



Crosby Township Historical Society Newsletter

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2022

Crosby Township's Rare Naturalist

Andrew Price Morgan

W. A. Kellerman, Professor at Ohio State University, expressed in the obituary he wrote of Professor A. P. Morgan in the **Journal of Mycology** (the study of fungi), volume 13, November 1907, page 233 - 236, "*My own visit at his home (Crosby Township) a summer or two ago, with a short ramble through his fields and woods, put me in touch with a type of naturalist too rare these later days; revealed to me a soul alive to the beauties of nature and responsive to her sweetest influences.*"

Laura Vail Morgan, Andrew's wife, furnished a history of his life for Kellerman's obituary. She stated that A. P. was born at Centerville, Montgomery County, Ohio on October 27, 1836. He was the son of Harrison S. Morgan and Lydia Ann Newman. He began the study of Botany while he was a teacher in the Dayton School District. He had no other formal education in this field other than being self taught and with the encouragement of noted naturalists with which he communicated. Following teaching he held the position of Assistant Principal and then Principal. He moved on to Professor of Mathematics at Dayton High School and was among the Botany Professors at Ohio State University for a short while.

He enlisted in the army during the Civil War in June of 1862 as a private and was a member of the Dayton Light Guards. At the end of his service in September of 1862 he was very ill with typhoid fever. He no longer wanted the confines of a classroom so the next seven years he worked with a school book firm traveling to several states. Partial paralysis ended his career with the firm. For two years he could neither read nor write. In 1870 he married Laura M. Vail who was born in Pomfret, Vermont. He moved to her home which was midway between the White and Green mountain ranges. This time in his life was when he began his first study of fungi. After three years of recuperating from his illness, he returned to Dayton schools as a Principal.

Eventually he and his wife moved to Crosby Township and lived there for twenty-three years. His wife, herself a scientific illustrator and collector, remembered that living on the little farm they owned in "Preston" (New Haven) was the happiest times of Andrew's life. A. P. wrote many publications in his lifetime; two entitled,

Programs

2022

July

**Chester Cornett,
A Chair for the
President**

August

**Grover Nugent,
Growth of
Morgan Town-
ship**

September

Log Cabin Picnic

October

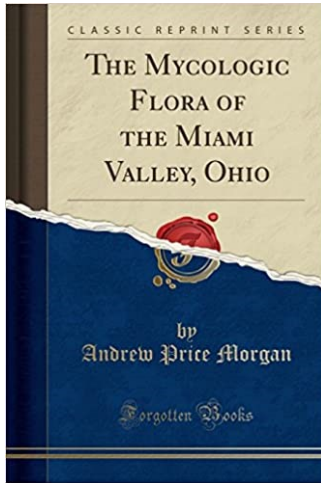
**Catie Coffin and
the Underground
Railroad**

November

To be announced

December

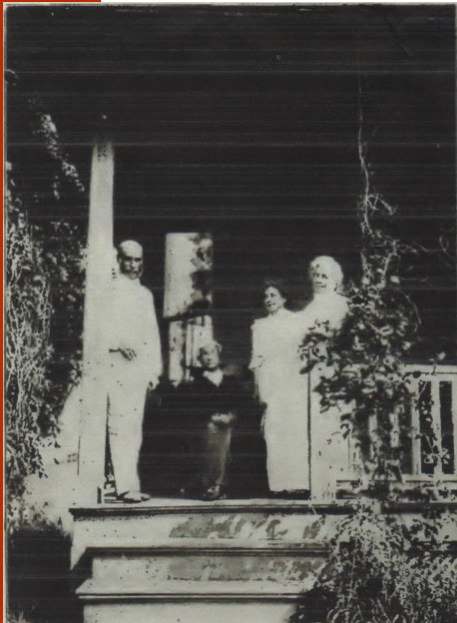
Christmas Party



The Mycologic Flora of the Miami Valley, Ohio in 1888 and **Flora of the Miami Valley, Ohio** in 1878. He founded a number of fungal species in the Crosby Township area that were named in honor of him. He died of pneumonia at his home on October 19, 1907 at the age of seventy-one and was cremated at the Cincinnati Cremation Company. His burial is at Hillside Chapel Mausoleum. Laura lived another twenty-nine years after his death and was buried in Riverside Cemetery, Woodstock, Vermont.



The Morgan farm in Crosby Township (above) The 1900 Census lists him near Pottenger, Geiser, Breese, McHenry and Merz (left) A. P. left on their front porch and his wife on the right



A thank you to Erwin Gruber, Botanist from Styria, Austria, who contacted our historical society concerning A. P. Morgan. Mr. Gruber did his master thesis on the parasitic ascomycete, *stammaria Americana* (a fungus) that lives solely on horsetail plants. This fungus was founded in our area by Morgan.

Crosby Day At Stricker's Grove

Society members had another fun-filled day, Sunday, May 15 at Crosby Day at Stricker's Grove. We, again, sold chances to win twelve scratch-off tickets worth \$125 on the lottery tree. The winning ticket belonged to Amy Bepler (right). The scratch-offs brought her \$43.00. She said she would use some of her winnings to buy more scratch-offs later to see if she could increase her luck. Our total profit came to \$440.00 plus we sold one township history book for \$15.00. Thanks to the members who participated in the event.



Memorial Day...Remembering

It is always an honor for our Society to participate in Crosby Township's Memorial Day event. On Sunday, May 29 at 2:00 the township remembered local soldiers who gave their lives in combat so that we may enjoy the freedoms we have. There was an impressive parade of various people and organizations that moved down Willey Road to New Haven Cemetery on Oxford Road. This year we set up a table just outside the cemetery front gate. Mike Minges manned the table giving out bottles of water and brochures about our Society. During the program Melba Guard along with the township trustees once again had the privilege of reading the list of soldiers who had died.



Presentations This Year About Fascinating People

So far this year we have had some excellent speakers who have talked about fascinating people that lived around our area. Powell and Lewis Crosley, Cincinnati entrepreneurs and inventors, was the presentation given in May by Ed Creighton from the Butler County Historical Society. The following month Joyce Browning-Lovins did a portrayal of Charlotte "Lottie" Moon, a spy for the Rebels who traveled to the



Crosley Brothers

Lottie Moon



South from her hometown of Oxford secretly carrying messages to Confederate officers concerning Union plans. Mr. Terry Veil in July gave an account of the life of Chester Cornett, folk artist and very colorful person, who produced uniquely carved and designed chairs by hand. One chair was made and presented to President Nixon during his term in office. More captivating presentations are to come. Hope to see you there.



Chester Cornett

Happy 90th Birthday, Larry Shad!!!

We wish member, Larry Shad, a Happy Birthday...his 90th! Larry is our oldest member and is also a long time member of the Coleraine Historical Society. He reports at our meetings what is happening with Coleraine's society. He celebrated his birthday at Barnesburg Tavern with family, friends and other society members. The event raised \$500 for a sign to be placed at the Dunlap Station location in Heritage Park.



Officers:

President..... Melba Guard.....519-6237

Vice President.... Tony Torres.....581-9337

Secretary.....

Treasurer..... Chuck Heis.....738-4343

Trustee..... Mike Minges.....367-0172

Trustee..... Duane Singleton..319-4166

News Editor..... Melba Guard.....519-6237

guard_m@fuse.net

CTHS Board meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m or before the regular meetings at 6:00 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.

2022 Membership Dues

Single \$10.00

Family (2 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

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8910 Willey Road

Harrison, Ohio 45030-9774