

## **The Dickens Crier EXTRA!**

Dec. 9, 2006

### **CAMBRIDGE HISTORY DURING DICKENS ERA FEATURES UNDERGROUND RAILROAD, CIVIL WAR, and COAL MINES**

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Special to *The Dickens Crier*  
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CAMBRIDGE, OH – The Dickens Victorian Village display on Wheeling Avenue in downtown Cambridge is inspired by the writings of Charles Dickens.

Dickens' stories took place in London during the 1840s, 50s, and 60s during a time of great turmoil and social changes.

Similarly, Cambridge, Ohio, was undergoing its own changes. Political concerns led up to the Civil War during a time when the city of Cambridge and Guernsey County was beginning rapid growth.

Here are some snapshots from Cambridge and Guernsey County history during the Dickens era:

#### **1840s**

1840 Guernsey County population is 27,748 people.

1840 Advertisement: Straw, Leghorn & Fancy Millinery. Mrs. Julia A Allison (of Washington Pennsylvania) would respectfully inform the ladies of Cambridge and its vicinity, that she has commenced the above named business in all its various branches in the town of Cambridge. Being in possession of the latest fashions of Leghorn, Straw and Silk Bonnets, she hopes from her experience in the business to render general satisfaction to all those who may favor her with a call.

Frederick Douglas is featured speaker at an anti-slave rally in Quaker City, 1843.

1843: The "Great Mail" from the east and west arrives by stage on National Road; "Steubenville Mail" arrives by postboy on Steubenville Road.

1843: Lot 123 Steubenville Avenue, on which is a brick house, is offered for sale for a minimum of \$1,500.

Cambridge, Ohio, the county seat of Guernsey, is on the National Road. In 1846 it is a flourishing village and contains four churches, an academy, nine mercantile stores, two carding machines, one flouring and two fulling mills, one newspaper printing office and about 1000 inhabitants. There is much excellent land in the bottom of Wills Creek and its branches, which cover about one third of the county. The principal crops are wheat, corn and tobacco. Wool is a staple product of the county, along with beef cattle, horses and swine.

P.T. Barnum brings Tom Thumb to Cambridge, 1849.

#### **1850s**

1850 Guernsey County population is 30,458 people.

1850: Spring fashions emphasized a “decided tendency to depart from simplicity in dress and adopt ornamental elegance of the middle ages.” Bonnets, mantles, and dresses were trimmed with puffings of net, lace, and flowers.

The Underground Railroad in the 1850s: One of these routes passed through Guernsey County. The first station was Senecaville where lived a number of persons who were bitterly opposed to slavery. Among these were Rev. William G. Keil, Dr. David Frame, Dr. Noah Hill and Judge William Thompson. Byesville was the next station on the route. Jonathan Bye, the Quaker founder of the town, after whom it was named, took charge of the fugitives there and conducted them to Cambridge, where they were delivered into the care of Alexander McCracken and Samuel Craig who gave them protection until such a time as would be safe for sending them on to the next station. Samuel Craig lived in a house that stood on the corner of Wheeling Avenue and Eighth Street. The next station was out the Birmingham Road, the home of Daniel Broom, north of Cambridge. Two miles beyond was the home of Adam Miller, the next stop; then two miles beyond that was that of Peter B. Sarchet. David Virtue, eight miles farther north, was in charge of the next and last station in the county. From here the fugitives were passed over into Tuscarawas County, and through that to the next, until Lake Erie was reached, across which, by some means, they would land safely in Canada.

A portion of the southern part of the county becomes Noble County, 1851.

A severe storm in July 1852 caused Cambridge to lose the Cambridge College, an educational institution that promised to become one of the leading Protestant colleges.

The first train from Zanesville arrives in Cambridge, 1854.

## **1860s**

1860 Guernsey County population is 24,475 people.

Fort Sumter, South Carolina, fell on April 14, 1861, and the following day President Lincoln issued a call for 75,000 men to maintain the Union. A wave of patriotism swept over the North. As the news of the attack and the call for volunteers traveled into the country, men hastened to enlist. Scarcely anything but war was talked in every city, every village, and every home. Within a few hours after the news reached Cambridge flags were flying from many homes in the village. The roll of the drum and the scream of the fife were heard on the street. Some of the leading citizens got together immediately and arranged for a great mass meeting at the courthouse square that evening. Word of this was passed from house to house and far out into the country. There were no radios, no telephones; neither were there daily papers in Cambridge. The people must learn from the mouths of others what had happened, what was to be done. When time for the meeting came the street was thronged with people. Moses Sarchet was appointed chairman of the mass meeting. Spirited addresses on the condition of the country, and the urgent necessity for the people of Guernsey County to organize military companies in order that they might be ready to repel an invasion of the country in case it should be attempted, were presented.

Confederate General John Hunt Morgan made his famous raid through Guernsey County, 1863.

Sherman's army train of 1000 wagons and 700 mules passes through Cambridge, 1865.

In the fore part of 1866 a new industry commenced to be developed in Guernsey County – that of coal mining – to any considerable extent, through the efforts of W. H. Williams, state pay agent, on the Central Ohio railroad line, a few miles to the east of Cambridge, and following this the opening of mines near present Byesville.

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## **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**SATURDAY and SUNDAY DEC. 9 and 10**

### **Peddler Weekends**

**Saturday** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; **Sunday** 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Along Wheeling Avenue, Cambridge

Nonprofit groups stroll Wheeling Avenue as peddlers selling treats. Free commemorative "EXTRA!" editions of *The Dickens Crier* noon to 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9.

### **Victorian Baked Goods**

**Saturday** 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Kennedy's Bakery, 1025 Wheeling Ave., Cambridge

### **Victorian Tea & Crumpets**

**Saturday** and **Sunday** 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Cool Beans Coffee Bar, 710 Wheeling Ave., Cambridge

\$5.99. 740-439-9339

### **Visit with Father Christmas**

**Saturday** 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Cambridge Performing Arts Centre, 642 Wheeling Ave., Cambridge

Free. Small fee for Polaroid photograph.

### **Scone, Tea & Tour at the Colonel Taylor Inn**

**Saturday** and **Sunday** noon to 3 p.m.

Colonel Taylor Inn Bed & Breakfast, 633 Upland Road, Cambridge

By appointment. \$5.00. 740-432-7802

### **Old Time Christmas Tales**

**Saturday** 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Main Street School Supply, 723 Wheeling Ave., Cambridge

Free. 740-435-0319

### **Byesville Scenic Railway "Spirit of Christmas" train ride**

**Saturday** 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Departs downtown Byesville.

\$8.00 adult, \$5.00 child. 740-685-8625

### **Holiday Tour Of Homes**

**Saturday** 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Cambridge area. \$10.00. 740-439-3501

### **Christmas Art Workshop**

**Saturday** 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Eastern Ohio Art Guild Art Center, 619 Wheeling Ave., Cambridge

\$5.00. Registration required. 740-432-8100

### **Christmas With The Cambridge Singers**

**Saturday** 7 p.m.; **Sunday** 3 p.m.

Scottish Rite Auditorium, 941 Wheeling Ave., Cambridge

\$5.00. 740-432-7228.

### **"A Christmas Carol"**

**Saturday** 8 p.m.; **Sunday** 2 p.m.

Cambridge Performing Arts Centre, 642 Wheeling Ave., Cambridge

\$10.00 adult; \$8.00 senior (65 and older) and students (18 and younger); children (5 and under) free. 740-432-7958 or 740-435-8777

**Christmas Music**

**Sunday** noon to 3 p.m. Free.

Cool Beans Coffee Bar, 710 Wheeling Ave., Cambridge

For additional details about the Schedule of Events, please contact the Cambridge/Guernsey County Visitors & Convention Bureau, 627 Wheeling Ave., Cambridge, 740-432-2022, or visit [www.dickensvictorianvillage.com](http://www.dickensvictorianvillage.com).