



# Good Purpose

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## ON TELLING THE TRUTH

By Del Smith

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If you have ever researched your ancestry, at some point you have found information about your ancestors that might embarrass someone. What do you do with that information? Do you just record and even report the facts, or do you leave some information in the dark?

Visiting the library when I was fifteen, I found Spoon River Anthology, Edgar Lee Masters' award winning poems in which the dead of Spoon River, really towns of Petersburg and Lewistown Illinois, told the truth of their lives without shame, letting the reader know what really went on in small towns throughout America during the turn of the century from the nineteenth to twentieth.

Masters' work was banned in that area of Illinois until 1974 because people were so upset that family secrets were exposed even if the names or events were changed. Today, annual celebrations are held in those towns because Masters revealed the actual lives of people in America at that time.

Following are some familiar quotations about just how much truth should be shared:

- "Tell all the truth but tell it slant..." **Emily Dickinson**
- "Hell is truth seen too late." **Thomas Hobbes**
- "Truth is the god of the free man." **Maxim Gorky**
- "Truth engenders hatred of truth." **Tertullian**
- "Three things cannot long be hidden: the Sun, the moon, and the truth." **Confucius**
- "I never did give anybody hell. I just told the truth and they thought it was hell." **Harry S. Truman**

This writer would like to hear your opinions as to how much truth of family history should be told. You can let him know at [dsmith@baltzermeyer.com](mailto:dsmith@baltzermeyer.com)

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## THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE MEMBERS!

If you are interested in becoming a corporate sponsor, please visit our website for full information.

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- ◆ Breeze Hill Garden Apartments

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 PLANNING \_\_\_ RAE KAYHART  
 PUBLISHING \_\_\_ LORI MYERS

# NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

By Lori Myers

Greetings from the stacks of the Paul Miller Ruff Genealogy library where we have some exciting news to share with you! The BMHS board has worked out an agreement with the Phoebe Bayard chapter of the DAR for their members to receive free library benefits in exchange for some volunteers to help out with a few library projects.

It has been a goal of ours to have researchers come in and with a few keystrokes, find out exactly which of our books their ancestor's name appears in. A wonderful 5th grader, Xavier Cullen, stepped up to the plate and created a form for volunteers to input data from our published books into a computer repository that will ultimately result in a printout that will shorten research time with a listing of books that name appears in. This aids BMHS in a few ways other than taking a shortcut for researching. Firstly, it will create a more precise index for each book we publish. Secondly, in the future we plan on expanding it to include other resources like obituaries, funeral home records, courthouse records, etc. Those are long-term goals though – our immediate goal is simply the church records. If you're interested in helping with this goal, the work can all be done remotely, from the comfort of your own chair.

We also hope to gain a few volunteers that can help more consistently. We still have several bookshelves that are in need of cataloging. So far, we have found that some books are in the database, some are not. There are misspellings, misfilings, incorrect titles, and missing fields in our current book database. We would love to be open more hours than what we currently are, and only through more volunteers willing to work in the library can we do that.

## MYSTERY ARTIFACT

By Becky Plischke



This artifact was recently donated to our collection! It is 6" tall and 3" wide. It is made of cast iron. Do you know what it is? Find out on page 5.

### GENEALOGY LIBRARY HOURS

The 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month are the only days Lori is scheduled to be on site 10am-2pm.

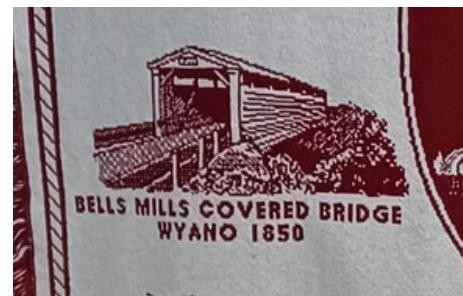
Wednesdays 6pm-8pm

Thursdays 10am-2pm

# THRILLING THROWS!

By Franny Petras

This throw is just one of the amazing items in our collection. It's currently on display upstairs at the Baltzer Meyer Historical Society until December 15, 2024.



## BMHS WISHLIST

Baltzer Meyer Historical Society, as a nonprofit organization, relies on donations to keep functioning. In addition to monetary donations, we also gratefully accept item donations.

- Case(s) of water or soft drinks
- Individually wrapped snacks
- Paper towels and toilet paper
- Garbage bags
- Liquid hand soap
- Copy paper
- Stamps
- Gift cards (Wal-Mart, Office Max, etc.)
- Markers, poster board, and tape
- Fishing line
- Holiday decorations

## PRESIDENT'S NOTES

By Nick Kayhart

We've had a busy seven months! Thanks to the hard work of our planning committee, who have presented many great events starting with Brady Crytzer's lecture on the Whiskey Rebellion and recently, Ron Maxim's presentation on the history of the US Marine Corps in World War II. The rest of the year is going to be filled with many more exciting shows. Keep an eye on our Facebook page and website for more information!

I would also like to congratulate our vice president Franny Petras on her nomination for Chamber of Commerce member of the year, go Franny!

I would also like to thank all our hard-working volunteers and our corporate sponsors for making this all possible.

## DIGITIZING UPDATE

By Del Smith and Nick Kayhart

Visitors from other historical societies helped us this summer, bringing another CZUR scanner to work and sharing logbooks from the Port Royal Mine company store. John Hepple of the Rostraver Historical Society and Gene Kowalewski of the Mount Pleasant Historical Society helped us digitize books that have rarely been opened since they were used a century or more ago to record purchases of miners and their families.

Two of the logbooks were so large that they had to be recorded odd pages first; then the even pages were scanned: the scans then would be "stitched" together to make the result. Other logbooks had to be scanned sideways using an overhead scanner; then revolved to their upright position before being exported as digital documents, usually as PDF or Searchable PDF copies.

The resulting scans will be made available for research by the three societies.

Thanks to all involved.

The digital committee continues to scan images, books, and other documents, including large original mortgages from the early 1800's, continuing our work to preserve history for the future.

## NOMINATION INFORMATION

Are you interested in preserving local history? Would you like to fill a position on our board of directors or executive board? If so, please indicate your interest by November 1st. Elections will be held in early December.

Email us at [Info@BaltzerMeyer.com](mailto:Info@BaltzerMeyer.com) to indicate your interest and secure your spot on the ballot.

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# MUSIC WITH MARCUS

## THE CASE FOR PHYSICAL MEDIA

By Marcus Greenberg

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Shortly after writing my previous article about music and the concept of what the album as a whole represents, I was contacted by my publisher and editor (My wife, Lydia) and asked to write another article. I listened to more music and spent a few weeks wracking my brain trying to come up with a topic when a chance encounter at my job ignited the fires of inspiration in me.

I was at the front counter discussing music with a coworker when a customer approached and was drawn in by our conversation. He was an older gentleman, so I assumed we'd have similar tastes in music – we did, but something he said in response to me struck me in a way I was not expecting. I commented to him about how I loved having my turntable and stereo set up in my living room, presuming he would agree or perhaps reminisce about his own setup. Instead, he surprised me with quite the opposite; wondering why I would keep a shelf of heavy, outdated, easily damaged records in a place of prominence when streaming music would allow me to listen to whatever I wanted to immediately in a far better quality. I really didn't have an answer at the moment, but I thought about his question more and asked myself why I liked vinyl. I came to the conclusion that I loved records because they are, by their nature, an imperfect medium. They are imperfect in a special way. A way that makes us slow down and be mindful about our music in a world growing faster and faster and more instantaneous. It takes a moment of your time to look through the shelf and browse all the works of album art and carefully chosen titles. It takes time to properly remove the record from its sleeve, place it carefully on the turntable so as not to scratch the fine surface, slowly lower the needle onto the disk, and let it wind its way through the run-on groove before the music will play. After that task is done, the music plays, revealing another imperfection – it's full of crackles, pops, and fuzz. No matter how careful you are, there are still flaws. The whole process gives tactile and auditory feedback that aren't to be found when you click a button on an app. Putting on an album and just letting it play allows the record to tell the twenty-minute story that the artist crafted.

Don't get me wrong – streaming still has its place in the modern world and I will not deny that. It's much easier to tap on my phone and listen to my curated favorites while traveling. I also appreciate having something that allows me to listen to a song that's been stuck in my head on a loop all day or helps me to find new music in a moment. There is a reason why it has superseded records as the medium of choice for music today. I have all my favorite albums stored in my phone, but I haven't let my physical copies go. Now I know and can answer why: The benefits of digital are convenient, but sometimes it's just nice to go back to the stacks at the end of the day.

Oh, and in case you still want to know what I've had on repeat lately, it's *In the Court of the Crimson King* By King Crimson.

THE MYSTERY ARTIFACT IS A FLUTING IRON USED  
TO CRIMP CLOTHING!

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