

**Sunday, Dec. 10, 2006**

## **THE DICKENS CRIER**

Hear ye, hear ye, welcome to *The Dickens Crier!*

This space will be devoted to weekly announcements regarding the Dickens Victorian Village, a project supported by Cambridge Main Street that runs through Jan. 15, 2007, in downtown Cambridge.

### **Cambridge History Features Underground Railroad, Civil War, and Coal Mines**

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.

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.

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 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. 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. 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.

### **Thank you!**

In addition to project sponsors listed in previous *Dickens Criers*, the Dickens Victorian Village committee would like to thank the following new sponsors:

*Lamplighters Club*: LMI Custom Mixing; Edgetech I.G., Inc.

*Carolers Club*: Dennis Douth.

A complete list of sponsors is posted on our website, [www.dickensvictorianvillage.com](http://www.dickensvictorianvillage.com). We invite you to join them and consider supporting this wonderful community project! All levels of donations are gratefully accepted and acknowledged.