the modern era of homelessness, brought about by changes in housing, mental health policies, and economic shifts.

Although homelessness is statistically a societal problem, many American don’t believe it is a problem, and their belief is a problem. Just a paragraph of statistics reveals that homelessness is a problem. According to HUD statistics, every day approximately 500 Americans are homeless and 35.5. of homeless people are unsheltered and unhoused. Seven percent of homeless people are young people under twenty five and five percent of homeless people are veterans.

California, New York, Florida, Texas, Washington, Massachusetts, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Illinois, and Colorado have the highest homeless rates and they account for 55 percent of the homeless population in America. Statistics for Ashtabula County are not quite as definitive as federal government numbers. According to Ohio statistics, homelessness in 2024 totaled 11, 759 people. Even though Ashtabula County is the largest county in Ohio, official homelessness counts place the number of homeless people near the bottom of the statistical pile. Several sources state that Ashtabula City has a homelessness total of under 50 people.

It is difficult to estimate the number of homeless people in Conneaut Brenda agreed, but she believes it is definitely over 50 people. She noted that the numbers fluctuate because people work their way through programs, obtain employment, and eventually find new homes. The numbers constantly change, she said.

The goal of Hope Center Warming Station is helping homeless people get back on their feet from dire situations and rebuild their lives while giving them the help they need, including food, clothing, and warmth from bitter winter temperatures. Brenda stressed words like dignity, responsibility, compassion, and helping hands. Rehabilitation from substance abuse and job training are other goals the center supports for its clients.

One of the significant roadblocks homeless people face on their journey to another home is the attitudes of their fellow human beings. Brenda led a conversation with the audience discussing questions like: Is Homelessness A Lazy Habit? A lack of willpower, the result of irresponsibility or an entitlement attitude? Or is it a failure of government safety nets, family, and other support systems,? Can it be a combination of attitudes?

Brenda pointed out the reasons people find themselves homeless are as varied as the people themselves. A few causes of homelessness include family violence, mental health issues, physical health issues, employment issues, limited housing, drug and alcohol addiction, traumatic experiences, debt, and lack of support systems.

Homeless people encounter attitudes and perceptions and solutions like they just need to get a job and be responsible; they just use the money they get for drugs and alcohol; they are just lazy; they don’t try to help themselves; they want to live that way. Brenda pointed out that in order to get a job you need a mailing address, a computer would help, supplies for personal maintenance, the practical necessities to maintain daily life. Food, shelter, clothing.

Literally and figuratively shaking the hand of a homeless person and expecting a handshake in return is Brenda’s helping hand philosophy and one she practices in the Hope Warming Center.

The Hope Center Warming Station is open on Wednesdays from 10-2 and 6 to 9. The center offers food, warmth, puzzles and games, rest, people who care, and HOPE.

Brenda emphasized that currently the donations the Center needs most are cleaning products. Visit the Hope Center Warming Station on her Face Book page.

Up to Date and Doing with the Conneaut Area Historical Society and the David Cummins Octagon House

In June 2026, the David Cummins Octagon House Museum will celebrate the two year anniversary of its reopening in June 2024. An anniversary is a good time to evaluate the past and present and develop hopeful plans for the future. We kept the Octagon House open all last winter for tours, activities, and as a base of operations for our historical society, since the historical museum doesn't have heat. This is our second year of being open all year around.



In September 2025, we were honored when Conneaut resident Moe Tanner donated her and her late husband Jim's Civil War collection. This donation exactly fits into our Civil War era Octagon House and our mission to operate it as a museum of Conneaut history

Our second Christmas Tea, which was a Civil War themed tea. was part of our Civil War weekend which began with an Open House on Friday night and then a Saturday Tea. We welcomed Col. Bill Kennedy (retired) as our guest speaker and featured a Civil War Menu complete with foods that would have been eaten during the Civil War.

We also learned an important lesson. **DON'T ASSUME THAT JUST BECAUSE IT'S CHRISTMAS, SNOWY AND COLD THAT PEOPLE WON'T COME TO YOUR TEA IN NUMBERS!** They came and we accommodated and fed them all, but we were quite crowded. From now on, we are taking tea reservations!

Unfortunately, we had to cancel our January Hump Day History Wednesday with John Patterson because of the weather. Fortunately, John is rescheduled for the April Hump Day History program. Our March 18th program will involve seeds and gardening, and plans for an octagon flower bed for the Octagon House.

We have accomplished and are accomplishing a lot of archival work, are organizing exhibits, are welcoming a modest number of visitors, and are creating newsletters videos, and website material.

Young people are an important part of our visitors roster and we have been thrilled to welcome students from Tyler Pew's Conneaut High School history class and anticipate return visits. We

are in the process of displaying some of their historical comic books here at the Octagon House. The young people from the Conneaut Youth Center recently performed a Dramatic Reading based on Conneaut Civil War history called Conneaut Drummers, at the Conneaut Youth Center. Despite flu, absences, and other life events intruding, they did a great job. Bob Lebzeler videotaped it for us.

Another important event took place over several months as we collected William Haines panoramic prints from our archives and took them to Framed on Main in Ashtabula to have them mounted and freeze wrapped. Director David Jones from the Conneaut Aarts Center offered us an exhibition date for next May to allow the public to view this collection. We joyfully accepted! The William Amos Haines Panoramic Photo will be exhibited during the month of May at the Conneaut Arts Center. Please stop in for a look. They are wonder snapshots of Conneaut History with a few photos he took as he traveled cross country.

We have had an exciting 2025 Hump Day History Wednesday program season at the Octagon House. Museum member Beth Anthony presented our September Hump Day History program about Conneaut businesses and historical sites . Our October Hump Day History program featured Karla Gadley presenting a program about the DAR, focusing on Conneaut's involvement in the organization.

Later in October, we presented a special program about the Marquette Bessemer No. 2 and the Pittsburgh and Conneaut Docks and Huletts Dr. Thomas Adams discussing his book about the disappearance of the Marquette Bessemer No. 2.. and theories about its location. Conneaut Historical Society President Jim Jones, vice-President Jerry Andrews, and Steering Committee member Jim Lyon who collectively accumulated more than 100 years of working experience on the dock and operating Huletts talked about their experiences and memories of the P & C Docks. We are working on a Pittsburgh & Conneaut exhibit to open in May 2026 at the Conneaut Area Historical Museum. Our November 2025 Hump Day History program featured Conneaut veterans history and a brief history of Thanksgiving.

Two ongoing projects close to our historical heart and working days. We are planning the second part of a fund raiser to collect enough money to pay for a model of the Marquette Bessmer No. 2, which sank in a ferocious December 7 storm in 1909. Nearly all of the crew members were from Conneaut or had close ties to Conneaut. We have found a model maker who will create one for us for 1,500 dollars. So far we have collected \$400 thanks to the raffle persuasion skills of Dr. Thomas Adams. We are having a Marquette Bessemer No. 2 Day

The Bessemer No. 2 Model will be part of our Pittsburgh and Conneaut Dock exhibit and portable enough so that it can spend the summer at the Conneaut Area Historical Museum and its winters here at the Octagon House as part of an exhibit about the Bessemer's crew and the impact of its sinking on Conneaut. We are sponsoring a Bessemer Day on Saturday June 13 from 12 to five. Dr. David Frew and Dr. Thomas Adams who both wrote books about the Bessemer No. 2, will present programs as part of the day. We will hold a Bessemer Basket Raffle to raise funds for our Bessemer model. Come visit us for Bessemer history, a Bessemer Basket Raffle, and fellowship and food.

We are also working on a school exhibit, with the goal of illustrating the histories of some of the early Conneaut schools and teachers and also adding to our Conneaut businesses exhibit. We have also created a David Cummins Octagon House Facebook page to accompany our longstanding Conneaut Area Historical Society Facebook page. The reason: We have so much historical material we would overwhelm Facebook if we combined it all on one page.

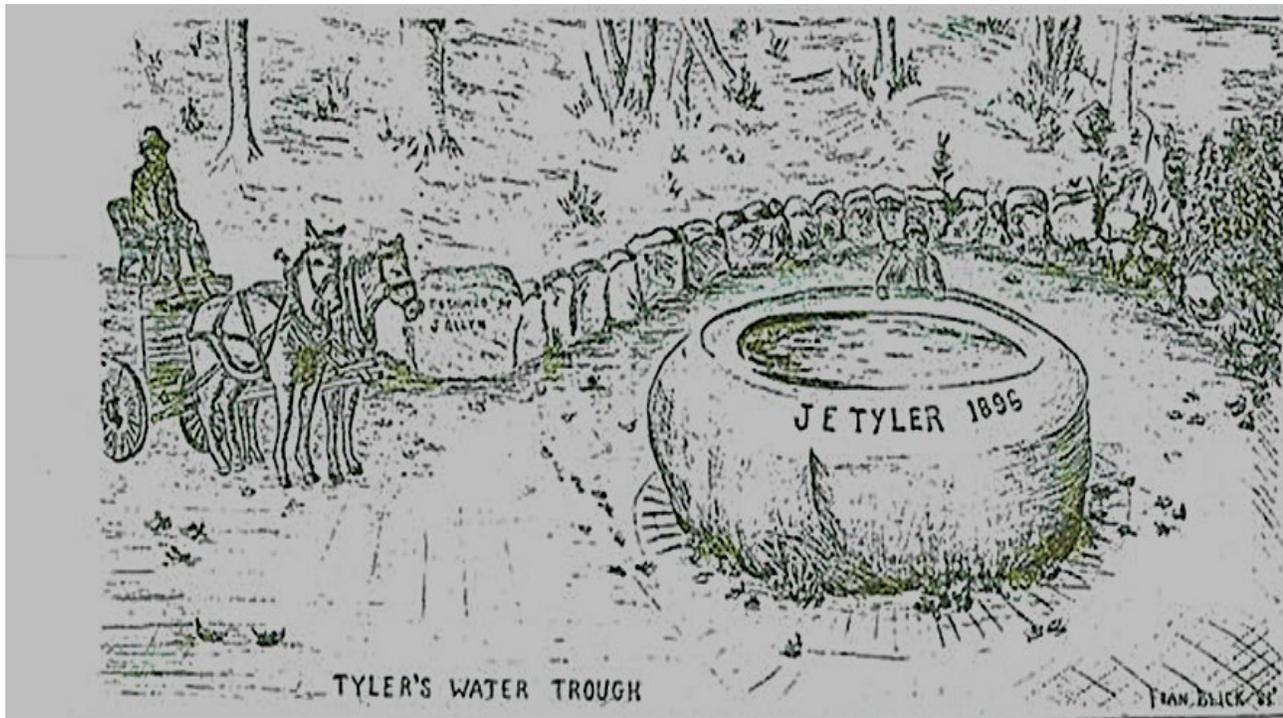
One of our very recent and most exciting acquisitions is a number of bound Conneaut News Herald and Ashtabula Star Beacon newspapers from the library collection. They were recently displayed at the Conneaut Library and now they are finding a new home at the David Cummins Octagon House.

Our Octagon House winter hours are Saturdays and Sundays from 12 to 5 or by appointment. Come and visit us. As well as antiques and a unique building, we have Conneaut history displays, scrapbooks, city directories; we have school year books, and military, musical, and other interesting exhibits.

Come And See Us!



The Tale, Tragedy, and Timelessness of Conneaut Tyler's Trough



The Tale...

By 1870, Civil War Veteran John B. Tyler had moved to Conneaut from his native New York, bringing his wife Emma Jane, their children, and his driver skills with him. They settled on a farm near the Old Main Hill Road leading through the gorge that Conneaut Creek had carved with centuries of swiftly running water. John set to work farming, driving teams for himself and his neighbors while Emma Jane kept house and helped John make their farm prosper. The couple's children included Richard, Mary, Hal, Edna, and August.

After a sojourn in Chicago during the 1880s, John B. and his family returned to the farm in Conneaut. Even in the 1880s, Chicago had acquired the characteristics of a big city with tall buildings, and John B. and his family may have compared the height of Chicago buildings with the depth of the Conneaut Creek gorge snaking through the Old Main Hill Road.

As John worked through his farming days, he often interrupted his duties to help water the teams of horses that toiled up and down the Old Main Hill Road. A spring of sparkling, fresh water bubbled near the road and their drivers stopped to let the tired horses enjoy a drink of fresh water. Their destinations were a mixture of local trips and long-distance hauls to Buffalo or Chicago, because Old Main Road was a connecting thoroughfare between the two cities.

In 1896, John B., possibly with the help of his neighbors and thirsty teamsters, built wooden troughs to collect the spring water for horses and people passing up and down the steep hill. He began his plan of piping the spring water to the wooden troughs at the top of the hill by drilling eight feet into the ground, where he struck a bubbling spring branch. Then he laid a three-inch pipe to a well near his home just a stone's throw away. He and his helpers built a wooden water trough measuring about four feet high and six feet wide, and then they piped water from the Tyler well to the wooden troughs.

It did not take John long to realize that that wooden troughs fell short of his expectations. Horse and wagon traffic and large lumber wagons rolling down the hillside jarred or bumped into the troughs and soon they showed signs of location damage. One day, a wagon hit a trough and it crashed into the gorge. John B. made up his mind to build a permanent water trough that could withstand wagons and people. He eyed a six by eight-foot boulder lying at the bottom of the hill and decided that would solve his problem.

An October 20, 1937, story in the Conneaut News Herald detailed John B's next move. He hired West Springfield, Pennsylvania, builder Adele Hubbard to help him wrestle the rock the approximately sixty-five feet to the top of the hill. The two men borrowed two capstans and a hydraulic jack from Conneaut Harbor and after placing a jacket around the rock and using skids, they attempted to pull the boulder to the top of the hill. Their first two attempts came within a stone's throw of success, but just as it reached the top of the hill, the boulder wobbled and then thundered back down the hill. On their third try, the men successfully settled the boulder at the top of the hill.

Then John B. Tyler's son Richard (Dick) hired Charles Ferson Patterson, a stonemason, to hollow out a basin in the rock for a water trough. Charles Patterson could not use dynamite because it would shatter the rock, so he decided to use chisels. After days and days of tedious, often back bending labor, he stood surveying a hollowed-out basin capable of holding enough spring water to satisfy thirsty horses and people.

Charles Patterson and his wife Mary Adella and their children lived in Conneaut, and with many

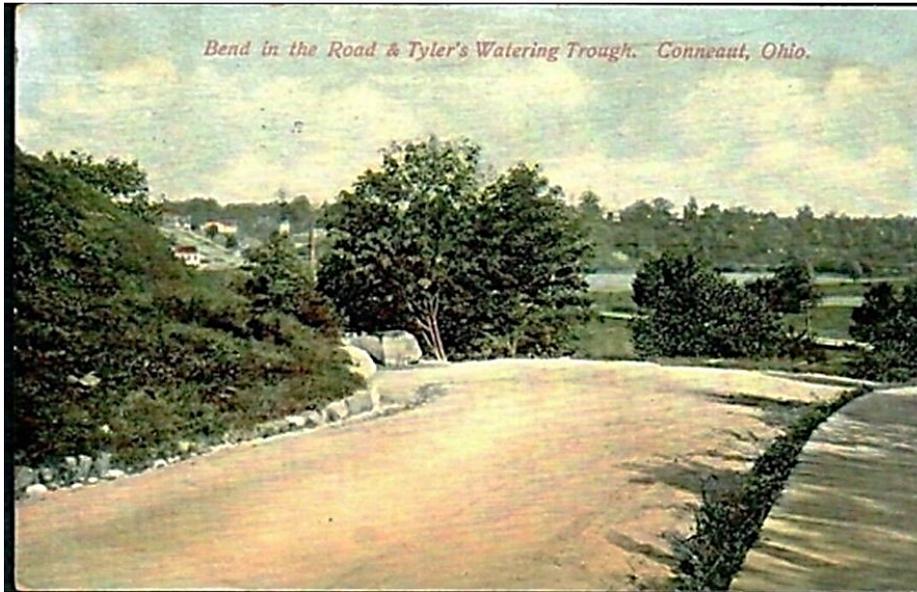


other visitors, they often stopped to enjoy his stone cutting handiwork at Tyler's Trough. Many people finger-traced the letters that Charles Patterson had chiseled into the side of his creation: J.B. Tyler 1896.

The caption under this picture stated that the Tyler's Trough located on the eastern bank of

the Gulf had once been a popular stopping place for people and horses to enjoy refreshing spring water. Time and re-routing had made the Old Main Route obsolete, but the trough was a community landmark and a fitting memorial to hard working citizens who helped built Conneaut.

For the next two decades or more, people and horses made traditional stops at Tyler's Trough, and it became a loved landmark for Conneaut and Ashtabula County residents. Time flows like



the spring water in Tyler's Trough. As the horse and buggy jogged through the first decades of the Twentieth Century to meet the speeding automobile, Tyler's Trough became olden times instead of an oasis. By 1924, the new Route 20 viaduct allowed traffic to bypass the stretch of Old Main Road where Tyler's Trough had rested

for so many years and it became less visible or remembered to passersby. Less visibility and the rising popularity of the automobile left Tyler's Trough a solitary sentinel landmark on the hill, marked by graffiti, hidden in weeds, and buried in memories. A great granddaughter of Charles Patterson, Mary Jane Jarvi and her daughter routinely weeded and watched over Tyler's Trough and its now quiet neighborhood.

Time continued to flow like the spring water in Tyler's Trough. Charles Ferson Patterson died in 1905 and he and Mary Adella are buried in Glenwood Cemetery in Conneaut. John B. Tyler died in 1911 and is buried in East Conneaut Cemetery. Dick Tyler died in 1952 and is buried in Glenwood Cemetery in Conneaut.

Eventually, new owners acquired the Tyler farm, and with it, Tyler's Trough. In 2002, the new owners sold Tyler's Trough to someone who moved it from the spot where John B. Tyler, Dick Tyler, Adele Hubbard, Charles Patterson, and probably helpers whose names have been swallowed up in history worked so hard to homestead it.

Another great granddaughter of Charles F. Patterson, Kathy Grice Horwood, added more details to the story of Tyler's Trough in a speech at the Conneaut Area Historical Society in the 1990s. The Society's newsletter, Remembering, printed her story that she called "The Tyler Watering Trough." Kathy's version of the story has it that George A. Hubbard, a builder from West Springfield, told John B. Tyler about a huge stone that he had seen that would make a perfect trough for thirsty horses. The stone weighed twenty tons and measured nine ½ x 8 x 5 ½ feet, so it presented an equally enormous challenge.

John B. Tyler hired George Hubbard to move the stone, a task that included lifting the stone sixty feet out of the gorge and settling it firmly on the roadside. John B. and George Hubbard had to

obtain heavy timbers to make a track and use tackle blocks. John B. had to put in three loads of cobbles, three loads of boulders, and a dressed stone surface for the foundation so the stone would fit snugly into its berth and not roll down the hill. An opening large enough for someone to get under the stone and connect all of the pipes had to be left in the center of the foundation so the pipes could be hooked up to a spring to provide fresh cool water. John B. Tyler hired a Mr. Allyn to properly connect the pipes to the spring.

Next, John B. Tyler hired Charles Ferson Patterson, a mason, to create a trough from the huge boulder. Charles Patterson spent weeks chiseling the stone until he had scoured a basin four feet, five inches by five feet nine inches by two feet six inches to form the trough. Charles Patterson built a small shanty over the stone, working over ten weeks including all winter to create his trough. He completed the job and J.B. Tyler paid him \$125.00. As a bonus and a good will gesture, Charles Patterson carved "J.B. Tyler 1896" into the side of his new creation. Fran Blickensderfer of Conneaut, a long time Historical Society member, drew this picture of Tyler's Trough in 1991 for note cards that the Society sold at the Depot Museum.[3]The final chapters of the Tyler's Trough story continue the tradition of differing details and ultimately sad events with an ending that John B. Tyler and Charles F. Patterson might not have imagined.

The Tragedy...

Two stories in the Ashtabula Star Beacon detailed the fate of Tyler's Trough in the first decade of the Twenty First Century. In the March 2002 Star Beacon story, Staff Writer Mark Todd wrote that neighbors reported that on Sunday afternoon Tyler's Trough had been hauled away from the hillside it overlooked since 1896. A neighbor who checked on the trough, located on Old Main Road, Conneaut, every day since the sale confirmed that a crew took the boulder Sunday afternoon. The crew toiled an hour to remove the trough, estimated to weigh more than twenty tons. Then, Conneaut resident Cheryl Taylor, owner of the land where the trough rests, confirmed that she had sold the rock to an unnamed Ashtabula County resident who planned to use it as a memorial to his ailing wife.

Ed Wharton, president of the Conneaut Area Historical Society, said that everyone was upset. "There is now a big hole in our history. More than one hundred years of our history is gone," he said. President Wharton and other Historical Society members were upset because the previous owner did not give them a chance to buy the trough or make other arrangements to keep it in town. "We're disheartened the move couldn't be put on hold for a few days," he said.

President Wharton added that local officials, including State Representative George Distel, Democrat, Conneaut, had been asked to help. Ward Councilman Richard Showalter, whose jurisdiction includes the land where Tyler's Trough rested, remarked that "it was taken out with no consideration for our community." He said that he had contacted state officials and agencies when he learned that the trough had been moved. "I was disappointed not more had been done to stop the move until we had our ducks in a row," he said. Council President James Lauer said he visited the spot where the trough had rested and had discovered no damage to the road or right of way. "You could go by and not realize any heavy equipment had been there," he said.

In a follow up story in the Ashtabula Star Beacon of May 31, 2002, Staff Writer Mark Todd pinpointed the whereabouts of Tyler's Trough. According to Staff Writer Todd, local historians discovered Tyler's Trough a few dozen miles south of Conneaut. It had been sold and relocated

in March 2002, and now resided on private property around Garrettsville and West Farmington. They located a relative of one of the men hired to move the massive stone and eventually found it.

Ed Wharton, president of the Conneaut Area Historical Society, said that the stone sat close to the road allowing Historical Society members to identify it without trespassing. “We have photos. The name and date etched into the stone is visible. It is the trough.”

Conneaut Area Historical Society members are planning to meet with the owner to see if they can negotiate the return of the stone. According to some reports, the new owner collects watering troughs and has a large display of them on his property. According to President Wharton, Historical society members learned the owner paid \$5,000 for the trough and another \$3,000 to have it relocated. Members will seek donations if they get a chance to buy back the stone. “We do not know if the person who has it knows its historical value. He may not talk to us. Once it has left the area, it is going to be tough to get it back,” President Wharton said.

Timelessness...

Conneaut Area Historical Society President Ed Wharton’s 2002 words proved to be prophetic. In 2022, Tyler’s Trough still has not returned to rest comfortably on the Old Main Hillside of its birth and its creators John B. Tyler and Charles Patterson would be astonished to read the latest chapters in its story. John B. Tyler conceivably would pause in his planning, just momentarily and Charles Patterson, would lay down his chisel, but not for long and inquire as to the nature of the Facebook chapters of the Tyler Trough story.

More than a decade after the sale of Tyler’s Trough some of the latest chapters in its story have been written on Facebook, a medium that would have astonished its creators. Or perhaps they would not have been astonished after all. In 1896, radio telegraphy had already been invented and telephone, telegraph and automobile technologies were improving as speedily as the newfangled typewriter keys could produce a word. By 2018, Tyler’s Trough had been discussed, dissected, and debated on Facebook and advocates had created the Historic Old Main Stone Trough campaign, to restore Tyler’s Trough to its original home.

Why has the story of Tyler’s Trough endured through the Nineteen, Twentieth and into the Twenty First century? Some of the important reasons for its timelessness are community, continuity, and civic and historical pride.

John B. Tyler and Charles Patterson considered community important enough to reach outside of their private lives to contribute what they could to the betterment of their community and their fellow citizens. Tyler’s Trough as a Conneaut community asset provides continuity between generations of citizens transcending the differences of time and technology and creating a connective sense of pride for the contributions their community has made to history.

Every community, whether it is located in a small town, large city, or the wider world, has an icon that expresses pride in community, whether it is a ground hog like Punxsutawney Phil, a gigantic wooden chair outside a town that manufactures chairs, or a stone watering trough on the top of a steep hill. When people stop in their weary tracks before they reach the top of their individual hills, the image and actuality of a Tyler’s Trough provides hope and history in the guise of a long, refreshing drink of water.

Dock Talk Tales

March 1982

What is Spring?



Spring is a goal which makes the long frigid winter seem worthwhile. Spring is that light airy feeling of anticipation in your heart that you can't quite put your finger on...it is a time of planting, planning and nourishing...

Spring is a tiny crocus lazily peeking its sleepy head through the still crisp cold earth reaching boldly heavenward to view the azure coverlet high overhead...it is a pussy willow gently swaying near a gurgling creek bed...it is the soft bleat of a newborn woolly lamb on its wobbly legs as it frisks as it frisks deftly over the carpet of green meadow studded with gems of golden dandelions.

Spring is a gentle medley of music combining the crisp clear song of the meadow lark with that of the grandfather frog, the cricket, and a woodpecker drumming on a distant log, into one vast choir changing tempo and key.

Spring is a bouquet of beauty wrapped in a cascade of aromatic lavender lilacs, dancing tulips, and shimmering golden daffodils interspersed with dainty lacey

baby's breath and tied together with a drapery of bridal wreath.

Spring is that magical echo of a small child's voice gingerly shouting, "play ball!"...It is the laughter of silver raindrops playing a game of hide-and-seek as they splash softly against a crystal clear window pane.

Spring is a warm gust of apple blossom scented breeze gently kissing your cheek as you step through the threshold into God's wonderous world of miracles...It is a time of renewal and rebirth....

Spring is a time of refreshment for the heart...it is a new beginning, a new awakening to God's goodness...Spring is a reassurance of God's love for us. Ruth H. Underhill

Join Our Patrons Program

The Conneaut Area Historical Museum announces our Merchant Patron program which is available to any local business who desires to help our museum to function and improve. For \$50 per year (January to December, renewable every year) we will include your business name and phone number in the publications the museum produces, including a monthly newsletter, any future books, and our website. If interested, send your donation of \$50.00 to P.O. Box 563, Conneaut, Ohio 44030. We will include you in our list of great merchants and businesses in this area.

Anchor Insurance

*233 Liberty Street
Conneaut, OH 44030
440-593-3562*

Anderson & Crew Flooring

*221 Main St.
Conneaut, OH 44030
(440) 593-3573*

Bert Drennen

*2400 Windsap Rd.
Broadview Hts., OH 44147*

Biscotti's Restaurant

*186 Park Avenue
Conneaut, OH 44030
440-593-6766*

Bushnell Store - Joy Brent

*5915 Bushnell Rd.
Conneaut, OH 44030
440-594-2084*

Cantini's Shoreline Beverage

*1033 Lake Road
Conneaut, OH 44030
440-563-8319*

Chris Brecht State Farm Insurance

*216 Main Street, Suite B
Conneaut, OH 44030
440-593-1191*

Conneaut Creek Veterinary Clinic

*382 W. Main Rd.
Conneaut, OH 44030
440-593-7387*

Conneaut Dairy Queen

*1009 Main St.
Conneaut, OH 44030
440-593-2765*

*Conneaut Human Resources Center
327 Mill Street
Conneaut, OH 44030
440-593-5273*

*Richard and Rebecca Gaugh
304 Bailey Rd.
Conneaut, OH 44030*

*Gerdes Pharmacy
245 Main Street
Conneaut, OH 44030
440-593-2578*

*Hair Shack
444 State Street
Conneaut, Ohio 44030
440-549-6777*

*House Hippo Vintage & Thrift
471 State St,
Conneaut, OH 44030
440-599-4476*

*Jakeco Farms 2
(Beef and Pork, Eggs,
Greenhouse, and Vegetables)
5629 Middle Road
Conneaut, OH 44030
440-319-0963*

*Kathi's Golden Retrievers
Kathi and Jim Swann
11790 Pennside Road
Albion, PA 16401*

*Marcy Funeral Home
208 Liberty Street
Conneaut, OH 44030
440-593-4253*

*Morris Flowers and Gifts
176 Washington Street
Conneaut, OH 44030
440-593-1196*

*Orlando Brothers Golden Dawn
281 Main St.
Conneaut, OH 44030
440-593-5039*

*Port Conneaut Federal Credit Union
1002 Broad St.
Conneaut, OH 44030
440-593-7305*

*Pueblo Real Mexican Restaurant
348 W. Main Rd.
Conneaut, OH 44030
440-265-6178*

Rainbow Cafe
263 Main St.
Conneaut, OH 44030
440-593-2504

Snap Fitness
236 Main Street
Conneaut, OH 44030
440-599-9951

Diana Spencer
170 Buffalo Street
Conneaut, OH 44030

The Newcomb Law Firm
213 Washington Street
Conneaut, Ohio 44030
440-503-6457

Wild Wonders Play space-
Indoor Playground and
Parties
348 West Main Road
Save a lot Plaza
Conneaut, Ohio 44030
440-265-2090



Conneaut Area Historical Society Museum Membership Application

Single \$15__ Couple \$20__ Family \$25____ Patron \$50

Name_____ Address_____

City_State_Zip Code__ Phone Number_____

Names of family members__

Would you be willing to volunteer to work at the museum during the summer months? We are open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from noon to 5, starting on Memorial Day and ending on Labor Day.

No, not at this time___ Yes__ If yes, what day or time is best for you?_

What type of volunteering are you interested in, i.e., maintenance, exhibits, archives, computer work, tours? Tell us what you would like to do.

Thank you for your membership! Conneaut Area Historical Society

518 Mill Street

Phone (440)599-6011 (leave message if unanswered)

Capturingconneauthistory.com