

Belmont County

**HERITAGE
MUSEUM**

TOUR GUIDE



Heritage Museum Overview

(Lobby)

At one point, it was state law that the sheriff and their family had to live on the premises of the jail. The sheriff's residence provided for that. Every county had one and they were connected to the jail in some way. In Belmont County, the residence was in service as that from 1890 until 1976. After that, it became county offices until 1996 when it was vacated. Thankfully a group of preservationists rallied to save the building. The Belmont County Commissioners utilized grant funding from the Ohio Department of Transportation, Economic Development funds, and local funding from the Belmont County Tourism Council. The building is now a museum dedicated to county history.

Sheriff's History:

Today our current sheriff is David Lucas.

Belmont County has had the honor of having Kathy Crumbley as sheriff. In 1976, she became the first female in the entire country to be elected on a contested ballot (meaning she had competition for the position). This achievement was so big that she appeared on several national talk shows such as Johnny Carson, Mike Douglas and Hee-Haw. She served from 1976 until 1981. Kathy was not Belmont County's first female sheriff. Mary K. Dunfee filled in for her husband after his untimely death while on duty. Ms. Dunfee finished out her husband's term from 1926 to 1927.

Federal Judge Isaac Parker was from Barnesville, Ohio. He was elected to two terms in Congress in the 1870s. He was known as the hanging judge. Ironically, he was opposed to capital punishment, however, he was unable to do anything about compulsory death sentences.

He was appointed by Ulysses S. Grant at Fort Smith in 1875. Parker tried 13,490 cases with 9,954 of them resulting in convictions. Despite thousands of convictions he only sentenced 160 people to death which included four women. Of the people sentenced to death, 79 men were executed on the gallows. His jurisdiction included the entire Indian Territory, over 74,000 miles.

Bellaire and Shadyside (Room 1)

The railroad in Bellaire was significant. It began as the Central Ohio Railroad and was built from Columbus eastward until it finally reached Bellaire in the 1850s, providing a pathway to the ports of Lake Erie to the Ohio River. The Great Stone Viaduct was constructed in the late 1860s and finished in 1871, linking the two railways. By this time B & O had bought the Central Ohio Railroad. By linking the railroads, the county now had access to markets across the nation. Bellaire was known as the “Glass City” from 1870-1885. It was considered a great location for this industry because it provided modern transportation (the railroad), skilled labor and an energy source (coal). If you are interested in learning more about the glass industry please feel free to visit Imperial Glass Museum in Bellaire.

In the 1930s Bellaire became known as “The All American Town” when many Bellaire athletes were found throughout American colleges and universities on the gridiron. Here is a list of some of the notable athletes from Bellaire: Jose Davis, Nate Davis, Andy Dorris, Joey Galloway, Brickyard Kennedy, Lance Mehl, Ben Taylor, and Chalmers Tschappat. Sol White played infield and managed minor leagues and Negro leagues and was also a sports writer. He is a member of the National Baseball Hall of Fame. George “Chappie” Johnson played baseball as a catcher, but he is known for crossing racial barriers as a teacher and a coach.

Holloway

Holloway’s claim to fame was the railroad. It was one of the hubs for the railroad with the roundhouse being located here. For this reason, the school team was called the Railroaders. The jacket belonged to the fire chief in the 1950s.

Uniontown

Uniontown was given the name for the United Presbyterian Church there. People from several villages attended it, so in a way it united them. The book and chair are from the church from 1890.

The photos of the workers are of the road (331) being built.

Flushing, Holloway and Uniontown (Room 4 upstairs)

Flushing

The old building is the Stratton Flour Mill. It is where they made flour for pancakes. The milk bottles are from the old dairy that used to be in Flushing. The crates are what they transported the milk in.

Cy Young was an important contributor to the Old Timers' organization in the area. He was honored by being at the dedication of the baseball field at Schuler Park. Cy Young was a very famous professional baseball player who has an award named after him

Flushing is also the birthplace of Reverdy Ransom. Mr. Ransom was a leading civil rights activist and served as the 48th Bishop of African Methodist Episcopal Church. "The Reverdy Cassius Ransom Memorial Library" can be found on the campus of Wilberforce University in Ohio. Affiliated with the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, it was the first college to be owned and operated by African Americans.

Flushing is also home to the Underground Railroad

Museum which is open by appointment and features books and artifacts pertaining to the history of slavery and the Underground Railroad.

The railroad stations in Shadyside are now houses. The 33rd (which was the first stop) and the 38th (Shady Side Station, which gave the town its name) still stand. The railroad brought in industry to Shadyside and helped it grow. It was a narrow gauge railroad, which meant that it was narrower than some of the more standard lines. The official name of it was the Ohio River and Western, which ran to Zanesville. The nickname was the Bent Zig-zag and Crooked because it was hardly straight.

There was a marble factory in Shadyside. The marbles were made by placing them in a giant bowl (not the official term) in the ground. They would take pieces of molten glass and drop it down the side and they would roll down forming into balls.

The county's original courthouse was located in Shadyside.

Martins Ferry and Colerain (Room 2)

Martins Ferry was the first legal settlement in Ohio. It was founded by Absalom Martin in November of 1787, a few months before Marietta. His son, Ebenezer Martin, was responsible for much of the growth of the settlement. Betty Zane was a famous figure from the pioneer days. She saved Fort Henry during the Revolutionary War when she ran from the fort to her family home to fetch gunpowder and ran back. She is buried in Chestnut Grove Cemetery in Martins Ferry. Her brother, Ebenezer Zane, cut out Zane's Trace, the pre-cursor to the National Road.

Josiah Fox was born in England and came to America. In the 1790s, he was hired by the government to help design ships. His most notable work was the *USS Constitution*. It was a frigate that could withstand cannonballs due to the way it was designed. Cannonballs literally bounced off her oak sides, earning her the nickname, "Old Ironsides". Josiah's work designing war ships conflicted with his Quaker faith and as a result, he was expelled from the church, but later reinstated.

A small community of Quakers moved into Belmont County and brought with them their strong opposition to slavery. This led to several locations in Belmont County being stops on the Underground Railroad. The third station was located in Colerain at a mill belonging to Joshua Cope. To learn more about the significance of the Underground Railroad and its history in Belmont County, please check out the Underground Railroad Museum in Flushing, Ohio.

in 1930 (both are still standing today). Phil Neirko Sr. was the father of two major league baseball players, Phil and Joe Niekro. Bobby Douglas, a nationally famous wrestler, was a resident of Blaine.

Bridgeport, Blaine, and Lansing (Room 3 upstairs)

Bridgeport

Bridgeport was originally known as Canton. It is also known as the “Gateway to Ohio” due to it being the first town you see when you enter Ohio from West Virginia. Bridgeport was once booming with industries that included glass, metal, and lumber. A number of professional athletes called Bridgeport home: Johnny Blatnik—MLB, Bill Jobko—NFL player, and Billy White—MLB.

Artist Joseph Henry Sharp was born in Bridgeport, Ohio. He was the founding member of the Taos Society of Artists. His art primarily focused on American Indian portraits and culture. President Theodore Roosevelt commissioned him to paint the portraits of 200 Native American warriors who survived the Battle of Little Big Horn.

In addition, Bridgeport is also the home to Thomas Clark Theaker—Republican representative from Ohio, and John Todd Zimmer a leading ornithologist (someone who studies birds).

Blaine

The bridge is the old Blaine S bridge. These were a staple of National Road. They are shaped the way they are because it was a cheaper way of safely building across a stream. The S bridges are now a staple of the leftovers of the original National Road, a bit of history themselves. The Blaine Presbyterian Church was originally on the other side of the stream. It was moved during the construction of the Blaine Viaduct

St. Clairsville, Fairpoint, Maynard (Room 3)

St. Clairsville was once known as Newellstown, but later changed its name to honor Arthur St. Clair, who was Northwest Territory Governor and Revolutionary War Major-General under George Washington.

First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt visited the Willow Grove Mine on May 21, 1935. It was her desire to learn first-hand how coal mines operate. Willow Grove was at that time considered a model mine and one of the safest in the nation. Her visit was significant, not only because she was the First Lady, but also because it was a long held belief that if women would enter a mine, danger would follow. Eleanor stated of her visit to the mine that “It was too clean to be a coal mine.”

March 16, 1940, nearly five years after First Lady Eleanor’s visit to Willow Grove, the unthinkable happened: an explosion. Once a model mine now became the home to one of the greatest mining tragedies. Many families mourned the loss of the 63 men lost that day.

Benjamin Lundy was one of the first Abolitionists in the country. His advocacy began in Wheeling upon witnessing a slave auction. He moved to St. Clairsville where in 1815 he, along with five others, established an anti-slavery association called the Union Humane Society. In a short amount of time the society grew to 500 members that included prominent people of that time period: Charles Hammond, James Wilson (grandfather to President Woodrow Wilson), and Joseph Howells. Lundy would eventually travel around the country setting up groups and giving lectures.

He is said to have logged tens of thousands of miles on foot.

Thomas Carr was the only man in Belmont County to be publicly executed. He was convicted of the murder of Louiza Fox, his 13-year-old fiancée`.

If you look closer at the ledger you will see that children as young as 10 years old were incarcerated with adults. Can you believe it took until the 1970s for this to change? Judge Edmond Sargus toured the county jail with county commissioners, upset at what he saw and stated he would not sentence juveniles to be in the same general lockup as adults. Unfortunately, Judge Sargus's untimely death did not allow him the opportunity to see his vision through. However, his friends would not let his vision be lost, and in 1973 Sargus Juvenile Center was open.

Fairpoint

Fairpoint was named by students, and was most likely chosen because of its location. Between 1900-1930 Fairpoint's population rose to over 8,000 residents. The mining photos are of the three mining towns that surrounded the location that essentially made the town. The depot was also for the railroad that ran through Fairpoint (the B & O Depot).

Bethesda, Belmont, and Morristown

(Room 2 upstairs)

Bethesda

The boxes and cans are from old cigar companies that used to exist in the county. Bethesda and Belmont had several. Tobacco was their livelihoods. The tools in the case were used to roll the cigars and the wooden boxes gave them their shapes. They were called "cyclones" back then. Montgomery Ward featured a cigar in the early 1900s called the Bethesda.

Belmont

The gentleman is Harley Warrick . He worked for Mail Pouch Tobacco as a painter. He painted signs (mostly on barns) in 13 states. Over his lifetime he painted over 20,000 Mail Pouch signs. He resided in Belmont.

Instead of a town square, the founder of Belmont (Joseph D. Wright, for whom the town was originally named) laid out the streets in the original part of town similar to his hometown in Ireland—in the shape of a coffin.

Morristown

The couple in the photo were married and legend says that the man died soon after the photo was taken from being struck by lightning. The Horner House, now known as the Black Horse Inn, still stands in Morristown today and is being preserved.

The bricks on the floor symbolize the National Road as it went through the center of town.

**Barnesville, Hendrysburg, Somerton,
and Temperanceville (Room 1 upstairs)**

Hendrysburg

The cartoon is of Hopalong Cassidy. William Boyd, who portrayed him, was born in Hendrysburg.

Barnesville

The cabin is a replica of the cabin that Wilson Shannon was born in. He was the first governor that was born in the state.

These are all dresses from the Victorian Mansion Museum. Ladies in the 1890s would have worn these. The house is the Victorian Mansion Museum. It was owned by one of the wealthiest families in Barnesville, the Bradfields. It is now a museum that shows what life was like in the Victorian Era in America.

The strawberries represent Barnesville's history with the fruit. After tobacco, Barnesville became known as the "Strawberry Capital" for such quality strawberries, shipping them to many cities across the country.

The workers in this picture are at the Watt Car and Wheel Co. It specialized in making wheels and cars to be used in mining and on the railroad.

The band uniform belonged to a member of the Somerton High School band.

Maynard (Room 3)

The name Maynard is said to have come from Tennessee Representative Horace Maynard, who came to St. Clairsville to speak to Civil War veterans. Maynard would later serve under Ohio-born President Rutherford B. Hayes as Postmaster General from 1880-1881.

Nearly 100 years ago within Maynard alone, seven languages were commonly spoken including English, Polish, Slavic, German, French, Italian and Hungarian. The predominant languages were English and Polish.

Great Western School (hallway)

The school was built in 1870 and closed in 1952. It is located on the Ohio University Eastern campus. One of the children's favorite songs to sing while at school was *School Days*. The board at the top is a spelling board. Kids would use it to learn how to spell. The chalk board is actually a writing slate. It's what they used for note books to practice penmanship.

The school was built by the Clark Construction Company on property owned by Mr. Simpson Lentz, the local tavern proprietor. Bricks for the school were made from clay taken from the farm pond near the building. This "modern" school was named for a steam ship which had crossed the Atlantic Ocean in a record-setting 15 days.

The slate located next to the case was placed on the school roof in 1870 and was replaced in 2016. The slate was on the roof for 146 years.

Classes were held in the building until 1952, when it was closed due to declining enrollment and the district consolidation program. It was the last active one-room school in Richland Township.

The National Trail Chapter #348 of International Questers restored the building in 1976 as a Bicentennial project. It is on the National Register of Historic Places. The Quester Chapter continues to maintain the school and provides tours and educational classes to visitors throughout the year. Students who visit this "working museum" are in-

structed by the 'schoolmarm' using the McGuffey Readers, Beacon Charts, Ray's Arithmetic, and Webster Spellers. They also participate in such games as Jacks, Pick-up-Sticks, Tug-of-War, Leap Frog, Drop the Handkerchief, and the Sack Races. If the flag is flying, guests are welcome to "come and sit a spell" and to hear the history and numerous stories of this one-room school.