



Pickaway County Historical and Genealogical Library

February 2024

Genealogy Night Out

Have you ever been at the library researching those elusive ancestors and at 3:30 you begin to find clues? You need to read more but the library is making the last of that day's copies and preparing to close at 4:00. You can't come back for months, and you wish you could just be locked in for the evening to finish your research. Well, we are making that possible for you.

On Friday, March 8, 2024, the library will hold a lock-in for the first ten people to register. The doors will be locked at 5 p.m. and will remain locked until 11 p.m. The cost is \$45.00 per person and pre-registration is required. The fee is non-refundable. We request you bring a sack meal but the Library will provide the drink. Help with your research will be provided by our great volunteers. Please send your name, address, phone number along with a check for \$45.00 to reserve your space to PCHS, 210 North Court Street, Circleville, OH 43113. We hope to see you there. 740-474-9144

The Mystery of the "Tarlton Caves"

The January 14, 1888 issue of the *Democratic Watchman* printed a report from a local surveyor who claimed to have explored a massive cave system on private land near the village of Tarlton. The paper claimed it to be "the greatest natural curiosity ever found on earth."

The surveyor described a cave system with several chambers likening it to the Mammoth Caves located in Kentucky.

Here's where the story becomes even more intriguing. The article implied that the cave system showed evidence of human habitation. Among his discoveries were four oil wells, seven gas wells, as well as mineral and lead deposits with evidence of mining (by Native Americans?). Most alarming was his claim of discovering a chamber with four petrified human bodies surrounded by crystals. He asserted the bodies were over 7 and 9 feet tall.

So, do (or did) these caves really exist? The surveyor provided plenty of details but neglected to give out specifics including location.

Does anyone out there have any clues? The caves are considered 'lost' but may be nothing more than a local hoax.

210 North Court Street
Circleville, Ohio 43113

Library Hours:

Tuesday – Friday
1 pm – 4pm

Email us at:

pkwyhist@pchgl.org

Closed: Holidays & the
Friday after Thanksgiving,
& Christmas Eve through
New Year's Day

Phone: (740) 474-9144

<http://pickawaygenealogy.org/>



Your source for local history

On occasion the Library receives private photo collections with no identifying information included. These pictures may include people and places of historical significance. If you have long-standing knowledge of Pickaway County, a nice way to spend an afternoon would be to help us go through our collection and assist us in putting a name to a face or a description to a place or event. Stop by and we'll put you to work!



Record Count Update! Thanks to our new volunteers working on updating the Library Master Database. We welcome the efforts of Michele Brown, Joan Smith, Dorothy Cormany, Marie Gerhardt, Sue Dennis, and Mike Clark. These (and others) continue to enter reference pointers. Visitors can provide us with a key-word (i.e. name, place, event) and see if it references a physical document in our archives. The record-count in late January totaled **1,058,457 records!**

NEWS OF INTEREST

- First Families of Pickaway applications must be received by February 15th to be eligible for the upcoming year. An application form can be found on our website: www.pickawaygenealogy.org
- We still have flash drives containing pictures for all the Logan Elm school buildings which were recently demolished. Get your copy before they are gone. These drives contain graduate photos, school photos, and miscellaneous items. Cost for pick-up is \$20 plus \$1.44 tax. Shipping can be arranged by calling for details and adding shipping costs.
- A reminder to those with a "Kroger's Rewards" card: You can designate the Genealogical Library as your charity of choice. This cost you nothing and a few cents of your grocery shopping bill goes to the Library. Visit : www.krogercommunityrewards.com. Look for the Pickaway County Historical and Genealogical Library, select it & click **Confirm**.
- The Library is always looking for volunteers to provide help sorting, scanning, data entry, filing, or any of a variety of tasks. We are looking for individuals who can provide a few hours weekly, or on occasion as your schedule allows. There is plenty to do and have fun while you're at it. Stop by any time the Library is open (1-4pm Tues-Fri) to inquire about your options.
- Past Church Photo Directories make great historical records. Don't have a good picture of grandma? It's possible we could locate a professionally-done photo for you. If you are cleaning out a relative's home and come across one or more directories from a local church, don't throw it out—donate it to our collection. We will index the family names in our Master Database for future researchers.

FOUND IN THE LIBRARY ARCHIVES...



We have stacks of recent copies of *The Pickaway Quarterly*. The Library receives printing overages and generous people donate back copies to us.

We'd love to get these out into the public hands (we're running out of room!). Stop by and help yourself. Donations appreciated but not necessary.



Interesting Reading from the 1920-30's.

