

Mt. Healthy Historical Society



May 2026

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Around the Society...

A lot has been happening at our museum. Over the winter we cleaned out the tollhouse, which had been gathering clutter for years. Thanks to funding from the Fraternal Order of Eagles and the City of Mt. Healthy, the building is looking great. More details and some photos on the next page.

We hope you will stop in and see the renovated (and now air conditioned!) tollhouse, as well as our current display of ladies' hats spanning well over a century. In addition to our normal hours of operation, Saturday mornings from 10 to noon, our museum buildings will be open during several upcoming events:

May 25, Memorial Day: We will be open from 2 to 4

June 7, Porch Fest (the city is hosting porch concerts throughout town): We will be open from 1 to 6

June 14, Mulberry Festival at the park: We will be open from 11 to 5

July 3, Independence Day celebration: We will be set up at the community room in the park, selling cookies, ice cream, and root beer floats, and the museum buildings will be open, from 6 to 9:30

July 25, yard sale at the museum from 9 to 1 – if you would like to donate items, information can be found on page 3

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Please note: Our monthly meetings are now held in our main museum building, the old Free Meeting House, at 1544 McMakin Ave., the first Wednesday of the month, March through November. Meetings begin at 6:30 p.m.

Our museum is open Saturday mornings from 10 to 12, as well as by appointment, except for January and February, when we are closed to the public.

Presenting the renovated tollhouse

Please come and see our newly renovated tollhouse, now an additional exhibit space. For many years it was a “sort-of” exhibit space, featuring historical objects, but also used as our office and small meeting space. It was rarely open. Over the winter it got a refresh and is now set up as we imagine it might have looked in about 1920, as occupied by the toll keeper and his family. .

We offer a huge thank-you to the Fraternal Order of Eagles and the City of Mt. Healthy for funding the floor refinishing, interior painting, new furnace, and air conditioning. These updates will help preserve this historic building and the artifacts in it for generations to come.



Hats, Hats, Hats

Come see our latest exhibit, a collection of ladies' hats dating from the 1830s through the 1960s. Most of the 20th-century specimens are on loan from our own Diana Klenk, having belonged to her mother.

In the 18th and 19th centuries, custom and fashion dictated that women must wear hats in public. Once she reached maturity, a woman was expected to wear her hair up and covered. Bonnets, such as the 1840s model pictured here, kept the sun at bay, and provided a small measure of privacy when out in public. Styles changed through the years, at times being merely decorative, but no "proper lady" would have gone out in public without wearing her hat or bonnet.



Movies set in these centuries often ignore this fact. If the women aren't wearing hats outdoors, as in this image from 2008's *Sense and Sensibility*, that's a design choice by the director, meant to appeal to the tastes of modern audiences, and is historically inaccurate.

In the early 20th century, most women still wore hats when out in public for dressier occasions – lunch or dinner with friends, going to a play or movie – but not for day-to-day outings. The 1960s were the last decade of widespread hat-wearing, for men as well as women, as more casual dressing became the norm.



Our not-quite-annual yard sale is coming up on July 25. If you would like to donate items, they can be dropped off July 18 between 10 and noon, or by appointment July 19-24. Please, no clothes, no large furniture, and no outdated electronics.

EVERY 30 SECONDS SOMEONE DIES FROM A PLACE

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Mt. Healthy Historical Society

c/o Treasurer

1546 McMakin Avenue

Mt. Healthy, OH 45231

Or pay through our website: MtHealthyHistory.org

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