

# Suffield Heritage Sentinel

Suffield Township Historical Society Volume 4 Spring 2010  
*Your Family Histories are the History of Suffield*

## Speaker Series Resumes...

**Wayne Enders** from the Portage County Historical Society will present **"Lead up to the Civil War"** for the Suffield Historical Society's first program in the **Spring Speaker Series**. Enders energetic style and extensive knowledge has made him much in demand and we look forward to his program on **February 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.**

**"Tractors of Yesteryear - A Classic Collection of Antique Tractors"** will be the topic **March 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.** Carl Rufener, Jr. will share the story of how he came to have one of the most prominent collections in the area.

**From Farming to Fishing...** **Brian Ebie** will tell the story of the family farm and how it ended up at the bottom of the Mogadore Reservoir. Don't miss this fascinating part of Suffield's history....  
**April 19<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm.**  
**May program TBA**

## Suffield's own "Antique Road Show" Fund Raiser!

Do you have an item laying around the house that you would like to have appraised? If so, plan on attending the **Suffield Historical Society's own version of the popular tv program *Antique Roadshow* February 28<sup>th</sup> from 1 - 4pm at the Suffield Town Hall.**

**Darryl McGuire's Auctioneers & Appraisers** will share their expertise in evaluating and appraising items brought. The cost is \$5 for each item or 3 items for \$10.00 You may bring as many items as you wish. There is no admission fee for coming and enjoying the proceedings. Refreshments will be sold throughout the afternoon.

Help support this fund raiser and maybe you will discover a 'treasure' among the boxes in your attic or basement!

**Doors open at 12:00 noon!**

**Come join in the fun!!!**

## Goodyear Park Memories

Wouldn't John and Mary Fritsch be happy to know that the pond that was named after them, and later known as Wingfoot Lake, will soon be a state park allowing local residents to enjoy the natural beauty of our community? If all goes well, Memorial Day weekend should see the opening of the newest state park, one that holds many memories for former Goodyear employees and their families. From boating and fishing, to picnicking and playing on the playground equipment, to getting food from the restaurant and just enjoying the views, Wingfoot Lake has been the scene of many business and family gatherings. With the Goodyear hangar across the way, visitors enjoyed watching the blimp takeoff, quietly float into the air, and later watch as the flight crew grabbed those lines and help guide it back to land.

Back in 1927, this writer's grandfather worked at Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. He was also an avid fisherman and boat builder. At that time, Goodyear decided to develop the park area around Wingfoot Lake as a recreational place for their employees, and asked grandpa to manage it during the summer. (Continued - page two)

## Goodyear (Cont'd)

While grandpa began getting boats ready for rental, Grandma Brown took over the Canteen. It was a two room building, the front room held all the oars and rental equipment with a counter for conducting business. There were also snack items, candy and pop available. The back room had some rustic living quarters and an area for grandma to fix sandwiches to sell. Sons Bill and Frank were in charge of getting bait for the fishermen, and mom, a sophomore at East High School at that time, ran general errands. One of the most interesting was helping out the blimp crew who would fly low over the lake before landing. They would shout down their lunch order, Grandma would cook it up, and mom and/or her brothers would climb in a wooden boat, and row as quickly as they could across the lake to the waiting hands of the hungry men.



Boat racing, fishing, and enjoying the outdoors were great ways for the family to spend their summers. May many more enjoy this natural jewel as it becomes open to all. **Judy Calcei**

## TAPS – 24 notes that stir the heart

*Few melodies can bring tears to the eyes of so many as that of a bugle sounding Taps. Recently, an email has circulated telling the poignant story of the origin of the song. It stated that a Union officer, Captain Ellecombe, heard the moan of a dying soldier and despite not knowing on what side the soldier fought, decided to seek medical attention for him. The soldier died and as the Captain lit a lantern and saw his face, he discovered it was his own son who, unknown to him, had enlisted in the Confederate army. The captain asked permission to bury his son but was granted only a single bugler to play at the military funeral. The father discovered a series of musical notes written out on a piece of paper in his son's pocket. The music was the melody Taps.*



*While a beautiful story, the facts dispute this information. There is no record of a Captain Ellecombe or his son. According to historical records, if anyone can be said to have composed Taps, it was Brig. Gen. Daniel Butterfield, Commander of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Division, V Army Corps, during the American Civil War. Unhappy with the customary firing of three rifle volleys at the conclusion of burials during battle, and also wanting a less harsh bugle call for signaling the end of a soldier's day, he likely altered an older piece known as "Tatto", a French bugle call used to signal "lights out," into the call we now know as Taps. He and his bugler worked together to change a few notes, thus giving us the haunting melody that has become used extensively in military funerals.*

## **Civil War Artifacts on display**

Civil war memorabilia will be on display for your enjoyment after the program in February. If you have any items that you would like to share, please label them and bring them to the town hall basement so that they may be arranged for viewing. We look forward to sharing these historic items that reflect such a significant part of our history.

## **Suffield's own served in the Civil War**

Pat Mettle was able to research the names of those early Suffield residents who served in the civil war. In all, Ohio sent 310,000 men, a large percentage of Ohio's 2,343,730 population at that time. Records indicate the following men from **Suffield** who served valiantly in that great conflict and their date of death if known:

**Urias Paulus** – died in 1865 at age 16 after serving five months; **Robert Callihan**(1927); **Conrad Keister**, **John Newbauer**, **Rufus Potter**(1887); **Israel Potts**, **Moses Smith**, **George Stoffer** (1870), **Newton Stoffer**. All these men and markers are in the Eastlawn Cemetery on Waterloo Rd.

Buried in Kent Corners Cemetery are **Nathan Potts** (1921) and **William Saxe** (1862).

**Urias Cramer** is buried in the Upson family cemetery.

## **Local History Book**



It's been almost four years in the making, but now a book entitled **20<sup>th</sup> Century Portage County** is ready for purchase. Each township in the county submitted an overview of its history covering various aspects of its life. Chris McVay, a professor at Kent State University, has taken the chapters submitted and edited them into one book which covers life across the county in the 1900's. Filled with stories, diary entries, and factual information, this book condenses our county history and shows how so many of our local townships are linked by some common threads. The book is available through the Portage County Historical Society. We will have additional information at the next meeting.

## **Suffield Historical Society says Thanks to.....**

**Jo Demboski** who served as president for three years and provided excellent leadership as our group undertook many projects.

**Ron Mishler** who served as township trustee for many years and who offered many tidbits of historical interest to our gatherings.

**The Suffield League** for their commitment to the community through successful events such as the Suffield Music Festival and Santa's Visit Those organizations who contributed decorated trees and food items to bring joy to local families during the **Suffield Leagues** Santa event.

The many folks who supported our Speaker Series.

## **We look forward to....**

Speaker Series

**Antiques Roadshow**  
Memorial Day Garage Sale and Parade

**Come Along...Join the Fun!**



Due to the cost of postage, we are sending out fewer newsletters. We want to be sure that those in our community who wish to receive them are on our mailing list. If you know of someone who wants one but is not on our list, please contact one of our officers.

### **Just a Thought.....**

Gandhi's Seven Sins

1. Wealth without work
2. Pleasure without conscience
3. Knowledge without character
4. Commerce without morality
5. Science without humanity
6. Worship without sacrifice
7. Politics without principal

### **Suffield Historical Officers for 2010**

President – Judy Calcei  
Secretary – Pauline Persons  
Treasurer – Nancy Wise  
Curator – Bob Longbottom  
Program Chair – Gino Calcei

### **Did You Know...**

- ⇒ bear and elk used to be found in our township?
- ⇒ the oldest brick home in the township was built by Adam Moses in 1820?
- ⇒ the first post office was opened in 1833 with Benjamin Fritsch named as postmaster?
- ⇒ the concession stand for Suffield High School's Friday afternoon football games was a card table with some candy bars and chips for sale?



### **Looking for Ancestors?**

Our Curator, Bob Longbottom, is a passionate devotee of genealogy.

To that end, he has been researching many of the families from Suffield and has collected thousands of names in his data bank. His love of the computer has aided him as he has traced current families back to some of their earliest origins. He is always anxious to collect more information. If you have some family genealogical data that you would like to share with him,

### **Chicks Galore ... Coming Next Issue**

Those of us who grew up in Suffield have fond memories of the Wingfoot Lake Hatchery. Emma Cruise recalls the colorful feed sack cloths that were made into little girls' dresses by resourceful mothers. In the next issue, the Persons/Ewell family will explore some of their memories of the hatchery. If you can recall some stories about this well known feed and chicken store, please let us hear them.

In fact, any stories you have about growing up in Suffield are sure to strike a chord with others. Please consider writing them down and forwarding them to any of the officers, or stopping by during one of our meetings. We'd love to hear them.



## Did You Know This About Our Flag?

When we observe military funerals, it is always with respect and gratitude. The surviving spouse or family member is almost always given a flag, folded into a triangle. But did you know that each of the folds holds a special meaning? Watch carefully as the military honor guard proceeds with the following: First fold in half length wise (holding taut), then fold again (just a field of blue with stripes). Then fold in right angle triangles.

The first fold – Symbol of Life; the second fold – Eternal Life; the third fold – Remembrance of Veterans; the fourth fold – Trust in God; the fifth fold – Tribute to our Country; the sixth fold – Where Our Hearts Lie; the seventh fold - Tribute to the Armed Forces; the eighth fold – Psalm 23; the ninth fold – Tribute to Womanhood; the tenth fold – Tribute to Fatherhood, and the eleventh fold – Seal of David.

*Pauline Persons*

# ANTIQUES ROADSHOW FEBRUARY 28<sup>TH</sup>

## 1 – 4pm Suffield Town Hall

Come on and join the fun and see if you have any antiques that will be worth a fortune!

**One item - \$5                      3 for \$10 Free admission**  
**50/50 raffle   Food for sale   Doors open at noon !**