PARMA – HILTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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PARMA HILTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER

November 2026 Issue



PHHS Member and Registrar, Frank Hubbel, helps a young apple peeling customer work the 1880 peeler!

Did you know?

The Festival was founded in 1981 by Hilton Businessmen Patrick Marlow and Douglas Marple. Homer Marple of Marple Furniture, financed the Festival in its first year when it was organized by Coordinator, Carol Gursslin with just a handful of volunteers.

Organizers of the 2nd annual Apple Fest attempted to set a Guinness World Record for baking the largest apple pie. In response to an English town baking an even larger pie the month prior, festival planners later baked the "World's Smallest Apple Pie" inside a bottle cap.



The Hilton Apple Fest donates an average of $5,000 per year to local community organizations, programs, and initiatives. Source: https://hiltonapplefest.org/history/



Celebrating Apple History at the 44th Annual Hilton Apple Fest

The Village Historian's Office was hopping on October 3rd and 4th as the community came together for the 44th Annual Hilton Apple Fest! Throughout the day, visitors stopped by to explore local history, celebrate Hilton's rich heritage and its longstanding connection to apples, and share in the community spirit that makes this annual festival so special.

Young visitors had a chance to experience a little old-fashioned ingenuity firsthand by trying out the historic apple peeler, a fun, hands-on activity that connected a new generation with the everyday tools of the past. It was wonderful to see so many community members of all ages taking an interest in the history that helps shape our hometown.

The day also brought a special visit from Joyce Pennell, a member of Hilton Central School's Class of 1966, who traveled all the way from California. Pictured above, she visited with WWII veteran Hank Ross. Joyce earned the distinction of traveling the farthest to attend the festival, while Hank, at 102 years young, claimed the honor of being its oldest attendee!

From apple history and vintage tools to meaningful reunions and intergenerational connections, the day was a wonderful reminder that local history is about more than preserving the past; it's about bringing people together in the present.

Among the Headstones

Wright Pioneer Cemetery Historical Marker Dedication

On Tuesday, October 6th, the Parma Hilton Historical Society celebrated local history with the dedication of a historical marker at Wright Family Cemetery, located at 636 Hamlin-Parma Townline Road. The marker was sponsored by PHHS board member and Wright family descendant Tom Burger, who attended the dedication alongside his cousin, 95-year-old Tiny Wright. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Tom for his generous sponsorship and commitment to preserving and sharing our community's history.

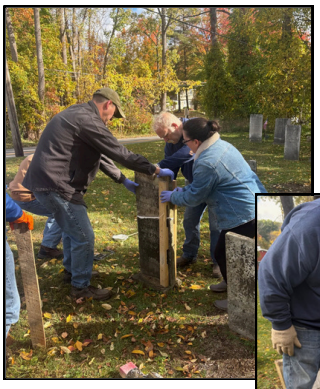


Wright family descendants Tiny Wright and Tom Burger

The Wright family were among Parma's early inhabitants, arriving around 1810 and establishing the settlement known as Wrights Corners, near the intersection of Dunbar Road and Hamlin-Parma Townline Road. The family cemetery reflects the area's early history, with burials dating from the 1830s through the 1930s. Among those laid to rest there is Noah Downs, a veteran of the Revolutionary War, along with members of several early settler families, including the Baxter, Coe, Crowell, DeLavergne, Harvey, Hendershot, Hill, Leiter, Martin, Pierson, and Thorn families.

The cemetery also features historic stone walls and a wrought-iron fence, adding to its distinctive character. In 1976, the burial ground underwent restoration as part of the Town of Parma's Bicentennial celebration, helping preserve this important piece of local heritage.

The dedication of the new historical marker ensures that the story of the Wright family and the early settlers of Parma will continue to be recognized and remembered by future generations. Through these markers and preservation efforts, the Parma Hilton Historical Society remains committed to honoring the people and places that shaped our community.





Castle Cemetery Workday

A big thank-you to our dedicated volunteers who spent October 17th caring for Castle Pioneer Cemetery on Peck Road! Thanks to their hard work and commitment to preserving our local pioneer cemeteries, we repaired 4 broken headstones and filled in several holes that posed tripping hazards. We'll be back in the spring to continue repairing headstones and caring for this important piece of our community's history. Special thanks to our hardworking volunteers: John Toal, Ken Freeman, Zatanna and Tammie Reynolds, Brian and Amanda Dudley, and Tom and Kris Kremer. Your dedication makes a difference!

Curator's Corner

I recently saw an article in the Sunday D&C about how Starbucks has changed how we think about coffee, since they opened their first stand in 1971. Before that time, I don't recall seeing any of the flavored coffees we have available to us now. Even decaf coffee, when I was a kid, oh so long ago, was an oddity. Yes, we drank coffee, and if you were in the military, lots of it. My brother-in-law used the same cup all the 20 years he was in the Navy. You could probably put hot water in it and have a decent cup without any beans. The endless pot of coffee could be found in any military office, worldwide. And everyone has their own way of making it, good or bad. Anyway, this month's topic of how tools have changed over the years is about coffee grinders. In our collection, we have two, both donated long ago by Beth Platt. If you frequent the Hilton Family Diner, you know who Beth is.

What we have are the big and the small of grinders. The first, and most prominent, is an Enterprise Manufacturing Co's American model of cast-iron coffee grinder (pictured right). From what I found on the Internet, this is either a Number 2 or Number 9 model, with a patent date of October 1873 on it, and would have been found, right where we have it, in a general store. Just to keep name-dropping today, this is one of member and docent Frank Hubbell's favorite things to demonstrate to kids who come in on school tours. And kids love trying to crank it! We keep a bag of beans at the ready for anyone to try their hand at grinding their own. I've actually used it a time or two when I mistakenly bought bagged beans instead of pre-ground coffee, and it really can give your shoulder a workout. A shopkeeper would have bought a large bag of beans, probably 25 or 50 pounds, depending on the deal he could get from his supplier, and then ground up what you wanted while you waited. I can recall that tradition going on in the IGA in the village as a kid, and even in Wegmans as a self-serve unit much later. I don't know if they still have that or not in the coffee aisle.



The Enterprise Manufacturing Co cast-iron coffee grinder found in our general store display

I can recall my grandmother having a metal container on the kitchen shelf where the ground coffee was kept. Grandpa Arthur would come home from the Methodist Church, where he was custodian for years, at lunchtime, and there would be a pot percolating for him on the stove. That probably happened in many kitchens over the years.

Another short item gleaned from the D&C article was that the grind of the beans has changed over the years. Coffee used to be brewed in a percolator, which used a much coarser grind than our typical Mr. Coffee maker of today.

Moving on to the other end of the size spectrum, in our replica 1890s kitchen, we have an ELMA coffee grinder. Where our Enterprise model stands about 20 inches tall, the ELMA is half that size. Our AI friends say ELMA is a Spanish company that started in the 1920s and is still in business today, making cast-iron or tin grinders and replicas of earlier models. I wasn't able to find an exact copy of ours, but I did discover, much to my chagrin, that it's actually mounted on the wall upside down. (I've fixed it.) I also noticed that the glass hopper to hold the ground coffee is missing. There seem to be a number of similar models out there, so I hope finding a replacement hopper won't be too hard.

So, now we jump to today. I have a Proctor Silex countertop grinder (just in case I buy beans instead of ground coffee), and it will grind up a cup of beans into a very fine powder in about 20 to 25 seconds. You can get all sorts of coffee makers with a grinder from all sorts of stores at a wide variety of prices.

These two are just some of our collection that's meant to help all our visitors have a nice trip down Memory Lane. We are still open on Sundays, from 2 to 4 p.m., through the last Sunday in November. Please stop by; admission is free.



Ken
PHHS Museum Curator

Information & forms for PHHS events can be found at
www.parmahiltonhistoricalsociety.com/events/

Upcoming Events

NOV 10 — PHHS Historical Lecture Series Presentation

Join us on November 10th at 7 p.m. in the Fire Hall Meeting Room for a special presentation *1776: The Year That Changed Everything* presented by Mark Sample. Discover the events that shaped our nation's founding as we celebrate the 250th anniversary of American independence!

NOV 17 — Historical Society Book Club Meeting

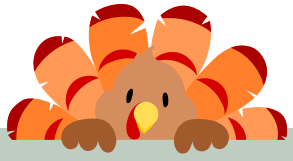
Join the Parma-Hilton Historical Society for their next community book club! This month we'll discuss *Espionage and Enslavement in the Revolution: The True Story of Robert Townsend and Elizabeth* by Claire Bellerjeau. Help us celebrate the 250th anniversary of America's founding this year by learning something new (and old)! The meeting will take place at 6:30 at the library Meeting Room. Please visit the library website events calendar to register your seat.

NOV — Parma Public Library Programs (just a few, of many!)

Visit https://www.parmapubliclibrary.org to see more programs and events for November, or to register for the events below!

ZOOM: The Fibonacci Sequence in Nature
https://calendar.libraryweb.org/event/17255640.
November 23rd at 6:30pm.

Changing with the Seasons - The Past, Present, and Future of Phenology
https://calendar.libraryweb.org/event/16917667.
November 30th at 6:30pm.



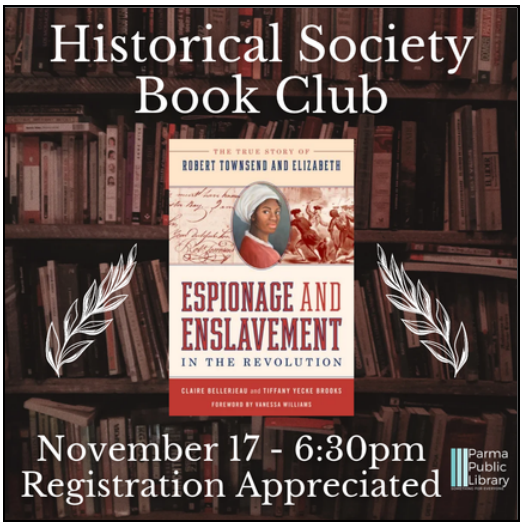
Happy November!

US Holidays:

Veterans Day: November 11th
Thanksgiving Day: November 26th

Popular & Significant Observances:

All Saints' Day / Daylight Saving Time Ends: November 1st
Election Day: November 3rd
Marine Corps Birthday: November 10th
World Diabetes Day: November 14th
Black Friday: November 27th
Native American Heritage Day: November 27th
Small Business Saturday: November 28th
First Sunday of Advent: November 29th
Cyber Monday: November 30th



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Society Happenings & Highlights

Membership Dues Reminder & Upcoming Change

We kindly ask our members to remember to pay your membership dues if you are currently behind. We appreciate your continued support and involvement! If you are unsure of your membership status, you can contact our Membership Chair John Toal at johndtoal57@gmail.com or our Treasurer Dave Almeter at dalmeter5@rochester.rr.com. Please note that beginning in January 2028, we will be transitioning to a **new annual dues schedule**, with membership dues due at the beginning of each calendar year rather than midyear. This change will help streamline our membership records and financial processes, making it easier to manage renewals and keep everything organized. Thank you for your understanding and continued support as we make this transition!

A Sleighful of History Is Coming to Holiday on Main!

The PHHS is excited to join Holiday on Main on Saturday, December 12th, sponsored by Hilton Parma Recreation! This year, we're adding extra holiday magic with a giant old-fashioned sleigh photo prop, special giveaways, and board members dressed in period clothing. Stop by, snap a festive photo, and enjoy a touch of local history at this beloved community event, featuring Santa visits, caroling, crafts, wagon rides, free hot cocoa, and fun for the whole family!

Congratulations to our Community Calendar Photography Contest Winners!

Keep your eyes peeled for the final reveal of our community calendar featuring winning photos from our America 250 Photography Contest! From local landmarks to patriotic moments, these photos celebrate what makes our community special. Thank you to everyone who participated and congratulations to our winning photographers: Sara Resti, Maureen Spindler, Margaret Whelehan, Robert Daniels, Lauren Sullivan, Greg Sheldon, Andy Rockafellow, and Scott Borden.







Hilton Record Ads from November 1923

November 2026

Museum Hours: Sundays 2-4p or by appointment
April 1st – November 30th / Closed on major holidays

From our Camera Roll

Group photo from the Wright Cemetery Historical Marker Dedication on October 6th.





13WHAM's news reporter Chris Lopez conducted a live interview with the Apple Fest Committee in the Village Historian's Office on September 30th. He is shown to the right interviewing Kim Zarpentine of Zarpentine Farms.





Sean Van Aiken shares a look back at Parma-Hilton veterans with his son, viewing the photographs lining the halls of the Community Center during the 2026 Apple Fest.

Get in Touch!

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Thank you to our friends at the Parma Public Library and Hilton Parma Parks & Recreation for their continued support!

THANK YOU

Parma Public Library
SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Hilton-Parma Parks & Recreation