

Speakers Series

Set to Go!

September 19th

The kick-off for the **Fall Speaker Series** will feature an avid civil war buff, **Jeff Hisson**, who will present a program on the G.A.R., the Grand Army of the Republic. The GAR is an organization made up of descendants of the Union Army. It has a long and unique history which should be of interest to all.

Getting to know you!

October 17th

Many of our community members seldom get to connect with school personnel, especially if they have no children or grandchildren in the district. Here is an opportunity to get to know the Field School's superintendant on a more personal level. **Supt. Dave Heflinger** will share some of

his experiences and his reflections on the students and positive things taking place in our schools.

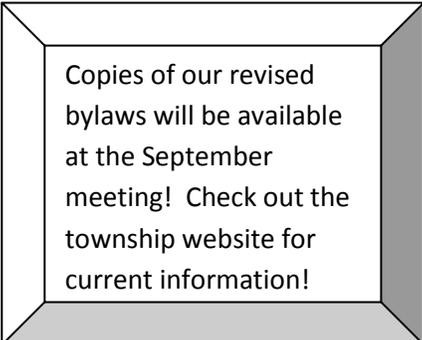
November 21st

Wayland Ritzman may be known to those of you who attend our programs as our "videographer", but he is much more than that. Wayland will speak not only on his active involvement with Portage County Habitat for Humanity, but also highlight some of his experiences traveling across the world for his work and for the Habitat for Humanity program.

The Suffield Historical Society meets on the 3rd Monday of most months in the community room of the fire station with a brief meeting at 6:30 pm and the program which begins at 7pm.

Pat Mettle wins PCHS award!

For the past two years, the Portage County Historical Society has taken nominations recognizing outstanding contributions from either individuals or county historical societies. Nominated by the Suffield Historical Society for the Legacy category, **Pat** was chosen for her efforts, along with her late husband **Gene**, in collecting historical photos, articles, and artifacts for housing in the museum. Thanks to her efforts, much of the history of Suffield has been preserved as a legacy for future generations.



Copies of our revised bylaws will be available at the September meeting! Check out the township website for current information!

New Shrubs...New Look!

The front of the historic town hall has been enhanced with new shrubbery thanks to the efforts of **Vicki Vincent, Pat Mettle** and **Gary Miller**. The committee presented a landscaping plan to the trustees and once approved, were able to set things in motion. Helping to plant the shrubs were **Gary Miller, Tom Mencer, Gino Calcei, Ralph Wise**, and **Ralph Wise's** son-in-law **Ron Brillouet**, visiting from Switzerland.

Museum update may be in the works.....

Plans are being presented to add new wooden bookshelves and possibly reconfigure some of the space in our current work area. First proposed by **Bob Longbottom**, the society members are in the "thinking and

proposing" stages and look forward to coming together to add more shelf space and a better work area. New ideas are always welcome.

Stepping Up!

The Suffield Historical Society is looking for members who are willing to serve as officers and/or trustees for the next two years. We ask that you consider how you could step in and share some of the duties so that current officers can take some time off! It's not that involved and new folks would bring new ideas! That's a healthy thing for any organization. If interested, please see any of the officers for more information. Names and phone numbers are on the back page of the newsletter.

Looking back...

Our plant sale was a huge success thanks to the efforts of all those who not only donated plants but also to loyal members of our organization who worked tirelessly setting up, selling, carrying and doing all the things needed to make this

project so effective. Thanks also to Zeller Farms for their generosity.

NOTE: Next year the plant sale will be held in front of our museum.

And looking ahead...

The older we get, the faster time seems to go, so mark your calendars now for these upcoming events!

September 19th – STHS Meeting at 6:30 pm and Program at 7pm

October 16th Historical Society and Fire Station Open House

October 17th – STHS Meeting at 6:30 pm and Program at 7pm

November 21st – STHS meeting at 6:30 pm and program at 7pm.

December 11th - Suffield League sponsors "A Visit with Santa"

*Wishing all a happy
Thanksgiving, a Merry
Christmas and a Happy
New Year!*

A Marine Remembers

The following is a portion of Robert (Bob) Longbottom's recollections from his days as a recruit in Platoon 100 – B Company First Battalion headed to Parris Island:

In January of 1958 I got a “free” ticket to ride the train from Akron, Ohio to Yemassee, SC. As I sit back and reflect on that ride it seemed as if we picked up more and more recruits at each stop the train made as it wound it's way South along the Atlantic seaboard. We had a two hour layover in Washington, DC where some of the recruits on our train go their beer for the last time before PI

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Following are some of my experiences during the “transition period”!

Sunday clothes washing – I remember falling out in our ‘mickey mouse’ physical training shorts and tee shirts and shaking only to find that we could not wash our clothes because the water lines were frozen. It took us a lot less time to return to quarters than it did getting there.

Then there was the Candy Caper. The first night our Platoon pulled two hour guard duty shifts, we found there was a candy machine in the Officer of the Day quarters. Word got back to the rest of the unit and by morning the candy machine was empty. Everything went as normal the following day until after supper when we were called to fall out on the Drill Field. I remember the DI standing with his hands on his hips and his words: “Well,

my candy*** marines”. Not everyone participated in the candy gorge but we all participated in the “extra” physical training that evening. There was a lot of ‘gnashing of the teeth’. I think it took a good while before we finally lost our title as the Candy *** Marines.

Part way through our training we were taken off the line for two weeks of mess duty. We fell out on the drill field one evening and the DI asked for ‘non-smokers’ to step forward. I was a non-smoker. The DI picked a group including me and we were to become ‘house mice’ for the drill instructors housing quarters. As I recall we had to be there at 4 am every morning to clean up the common area where the DI's had lounged

the previous evening. There were all kinds of racks containing pies and cakes plus candy and soda pop machines. After cleaning, we went to the kitchen and helped prepare and serve food for the DI's.

You can imagine the opportunities we had to indulge. We were able to get paper wrapped ice cream sandwiches from the freezer which we took into the rest room, ate and then flushed the paper away. Things were too good! When the two weeks of mess duty ended and we returned to training, most of us were in trouble with weight gain. I remember running the obstacle course the first time and failing to go over the high wall the first attempt. My DI came up behind me and said "Let me help you". He backed me away from the wall,

grabbed me by the seat of my trousers and the neck of my utility shirt and 'ran' me into the wall head-on. The next attempt I got over.

We love hearing stories from our members about earlier times and experiences. Please feel free to write them down and submit them to us. We would love to share them with our readers!



The Suffield Historical Society thanks all those who have served or are serving in the armed forces of the United States! Your sacrifices have given us the freedoms that no other nation in the world enjoys.

Signs that lead to misunderstanding

On a repair shop door:

*We can repair anything.
(Please knock hard on the door – the bell doesn't work)*

Outside a secondhand shop:

We exchange anything – bicycles, washing machines, etc. Why not bring your wife along and get a wonderful bargain?

Message on a leaflet:

If you cannot read, this leaflet will tell you how to get lessons

In a restroom:

Toilet out of order, Please use floor below

In a laundromat:

Automatic washing machines: Please remove all your clothing when the light goes out

Did you know that the first school in Suffield opened in 1907 with nine pupils? Harvey Hulbert was the teacher.