

Shalersville Historical Society, P.O. Box 687, Mantua, Ohio 44255

## *Message From the President*

Welcome to what I hope will be a long series of quarterly newsletters. The purpose of this issue will be to outline the progress the Society has made since its formation in May of 2004. This progress was made possible by the financial support of people like you. The Society's gratitude also goes to a small number of "worker bees" who scraped the wallpaper, scrubbed the floors and performed a myriad of other tasks. I hope that you are pleased enough with what we've done to continue your support. With your continued help and dedication, we can have an organization that will be a genuine asset to Shalersville.

*Don MacLearie*

---

## **Renovation of the Eldridge House**

In August of 2004, the Society was granted stewardship of the Eldridge House (formerly known as the Peppercorn Place). The year since then has been a busy and an expensive one.



First, we had to clean up the interior after several years of neglect.

This meant the removal of damaged plaster and wallpaper as well as animal waste. The next job was to repair the exterior to keep the animals out and prevent further damage from the weather.

The furnace had to be replaced. We were hoping to have natural gas, but found it would cost at least \$1200 just to extend the line so we could connect to it. The water pump also had to be replaced. When the old one was removed from the well, it was a solid block of rust. We also installed a phone line and security system so we could protect the few artifacts we have begun receiving. Earlier this summer we had the exterior of the house pressure washed and have begun painting it. The painter doing the work says that painting the house is like painting a sponge.

The Society has been extremely fortunate in that those who were hired to do the skilled jobs above have all donated their labor. Without that savings, we would have had to spend a substantial part of our time and energy fundraising instead of making improvements.

---

## *Acquisitions*

The Society has accepted a few small items that are not sensitive to humidity or light. At the present time, we have no way of displaying or storing papers or clothing items. That is one of our priorities for this fall. We are currently looking at wallpaper patterns so we can paper one or two rooms. This will give us an area where we can begin displaying the furniture and other items we currently have. We are also working on procedures for cataloging, storing and preserving documents and photographs.

---

## *Display at the County Recorder's*

Recently, the Portage County Recorder contacted the Society about displaying artifacts in the glass-front cases just off the elevator on the fourth floor of the County Administration Building. These artifacts will be on display through the end of the first week of November. We hope everyone has a chance to view the display.

---

## *Shalersville's Bicentennial*



**Bicentennial Logo**

The Society is diligently working with the Shalersville Bicentennial Committee planning for the township's two-hundredth birthday to be celebrated August 4-6, 2006.

Historical information is still needed for the bicentennial booklet that is being prepared. If you have – or know someone who has – information or pictures relating to Shalersville's past, the Bicentennial Committee would like to hear from you. Information and/or pictures can be sent to either:

Shalersville Historical Society	or	Shalersville Bicentennial Committee
P.O. Box 687		9692 Infirmary Road
Mantua, Ohio 44255		Mantua, Ohio 44255

If requested, original documents/photographs will be returned, otherwise, they will be archived at the Society. Any submissions need to be made by February 1, 2006 so that there is time to include them in the booklet. One of the areas where information and pictures is most needed is the muck farms and their operation.

---

## *We're on the Web!*

Shalersville township has a new Web site [www.shalersvilletwp.com](http://www.shalersvilletwp.com). The Society has a page accessible from this site. Click on **Links to Related Sites** and then **Shalersville Historical Society**.

---

## *Renew Now*

If you enjoyed this newsletter and wish to continue receiving it, renew your membership for 2006 now. For your convenience a membership renewal form is included in this newsletter. If you are a life member, please pass the enclosed application on to a friend.

We realize that not everyone wishes, or can afford, to be a member. If this describes you but still wish to remain on our mailing list, please let us know. Anyone who receives this newsletter is welcome to contribute to and/or comment on its contents. We need your input to make this newsletter and our Web page better. Hopefully, future issues will have a feedback column with your comments and/or suggestions.

**Remember, 2006 is Shalersville's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday. Help us celebrate the year in style.**

---

The application below may be duplicated as needed.



### Shalersville Historical Society

PO Box 687, Mantua, Ohio 44255  
Phone Contact: (330) 296-5095 E-mail Contact: dtmaclearie@aol.com

## Membership Application

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

For family membership, please list all names in family:



Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Willing to volunteer? \_\_\_\_\_ How? \_\_\_\_\_

Type of membership:	_____ Student (full time) \$8	_____ Senior Citizen (65 or older) \$8
	_____ Individual \$10	_____ Individual Life \$150 (per person)
	_____ Family \$15	_____ Family Life \$200 (per family)
	_____ Commercial \$200	

Memorial Gift \$ \_\_\_\_\_ In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

Office use only: Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Check \_\_\_\_\_ Treas. \_\_\_\_\_ Sec. \_\_\_\_\_ Card sent \_\_\_\_\_ Roster updated \_\_\_\_\_