A MESSAGE FROM THE TRUSTEES

Imagine living in Blendon Township during the mid 1800's. Life included baking bread on oak shingles over a wood fire, and timber was cut and hauled with oxen. Farming and milling of wood, grain, and wool were common occupations. The roads were dirt. When it rained, travel became very difficult as horse drawn wagons sank up to their axles in mud. Early Trustee responsibilities included the monitoring of fences to prevent farmers' cows from getting loose.

We wish we could bring back Blendon's founders for a tour. We hope they would be proud of what Blendon Township has become. Much of the farm land has been developed into homes and thriving businesses. We believe they would appreciate the journey that Blendon has taken.

Blendon Township is honoring its 200 year anniversary! From 1815 to 2015, its journey has been remarkable. During those early years, we were an undeveloped community of farmers and frontiersmen. Today we have transformed into a residential economic community. Our historical records tell of the building of churches, schools, roads, and mills. These have all played a part in shaping Blendon Township into what you see today.

We and our staff have planned a series of celebrations and events occurring throughout the year to commemorate our history and heritage. We invite you to join us.

Trustees: Jim Welch, Stew Flaherty, and Jan Heichel
Fiscal Officer, Wade Estep

A BRIEF HISTORY OF BLENDON TOWNSHIP

Blendon Township was established on March 5th, 1815. It consisted of five square miles. It was township number twelve located in range seventeen of the United States Military Lands. Our first settlers were Edward Phelps and Isaac Griswold, who arrived from Connecticut in 1806. They were the first to complete their log cabins and plant wheat in the township. Mr. Phelps was also the first man to plant an orchard, carrying the young shoots many miles by packhorse. Several of those trees were still here in 1930.

A few years later, Squire Timothy Lee arrived in Blendon Township. He came from Connecticut to look over several hundred acres of land that he had purchased sight unseen. He was an educated man with what were considered modern views and experienced business methods. He held many offices in the township including our first law enforcement official and Justice of the Peace. He was known for favoring improvements, but he was successful in keeping Blendon out of debt. This was a difficult task when money was scarce and improvements so desperately needed. The fine development of Blendon Township today is largely due to Mr. Lee. Early in his time here, he built a distillery to give the farmers a market for their corn. However, he became a strong advocate of not just temperance, but total abstinence from the use of intoxicants. He dismantled the distillery in the belief that slack sales were lesser evils than alcohol. He went on to build a grist mill and a saw mill, and operated a woolen mill within the township. He proved his public spirit and generosity in many ways throughout his lifetime.

Timothy Lee's log cabin, as shown here, was situated on the banks of the Big Walnut Creek at what was known as Lee Road. It was later moved and now, after significant renovation, sits just a few hundred yards north of the present Lee Mansion.

During the Civil War, the stories passed on stated that the Lee Mansion was part of the Underground Railroad. Slaves were hidden in the attic where they could keep a watch out the fan window for any slave hunters.

The above photograph and information is from the book Images of America Central College, written by Marilyn J. Gale and Nathaniel R. Baker.

Please join us as we celebrate Blendon Township's Heritage Day Saturday, August 29, 2015

Blendon Township is celebrating its 200th Birthday this year! 1815 - 2015
**BLENDON’S FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

The first Blendon Presbyterian Church was built on the northeast corner of Dempsey and Hempstead Roads, on what is now part of Blendon Central Cemetery. Its land was donated and the site selected by Mr. Lee. It was dedicated on December 6, 1829. Sadly, it burned to the ground later that same night in what was believed to be the work of arsonists who opposed the growing strength of the church in the Blendon community. [i]

Edward Phelps donated an acre of land just 50 yards west of the smoldering timbers. On this land, known today as Phelps Acre, the members constructed a new church in 1830. (shown here). They held services at this site from 1830 to 1865. Research tells us the church front faced east. A partition ran through the center of the church separating the men and women. The wood for the church was easily obtained, but the glass and nails were not. Some people were disappointed to learn that various church members had furnished grain to be made into whiskey in Worthington then sold to get glass and nails to rebuild the church. [ii]

It is believed the church was abandoned after the building of the Central College Presbyterian Church, in the nearby Village of Central College (Amalthea) which was then part of Blendon Township. According to J.H. Laramore, Westerville historian, the empty church was “carried away piecemeal by those who felt they needed the material more than the Lord needed it.”[iii]

Last fall, the Trustees used ground penetrating radar to determine the exact location of the foundation of this historic church on Phelps Acre. It was found just four inches under the ground and is twelve to eighteen inches deep. It is a rubble type foundation, made up of bricks, rocks, and fieldstone lying in an open trench. Three corner stones were also discovered. They have been used to construct corner historical markers to commemorate their exact location. The church measured 40 by 32 feet.

Today, more than 180 years after this church was built, the township Trustees have brought to light a better picture of this piece of our Township’s history. Shown here is Trustee Flaherty identifying the church foundation. Also, the pictures on the top of this page show the exciting day of the foundation’s discovery!

We would like to express our deep gratitude to the Central College Presbyterian Church for allowing the original church bell shown here to be returned to the newly refurbished Phelps Acre Park. The Trustees plan to build a bell monument using some of the rubble foundation pieces in its construction. The remaining foundation will remain undisturbed. This memorial will mark the original site of one of the first thriving churches that served our community. Watch for up-coming news about this project and our official dedication ceremony.


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**BLENDON CENTRAL CEMETERY**

Squire Timothy Lee donated one acre of land to be used for a cemetery and church site on the northeast corner of Dempsey and Hempstead Roads. Today it is known as Blendon Central Cemetery and has grown to nearly 28 acres.

It is both a local landmark and a peaceful final resting place. We welcome you to visit this beautiful cemetery. It includes the headstones of our founders and our lovely chapel and mausoleum expansion, built in 2011.

Your Trustees adopted new regulations for the cemetery in 2011. The revised rules were developed to insure safety for both the public and cemetery employees. A complete list of current cemetery rules is available at: our Administrative Office located at 6350 Hempstead Road from Monday- Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., on our website www.Blendontwp.org, or by contacting the cemetery office at (614)882-2215.

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**UPCOMING BICENTENNIAL EVENTS**

**August 29th Heritage Day**

Whether you want to celebrate our heritage in a special way or are simply looking for something fun to do, we have a full day of activities listed below for you to choose from.

**More Joy 5K Run/Walk and Fundraiser**

7:00 to 10:00 a.m.  
Run through Blendon in memory of Blendon Township resident, Jane Juergens, who lost her life as a victim of a violent crime. The proceeds from this fundraiser will go toward a memorial garden for Jane in Ridgewood Park. To register, go to: http://morejoynyrun.itsyourrace.com. Join the Township Trustees and the 5K participants following their run at Ridgewood Park, 5402 Buenos Aires Boulevard, for a dedication ceremony to the Jane Juergens Memorial. Engraved Memorial Bricks are now available and can be purchased for $50.00 each from now until December 31, 2015. After that date, the price changes to $100.00. To order yours, please contact Linda Harter, Township Administrative Assistant at 614-882-1270.

**Senior Center’s Car Show**

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. 6330 Hempstead Road  
Join us at our seniors’ annual Car Show. There will be music from the 50’s and 60’s, raffles, trophies and more! For more information or registration, contact our Senior Center at 882-1260.

**Vintage Baseball Game by the Ohio Village Muffins**

4:00 p.m. Ridgewood Park, 5402 Buenos Aires Blvd.  
This event and the below mentioned concert includes free hot dogs, cotton candy, snow cones, 50/50 raffle, and more! The Ohio Village Muffins of Ohio History Connection Baseball will play a demonstration game by the rules of 1860. The Host Team will be a group of players chosen by the Blendon Township Trustees. Both teams will be dressed in period-appropriate shirts, ties, and hats, and will use wooden bats, period baseballs, and bases. This free event is one you will not want to miss!

**FREE Concert in Ridgewood Park**

6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Featuring: 23 Southbound, a popular country band.

**Dedication of Phelps Acre and Presentation of the Church Bell**

Date to be determined.

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Join us as we celebrate Blendon Township’s Heritage Day August 29th!
BICENTENNIAL EVENTS TO DATE

On May 6th a Proclamation honoring Blendon Township’s 200 years was presented by U.S. State Representative Anne Gonzales to Administrator Bryan Rhoads.

On May 25th a Memorial Day Ceremony was held honoring our military heroes at the Blendon Central Cemetery followed with an old fashioned picnic and a guided walk through the historical portion of the cemetery. Trustee Welch is shown here honoring guest speaker, PFC James Edward Krebs, World War II.

On May 27th a Proclamation honoring Blendon Township’s 200 years was presented by U.S. State Senator Kevin Bacon. Shown here are Senator Bacon, Administrator Rhoads, and Trustees Heichel and Welch.

On June 13th and July 18th FREE concerts in our beautiful Ridgewood Park featured The Gas Pump Jockeys and The Scioto Brass Band and Percussion. Trustees Welch, Heichel, and Flaherty are shown here welcoming the community.

Mr. Walt Reiner presented a piece of his 200 year old barn from the historic Noble House (built in 1815) along with a horse shoe found inside to Trustee Heichel at an Amalthea Society Meeting.

BLENDON TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

Established in 1875, eight schools were built within the township for Blendon’s children. The following information and photographs are from the book *Images of America Central College*, written by Marilyn J. Gale and Nathaniel R. Baker showing our earliest schools.

This one-room school sat about three fourths of a mile east of Big Walnut Creek on County Line Road. It was built in 1884 and closed in 1918. Records indicate that the school was originally a frame school set back from the road in a wooded area. The frame structure was torn down and a brick school was built closer to the road. The cost of the school was $1,000.00 which included the materials and labor.

This was the County Line School, located on Smothers Road. It was closed in 1918 and was sold to Russell Heizer for $860. Over the years the Heizer family restored the school, added additions, and made it their home.

Today, Trustee Flaherty and his family reside here having made extensive renovations transforming it into a beautiful home.

EARLY GOVERNMENT

Blendon first became an organized township on March 5, 1815, under the name of Harrison Township. The name was changed to Blendon on December 8, 1824. It is interesting to note that:

- The first Board of Trustees was elected in April 1815.
- That same year, the property taxes for the entire township totaled only $14.12 for 6 months.
- April 1, 1816, the Fiscal Officer reported we had a positive balance of $7.02, after expenses were paid. This was a time of frugal economy.
- The laws in those early years were very simple and could be read and understood without the aid of a lawyer.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Board of Trustees Meetings</td>
<td>August 12th and 26th</td>
<td>6330 Hempstead Road, 6:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 9th and 23rd</td>
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<td>October 7th and 21st</td>
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<td>Blendon’s Heritage Day</td>
<td>Saturday, August 29th</td>
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<td>5 K Run/Walk fundraiser</td>
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<td>Vintage Baseball</td>
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<td>Concert in the Ridgewood</td>
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<td>Park</td>
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Note: See inside this newsletter for the details of the above Heritage Day events

Community Document Shred-it Day FREE
Saturday, September 19th
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Blendon Township Complex, 6350 Hempstead Road

Blendon Summer Farmer’s Market
Thursdays until October 22nd
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Blendon Township Complex, 6350 Hempstead Road
BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Jim Welch, Chairman
Jim.Welch@blendontwp.org
(614) 306-8080

Stew Flaherty, Vice Chairman
SFlaherty@blendontwp.org
(614) 882-1270

Jan Heichel, Trustee
JHeichel@blendontwp.org
(614) 890-0650

Fiscal Officer:
Wade Estep
Wade.Estep@blendontwp.org
(614) 882-1270

Administrator:
Bryan Rhoads
Bryan.Rhoads@blendontwp.org
(614) 839-2013

Township Offices:
Linda Harter, Administrative Assistant/Cemeterian
LHarter@blendontwp.org
(614) 882-1270
(614) 882-2215 (cemetery office)

Police Department:
John Belford, Police Chief
JBelford@blendontwp.org
Emergency 911
Dispatcher (614) 889-9494
Office (614) 882-8500

Fire Department:
Brian Miller, Fire Chief
Brian.Miller@westerville.org
Emergency 911
Office (614) 901-6600

Road/Service Department:
John Giamarco, Service Director
JGiamarco@blendontwp.org
(614) 882-2673

Senior Center:
Donna Jordan, Director
DJordan@blendontwp.org
(614) 882-1260

Other Important Phone Numbers:
American Electric Power
(800) 277-2177

Columbia Gas Company
(800) 344-4077 for customer service/emergency (including gas odor emergency)

Blendon Township Code Enforcement
(614) 356-9752

Blendon Township Zoning
(614) 839-2013

Franklin County Public Health
(614) 525-3160

Franklin County Building Permits
(614) 525-3166

Aqua Ohio Water Company
(877) 987-2782 or (614) 882-6586

Rumpke Waste Removal
(800) 828-8171

Join us as we celebrate Blendon Township’s Bicentennial! 1815 - 2015