

THE CLARK MESSENGER

Newsletter of the George Rogers Clark Heritage Association



February 2020

Our next general membership meeting is March 4 at 7 pm

Washington's Birthday Celebration

Mr. John Wysocki and Mrs. Cindy Jackson wish to invite all to come celebrate the birthday of our first president George Washington on February 22, 2020 at the Gathering House. The gathering commences at 5:30 with dinner at 6:30. The celebration is a carry in dinner of period appropriate foods, clothing, and food utensils. There will be a fruit punch and Fish House Punch(alcoholic), you may bring a beverage of your choice.

Please contact Cindy Jackson at jackson1stmrla@gmail.com or 937-726-7841, BY FEBRAURY 19 with the number of people attending and the food dish you are bringing to share. There is limited seating in the Gathering House.

Crabill Homestead Report

From Lisa Hrinko

Dear Friends,

Spring is coming! My wild geese have returned to my lake and my daffodils have broke ground. In another month we will be opening up the house, and getting ready for the 2020 season. Our committee has been working on our calendar and it has been approved. It has been included in my report. *[Please see page 4 of the newsletter]* Please save it and post it on your calendar or fridge. If you need any questions please contact me by email or phone.

Your humble servant,
Lisa
dollmaker1@att.net
937-390-3608

Office Person Needed ASAP

From Alice Dayhoff-Miller

*Note—This position is currently **vacant**.*
If interested, please contact Phil Campbell.

Duties include:

- Work 1 – 2 days per week during most of year; daily for the 2 weeks before Fair at New Boston
- Check and answer or forward email as needed
- Answer phone and check messages, retuning calls as needed.
- Call for repairs on phone / internet lines and computer repairs
- Update computer programs as needed
- Familiar with Microsoft and Microsoft Office programs
- Able to use multi-function printer and assist others
- File important papers
- Organize file drawers. (They need major reorganization.)
- Respond to written correspondence
- Purchase office supplies as needed and be reimbursed for
- Mail newsletter to those not receiving it by email

General knowledge of GRCHA helpful.

Sewing Days

From Alice Dayhoff-Miller

Sewing Days start Sunday, January 19, 1:00 at the Gathering House. Do you borrow clothing from GRCHA every year, need to update your clothing style from late 1700s to the Regency / Federalist era, or just wish to sit and sew with friends? This is the place to start.

They will continue every 3rd Sunday until June-- other dates are: Feb. 16, March 15, April 19, May 17, and June 21.

If there is inclement weather in January or February, if there are counties with level 1 emergencies, or if a number of places / churches close we will cancel for that month.

Brings questions, thoughts, or sewing projects (projects do not need to be Fair related if you just need the space or wish to just sit with others sewing your project). I will bring the patterns I use, clothing I have made, and some samples of other fabric available. It would be great if others would bring patterns they have used, clothing you wear, and fabric samples.

Lemonade and water will be available. Bring a snack to share if you wish. The Gathering House is on New Boston Road within Clark Park where the Fair is held.

Liberty Dancers

From Carolyn Shuirr

The Liberty Dancers are again meeting the first and third Tuesdays of the month to learn period dances. We meet at the Gathering House at 7pm and always have a great time. No dance experience is needed although being able to count to eight is helpful. Come and join us!

The Infamous Skunk Cabbage

From Donna Lewis

Have you ever heard of the Skunk Cabbage? Now is the time to see it, when there's snow on the ground. It's considered a wildflower, yet blooms when everything else is still "hiding" underground. You can see this amazing plant in the Clark County Park

District's Estel Wenrick Wetlands at 2855 Union Road in Medway. Wear waders because it can be wet in there, but it is a beautiful place to hike. Walk down the trail and you may spot some near the water, off the trail. Take the first trail to your left. Just down the way, you can spot the Skunk Cabbage poking it's way out of the mucky substrate. I have counted over 60 of these plants in one area of the wetland!

The skunk cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*) gets its name from the unpleasant odor it emits. This scent is a way for the plant to attract pollinators that are attracted to rotting meat. The scent is especially noticeable when the plant is injured. It travels easily because it is carried on the warm air that constantly rises from the spathe, a large sheathing bract enclosing the flower cluster.

In Ohio, the skunk cabbage usually emerges in February in woodlands, wetlands, or near streams. Most animals avoid skunk cabbage because it causes a burning sensation when eaten. Native Americans have used it as a medicinal treatment for coughs and headaches. In the 1800s, it was sold as a drug called dracontium to treat a variety of ailments.

Skunk cabbage has a remarkable ability to produce heat that allows it to emerge and bloom even when the ground is still frozen. During the winter when temperatures are freezing, the flower buds can warm up to 70 degrees Fahrenheit, which melts the snow around the plant. A skunk cabbage loses its leaves annually, but the plant itself can live up to 20 years!

Once this plant is done blooming, you can spot its leaves, which unlike most plants, come up after the flower is done blooming. The leaves can be huge, 16–22 in long and 12–16 in broad.

Make it a point to visit the wetland in your own "backyard" to check out this amazing plant!

(This article was adapted from the National Wildlife Federation.)

CCPD's Upcoming Events

From Donna Lewis

History Detectives: Exploring Woodland Indian Life, Wednesday, February 26, 1:30 – 3:30 PM

Davidson Interpretive Center

Justin Houston, Historical Interpreter, Student of Archaeology

Donna Lewis, Clark County Park District

Become an historian to investigate the lifestyle of Eastern Woodland Indians in Ohio before European contact. Hear a Native American story, play a traditional game, and make a replica of a tool used in the past. Students will create their own Woodland Indian story.

Clever and Unusual Escapes from Slavery, Thursday, March 19, 6:00 PM

Millie Henley, Historical Connections

\$5.00/person

Desperate enslaved people of the pre-Civil War South devised all kinds of ways to escape from bondage. Some of their methods were quite ingenious. From hiding in plain sight, to disguises, to piloting a ship under Confederate guns, brave people on the run used all of their daring and ingenuity to make a better life. Hear some of their inspiring stories. Registration is required at <http://www.clarkcountyparks.org/> or by calling 937-882-6000. Payment may be made that evening; cash or check only.

Martha Washington, Indispensable Woman for the Indispensable Man, Thursday, April 9, 6:00 PM

Millie Henley, Historical Connections

\$5.00/person

Everyone has seen pictures of Martha Washington. She's the little white-haired lady in a mobcap. But Martha was much more than that. Her unflinching support of her husband throughout eight long years of the Revolutionary War and through eight incredibly difficult and contentious years of the first presidency made all the difference in George Washington's ability to perform what he was called upon to do for the nation. Registration is required at <http://www.clarkcountyparks.org/> or by calling 937-882-6000. Payment may be made that evening; cash or check only.

Calendar

February

16: Sewing Day

18: Liberty Dancers Practice

22: Washington's Birthday Celebration

26: CCPD History Detectives

March

3: Liberty Dancers Practice

5: 250th anniversary of the Boston Massacre

12: Crabill Homestead Committee Meeting

15: Sewing Day

17: Liberty Dancers Practice

19: CCPD Unusual Escapes from Slavery

28-29: Regency Trouser Workshop

The Clark Messenger

A monthly newsletter of the
George Rogers Clark Heritage Association
P.O. Box 1251
Springfield, Ohio 45501
(937) 882-9216

President – Phillip Campbell (937) 244-5311

Vice President – Doris Dresel

Secretary – Sheri Forness (937) 408-6834

Treasurer – Mary Jane Rumpke

Office Admin –

Fair Master – Tom Rumpke

Bookkeeper – Ron Howell

Newsletter Editor – Megan O'Connor

Crabill Homestead Event Calendar for 2020

All Open Houses start at 11:00 AM—3:00 PM. They are free to the public, but donations are welcomed. We do not receive any State or County funds to maintain the house, open houses and special events.

March 12, 7:00. Committee Meeting at the Gathering House

April 2, 9:00 am - Until we are finished. *Opening of the house and some spring cleaning.*

The house will not be open to the public, unless they want to help.

April 25 and 26, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM. *1811 Muster Spring Drill and School of the Soldier.*

Set up for participants is Friday, April 24. The house will be open on the first floor to the public, the upstairs will not be open to non-participants. No formal house tours will be offered during the special events. There will be black powder demonstrations and horses. No pets will be allowed on the grounds.

May 1, 9:00 - 3:00. *Clark County Service Day.*

Spring Cleaning of the house, Honeysuckle removal, and sprucing up the plants around the house.

May 2 and 3, 11:00 - 3:00. *18th Century Corp of Reenactors; Repair to the Black Horse Tavern.*

Open to the Public; Free admission; Monetary donations are greatly appreciated.

May 9 and 10. *Open House.*

A special Mothers Day activity is being planned.

June 13 and 14. *Open House*

A gathering of Artisans from the early 19th century.

July 11 and 12. *Open House.*

It is Women's Work from the early 19th century.

August 8 and 9. *Black Hoof and Native Culture.*

Black Hoof will speak on Saturday, around noon.

September 12 and 13. *Open House.*

Come to the Dance. The Liberty Dancers will be here to demonstrate and teach 18th Century Country Dancing. Everyone danced in this time period. So come and join in the fun. Dancing begins around noon.

September 26. *The annual Crabill Tea Party.*

This is our favorite event. We decided to change seasons for the Tea. This is a reservation only event. Look for details on the Crabill Homestead Facebook page.

October 10 and 11. *Fall Harvest Festival.*

Come and learn how the Crabills prepared for the Winter Months.

November 4, 5, 6, 7, 8. *Life skills of the 18th century.*

This is a closed event and it is not open to the public.

November 10, 9:00 AM. *Closing of the house and preparations for winter.*

No tours.



(Martin Drolling - Barthélémy Charles, Comte de Dreux-Nancré)

Men's (Regency) Trousers Workshop

March 28 & 29, 2020

10:00 – 5:00

\$30.00

Preregistration is required, limited to 8

Learn the intricacies of making men's trousers from a tailor himself, Fritz Kannik. The workshop will create a muslin mockup over a two-day period using the Kannik's Korner Pattern for Man's Trousers, High-Waisted, c. 1790-1810.

Participants must bring pattern, muslin, sewing supplies and measurements of person trousers are for if not for self.

A lunch will be supplied both days, plus snacks, if you have a food allergy please bring your own food.

It will be held at: George Rogers Clark Heritage Association Gathering House, New Boston Road; inside George Rogers Clark Park, 936 S. Tecumseh Rd.; Springfield, Ohio

Send registration to: Alice Dayhoff – Miller, 3658 Marbella St. Springfield, Oh 45502. Make checks out to GRCHA. Questions?? Contact Alice at: ajdm91mk@gmail.com or 937-206-8885