



**Margaret Radcliffe's
stone before and
after work**



Crosby Township Historical Society Newsletter

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2019

The Importance Of Cemetery Preservation

If you have read our **Purpose Statement** on the back of this newsletter, you will see that our reason for existence is to “**encourage the preservation of historic structures and sites...to increase community awareness and appreciation of this heritage through documentation...and to assist persons interested in this history...**” This statement is not unlike the goals of other historical societies and similar organizations. It is a lofty standard worth the time and effort to try to fulfill. Among the historic sites to preserve are cemeteries. So what possible reasons are there to preserve a burial site? I will state four.

1. Restoring a cemetery is like preserving an historic document. It chronicles names, dates, ages, marital status, relationships, social status, family values and special events that caused the death such as an epidemic and a natural or man-made disaster.
2. Restoring a cemetery is preserving a special kind of outdoor museum. It displays the art of stone carving; showing off the carvers skill, style, use of lettering, symbolism, and decoration. It is also a place of poetic expressions presenting to readers the emotions and counsel of those departed or of those left behind.
3. Restoring a cemetery is preserving a green space where one can find a peaceful and quiet respite from a busy, loud world.
4. And finally, restoring a cemetery is honoring those who have persevered through life's hardships, who may have enjoyed the rewards of a life well lived, and thus, paved the way for future generations.

There are many stones in Crosby Township's cemeteries that need care. Several of the township cemeteries are under the charge of the township authorities. The Township Maintenance crew has made some roadways a while back trying to restore several cemeteries, among them Wilkins Cemetery and the Scott Cemetery across from Wilkins on New Haven Road near State Route 128. They reset stones in concrete that had fallen down, but there are still stones buried, missing, and in need of repair.

Recently, a young man by the name of William Law accepted the responsibility

to clean up the grounds, replace the old fence, and create signs at the Radcliffe Cemetery off of Blue Rock Road as a means to earn his Eagle Scout Badge. He is a boy scout with troop 293. Most of the stones had been replaced with newer ones by family members. One old stone remained but in deplorable state. It was that of Margaret Mayall Radcliffe, wife of Major James Radcliffe (1786 - 1864). She died on November 15, 1838 at the age of sixty years. Both had removed from Yorkshire, England to Gray, Cumberland County, Maine where they were married. They moved from Maine and settled in Crosby Township. An early census listed them living in/near New Baltimore where the Major ran a woolen mill.

Learning that William had been working on the cemetery, Cliff and Melba Guard took up the call to assist him. Both have worked at restoring cemeteries in the past, having learned the skills from workshops given by the State of Indiana Department of Natural Resources. They received permission from the owner of the property and then, assessed the work to be done. It appeared after much probing that the only original stone remaining, with small scattered pieces from other stones, was Margaret's. Removing the old concrete and metal that held up Margaret's stone, Cliff dug out the lower piece which was 38 inches deep and brought all the found pieces home for Melba to clean. Among the carving was a piece of rare information, the name of the stone carver. Cliff, then, glued the pieces together and reset the stone in its original spot next to the husband but at a higher level in order to see the epitaph that had been hidden (see front page). One last probe near Margaret's burial resulted in another original buried stone broken off at ground level which may be dug up later to see who may be the owner.

Melba took photos and documented the information from this cemetery to be included in the files at our museum. Because stones deteriorate over time and may be lost forever, a worthwhile project would be to document every stone in Crosby Township and make it into a booklet that would be available for view once our museum is finished. Meanwhile, William Law was asked by our board to give a report of his work. He gave his presentation, along with a photo display, at the November meeting.



**Radcliffe Cemetery with
new fence and sign**



Halloween Candy Give Away

Among the fun events that the Society puts on is the annual Halloween night candy giveaway. This year the cold and windy event was celebrated on the normal Halloween date of Thursday, October 31. The Passmore log cabin was opened up and volunteers who donated candy passed it out to costumed children. When the event was over, a light meal of hot dogs roasted in the fireplace by Dave Roessler, and other shared food, and drinks were enjoyed by participating members Bill and Shirlee Morgan, Dick and Nancy Martin, Chuck and Nancy Heis, Margie Roessler, and Fritz Kuhlman.

September Picnic Not at the Log Cabin

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Due to hot weather, our annual picnic at the log cabin was relocated to the Senior Center. Members brought a covered dish and Duane Singleton attended the grill. After a delicious meal, our President called on the audience to reminisce about Crosby Township events of which they knew about or participated in. It was a fun and educational exchange.



Officer Nominations for 2020

The Nominating Committee, Karen Klaene and Sharon Mortimer, have been soliciting names for Society officer positions which include President, Vice-President, Secretary (Shirlee is stepping down after twenty years), and Treasurer. The term is for two years. The membership will vote on the nominees during the March 2020 regular meeting. Be sure to get your name on their nominee list if you are interested.

Crosby Township History Book Reprint

The restoration of the Memorial Edition of Stanley McClure's *History of Crosby Township* is progressing. Photos in the book of early school classes and baseball teams are still needing to be found. If you have any copies of these photos that can be scanned and returned or know of anyone else who has some, please contact Melba Guard, 367-2186.

Local Historical Society Meetings

Harrison: 3rd Tuesday, 7:00 p.m., Harrison Township Civic Center, 9940 New Haven Road

Coleraine: 3rd Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., Northwest Community Church, 8735 Cheviot Road

Miamitown: 2nd Tuesday, 7:00 p.m., Old Town Hall, 7998 E. Main, Miamitown

Morgan Township: 3rd Saturday, 10:00 a.m., Administration Building, 3141 Chapel Road, Okeana

Reily Township: 2nd Tuesday, 7:00 p.m., Community Center, 6093 Reily-Millville Rd., Oxford

~ Sales Corner ~

Crosby Township Bicentennial History
\$15 plus shipping

**Stanley McClure's Crosby Township
Cemetery Transcriptions Collection**
\$5 plus shipping

Back Issues of the Newsletter 50 cents

Passmore Log Cabin Reconstruction CD
\$5 plus shipping

Officers:

President.....Melba Guard.....367-2186
Vice President.... Tony Torres.....581-9337
Secretary..... Shirlee Morgan...367-9671
Treasurer..... Chuck Heis.....738-4343
Trustee.....Mike Minges.....367-0172
Trustee.....Duane Singleton..319-4166
Trustee.....David Roessler...638-9265
News Editor.....Karen Klaene.....922-3379

kklaene@fuse.net

CTHS Board meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Regular meetings are held on the third Thursday at 7:00 p.m., March through December in the Crosby Township Senior Center, 8910 Willey Road. Meetings are open to the public.

Our Purpose...to encourage the preservation of historic structures and sites; identify, collect, and preserve literary, graphic and artefactual materials significant to prehistoric and historic cultures, schools, churches, businesses, and families of Crosby Township; to increase community awareness and appreciation of this heritage through documentation, educational programs and other public events; and to assist persons interested in this history by making our collected cultural resources available for study.

2019 Membership Dues

Single \$10.00

Family (3 or more in same house) \$15.00

Life Member \$100.00

Please mail dues to: Chuck Heis, Crosby Township Historical Society, Inc., 8910 Willey Road, Harrison, Ohio 45030

Crosby Township Historical Society
8910 Willey Road
Harrison, Ohio 45030-9774