

THE NITTY GRITTY



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Events

- Lions Club—2nd & 4th Mondays, 7 pm at Christ UMC
- Sunday Worship, Christ UMC, 9:00 am; Sunday School, 10:00 am
- Council meetings, 1st & 3rd Mondays, Village Hall, 7 pm
- Food Pantry, 2nd & 4th Saturdays, 10 am; Christ UMC



SNOW STREETS

ALL streets in Portage are snow streets. When the streets get plowed, vehicles really inhibit progress. Please keep them where they don't end up getting stuck. Salt is used at the inter-sections.



Wood County Historical Museum

In celebration of Wood County's 200th birthday celebration in 2020, the museum is happy to announce the opening of their newest exhibit, **UTOPIA: A Visual Storytelling of Our Home**. Photographer Taylor Houpt Ayres tells the story of young people full of hope, and highlights beautiful landscapes, vibrant cityscapes, and a multitude of back roads and farm fields. The exhibit opened on Feb 1. The Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting is on Feb 21 at 4 pm, followed by an Artist Meet and Greet. The exhibit will be open through Dec 18.

Continuing on exhibit is **For Comfort & Convenience: Public Charity in Ohio By Way of the Poor Farm**. This exhibit features information on the county poor farms in Ohio's 88 counties.

In early May, the museum will rededicate the Carl and Mary Bach exhibit. In recent years, the accouterments surrounding the Carl Bach Trial have developed into a folklore story of their own. Modern interpretation and professional standards challenged curatorial staff to develop a poignant and educational story for modern audiences

Valentine's Day Jokes



1. What do farmers give their wives on Valentine's Day?
2. What did the rabbit say to his girlfriend?
3. What do you call a super small Valentine?
4. What did one volcano say to the other on Valentine's Day?
5. What did the Pilgrims give each other on Valentine's Day?

Answers on page 2.

24/7 Recycling

Plastic #1-7
 Flattened
 Cardboard
 Paper
 Aluminum/Steel
 Cans
 Glass
 No plastic bags

Agape Food Pantry

The Agape Food Pantry (formerly the Portage Food Pantry) is open the second and fourth



Saturdays of the month for one hour. If you need food come, and get what you need. If you are interested in seeing our changes, come and visit us. We have a whole new set up and a lot more variety of food items as well as some non-food items (like shampoo, soap, etc). Visit us at 301 West Main Street,

1. Hogs and kisses!
2. Some-bunny loves you!
3. A Valen-tiny!
4. I lava you!
5. Mayflowers!

The Nitty Gritty is sponsored by the Portage Lions Club. Send comments and suggestions to portagelions@dacor.net.

From Portage Yesteryear . . .

Originally published in The Daily Sentinel Tribune on Oct 24, 1921

History of Portage Told by John Winton

This "History of Portage" was written by John Winton, a Freshman in the Portage village high school. John is a member of the Community Civics class and a real Portagean. The young historian will now speak for himself.

Portage township and its vicinity at one time were a large swamp with many small rivers around it. Where the village now stands was then an elevated strip of land surrounded by these small rivers. The Indians would row their boats up the river until they came to Portage and carry them over the next river and resume their journey. As portage means "to carry" this is undoubtedly how it received its name.

Portage was surveyed 1819 to 1821 by Neptune Nearing. He had a difficult task in surveying this land because there were no white men living here at that time, there being only sixty-seven families in the whole of Wood county. The Indians were everything out friendly to Mr. Nearing.

One year later, in 1822, Mr. Collister Haskins built a fur trading post, home, and store on what is now the Dauterman farm. For about five years Mr. Haskins traded for furs with the Indians, then some white men came to this community to hunt and trap.

The small band of men under the leadership of Mr. Haskins resolved to plot out a town where Portage now stands. First they mapped out the streets which are all 60 feet wide, except Findlay which is slightly wider. Some of the names given the streets were Main, Water, Walnut and Findlay. Mr. Haskins then cleaned and plotted out 96 lots. He finished this work in 1832. Shortly after this date Mr. Haskins and his little party erected a jail. It was made of two by fours and is still standing at William Coker's residence. There was only one man imprisoned in this jail about the year 1840.

This same year General Wayne made his campaign against the Indians through this vicinity. On the Knight farm are the remains of an old fort that General Wayne built to protect himself from the Indians. For a few years people could gather arrow heads and various other Indian weapons, around this fort, by the basket until there are very few left now. He fought many battles near the Knight farm. He then marched his army through what is now Portage and crossed the river by the Seiple farm which is east of here. He fought a battle there and the Indians buried their dead in what is now the Portage cemetery. Occasionally when a grave is dug, bones and parts of Indian skeletons are found and the many trinkets that they bury with their dead. From here General Wayne went to Fort Meigs, having exterminated practically all the Indians in this vicinity.

Shortly after General Wayne's expedition, Mr Haskins village grew quite rapidly. A large hotel was erected on the corner of Findlay and Main streets by JW Knaggs. It was named the "Pioneer". Among other proprietors were Mr. Jamison Carr White and Mr Mann. Later a little log school house built about one half mile east of the village. Close by this Mr. Eberly built a fur post and blacksmith shop. A National Trail from Perrysburg to Otsego helped to increase the size of Portage to a large extent because of travelers stopping for lodging and supplies.

Portage has grown to such an extent that in 1857 its inhabitants decided to have its incorporated. At this time there were about 200 people living in this vicinity. Portage was finally incorporated and Mr. James McFadden was elected first mayor. The first council was elected in 1878. The first council was elected in 1875. Its members were J Knaggs, J England, H Rush and A Entsminger.

Among things that increased the size of Portage about this time were the T. & O.C.R.R., which was completed in 1833, the T.B.G. & S, traction line, which was constructed in 1898. Shortly after the T. & O.C. was completed, GC Munn built a small elevator where the Royce & Coon elevator now stands.

About the year 1890 oil wells were drilled in this part of the country. Immediately Portage began to grow. A new restaurant was erected to accommodate all the boarders and a large boiler shops was erected on Water street. Later four saloons started into business. It is said that carriages and wagons lined the streets every night during the "oil boom."

At the present time Portage is a quiet little town of 488 inhabitants. Nearly all of them own their own homes and they also own a fine school. The congenial people together with the clean quiet, little village make it an ideal place for anyone to live.

JOHN WINTON