

The Ferry Landing

*The Martins Ferry Area Historical Society, Inc.
Winter 2007*

*Tom Thomas, President
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A Message from the President ...Tom Thomas

January is finally over, the cold weather and snow have arrived, spring training is only a few days away, and the outlook at the Martins Ferry Area Historical Society is extremely optimistic. We finished 2006 in excellent shape, both physically and financially, and we are looking forward to great things in 2007.

Book sales, especially from Annie Tanks' new book on the history of the city, are going well. We were able to add three new directors to our group...Mike Moyer, Cheryl Clark, and Gary Clark. We thank these three for their desire to help the MFAHS by offering their time and expertise to provide the help we desperately needed. Also, the new addition to the Sedgwick House Museum is finished. The back porch area has been made into a room that will house much of our printed materials and serve as a workshop for much of the work we do. We hope to have the room furnished by the spring opening date.

We also have exciting plans for 2007. We will be able to increase our display areas and be able to show more memorabilia than we have in the past. We are planning to do some small repair work to the interior of the museum and select a large project that will be funded by the Belmont County Tourism group. We want to be part of the annual Soap Box Derby celebration, sponsor a Miss Betty Zane and Mr. Ebenezer Martin contest during Betty Zane Days, help the city work on its Hall of Fame concept, and aid the school system as they celebrate 100 years of Purple Rider football.

Once again, we can succeed only through your support. Help us by:

- Renewing your membership and encouraging others to join.
- If you live in the area, help us with the day-to-day work that is so vital to our group.
- Donate items to the museum.
- We are looking for someone to serve as a guide during the summer operation. They would work Friday, Saturday, and Sunday each week from May until September. There is a small stipend being offered. If you know of anyone who would want to do this, please contact us.

JESSE LEE JONES, MARTINS FERRY NATIVE

Information provided by Mrs. Mary Nell Hall



Jesse Lee Jones

Jesse Lee Jones, descendant of Betty Zane, was born at Martins Ferry in 1865. After graduating from Martins Ferry High School, he served an apprenticeship as a molder at the Spence Baggs & Company. He later graduated from the Ohio State University in 1890, where he was captain of the first Ohio State football team.

Upon graduation from college, took a position with the Junction Iron and Steel Company, Mingo Junction, Ohio where he gained experience in connection with the manufacture of steel, blast furnace work, etc. He was also employed by the West Penn Steel Company of Pittsburgh, makers of open hearth steel. Later, he was chief chemist of William Cramp & Sons Ship and Engine Building Company of Philadelphia.

In 1903, Mr. Jones became affiliated with the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company being attached to the office of the manager of works. His duties were in connection with the control of the manufacture of the various metals and alloys used in the company's products. Later he was attached to the research division of the engineering department and became chief chemist.

Mr. Jones was twice elected President of the American Institute of Metals. He was a member of the American Society of Testing Materials and of the advisors board of the Bureau of Standards, Washington. He wrote for the American Machinist and Metal Industry, as well as papers for the societies to which he belonged.

Mr. Jones' hobby was ornithology. He made a study of bird life for many years, and became an authority on bird habits. In recognition of his expertise, he was made an honorary member of the Audubon Society.

Shortly before his death on January 21, 1929 the American Foundrymen's Association voted to make him the recipient of the prestigious Joseph S. Seaman medal, for "meritorious service to science".

At his funeral service in Philadelphia, Pastor William M. Anderson, speaking of Mr. Jones' work, remarked, "All the great ships that went down to the sea from the largest shipbuilding company in America were seaworthy and safe because of his care in making their metals, because he had tested them and knew that they were good."

GIRLS BASKETBALL AT MARTINS FERRY HIGH SCHOOL

It might be surprising to some that girls' basketball in Martins Ferry was organized as early as 1905. An item appearing after the holidays, dated January 13, 1905, stated: "It has been decided that Tuesday and Thursday after school will be set apart for the Girls' Athletic Association for practice. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday will be given to the boys. The first girls' game to be reported in the Wheeling News was an intramural game played February 20, 1906, in Martins Ferry. The first girls' game between schools in the valley was played March 17, 1906, between-who else but Martins Ferry and Bellaire. The game was played after school in the Bellaire gymnasium before a large crowd of girls and ladies; the only men admitted being faculty members. The score – Martins Ferry 12, Bellaire 11.

Pictured is the girls' team of 1920.



Girls' Basketball 1919-1920

Front Row:

Ruth Thompson,
Captain

Second Row:

Ruth Goff, Lorna "Jo"
Long, Mayme Ebeling,
Esther Sprague,
Virginia Cook, Helen
Lewis

Third Row:

Juliet Selby, Miss
Freter

From the "1920 Ferrian"

These lassies form the first Girls' Basketball team Ferry has had for two years. From the number of games won, the season was not much of a success, but we of Ferry do not judge our athletics by mere victory – for "It matters not whether you won or lost, but how you play the game." By playing every game with a fighting, aggressive spirit our girls showed they were true sports. They greeted defeat with a smile and a cheer for the victors.

VALLEY TELEPHONE SERVICE HAS HAD A COLORFUL HISTORY

From: The Times Leader 75th Anniversary-Progress Edition – 1966

By Grace Coleman

The first telephone was installed in Martins Ferry in the year 1881. The telephone office was opened in the old Commercial Bank Building at the corner of Hanover and Fourth Streets under the supervision of M. R. Wolf of the Central District and Printing Telegraph Company of Wheeling. Among the first subscribers of the infant company were the Commercial Bank (then known as the Gray & Smith Bank), William Mann's Foundry, and S. G. W. Morrison. Mrs. Octavia Miller was chief operator and Ida DeVault was part time operator. Previous to May 1887, the telephone office was closed by night. Telephone subscribers had no service after the day operator left the office. By 1891, Martins Ferry had 35 telephones. Party lines were put into use in 1902, and by 1904, the first farmers lines were built to Scotch Ridge. Between 1912 and 1918 the telephone exchange was located in a new building on South Third Street near Walnut, where it remained until 1956 when the dial system was installed.

By 1966, Ohio Bell reported 33,000 telephones in the immediate area. John Owens, District Manager was looking forward to touch tone telephones, and dial up long distance service. Also, there was some talk about a futuristic innovation, the "picture phone".

Today's cell phone, with camera, music, internet, and global positioning system would have seemed like science fiction just 41 years ago.



FOR SALE FROM THE SEDGWICK HOUSE MUSEUM

	Museum Pick Up (Includes Tax)	Mailed (Includes S/H)
<u>Annie Tanks' Martins Ferry</u> By Annie C. Tanks	\$16.05	\$19.00
<u>A Town of Grandeur</u> By Annie C. Tanks	\$13.00	\$15.50
<u>Lillie</u> By Jacob C. Williams, Jr.	\$16.00	\$18.50
<u>Bulltown</u> By Andy Shemanski	\$4.00	\$ 5.00
<u>The Zane Genealogy in the Ebenezer Martin Line</u> Compiled by A. Alma Martin Phyllis Kane, Myra Martin, Diane Nichols	\$20.00	\$22.50
<u>Through One Man's Eyes</u> By Paul E. Rieger	\$ 7.00	\$ 9.50
<u>Remembrances of Nutbusters and Beauty Queens</u> By Bill Burge	\$11.00	\$13.50
<u>Harry Northwood The Early Years 1881-1900</u> By William Heacock, James Measell, Berry Wiggins	\$20.00	\$22.50
Note Cards, pkg. of eight Artist, Jean Gwinn	\$3.00	\$4.00

Mail to: Name: _____

 Address: _____

 City, State, Zip Code: _____

Mail orders to:
Martins Ferry Area Historical Society
P.O. Box 422, Martins Ferry, OH 43935

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Annual dues for the year 2007 are due as of April 1st. The Martins Ferry Area Historical Society is a non-profit organization. Membership dues help support the upkeep of the Sedgwick House Museum and this newsletter. Please remember that this year dues are \$10 for individuals, and \$15 for families or groups.