NEWS FROM

THE LITTLE WHITE HOUSE ON THE CORNER

WINTER/SPRING
2013
NUMBER 3

HINCKLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
RESEARCH LIBRARY & OFFICE
1634 CENTER RD
HINCKLEY, OHIO 44233
330-278-3159
HINCKLEY CENTER

EDITED BY: Linda DeSteven & Susen Batke

Winter Newsletter
2013

Winter is here, and we at the Historical Society hope that all our friends in Hinckley had a very wonderful Holiday Season. We hope that everyone enjoyed the beautiful new decorations that were donated and on display in our yard, here at the "Little White House on the Corner". We enjoyed the wonderful glow from them while inside the house at night. The snow certainly put all of us in the festive mood.

The inside of the house was decorated for the Season by our very own Curator, Susen. She does a great job, and if you didn't see the Christmas decorations this year, come in and see us next year.

We were quite busy for the Fall Season, with our visits from the Hinckley Elementary first graders, visiting the house for a lesson in the history of Hinckley. The children always enjoy being able to dress in costumes and role play.

The Fall Foliage Tour in October at the Worden Heritage Homestead was successful, and we had some new faces there volunteering. Our thanks go out to all those people. The weather was beautiful, until we had rain, and pretty strong winds later on Sunday afternoon. We had to scramble taking the tents down that we had put up for the garage sale taking place on both days.

Sue presented a very interesting speech to Our Savior Lutheran Church on the history of the Lutheran Church in Hinckley, and received a good response from those attending.

Linda and Sue have been very busy with displays at the Highland Library for the last few months. The displays have been on the Fifties, Sixties, and Seventies. They worked very hard with some research, and brainstorming about just what to put into the display cases. The current display at the library is Pioneer Children's Toys.

Now is the time to put yourself under your Historical Throw that you purchased from the Historical Society. If you haven't purchased one, we have seven blue ones left. Read what we have planned in our newsletter for the upcoming year and enjoy some more of our Historical tidbits of the past.

The Hinckley Historical Society is celebrating our 25th Anniversary in September, and we are looking forward to celebrating this event. We will be looking into the past, and the people that were part of this organization from the start; and looking forward to the next 25 years as we grow and meet new people.

Please take note, also, the change in times for the winter. Please remember, if the weather is bad, will not be open.

Buzzard Day

Sunday March 17, 2013

HINCKLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Research Library & Office

CIRCA 1846

(Corner of Center Rd & Ridge Rd)

OPEN: **9:00 TO 4:00**

##

WORDEN HERITAGE HOMESTEAD

Circa 1862

895 Ledge Rd. Hinckley Reservation

10:00 TO 3:00

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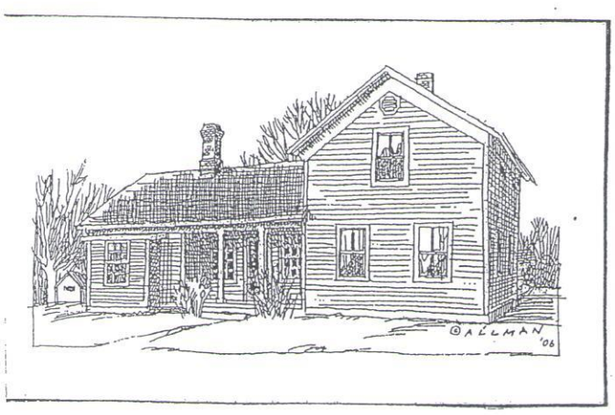
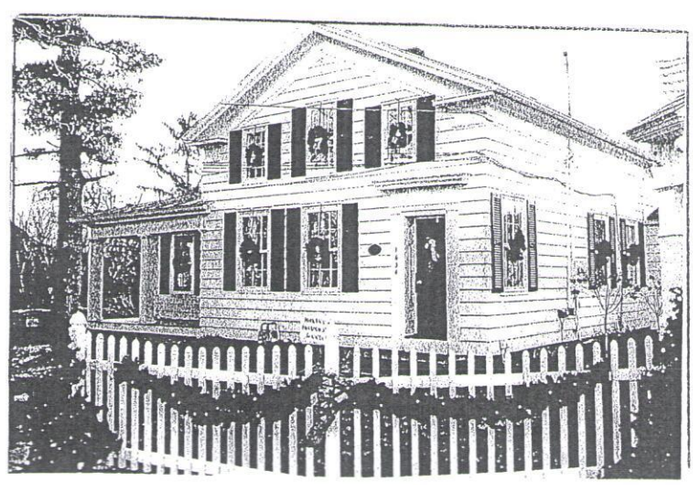
Hinckley Historical Society Display & Sales

Hinckley Elementary School New Gym

7:00 - 4:00



WORDEN HOMESTEAD



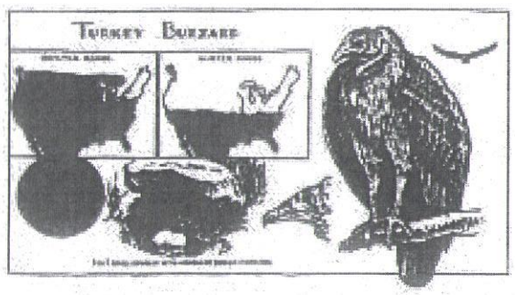
RESEARCH LIBRARY

The Hinckley Buzzard

The Hinckley buzzard is actually the turkey vulture, named for its featherless red head which resembles the wild turkey. Its scientific name is Cathartes Aura, from the Greek word for cleanser or scavenger and the Latin word for gold.

The adult grows to a length of 26" to 32" with a wingspan of five and a half to six feet and weighs four to five pounds. The buzzard's diet is generally carrion, that is, dead animals, which gives it the nickname of the "flying garbage can."

The buzzard is awkward on the ground and has trouble becoming airborne. It launches itself off of its usual perch of dead trees, after drying its wings in the morning sun. Once aloft, it is as graceful as any living creature, soaring on air currents for hours without even so much as one flap of its wings. The buzzard has been known to soar to heights of 15,000 feet riding thermals and updrafts at speeds 10 to 30 miles per hour. And yet, even at this altitude, its eyesight is so keen that it can spot a dead rabbit in the underbrush.



The buzzard is one of nature's ugliest creatures with very unsanitary habits. They perform an important ecological function by consuming carrion. Yet, they never carry rabies or die of diseases contracted from dead animals. These birds have the highest developed sense of smell among the birds of prey. It is this keen sense of smell which tells them if the animal they have spotted is dead. If desperate, buzzards will kill small animals such as snakes, frogs or young birds.

Buzzards are specially designed for the type of food they eat. They can easily stick their heads into carcasses, because they have no feathers on their heads. Plus, they have a boney shield in front of their noses to keep food out of their airway.

Buzzards nest in caves, hollow logs, stumps or even on the ground in dense shrubbery from May to early June. They lay from one to three spotted grayish eggs which both parents incubate from 38 to 41 days. Both parents also feed the young by regurgitation. The fledglings are ready to leave the nest 70 to 80 days after birth.

Buzzards are very gregarious with as many as 50 birds roosting together in one tree. The mortality rate for young buzzards is very high, but once mature they will live for 20 to 30 years.

These birds are usually silent but will hiss or snap their beaks when frightened. They are very shy and tend to stay away from human habitations.

Buzzards migrate south during the winter months, some going as far as Cuba and South America. It is assumed that the Hinckley buzzards go to Kentucky or the Smoky Mountains. Their return north is triggered by an increase in daylight.

Buzzards probably choose Hinckley as their summer home because of the area's topography. A combination of rocky ledges, woods, open fields and water are abundant in Hinckley and provide all the comforts of home.

The best time to spot a buzzard is from dawn to 9:00 a.m. and from 4:00 p.m. until dark. During the day they are aloft hunting for food.

The Legend of the Buzzards

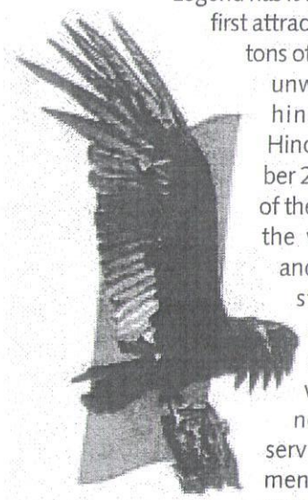
Hinckley, Ohio

Hinckley Chamber of Commerce
Established 1951

The Legend of the Hinckley Buzzard

Over the years, the fame of the Hinckley buzzards has spread. Today their legendary return rivals such stories as the swallows of Capistrano.

Throughout the years there has been several theories regarding the buzzard's annual return. Local historians and ornithologists have been deep in research and controversy trying to figure out why the buzzards return to Hinckley each year.



Legend has it that the buzzards were first attracted to Hinckley by the tons of butchered refuse and unwanted game left behind after the great Hinckley Hunt of December 24, 1818. The purpose of the hunt was to clear out the wolves, bears, foxes and other predators destroying the hogs, sheep and sometimes even people in the wilderness of the Connecticut Western Reserve. On that day, 475 men and boys from the surrounding settlements and even from the infant village of Cleveland, lined up on the four sides of the 25 square mile uninhabited township and worked their way inward killing animals in one of the greatest drives in history.

The wolf scalps were taken to Richfield, cashed for the bounty and the proceeds spent in Peninsula on a barrel of Boston Township's finest whiskey, which was brought back to the scene by ox sled. Then an all-night jamboree took place around a great fire where a bear was roasted. It ended on Christmas day, when the pioneers started home with what they wanted of the meat.

When it was over, the official count showed more than 300 dear, 21 bears, 17 wolves and numerous small game were slaughtered. Naturalists first suggested that this great litter of carrion left frozen might have attracted hungry buzzards on their migration north the following March.

Later, historical research found among the records of the Sylvester Library in Medina an old manuscript by William Coggswell. Young Coggswell and his uncle, Gibson Bates, were the first white men to set foot in Hinckley township in 1810. This manuscript told of their expedition from Bath and Richfield through Hinckley. In it they spoke of finding the "vultures of the air" by the gallows at the Big Bend of Rocky River around the foot of the ledges, where the Wyandots had hung a squaw for witchcraft two years prior. This would mean that these turkey vultures had made their home on Hinckley Ridge long before the white man settled west of the Cuyahoga River, moving their occupancy back into the midst of the Indian legend.

In 1957, Robert Bordner, a reporter from The Cleveland Press, became interested in the Hinckley Buzzards when a claim was made by Cleveland Metropolitan Park System Ranger Walter Nawalaniec. Nawalaniec told Bordner and another local historian, Miss Eunice Merton of Richfield, that he personally had witnessed the buzzards arrival in Hinckley every March 15 for the past six years. He further stated that the late Charlie Williard, a former Hinckley Reservation policeman, had kept a personal log of their arrival for the past 23 years.

The Cleveland Press printed this story on February 15, 1957. For the first time the legend of the Hinckley buzzards and their return every March 15 for the past 29 years was told. Nawalaniec even predicted the bird's return–in exactly one month on March 15.

Excitement grew as the month progressed. Naturalists, ornithologists, reporters, movie and television people and radio announcers repeated the original story and the suspense mounted. March 15 arrived and so did the buzzards – right on schedule. News traveled fast and the weekend brought throngs of sightseers from all over Ohio and neighboring states.

The township was unprepared for the 9,000 plus visitors that flocked to participate in the biggest bird walk in history. By mid-morning every food and drink establishment in and around Hinckley had its supplies depleted. Kids fell into the icy waters of the Rocky River while adults sloshed through ankle-deep mud. There was no place in town to eat, clean up or get warm.

A normally hospitable Hinckley community was dazed by the volume of people and embarrassed. Plans to prevent such a reoccurrence began almost immediately. The Hinckley Chamber of Commerce decided to host a pancake breakfast at Brongers Park the first Sunday after March 15. This day was declared "Buzzard Day."

The Chamber now serves pancakes and sausages each year at Hinckley Elementary School. Many organizations and business from the township and surrounding communities join in the festivities with exhibits and crafts.

Souvenirs

Souvenirs are available throughout the year.
Call or write:
The Hinckley Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 417, Hinckley, Ohio 44233
330-220-9193

Neuman VanDeusen Diaries: Donated by: The Medina County Genealogical Society.

Born: February 19, 1847. Died: 1930. Buried in Maple Hill Cemetery, Hinckley, OH.

Neuman kept diaries from 1863 to 1929. He was a mathematician, having attended Baldwin University. He was a successful fruit farmer locally. It is noted in his diaries that he was a member of "Sons of Temperance", and attended meetings weekly in Hinckley Center. If you want to read his diaries and learn more about this interesting gentleman, stop in our research library here in town to learn more.

1865

Jan. 19 - Thurs.
Went to school. Went up to the Sons of Temperance in the evening. Cloudy. Little snow. Good sleighing.

Jan. 20 - Frid.
Went to school a little while. Went over to Richfield. Went up to Royalton to a show in the evening. Ventriloquist. Cloudy. cold. Good sleighing.

Jan. 21 - Sat.
Went to school. Sleighing. Thawing and little rain.

Jan. 22 - Sun.
Did chores. Milked 5 cows and cleaned out the long stable. Tied the cows up again. Cloudy. Thawing, Little rain. Sleighing.

Jan. 23 - Mon.
Went to school. Cloudy. Cold. Little snow. Sleighing. Went down to Waldo in evening.

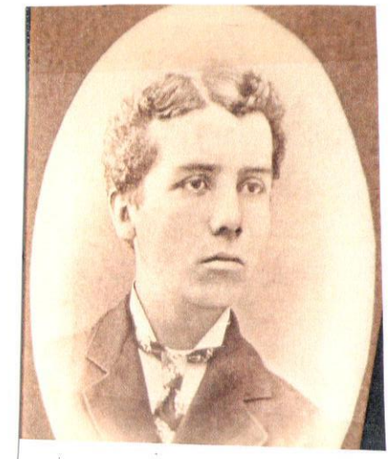
Jan. 24 - Tues.
Went to School. Went up to Uncle Don's in the evening. Cloudy. Cold. Sleighing.

Jan. 25 - Wed.
Went to school. Cloudy. Cold. Sleighing.

Jan. 26 - Thurs.
Went to school. Newman Van Deusen. Cold. Snow. Sleighing.

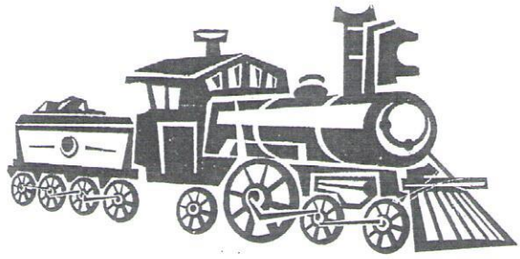
Jan. 27 - Frid.
Went to school. Eight boys of us went up to the school house in the evening and staid till after 4 o'clock the next morning. We spoke pieces, sung and danced and every thing we could think of. Hanson Kellogg, Samuel Ellison, Lewall Brown, Newman Van Deusen, Dexter Van Deusen, Hugh Riley, Byron Wyman and Archie Crooks were there. Cloudy. Cold. Little snow. Sleighing.

Jan. 28 - Sat.
Went to school. They spoke pieces and read compositions. and



He has been honored by his townsmen by several offices of trust, sucn as assessor, treasurer, justice of the peace and member of the school board. As justice of the peace he was a peace-maker and did much toward settling disputes without litigation, working more for the good of men than for money. He is a prominent citizen of his township and a stanch republican, a charter member of the Hinckley Grange and for several years has been its secretary. He is strictly temperate, using neither intoxicants or tobacco. He is a consistent member of the Disciple church in which he holds the office of clerk, treasurer, deacon and trustee. His wife has been a faithful worker in the Sabbath school and its superintendent for several years.

HISTORICAL TIDBITS



Medina County Gazette - May 12, 1871

- HINCKLEY. - Really, a survey of a Railroad line is completed through Hinckley. We cannot state just the point it touches our town on the south line, but its course is west of Rocky river and crosses the east and west center road, three-fourths of a mile east of the Center; keeping up from the bottom land on the first table island; leaving Hinckley just west of Frank Bateman's house, scarcely one-half mile east of north and south center road. Those making the survey call the line a very good one, but we leave a further report for the proper officers.

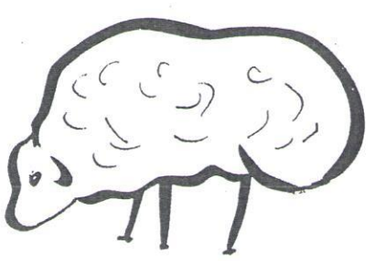
Jack Frost, we fear, has been rather too severe for the last two or three nights, for he has something to do by way of biting, and whatever is green and ender he touches and either stunts or kills.

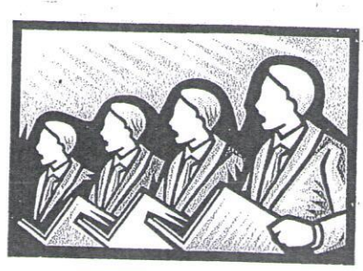
We should judge that pork will be cheep the coming fall and winter the quantity of young swine we see as we canvas the town; you can scarcely start a hog but that a lot of pigs follow.

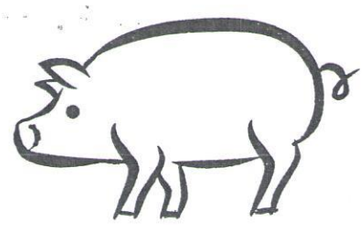
N. Porter, Esq., found and measured an egg 6 ½ by 7 inches, weight unknown. Not quite equal to the Gazette egg.

Melvin Brown has a little lamb which is deformed by one leg not being long enough to be of any use. It walks upon three legs. Thus, occasionally, we see a freak of nature.

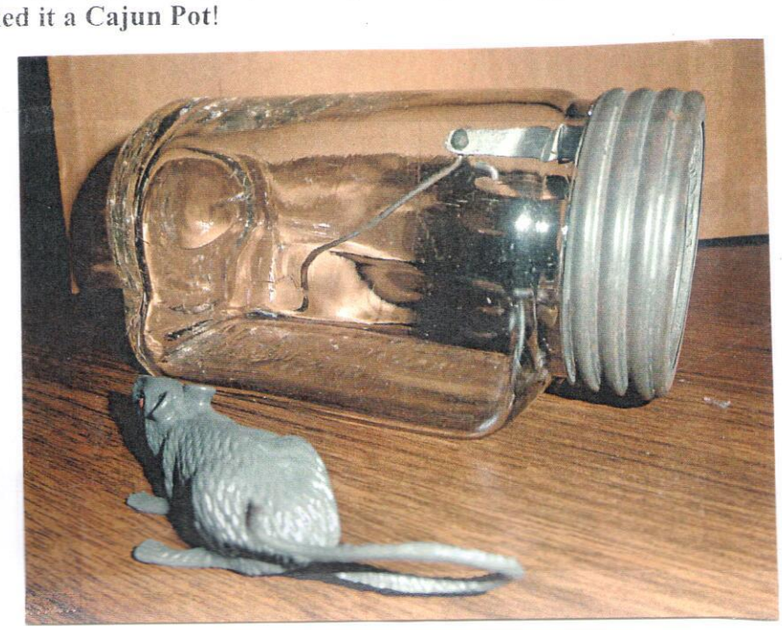
Quite a pleasant gathering on Sabbath afternoon last, at the Methodist church, was had in the way of singing; the Remson Corners choir met our singers here in concert. DAMON



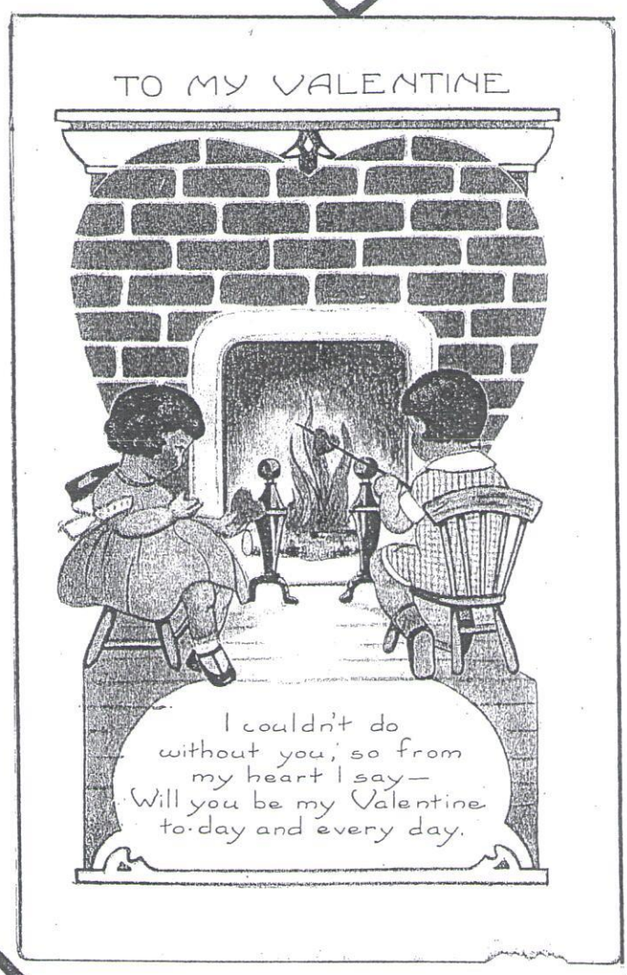




We enjoy the school children that come to visit us in the fall. We thought maybe you would enjoy comments they made about some of these items, as Susen holds them up for them to identify. Baby Bottle Sterilizer: **Bullets, holds candles, for rings, a stove, for milk, for cows, earring holder, a baby bathroom, and for toothbrushes.** Rings for the legs of chickens, to identify them: **Earrings, for cows, for fingers, for animal tails, pigs, a trap, for horses, mouse catcher.** An old-fashioned minnow catcher: **Time sifter, sander, for goldfish, a bee trap, and bee's nest.** Antique glass mouse traps: **For a scientist, jar, for canning, candy, frogs, fireflies, to see in the night, for ants, "EWWW mouse" when told it was mouse trap!** A water douser, and picture of a man dousing for water: **For fishing, hunting, exercising, looking for moles, worms, checking the soil, and putting out fires.** The one we like the best is when Sue holds a chamber pot up: **For soup, cookies, gravy, water, oil, to scoop water, cheese, peanut butter, paint, and one child called it a Cajun Pot!**



VALENTINE POST CARD



FEB. 14
1924

2013 Officers & HHSI Meetings
Special Events

Officers Meetings (All meetings at 6:00 P.M. Historical House)
Tuesday March 5 (Buzzard Day)
Tuesday March 26
Tuesday June 4
Thurs. October 24

H.H.S.I. General Meeting

Saturday : April 20 1:00 P.M. Town Hall
Speaker: Harold George Subject: Ohio Civil War Soliders

Thursday: June 27 7:00 P.M. Town Hall
Speaker:

Saturday: November 9 1:00 P.M. Town Hall
Speaker: John Burke Subject: John Smith, First white settler in Medina County

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Special Events

Sunday: March 17 - Buzzard Day Set-up at Hinckley Elementary School
Hours 7:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Saturday: March 23 - Cabin Fever - Tour Historical House 10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Monday: May 27 Memorial Day Parade 9:00 A.M.

Saturday: July 13 Antique Appraisal Town Hall Hours: 10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Saturday: August ? Tour Northern Railway Museum with Hinckley Seniors

Saturday September 7 - Community Garage Sale - Historical House
8:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M

As the Hinckley community continues to grow, we encourage our residents and citizens to reflect on our community's past. To help share our colorful heritage with your family and future generations, we hope you will visit and support our society.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OFFICERS - 2012

PRESIDENT	CHARLES GIBSON	330-278-2999
VICE PRESIDENT	EMMA SCHULTE	330-220-6316
RECORDING SECRETARY		
TREASURER	DENNIS PALIK	330-267-2335
CURATOR	SUSEN BATKE	330-278-3159

HINCKLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY RESEARCH LIBRARY & OFFICE
HISTORICAL HOUSE Circa 1847
1634 CENTER RD P.O. BOX 471
HINCKLEY, OH 44233
330-278-3159
HOURS WEDNESDAY 6:00 TO 9:00 PM SUNDAY 1:00 to 4:00 PM

WORDEN HERITAGE HOMESTEAD Circa 1862
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FARM HOUSE AND FAMOUS CARVINGS
OPEN BY APPOINTMENT FOR TOURS
330-278-3159

SOCIETY ARE MEMBERS OF: Medina County Convention Bureau
Ohio Local History Alliance

Hinckley Historical Society
P.O. Box 471
1634 Center Rd.
Hinckley, OH 44233