

## Fall Speakers Spotlight Suffield

The **Fall Speaker Series** will feature three Suffield residents.

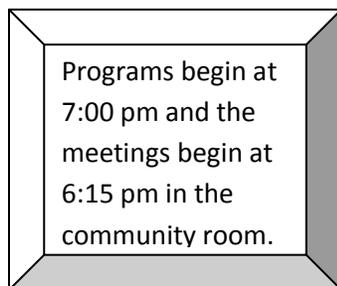
Kicking off our program on **September 19<sup>th</sup>** will be Jerry Shanafelt who will share “**The Shanafelt Story**”.

Jerry’s family goes “way back” and has contributed much to our history.

**October 17<sup>th</sup>** we will hear Pat Flynn, well-known talented Irish tenor, share “**The Pat Flynn Story**” in words and music.

“**All About Paradise**” will feature Rod Bragg, one of the owners of Paradise Lake Golf Club, who will share some of the interesting history of the facility.

**October 21<sup>st</sup>.**



**Everyone is Welcome!**

## Thank You All!



Phase Two of the remodeling of the historic fire stations was completed this spring. It has greatly enhanced the space available for the growing collection of memorabilia. The exterior façade was also given a facelift. The Suffield Historical Society wishes to thank all those who contributed to this project. Specific thanks go to H.M. Miller Co., The Ray Company Construction, Inc., Rufener Farms, Carter Lumber, Hartville Lumber, Suffield Trustees, Ralph Wise, Gino Calcei, Tom Mencer, Ken Durick, Bob Longbottom, Edith Bednar, JC and Bernie Smith, Carl Rufener, Jr., Randy and Celeste Rininger, and Pauline Persons. Your support made this phase possible and is greatly appreciated.

## Stepping Back in Time

Do you want to go back to the days of the black and white silent movies where organ music provided the drama instead of dialogue? If so, make reservations for “A Night with the Phantom”. Brian Ebie, popular historical society guest speaker, will be hosting a limited number of guests as he accompanies the silent movie “Phantom of the Opera” on his restored pipe organ on Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. You will be notified of location.

**Reservations are required.** Call Judy Calcei at 330 – 628 – 2017 or Nancy Wise at 330-628- 2823 by **Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>.**



## Good Things Have Happened in Suffield!

The Suffield League's Music Festival at Wingfoot Lake State Park was a tremendous success. Thanks to all who helped, especially to League members! Thanks to historical society members for all their help!

The Suffield Historical Society plant sale once again exceeded our expectations. Again thanks to those who contributed and to those who bought!

Special thanks to all the local artists who made the Art Fest so great! We are looking forward to another art show this spring! Stay tuned.

The Suffield Leagues Memorial Day Parade went well - no rain this year!

The Town Hall looks great - new windows, new interior paint, some new doors - thanks to a grant written by trustee Dave Polen. Dave also secured a grant to put in a new block culvert at Etter and Martin Roads.

Wingfoot Lake State Park has become a showcase here in Suffield and is widely used by locals as well as visitors from other areas!



Did you know that Suffield housed one of the largest stills in Portage County? The still was located off Portage Line Road and had a 90 gallon brewing pot. The moon shiners owned about 30 acres of land, all wooded. Whiskey was stored in a dugout. Sheriff Potts of Summit County was involved in the "brewing" and was arrested by Elliot Ness. After serving time in jail, Mr. Potts ran a snack bar in (guess where), the basement of the Akron courthouse. **John Yerkey's** parents bought the house along with some of the "stills" acreage in 1939. They had to move the barn and fill the hole where the still had been. As young kids, John and his siblings would explore the mounds of dirt, pretending they were Indian burial mounds, and found many bottles...empty of course. His dad and uncle dug out the dirt for a basement under the house and cleared

about a 130ft x 30 ft. area for a garden with the help of a mule. The garden was where the mash was dumped because John has pictures of corn that grew 18 ft. high! That was some potent fertilizer! **Thanks, John, for providing us with more exciting Suffield history.**

*Field High School  
Partners with  
Historical Society*

Field High School Social Studies teacher **Vikki Dahl** has excited her students about local history. Both the Brimfield and Suffield Historical Societies have been approached to enrich the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders history curriculum with a **Travelling Trunk** program which will highlight artifacts from the local histories of both towns. In addition, , the social studies wing at the high school will now display iconic photographs of each community's history.



## *1812 Suffield Veteran Honored*

David Cook, veteran of the War of 1812 and great-great-grandfather of Vance Cook and Joanne Cook Moreland, along with other Cook relatives, was honored at a special ceremony at Kent Corner's Cemetery on Martin Road. The United States Daughters of the War of 1812 and the Com. William Wetmore Chapter presented the society with a grave marker which will be placed in the museum. The ceremony was very moving as three men, dressed in the uniforms of the period, presented the flags as a drummer accompanied the procession. At the end of the ceremony, members of the Cook family gathered at the historical society to share history with a newly discovered cousin.

Growing old is mandatory. Growing up is optional. We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.



## *Spaghetti Dinner*

### *Coming Soon!*

Plan on attending the **“Night in Italy”** Spaghetti Dinner on **October 29<sup>th</sup>** at the Suffield UCC Fellowship Hall. Homemade spaghetti sauce, tossed salad, applesauce, bread, dessert and beverage, along with seeing many friends, is on the menu. Time – 5:00 - 7:00 pm. Adult tickets are only \$7.00, Students K – 12 \$4.50 and children 5 and under are free! Carry out meals will be available. **PRE-SALE ONLY! Tickets available at our meetings or by calling any of our officers. See last page.**

**The Suffield Historical Society Museum** is open the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month from 2 – 4 pm. For other times, or for group visits, please call any of the officers.

## *Suffield Huckleberry Swamps*

I was born on the Fred Saal Farm (aka Walnut Drive Gardens), and lived there till I was five years old. In the summer my mother, brothers and I walked up to the farm from Vincent St. We helped with the planting till July when the huckleberries were ripe. There were three huckleberry swamps in the area – Fred Saal, Jim Wise, and George Beltz. The swamps were full of water until the drain tile was opened on July 1<sup>st</sup>. The water flowed from Saal's to the Wise swamp then to Beltz's swamp then to a culvert. The Wise swamp also has a bottomless lake. I started to pick huckleberries at an early age until I entered nursing school. The huckleberry is smaller than a blueberry. It took about one hour to pick one quart. We got 10 cents a quart. You had to wear knee high rubber boots, long pants, long sleeved shirts and a head cover. Why? Mosquitoes and wet muck (ankle high). The east side of the swamp was home for the muskrats so one got a wet foot if you

stepped in a hole. We tied an old necktie around the waist to hold our picking bucket and had a 10 qt bucket on the back. You poured the berries into this bucket later. You had to be aware of bee nests and an occasional snake. You also had to be aware of Henrietta ( a heifer) who was pastured on the west side of the swamp. She would chase you and how fast can you run with full buckets? We persuaded Grandma to sell her. Lots of news was heard as the ladies like to gossip. Many women came from Ellet and the money earned picking brought groceries. The husbands worked only two or three days a week at the rubber plants. These were the depression years. Grandma took one share and pickers got two shares of the picked berries before cleaning them. Cleaning meant removing all twigs, leaves and green berries. The berries were sold at the Farmers Market on Beaver St. I remember when they had a problem selling the berries. How could they pay the pickers? Fortunately a produce buyer from Marietta wanted the huckleberries. He even came to the farm to get more berries. It was

a happy day for us. The price of a box of berries (1 qt.) gradually increased from 10 cents to 65 cents. Many families from Mogadore (Murphy, Murdoch, Kline, etc.) also came to pick huckleberries. The area was probably a summer camp for Indians as many arrowheads have been found. The huckleberry swamp provided an economical help for many local families during the depression. I know because that is how I was able to buy a bicycle and clothes for school.

**By Josephine Demboski**

**Do you have a story about growing up in the area that you would like to share? If so, please send to Judy Calcei, 2020 May Road, 44260. We love to hear about your experiences and memories!**



**GO FIELD FALCONS!**

**Suffield** has been blessed with so many wonderful residents and with a renewed sense of community. Let us all do our part by participating in events and activities that support all ages within our town, by supporting local businesses and by being a positive force in the life of Suffield.



***Loom finds a new home***

Thanks to Randy and Celeste Rininger, the historical society is now housing a large loom. It is on loan from Celeste and hopefully, we can get it operational. The opportunities for making items and for showing children how weaving is done would be valuable to all. Thanks for your generosity!

**Watch your thoughts; they become words. Watch your words; they become actions. Watch your actions; they become habits. Watch your habits; they become your character. Watch your character: it becomes your destiny.**