

## Historical Societies ...

Over the years that I have been with the Society I have heard from time to time of an earlier Historical Society. I have asked around, and yes, some people do remember that there was one prior to ours. I did find out that it was a Crawford County Historical Society and they had a couple of rooms on the third floor of the library with some artifacts. I have not been able to find out why they disbanded. I have checked on the internet to no avail. When it disbanded, several of our artifacts were given to the "Shunk Museum" in Crestline. When I was over there a few years ago I asked them about it and they knew about as much as I know.

In the mid 1960's several prominent men of the city began to hold meetings at various homes to see if a new historical society could be formed. Dick Cory and his wife, Carol, were the hosts for several of these meetings. It was decided to form the Bucyrus Historical Society on July 15, 1969. After the formation, the new group went looking for a suitable old home near the downtown area to use as a museum. This Board found out that St. Paul's Lutheran Church had acquired the former Scroggs home upon the death of Mary Scroggs in 1965. St. Paul's church used it as residence for their intern pastor.

Pastor Hans Scherner, who is now pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church on Ridgeton Road, remembers living in that house when he was an intern at St. Paul's in Bucyrus.

The new historical society approached St. Paul's about purchasing the old Scroggs home. It was purchased by the Bucyrus Historical Society in 1970.

Almost immediately, it was decided to turn it into a Victorian era museum. Much interior work had to be done to make the house ready for its new role in our community.

Betty (Scroggs) Shapiro, daughter of Charles and Mary Scroggs, who were the last of the Scroggs to live at 202 South Walnut, lived in

Tennessee and she was contacted about the purchase of her old family home. She assisted us with old photographs and general descriptions of the wall paper etc that were in the house when she lived there. She also offered to return the larger items that had been taken out of the house when it was sold to St. Paul's. The Pier Mirror in the parlor complete with the original red velvet valances and gold leaf trim, was returned at that time.

As the funds were obtained, the rooms began to be transformed into areas for our artifacts to be displayed tastefully. By the early 1970's the museum was able to be open for the public and campaigns were held around Bratwurst Festival time to acquire members for the society.



Inside Carriage House

The Carriage House was dedicated in May of 1994. It houses our old horse drawn steam fire engine. There are also other larger artifacts on display in this building.

The Society has 18 trustees, which includes the four officers of the Board. Over the years, we have had several superb curators who have had an excellent eye for worthwhile items to be donated to the museum. We have an excellent museum for our town, as evidenced by the comments of many visitors.

We have been in existence now for 45 years and hope to be around for many more years to come.