



C. A. Parker was a local photographer with a studio next to the Trading Post in East Bloomfield

Town of East Bloomfield Historian's Report for 2017

Judith M. Stewart

Introduction

This year the focus continued to be on the people who lived in East Bloomfield and their stories.

2017 Accomplishments

- Continued to inventory items in the collection of the Bloomfield Historical Society, including accessioning those “found in collection”:
 - adding information where it is missing,
 - scanning or photographing each item and attaching to record,
 - assigning location for each item specifying where the item is stored by building, floor, wall and container,
 - identifying items relating to the Town of East Bloomfield and East Bloomfield’s educational institutes by:
 - assigning each to the “Town of East Bloomfield”, “Rural Schools”, “Academy”, or “East Bloomfield High School” collections,
 - storing items in fire retardant file cabinet as available, and
 - creating a digital copy of archival material as time allows.
- Continued the organization and research started in 2016 of materials collected by previous Historians: Lena Steele, Diana Wade, and Virginia Schroeder.
 - Have just started to resort newspaper articles dating back to the late 1800s and removing items relating to businesses in East Bloomfield. These items are being placed in separate files for each business. Businesses are organized by type: retail, manufacturing and service, then filed alphabetically.
 - Articles, research material, and narratives by community residents continue to be gathered and compiled alphabetically by author into 3-ring binders to enable easier research of topics.
- Researched families or events as requested by individuals or objects donated to the Historical Society. Research includes:
 - A list requested by the Bloomfield Central School (BCS) of superintendents and principals from the year 1909 to the present date. The research entailed looking at each school yearbook from 1942 and graduation documents.
 - For the BCS athletic director, the origins of the name Bombers used by the athletic teams. The current results of the search indicate that the name resulted from a contest and the winner was Anne Dahl, daughter of the Vice-Principal, Alfred Dahl. The first use found of the name was in the 1951 yearbook. Research included reviewing yearbooks, newspaper articles, minutes of meetings held by the class of 1951 and personal contact to Roger Hawkins, Joan Hall and Rose Dixon Simmons.

- Information on the Elton Park cannons for the Jim Gibson, Museum Director of the Knox County Historical Society in Mount Vernon, Ohio. The Historical Society is interested in the west facing cannon cast at the Mount Vernon Iron Works of C. & J. Cooper Company in Mount Vernon. The company was founded in 1833 and made steam engines, saw mills, and general machinery. It is believed that they only cast 50 flank howitzers during the Civil War and number 40 is located in Elton Park. Mr. Gibson has indicated that he will provide any research information his society compiles in regards to the C. & J. Cooper Company.
- Identifying the location of the town's pioneer cemetery. Previously the cemetery was said to be located on the site of the current building owned by the Bloomfield Historical Society, built in 1838 as the East Bloomfield Academy. After research of the minutes of the 1st Congregational Society from 1806, the 1874 map of East Bloomfield and the list of names of individuals buried in the East Bloomfield Cemetery founded in 1838, it became apparent that the pioneer cemetery was really located on land adjacent to and north of the Academy property. Approximately 81 individual may be buried in the original cemetery. As a result of the research, the owner of the land is in the process of donating the remaining portion of the original cemetery to the Historical Society.
- At the request of members of the Bloomfield Central School class of 1957, I started to research in 2016 the community youth center and 'Mother Phillips' connection to the center. The research resulted in a book on the Elnathan Phillips family and their impact on two generations of Bloomfield young people; their organization of the Camp Fire Girls and Gertrude Phillips' organization of the Youth Center. The book spans, in addition to the genealogical history the Elnathan's and Gertrude's families included in the book, the period between 1921 that addresses the starting of the Camp Fire Group and the 1960's which saw the end of the Youth Center. Individuals who remembered Mother Phillips contributed their stories in tribute to her memory detailing how she impacted their lives. The book's unveiling in June involved a program covering the lives of Elnathan and Gertrude Phillips at the Historical Society for a standing room only audience.