



Our Old Bookcase, Jan. 18, 2018. Historical Society Members' Workshops & Exhibits for 2018.

Photo caption: Mercer County Historical Museum, the Riley Home, is the home of the Mercer County Historical Society, Inc.

OUR OLD BOOK CASE

By Joyce L. Alig, President, Mercer County Historical Society, Inc.

The Mission of the Mercer County Historical Society, Inc. is To Preserve Mercer County's History & To Educate the Public about that History. The Mercer County Commissioners purchased the Riley Home on May 27, 1975 for "A Home for the Mercer County Historical Society." This Museum is "*The County Museum*," and the Mercer County Historical Society, Inc. is "*The County Historical Society*."

The 2018 Brochure is being prepared for the events of the Mercer County Historical Society, Inc., at the Mercer County Historical Museum, The Riley Home. For 2018, the Society will be continuing to host programs which continue in popularity: the April New Idea Co. Exhibit; the June Mercer County Indian Relic Collectors Exhibit; the October Military & Gun Exhibit and November Post Card and Post Mark Exhibit. These dates are announced in the 2018 Brochure.

The Society is always introducing new programs; this year, two new Workshops are planned.

The first series of Workshops will be about the history of Fort Adams and the Artifacts found at Fort Adams on the St. Marys River in Dublin Township. The 2018 Brochure will contain these dates. You are welcome to become a part of this project.

The second series of Workshops will be about the history of oil and gas wells in Mercer County, including Grand Lake. The 2018 brochure will contain these Workshop dates, also. You are welcome to become a part of this project.

The Mercer County Historical Society has printed over thirty history books for the public. This year, two local history books are in progress. It usually takes two or three years to gather research, write the book, and then get it printed. These books are noted in the 2018 Brochure. The first book in progress is the New Idea Company's fourth book in the Series. There are many potential themes for this fourth book, so these next few months will be the review of various options for themes for this book, and for future books. The workshops are announced in the 2018 Brochure. You are welcome to become a part of the New Idea Historic Preservation Committee.

The other book in progress is the History of Oil and Gas Wells in Mercer County. This book has turned out to be a lot bigger than we had anticipated. I started doing research for this book a couple of years ago and many of you have already brought your stories to the Historical Society at the County Museum. The research for history of the oil wells on the Lake has been exciting as well as overwhelming. You are

welcome to share your stories about oil and/or gas wells on your land or near-by land in Mercer County. The Workshop dates are announced in the 2018 Brochure.

A great way to help the Mercer County Historical Society is to renew your Membership, or if you are not a Member, now is a good time to do so. 2018 is a fascinating year for visiting the Workshops; either helping or watching. Thank you to those of you who have already renewed your 2018 Membership. Membership Dues are your choice, so it fits everyone's pocketbook. If you want a copy of the 2018 Historical Society Brochure, email me or write me. Those of you who are interested, in preserving Mercer County's history, you may send your Membership, with your name and address to the Mercer County Historical Society, P.O. Box 512, Celina, OH 45822. Happy New Year to each of you.

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