



Manchester Area Historical Society

PO Box 56
Manchester, Michigan 48158

Meetings: 7:30 pm
Second Thursday each Month,
September through June
Village Room, 912 City Rd.



2007-2008 Officers

Carl Curtis, President
Jim Wilson,
First Vice-President
Jerry Swartout
Second Vice-President

Betty Cummings, Secretary
Sharon Curtis, Treasurer
Don Limpert, Imm.Past Pres.
Reno Feldkamp, Trustee
Doug Howell, Trustee
Howard Parr, Trustee

November, 2007

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November, 2007

M A N C H E S T E R

DECEMBER MEETING, COOKIES AND CAROLS

It is almost that time of the year again, the December meeting of the MAHS, when we bring our favorite Christmas cookies to share and snack upon, as well as our warmed up and tuned singing voices, for the annual Cookie Exchange and Christmas Carol sing. This year the meeting will be hosted by Reno and Nancy Feldkamp at their home, 8701 Smythe Road, on Thursday, December 13th. The festivities begin at 7:30 PM and Luke Schaible will again provide the musical accompaniment for the carols.

As in the past, the meeting attendees can place a donation in the basket then select and take home various kinds of Christmas cookies. The donated money is given to Manchester Family Services to help that worthy organization bring some holiday cheer to Manchester area families in need.

The meeting is open to anyone so invite some friends to join us for a good time, another fine application of the old adage, "The more, the merrier." Just be sure that the people you invite know that anyone who comes should bring a plate of Christmas Cookies to share, a singing voice and a donation for the basket.



President's Message

The American Civil War lasted slightly longer than four years, April, 1861-June, 1865. The saga of the Sharon township Civil War memorial monument and the commemorative plaque, which was presented by the MAHS, runs close to five years, illustrating the old adage, "The wheels of progress turn slowly". However, they do turn and things do progress. Delightfully, the project was completed this past summer. If you are in the vicinity of the Sharon township hall, stop and see the monument and the plaque, they look good in their new location and they will continue for many years as a memorial to President Abraham Lincoln and the twenty-four Sharon township men lost in the American Civil War.



Courtesy of the editor, you will find a set of hand held, Red-Cyan glasses enclosed with this issue of the newsletter. The glasses are needed to view the anaglyphs in the newsletter and you should keep them because anaglyphs will probably appear in subsequent issues of the newsletter. Enjoy the views.

The MAHS will again sponsor the Christmas Eve Luminaria and volunteers will be needed to distribute supplies. If you are able, please lend a hand on Dec. 22, 10 AM - 4 PM; Dec 23, 1:30 PM -5 PM; Dec. 24, noon- 4 PM. A signup list will be at the Cookies and Carols Sing meeting.

The MAHS membership year is the calendar year so, unless you have a life membership, you will find a membership renewal envelope enclosed with this issue.

If you are an internet user, take a look at the MAHS web site. Doug Howell has done an excellent job as web master and the site is interactive. If you have some bits of information or pictures to share, consider placing them on the MAHS web site. If you just want to review some of Manchester's history and some MAHS activities, please see the web site.

Find the site at www.manchesterareahistoricalociety.org

MEETINGS AT A GLANCE

December, 2007: Annual cookie exchange and Christmas Carol sing. At Reno and Nancy Feldkamp's house.

January, 2008: Ray Berg presenting some of his research on the founding and early development of the Manchester community. Village Room at the Village Hall

February, 2008: Bill Ames and a presentation on Abraham Lincoln. Village Room at the Village Hall

Look forward in Spring to the MAHS Show and Tell, our version of "Antiques Road Show"©. Village Room at the Village Hall.

MONUMENT-PLAQUE PROJECT COMPLETED

It took quite a while to get everything done but the Sharon Township Civil War Memorial Monument was moved to its current location beside the cemetery at Sharon Township Hall and the commemorative plaque, which supplements the monument, has been placed at the base of the monument.

The monument, believed to be the second oldest of its kind in the State of Michigan, is a memorial to President Abraham Lincoln and 24 Sharon Township men who were lost in the American Civil War. The monument was purchased and erected by subscription of various residents of Sharon Township. After 130 years of weathering, the names of the 24 Sharon township men inscribed on the monument were difficult to read and in November, 2002, the MAHS purchased a bronze plaque which duplicates the names on the monument. Dick Irwin, a great-grandnephew of James Lehman Irwin, named on the monument, donated a rock from his farm, upon which the plaque is mounted.

On September 7, 2003 the plaque was dedicated and the monument was re-dedicated, in a ceremony at the Sharon Township Hall. The Sharon Township Board had subsequently decided to move the monument from its position near Pleasant Lake road, at the corner of Sylvan road, to a less vulnerable position near the cemetery just east of the township hall. The rock, with its newly mounted plaque was set near the north end of the township hall until the monument could be moved.

On November 4, 2005 the monument, consisting of seven separate pieces, was disassembled, moved and reassembled at its current location. Since the exact positioning of the rock-mounted plaque had not been determined yet, the plaque remained north of the township hall.

Finally, in the summer of 2007, a concrete footing was poured, iron guard posts and a support chain were installed and the rock, with its commemorative plaque, was positioned in front of the monument. The weather will continue to erode the monument through coming years but the monument, as a structure, will remain. And the names originally inscribed on the monument, but now fading, will endure on the bronze plaque.

Previous newsletter articles about the monument-plaque project appeared in the February, May, August, and November, 2003 issues and the February 2004 issue.



SEPTEMBER, ANNUAL MEETING AND A PROGRAM ON THE UNITED CONFEDERATE VETERANS

 * At the Annual Meeting of the MAHS, 13 September, 2007, the following officers and trustees were *
 * elected for the 2007-2008 year: *
 * *
 * Officers: Trustees: Reno Feldkamp *
 * President Carl Curtis Douglas Howell *
 * 1st Vice President James Wilson Howard Parr *
 * 2nd Vice President Gerald Swartout Per the bylaws, Don Limpert is a member of the *
 * Secretary Betty Cummings Board of Directors as Immediate Past President, *
 * Treasurer Sharon Curtis a non elected position. *
 * *****

Program Minutes: The evening's speaker was Don Limpert, Civil War history scholar and memorabilia collector. This program, on the UCV, follows his March presentation on the GAR.

The South's United Confederate Veterans had many similarities to the North's Grand Army of the Republic. Two major differences, however, were the much smaller size and resources of the UCV.

Don compared the number of troops on each side as the war progressed. Early on, the troops were about evenly matched. Over time, the Confederates decreased in numbers and resources. Many were captured and imprisoned where impoverished living conditions prevailed. The Confederate prison sites became locations for Confederate cemeteries. Confederate prisons were as close as the Cleveland area (Johnson's Island) and the Chicago area. Andersonville was the location of a large prison and cemetery in Georgia. Most southern veterans did not receive pensions. There were no Federal war pensions and only some states had funds to offer pensions.

The United Confederate Veterans organized in 1890. They organized by state. Reunions were held at the local, state, and federal levels. Representative badges were distributed as souvenirs at these events. The UCV badges were

red and white, or salmon in color, whereas the Union badges were red, white, and blue. The badges were worn in parades and at funerals.

There were only three joint reunions of the South and North organizations. The first was in 1888 in Gettysburg, and the last in 1938. It was easier for the surviving soldiers to interact with each other at these joint meetings than it was for the families of war casualties. The pain of loss made it difficult for these families. Eventually Sons of the Confederate Veterans and Daughters of the Confederate Veterans formed to carry on the UCV activities. Finally, the American Legion took over the reunion when there were only a few veterans left.

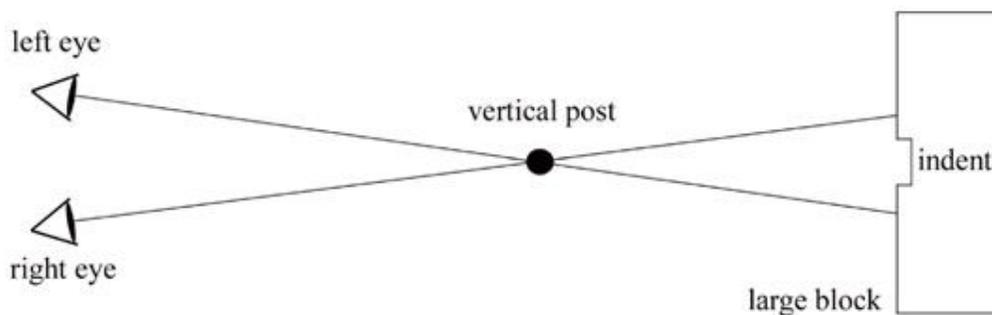
Don described a veteran from Mississippi who was captured at Look Out Mountain and was sent to prison where he endured many hardships. He was released, went back home, and became a successful businessman and farmer. He had nine children. Sadly, not one grandchild was interested in retaining his Civil War badges and awards. Don regrets the lack of interest in history in America and the lack of history teaching in our schools. A knowledge of history serves to guide us in life and helps us to avoid the mistakes of the past.

Photographs at top of page 5.



THREE DIMENSIONAL PICTURES

We see three dimensionally, meaning we perceive depth in a scene, because each of our eyes sees a slightly different view of the same scene. The diagram below demonstrates how two eyes see the same scene differently. We are looking at the diagram from above the scene. Following the straight lines of sight, we observe that the left eye sees the vertical post to the right of the indent in the block but the right eye sees the vertical post to the left of the indent in the block. The brain interprets this different information from the eyes in such a way that the person looking at the scene distinguishes closer objects from farther objects so the post is seen as being closer than the block. If a person covers one eye, depth perception is lost and the person judges closer objects because they block part of the scene's background or the person relies on visual experience and relative sizes of objects to judge which objects are likely closer and which are farther away.



THREE DIMENSIONAL PICTURES continued

If a camera took two pictures of a scene, with one picture from the left eye position and the other from the right eye position, the two pictures would show the “slightly different” views that the eyes would see. Below, are two such pictures. The left picture was taken from the left eye position and the right picture was taken from the right eye position. The “slightly different” views, hence “slightly different” information sent to the brain, is obvious when comparing the position of the kitchen timer to the background (especially the electrical outlet) in the left and right pictures.



If the left eye looked at the left picture while the right eye looked at the right picture the brain would interpret the “slightly different” information as if the eyes were actually looking at the scene. The brain would process the information and the person would perceive a three dimensional picture of the scene.

Charles Wheatstone proposed this two picture idea in his theory of stereoscopic vision in 1838,



twelve years after Joseph Nicéphore Niépce made the first photograph in France, in 1826. Early photographic processes were cumbersome and it was not until the later 1800s, when dry negative and paper processes, along with inexpensive viewers, made it easy for people to view left and right pictures simultaneously and see three dimensional pictures. The left and right pictures were mounted on card stock and were called stereo views. Stereo views were one of the most popular types of entertainment in America and Europe from the late 1800s to the mid 1930s.

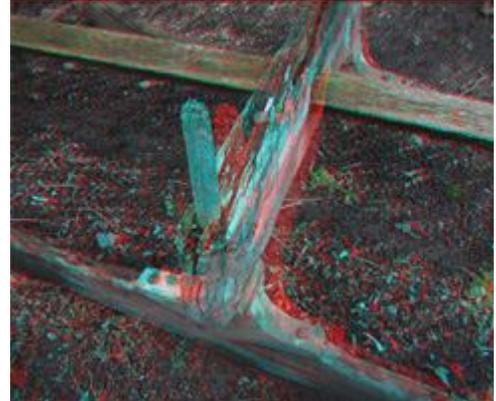
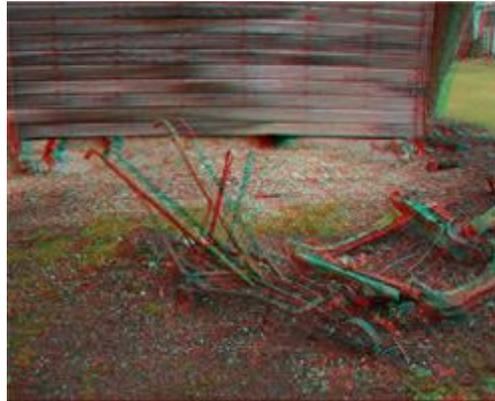
An anaglyph is another type of picture that produces a three dimensional view. The anaglyph procedure was also known in the 1800s but it was not popular until the 1950s when 3-D movies and 3-D comic books became a fad of the time. An anaglyph has both the left and the right pictures printed on the same page but the images are offset slightly left and right. By convention, the left image of an anaglyph is printed in red and the right image is printed in cyan or blue. The anaglyph is viewed through Red-Cyan glasses or Red-Blue glasses, depending on the colors used to make the anaglyph. The red filter in the glasses passes the red image but blocks the cyan or blue and the cyan or blue filters pass their own color but block the red so each eye sees the proper picture of the pair and the brain again processes the “slightly different” views into one three dimensional picture.

THREE DIMENSIONAL PICTURES continued

Below are red (left) and cyan (right) pictures and at the right is the full frame anaglyph. Use the Red-Cyan glasses that are enclosed with this newsletter and view all three pictures. Alternately close each eye and see that the small red picture is seen through the red filter but not the cyan and that the small cyan picture is seen through the cyan filter but not the red. The same color responses are seen in the anaglyph and the timer position moves relative to the background as you alternately close and open your eyes.



At the right are two anaglyphs of pictures that appeared as standard two dimensional, filler pictures on the Whatzit and Wherzit pages in the August, 2007 newsletter.



Keep the Red-Cyan anaglyph glasses to view anaglyphs which will be published in future issues.



Here are two clue pictures from the August, 2007 Whatzit and Wherzit game. The third clue picture and the picture of entire building are on page 8.



Whatzit and Wherzit continued



And here is the building.



Here is the third clue picture from the August Whatzit and Wherzit.



Here are three clue pictures for this issue's Whatzit and Wherzit.



The picture to the right is not an anaglyph; the anaglyph process did not work well on this view.



The picture above is an anaglyph as is the picture directly to the right.



OCTOBER MEETING, POTTERY

From the minutes of the October 11, 2007 meeting.

The Manchester Area Historical Society met at the pottery gallery of David Nelson, on Morgan Street, who gave a presentation and demonstration on pottery making.

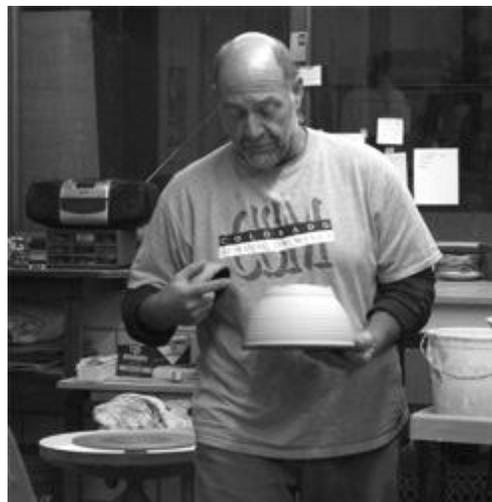
The building housing the gallery was originally the old Manchester Hamilton Meat Locker which David bought at auction 4 years ago. David had to renovate the building extensively to satisfy various building codes.



David has been a potter since 1972 when he started taking classes in high school. He took all the classes at community college that he could and then went to Eastern Michigan University and received a degree in Fine Arts and Photography. He used to do art fairs but found them too much work with fees too high, so decided to open the gallery in Manchester and concentrate his efforts there.

He buys his clay in 50-pound boxes from a company that makes it. He could make his own using local soil and kaolin, feldspar, silica sand and other ingredients, but it would need to be cleaned and sterilized. There used to be a brick yard in Manchester where the local clay was mixed, molded and fired into bricks.

David explained various clays and their differences. Stoneware is coarser; porcelain is a fine white clay; terra cotta is red clay with particles. Bone china is actually made with ground cowbones. All clays are fired at different temperatures. The hotter the temperature, the more vitreous, but the potter must start with the appropriate clay.



DAVID NELSON, POTTERY continued

David has several kilns, each fired with electricity. Wood and natural gas are other common fuels used to heat kilns. The Indians use cow and buffalo dung and basically anything that burns can be used. Different fuels may have different effects on the pottery. The glazes used on the pottery need to

heat over time. Firing for 10-12 hours has a better effect than firing for 3-4 hours. Small cones are made to put in the ovens to register the temperature. A cone 6 will melt at 2230 degrees Fahrenheit. Local potters do not use lead in their pots. Some cheaper pottery, especially bright yellow, orange, and red, have lead in them to lower the firing temperature. These must be avoided for food contact.

David then gave a demonstration of throwing pottery. The clay must be exactly centered and then it is worked upward and outward to create the pottery desired. He explained that it takes a lot of practice to make the pot uniform. Other types of pots are pinch pots (made by pinching the clay into shape), slab pots (formed using slabs of clay), and hand-built pots.



The Calendar Committee needs old pictures for the 2009 calendar, which is going into production soon. We need pictures of people doing everyday kinds of things, be it work, play or just generally socializing.

If you have pictures that meet the requirements, or know someone who has some pictures, and will let us borrow them to make copies, please contact Doug Howell, Reno Feldkamp or Carl Curtis. The copies are made with a scanner and computer and the pictures will be returned as soon as the copies are made. Your help allows the MAHS to continue to produce outstanding calendars of Manchester's history, Thanks.

NOVEMBER MEETING, CLARK SPIKE'S SHARON TOWNSHIP FARM, FLORA AND FAUNA SLIDESHOW

About 50 years ago, Clark Spike and his wife, Avis, bought property near Grass Lake from Olive Feldkamp. Clark, now a retired chemistry professor from Eastern Michigan University, has been for many years an avid nature photographer. In a slide show that took us through the four seasons over several years, Clark featured the flora and fauna of the area. Close ups showed delicate spring flowers, birds and frogs, spider webs, summer fields with grazing Morgan horses, fall colors in trees and winter snow scenes. Several pictures showed his house, a man-made pond and cabin that Clark built. He also included pictures of the Manchester canoe race and a livestock auction. The show ended with a close up of a groundhog on groundhog day. The slideshow featured very impressive color pictures, most of which would lose their beauty when converted to black and white prints, however, here are a few pictures to show the range of subject matter.



Clark Spike at the left and his wife, Avis, seated at the right with their daughter Susan, who assisted with the slideshow.



FLORA AND FAUNA SLIDESHOW continued



Yes, it's lightning



If you are not a Life Member of the MAHS a membership renewal envelope is enclosed with the newsletter. Mail your 2008 dues in the envelope or bring the envelope and the dues to the December Cookies and Carol Sing.

2008 calendars are available at various local merchants and we shall have them at the Cookies and Carol sing. They make excellent gifts, not only to keep track of the days and activities, but also as an annual composite of some Manchester history.

At \$8 each, an undoubted bargain.