

# Medina County



John Smart House

206 N. Elmwood Medina Ohio 44256  
www.medinacountyhistoricalsociety.com  
mchs@zoominternet.net  
Established 1922



McDowell-Phillips House

The year is certainly going quickly with projects and events. You may have noticed the beautiful new rear patio and landscape at the McDowell-Phillips House Museum as well as the new sign in front by the Prospect Street entrance. Work has started on the war bond building restoration, and we plan to complete it by fall. Our volunteer base is growing, and it really helps to have trained docents available for both museums as well as special events. There are many small projects available at both museums from minor repairs to painting touch up if you have a special talent. In January we hope to tackle more of the big attic at the McDowell House, who knows what we will find?

Our society was inducted into the Greater Medina Chamber of Commerce Hall of Fame on Friday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>. It was quite an honor and we received commendations from our State Senator, Representatives, and Governor for the work our museums have accomplished supporting the economy when visitors tour the area.

On July 13<sup>th</sup>, we coordinated with the Medina County Antique Power Association and held a Tractor & Hay Baler Parade and Hay Queen contest like what was done in 1954. The crowds in Medina Square loved the parade and our 72-year-old Hay Queen Bettie Akers was very proud of her farming heritage and was honored to have been selected from the 21 applicants. The group plans to hold another parade next year when the annual Antique Power show meets at the fairgrounds in July.

2023 Officers	Board Members	Emeritus Members
Brian Feron-President	Mary Jo Palmer, Pieri Levandofsky	Joann King
Open -Vice President	Lila Lehrer, Judy Davanzo, Chet Simmons	Richard Clark
Mike Davanzo-Secretary	Andrea Spickler, Beth Biggins-Ramer	Tom Hilberg
Dave Arbogast-Treasurer	Charles Ramer, Carole Feron, Bill Parker	

Follow us at: [www.MedinaCountyHistoricalSociety.com](http://www.MedinaCountyHistoricalSociety.com) or on Facebook

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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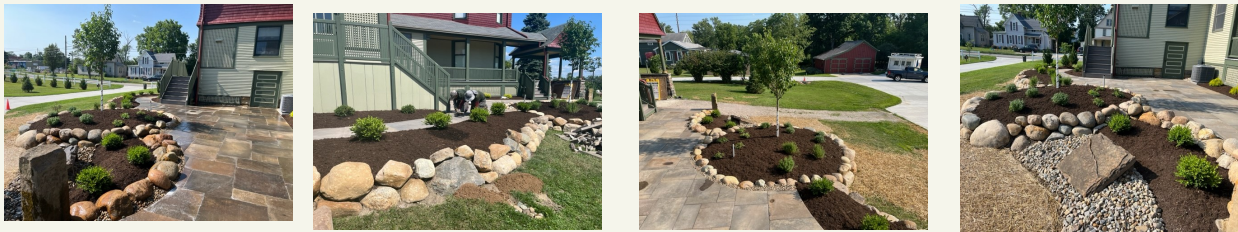
Collaborating with other groups helps support our museum operation so do not forget the Spirits of the Past walking tour on Sept 7<sup>th</sup>, or 8<sup>th</sup>, or 9<sup>th</sup>. Tickets will go on sale soon and you can purchase advance tickets for time slots. This event also supports The Show Biz Co. and The Medina County Arts Council.

Our membership program in June featured a pot luck dinner and tour of the Wolff Dairy farm attended by 45 members. August 20<sup>th</sup> from 1-4 pm is our ice cream social and tours of the McDowell-Phillips House (*Admission is free to our members on this day*). On Monday October 9<sup>th</sup> we will be back at the Medina Library at 6:30pm and will learn more about the Northern Ohio Railway Museum and restoration work. Check your email for details.

If you would like to learn more about our board and what Trustees do, please let me know. I will be happy to discuss what the role entails. We will accept nominations for the board of Trustees in September. You can nominate yourself for a 3-year term and the nominating committee will interview and explain the duties.

Enjoy your summer!

Brian Feron, President



The crew from Grace Bros completed the new patio, retaining wall and landscape plants. The patio is new old sandstone and all one level. The large stone angled in front of the worker was the cap of the old cistern under the patio. There are some other nice improvements as well as adding an electric outlet near the lilac tree.

They worked through very hot weather and battled a persistent ground hog determined to dig holes. Once the port cache driveway is finished there will be a smooth walkway to the patio. Stop by for a look.

## JUNE MEMBERSHIP MEETING AT WOLFF FARM

On June 12, Medina County Historical Society had a special members only meeting and program. Over forty members met at the Wolff properties to enjoy a potluck meal, learn about farming in the Medina County, and experience the wonders of milking cows.

Kara Wolff, a member of the Wolff family, gave a brief history of the farmstead. It started in the 1860s when Adolff Wolff came to town and settled in the area. He owned the entire area and most of the family lived in houses on the street named after him. As a bit of history, in 1948, there were 1800 licensed dairy farms in Medina County. There are only about a dozen left today. Since 1950 Ohio has lost about 2 million acres of farmland.

Kara works for a dairy lab and explained that each load of milk is monitored for quality and antibiotics. The Wolff farming operation is proud of its heritage and takes conservation seriously. They have been awarded conservation district awards and believe that one needs to take care of the land. The Wolff farm is a dairy farm. It milks about 60 cows twice a day. In addition to the cows, they also grow hay, soybeans, and corn. It is a very extensive and earth conscientious operation.

Kara ended the talk with an interesting demonstration. She took an apple and cut it into four equal parts. Three of those parts represented the oceans. The last fourth was cut in half and that 1/8 section represents land that is deserts, swamps, mountain, Artic and Antarctic areas. The last 1/8 section represents land where people can live and may be able to grow food. If you cut that last 1/8 section into 4 parts – three of those represent land that is too rocky, wet, or developed. That leaves 1/8 of 1/4 or (1/32) of the apple to grow all the food. This is for the entire world, not just the USA.

We are fortunate to still have men and women willing to do the hard and endless work of farming.

-submitted by Mike Davanzo



## BEST OF THE BEST



*Thank you supporters!*



**Come visit our 2 wonderful museums!**

See our website [www.medinacountyhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.medinacountyhistoricalsociety.com)

## 2023 RAFFLES ANNOUNCED

Our traditional Victorian Feast Raffle tickets, an elegant dinner for 4, will once again be sold through December and the dinner to be held in February of 2024. Prices will remain the same as this past year, \$5 each or 4 for \$15. Two winners will be selected for this raffle.

Our Grand Raffle will have a \$750 prize with drawing held in December. The price for tickets will be \$10 each or 3 for \$20. Tickets for both raffles were recently mailed and are also available at both Museums. Will you be the lucky winner???

## CAN YOU HELP?

We will be cleaning the John Smart House: Wednesday Sep 27.

We will be cleaning the McDowell-Phillips House: Wednesdays, Aug 16 and Sep 13.

Cleaning the museums start at 10:00 a.m. and generally take an hour.

Hope you can join us!



## S N A P S H O T   O F   A   C I V I L   W A R   V E T E R A N

In 1850, there were two Medina County families who were destined to move on. By 1860, the Bartlett family, from Brunswick, traveled a short distance to Strongsville in Cuyahoga County, while the Hopkins family, from Sharon Center, journeyed across the country to Iowa. Each family was to have three sons enlist in the Civil War and only have one survive.

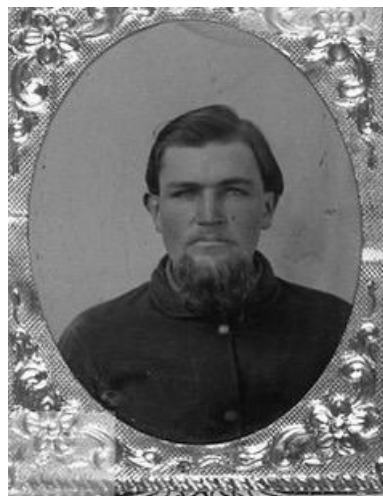
In both families, all the sons enlisted in the same regiment with the Bartletts in Company A of the 124th Ohio Volunteer Infantry and the Hopkins in Company E of the 15th Iowa Volunteer Infantry.

Frederick Bartlett entered the war as a private with Company A 124th OVI and mustered out as captain of Company D 27th United States Colored Troops. Frederick returned to Strongsville after the war and resumed his occupation as shoemaker. He died in 1899 and is buried at Butternut Ridge Cemetery in North Olmsted. Edward Bartlett was a corporal of Company A 124th OVI and died of wounds suffered in battle. He is buried at Nashville National Cemetery. John Bartlett was a private in Company A of the 124th OVI. He died of disease and is buried at Stones River National Cemetery.

The Hopkins brothers were Merritt, Milton and Milan. All three were privates in Company E 15th Iowa Volunteer Infantry. Merritt Hopkins died of lung fever 05 March 1864 at Vicksburg, Mississippi unknown burial. Milton Hopkins died of consumption 07 July 1864 and is buried at Keosauqua, Iowa. Milan Bartlett deserted at Kingston, NC on 07 April 1865, two days before Robert E. Lee surrendered. His whereabouts afterwards are unknown.

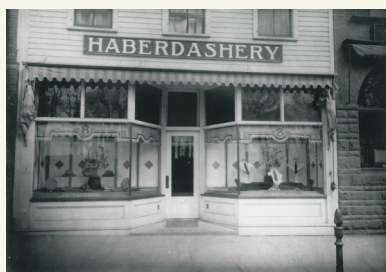
-submitted by Judith Parish

*Thanks to Find A Grave and Fold3*



Merritt Hopkins

FROM OUR ARCHIVES  
THE SNEDDEN AND ANDERSON  
HABERDASHERY



In our photo collection we have two photographs of the above store on the square; they were given to us by member Tom Doyle. The first photo is of the exterior, and one can see to the right the Savings Deposit Bank, which would place the haberdashery where the present Second Sole is located. In the second photograph is the interior and a man standing who is believed to be Ralph Edward Snedden. The store operated from 1921 to 1926; before that it had housed the McDowell Brothers New Model Clothing and Tailor Shop. In 1928 Warren J. Anderson sold the building to his son-in-law Ralph E. and Julia Snedden. Thanks to Bob Hyde and "Beyond the Storefronts" for this information.

Ralph "Jack" Edward Snedden was born Nov 11, 1893, in Cleveland, Cuyahoga County to George Edward and Jessie June Haire Snedden, the oldest of their four children - Irene, Richard and Lois. Soon the family moved to Liverpool Township. He was schooled in the local schools but attended Medina High School and after graduating in 1913 went on to attend Ohio State University, graduating in 1916. While there he was on the staff of the school newspaper and a member of the "Social Committee" of the Junior class. He graduated with a degree in Veterinary Science, and by the time he signed up for the World War I draft registration, was living at 809 South Main Street in Kent, Ohio. He practiced only one year before he entered the United States Army, serving for 19 months as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the Veterinary Corps. He was discharged from the Army on August 18, 1919.

After discharge, he was employed as a salesman for the Pollack Tire and Rubber Company of Akron in Bridgeport, Connecticut. He left that company and returned to Medina where he married his high school sweetheart, Miss Julia Anderson, on March 9, 1920. Soon after, he opened the haberdashery with his father-in-law. About 1939 he decided to study law and attended night classes at the Cleveland Law School. Upon receiving his law degree (1934), he and his brother-in-law Edmond Deibel opened their law offices in Medina. Later that year he was elected Medina County prosecutor. He served for two terms. When he registered for the WWII old men draft, he and Julia were living at 509 North Court Street; his law office was at 122 Public Square. He did not serve in the war. Mr. Snedden practiced law until his death in 1956. Julia died sometime before Ralph. Both are buried in the mausoleum at Spring Grove Cemetery.

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FROM OUR ARCHIVES  
 THE SNEDDEN AND ANDERSON  
 HABERDASHERY



1913 Ralph E. Snedden



1956 Ralph E. Snedden

Mr. and Mrs. Snedden were the parents of two children, Major Hal E. Snedden of Swindon, England, and daughter, Mrs. Elnore Johnson, wife of Robert L. Johnson, also a lawyer and Medina County's representative to the Ohio General Assembly.

Warren J. Anderson was born October 7, 1865, in Montville, Medina County, to Warren and Julia Ann Spellman Anderson. In the 1880 Federal Census he was 14 years old; his occupation was farm laborer. He married Elnor Holben on March 9, 1887; she was the daughter of Joshua and Polly Holben. After their marriage they purchased a farm at 254 East Smith Road in Montville. By the 1910 Census he had established himself in the Stable and Livery business. By 1930 they were living at 519 East Washington, and it appears that he had retired from farming. Mr. Anderson was a member of the Medina Village Council, superintendent of Spring Grove Cemetery for six years, trustee of the Congregational Church and a member of the County Fair Board.

Elnor Holben Anderson died July 9, 1926. Warren Anderson died August 10, 1949 and was survived by one son and two daughters. He and his Elnor are buried in Spring Grove.

-submitted by Tom Hilberg

**Haberdashery**



**TAILOR MADE SUITS**  
 Four Groups at Four Prices  
 That Are 15% to 30%  
 Below The Prices You'll Pay  
 For Ready Mades

**\$29.50 \$36.50 \$43.50 \$52.50**

**SNEDDEN & ANDERSON**  
 North Side of Square Medina

COMMUNITY ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Medina County Historical Society will hold a family-friendly Community Ice Cream Social on Sunday August 20, 1pm – 4pm at the historic McDowell-Phillips House Museum, 205 S. Prospect St., Medina, featuring the Huntington Bank Ice Cream truck! There will be games & face painting for the kids, ice cream and sweets! Popcorn too! All food and drink purchases are by donation while supplies last! The Medina County Antique Power Association will have some of their farm implements on display in the back meadow. MCHS Members will be admitted free to a walk-thru tour of the museum. Discounts for all other adults to walk through the museum will also be available with kids under 16 free.

We are very thankful for our sponsors – Huntington Bank, Westfield Insurance, Discount Drug Buehler's, Pam Voss and Mike & Judy Davanzo – for being able to have this event for our members and supporters in the community. We hope to see you on August 20<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to be a sponsor or support this event, please contact us at [mchs@zoominternet.net](mailto:mchs@zoominternet.net) or call 330-722-4409.



TRACTOR & HAY BALE PARADE AND HAY QUEEN CONTEST

Hay Queen Bettie Akers





**GINGERBREAD HOUSE CONTEST**

Join in the fun! The Medina County Historical Society will be having their first ever Gingerbread House Contest! The entries will be on display at the John Smart House Museum, 206 N. Elmwood, Medina, in November. (subject to change) This will be a People's Choice Award so if you come to see them you can vote! Each category will win a prize. Adults are 16 and up, children 15 and under.

All applications need to be submitted to the John Smart House Museum, 206 N. Elmwood, Medina, 44256 by September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

For further information and to request an entry form & rules see our website to download a form:

<https://www.medinacountyhistoricalsociety.com/events.html>

contact MCHS at 330-722-1341 or email [mchs@zoominternet.net](mailto:mchs@zoominternet.net).

We can't wait to see your entries!

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY**

If you have ever thought about becoming a Docent we could use you! No prior experience is necessary. Training is provided. It is a fun way to enjoy the museum and our guests! Try it you may like it! Email us at [mchs@zoominternet.net](mailto:mchs@zoominternet.net) or leave a message at 330-722-1341.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome

Christopher Kalina & Family

Jeff & Mary Beth Esterburg

Karen Baker

Janet Biddlecombe

Brian & Jackie Tome

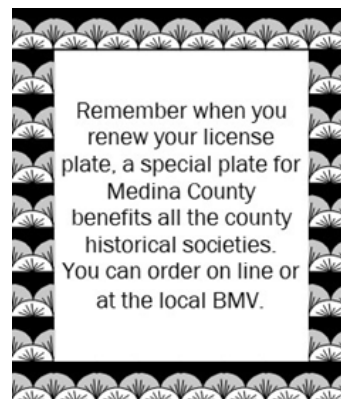
Jerome Mason

Kevin Schreiber

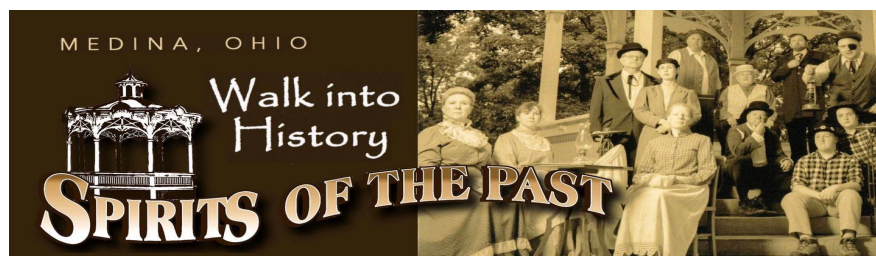


John Jeandrevin

FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY



## M E D I N A   S P I R I T S   O F   T H E   P A S T



The Medina County Historical Society, the Medina County Show Biz Company, and the Medina County Arts Council are joining together to present the annual Walk with the Spirits of the Past. The event is on Thursday, September 7 from 7:00 PM to 8:30PM, and Friday (9/8) and Saturday (9/9) from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM.

Guides will lead groups of about 20 to different locations around the Medina Square to hear stories of interesting folk from Medina's past.

Tickets are available at the event on the days of the Walk starting at 6:15 PM. Cost for tickets is \$7 for adults and \$4 for students. The Walk begins at the County Administration Building (directly behind the building) located at 144 N. Broadway Street.

*Presale tickets are on sale on Sunday, August 20 from 1- 4 at the McDowell Phillips House Museum located at 205 S. Prospect St. Tickets are also on sale at the John Smart House Museum (206 N Elmwood) from Monday, August 28 to Saturday, September 2 from 9 AM to 4 PM; on Sunday September 3 from 1PM – 4 PM; on Tuesday September 5 and Wednesday Sept 6 from 1PM to 5 PM and on Thursday, September 7 from 9AM to 1 PM. Presale tickets are \$1 less than at the event.*

Please note the following: 1) tickets sales are limited to 20 per each time slot of which 10 are presale tickets: 2) **tickets are CASH or CHECK only**:3) groups leave from the County Administration Building every 10 minutes.

<https://www.medinacountyartscouncil.org/a-walk-with-the-spirits-of-the-past>

@MedinaSpiritWalk

<https://www.facebook.com/MedinaSpiritWalk>

Here are the characters for the walk

1. Austin Badger- cemetery
2. Civil War Soldiers- court house steps ( either the old or new)
3. Elsie Bennet- library
4. Sadie Green- Marco and Marco (old fire house)
5. Crazy Fashions- old Ziegler Bld
6. Letha House- gazebo



WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[WWW.MEDINACOUNTYHISTORICALSOCIETY.COM](http://WWW.MEDINACOUNTYHISTORICALSOCIETY.COM)

**Membership Categories:**  
**Membership Year is Jan 1st – Dec 31<sup>st</sup>**

Student/Senior	\$10.00	Organization	\$30.00
Individual	\$20.00	Patron	\$50.00
Senior Family	\$20.00	Corporate	\$100.00
Family	\$25.00	Life	\$300.00 ( one time payment)

Medina County Historical Society  
1922-2023

206 North Elmwood St.  
Medina, Ohio 44256

MEDINA COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY