



CRIDERSVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY Newsletter

APRIL-MAY-JUNE 2025

SPECIAL PROGRAM Shawnee Chief **CAPTAIN LEWIS**

Monday, September 8, 2025



In the footnotes of multiple biographies about other great Native American leaders, Captain Lewis is described as a greedy, unrespected, buffoon who became a Shawnee Chief in name only. However, the historical record describes Lewis completely opposite of that narrative. Lewis became Chief of three different villages including the Lewistown Reservation and in that time he became the top rival to unseat Chief Blackhoof. He was highly valued as a scout and tracker for United States.

To say that Lewis was complicated and misunderstood is certainly an understatement. His story is far more interesting than any footnote could do justice to him.

Join us Monday Sept. 8th as Historian Sean Heights discusses his new book *Captain Lewis and the Ohio Shawnee*. The meeting will begin at 7:00 PM in the Community Room at Otterbein Cridersville. The program is free and open to the public.

PLANS TO EXPAND

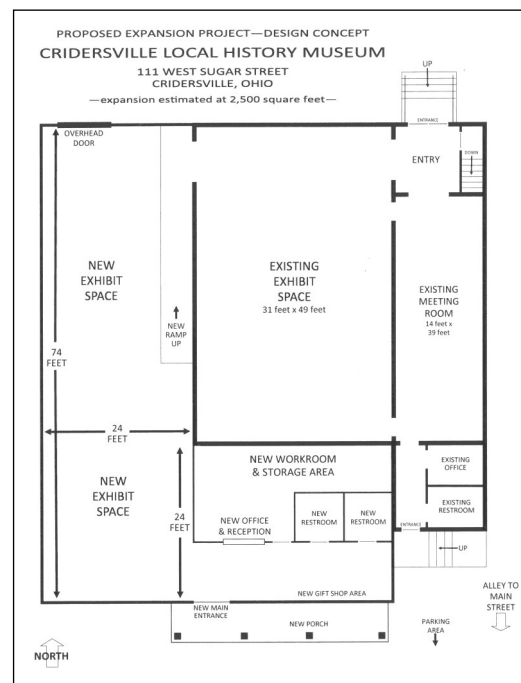
The Cridersville Historical Society was established in 1987 when the 1836 Daniel Bowsher Log House was relocated to Main Street in Cridersville. In 1989, the Society purchased the 1880 church on W. Sugar Street to renovate it as a local history museum. Over the years, we have received hundreds of donations of photographs, books and remarkable artifacts that help to tell the stories of Cridersville's past. We have been able to develop a quality experience at our museum for people to learn those stories.

Today, we have simply run out of space—space to tell more local history stories, space to collect and preserve more local history artifacts, and space to meet the accessibility needs of each of our visitors.

We have been making plans to solve these challenges. We have talked with a local architect about our needs. He has helped us to develop initial design concepts for an addition to the museum. It is an expansion that will provide more space for local history exhibits, space for the care and storage of more historic artifacts, provide an overhead door to allow us to bring large items into the museum, and space to make our museum fully handicapped accessible.

In order to make the expansion project possible, we purchased the lot next to the museum at public auction on Saturday, April 19. It will provide the space we need to add 2,500 sq.ft. to the museum.

What we do at the museum is important work and it's fun! We invite you to join us in the fun of preserving local history for future generations. Please let us know if you have any questions about the project. You can call us at 419-733-0568.



Preserving Our Past For Future Generations



CHS Class of 1956 trip to Washington DC

New To Our Photo Archive

The photograph above was donated by Jan Stevely. It shows her husband Ron (third from left) and his classmates during their Senior Class Trip to Washington DC in 1956. The senior class trips are mentioned in year books, but this is the first photograph we have seen of a trip. Our thanks to Jan for thinking of the museum. If you have an interesting photo of Cridersville's past, we would be glad to simply scan it for our collection and return it to you.



Fred and Dora Reichelderfer standing in front of their hardware store in the 1940s. It is now the location of Dotson Plumbing, Heating & AC.



The Homer Clark Filling Station was located on the northside of the 100 block of W. Main Street. It is now the site of the parking lot east of the Village Hall.



YOUNG HISTORIANS CLUB



HAVING FUN WITH HISTORY

A collaborative project of the Cridersville Historical Society and Cridersville Elementary School



In March the Young Historians came to the Cridersville Local History Museum for a private tour. Club Members learned about the Shawnee who lived here, the arrival of the pioneer families, the Crider family's decision to found the town, and the coming of the railroad in 1858.

They also learned about the oil boom years and the Big Four Reunions that were held near the site of the elementary school. The museum has an extensive collection of artifacts and photographs that tells the story of Cridersville's past.



One of the goals of the Young Historians Club is to help members develop their writing skills. Each member has a journal in which they can write stories about what they are learning in our main topics: Fort Amanda in the War of 1812 and Cridersville's Great Fire of 1918. One of their assignments was to write a fictional history about themselves in both topics.

When the stories were completed, copies were distributed to the third and fourth grade teachers for review. They selected the four best stories for each topic.



There is a lot to discover from our local history!

Our Young Historians Club enables our student members to enjoy the fun of history.

Evolution of a Building

A LOCAL HISTORY PERSPECTIVE



William Shaffer standing in front of his original building at 214 W. Main Street. The tower in the upper right of the photo was the fire hose drying tower attached to the Town Hall on N. Gay Street.



As his business prospered, William Shaffer doubled the size of the store with an expansion on the east side of the original structure built in 1902. His delivery wagon is shown in front of the store.



To create storage space for his business, William Shaffer added a second floor over the original 1902 building. He would later add a second floor over the addition on the east side.

In April of 1902 William Shaffer purchased Lot 17 in the original plat of the Village of Cridersville. His plan was to build a new furniture store at 214 W. Main Street. Over the next 40 years he would make three major expansions to the building—including doubling the size of the first floor on the east side (Photo 2) and then adding a second floor to the original west half of the building (Photo 3) and later adding a second floor to the east half.

William Shaffer ran a successful business for nearly 40 years. The advertisement below lists his selection of merchandise. William and his brother John were also the undertakers in Cridersville. It was common for the local furniture dealers to provide the coffins, do the embalming, and handle the viewing and visitation in the home of the deceased. After William's death in 1940, his building was sold and converted into an apartment building that is being renovated today.

William Shaffer was married to Lucinda Mowery. She was the granddaughter of Benjamine and Elizabeth Bowsher. Benjamine, along with his older brother Daniel, and his father-in-law Jacob Delong, led an expedition of 27 people from Pickaway County, Ohio who came to live in Shawnee Township in 1836.

Lot 17 was part of the original plat that Ephraim Crider and his family had surveyed and platted in April of 1856. There were a total of 24 lots in their new town. The east edge ran along the right of way of the proposed Dayton & Michigan Railroad. In January 1857, Ephraim sold Lot 17 to John Wieser for \$17.

Go to WM. SHAFFER
—FOR—

Wall Paper, Furniture, Stoves,
Linoleum, Lace Curtains
Window Shades, Queensware, Etc.

SEE OUR CARPET ROOM
ROOM SIZE RUGS

As good a line as found in cities, but NOT city prices.
CALL BEFORE BUYING.

Store New. Everything New and Up-to-Date in it.

West Main Street **WM. SHAFFER** Cridersville,

1912 Advertisement for the William Shaffer Store

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 20 — Trustees Meeting at Museum

September 8—Membership Meeting

Sean Heights will be our guest speaker with a program about Shawnee Chief Captain Lewis. The meeting will be held in the Community Room at Otterbein at 7:00 p.m.

September 18 —Soup Supper

In addition to our famous Ham & Bean Soup, we will be adding Vegetable Soup and Chili. The event will be at the Cridersville Methodist Church from 4:30—6:30 p.m.

October 18 —Trustees Meeting at Museum

October 25 — Halloween at the Museum

Come see the Museum fully decorated for Halloween. It's a family-friendly experience from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m..

November 1 —Quarter Auction

This annual event is an evening to bid on a truly amazing selection of items and have fun doing it. Plus there will be pizza & beverages. It will be held at the fire station starting at 6:30 p.m.

December 1—Tree Lighting at Bowsher Cabin

This is our longest held event. It is an evening of singing carols around a campfire, lighting the tree, and cookies and hot cocoa in the cabin. Festivities will begin at 6:30 p.m.

December 13—Christmas at the Museum

See the museum fully decorated for the holidays and our giant model train layout. It's great fun for kids of all ages from 9:00 a.m. to Noon.

OUR MANAGEMENT TEAM

Greg Myers, President
Lisa Lowry, Treasurer
Melanie Klouchek, Secretary

Board of Trustees:

Lori Bellman Frank Valenti
Jerry Dicus Beverly Wood
Luann Everett

MUSEUM HOURS

Second and Fourth Sunday

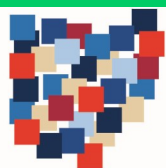
April through October

1:00 PM—4:00 PM

Special tours can be arranged throughout the year by calling 419-645-4782



Learn more on our
Facebook page



MEMBER
**OHIO LOCAL
HISTORY ALLIANCE**
Inspire. Connect. Educate.

New to the Museum Collection



We have recently received several new items to our collection at the museum.

CHS FELT BEANIE HAT

Beanies would have been worn by Freshmen as a form of initiation into high school in the 1940s and 1950s. Donated by Steve and Ginger Dankirt



FOUL SHOOTING TROPHY

CHS Basketball Coach Stan Weller initiated the trophy to help improve foul shooting skills in the 1950s. It bears the names of Gene Deifendeifer, Gordon Lowry, Donald Bambauer, and Glenn Hastings. Donated by Gene Deifendeifer

1878 MANTLE CLOCK

Manufactured by the E. Ingraham & Company in Bristol, Connecticut. It has a remarkably ornate pendulum. Donated by Betty Odell

LADLE, SKIMMER, AND SMALL COPPER KETTLE

The ladle and skimmer have intricate patterns on their handles. The kettle is 6" in diameter. Donated by Karen Stoodt



Thanks to our generous donors, our collection keeps growing.

THAT IS ONE REASON WHY WE NEED MORE SPACE!

Now Is Membership Renewal Time

—BECOMING A MEMBER—

Our mission is to save our local heritage for future generations. We do this through exhibits at our museums, our special public education programs, and our activities with local students.

**It is important work and it is fun.
We invite you to join us in the fun.**

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Individual — \$10 Student — \$5
Dual Membership — \$20 per couple
Patron Levels — \$50, \$100, or \$250
Corporate Levels — \$100 or \$250

Please make membership payments to:

Cridersville Historical Society, P.O. Box 2444, Cridersville, Ohio 45806

CRIDERSVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

111 W. Sugar Street

P.O. Box 2444

Cridersville, Ohio 45806

Preserving Our Past For Future Generations