

# MIDDLETOWN FALL CREEK TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2017

### NEW WEBSITE COMING SOON

We have, over the years, made efforts to create and maintain a website for the Society. Among the problems in those attempts have been; the cost of creating a workable site; and the tech savvy volunteer staff to maintain it.

Enter Mr. Larry Bennett, an extraordinary computer whiz, who is in the process of building a site of which we can be proud; And in such a way that we, who can barely find our e-mail, will be able to easily up-load minutes, upcoming events and other goings on. Find us at [www.middletownhistory.us](http://www.middletownhistory.us).

Thank you, Larry Bennett.



### Elected Officers For 2017

At the regularly scheduled meeting in January 2017, the Board of Directors approved the following slate of officers for 2017:

President	Brank DeBruhl
Vice President	Buster Johnson
Treasurer	Jake Smith
Secretary	Lisa Hawk
Historians	Martha Minnick and Kelly Fields

Board meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of each month except December. The date may also be shifted if it falls on Thanksgiving. All members are invited to attend.



### AUGUST “CRUISE IN” CARSHOW A COMPLETE WASHOUT

For the past 12 summers, the Historical Society has sponsored a car show in Middletown. The first few events took place on the downtown business streets, drawing 50 to 70 entries. The fourth year drew so many entries that we were filling business parking lots and lawns until we finally spilled into Dietrich Park. There were nearly 150 beautiful cars parked everywhere. We were pleasantly overwhelmed. Since then we have moved the event to Dietrich Park where there is room to spread out.

We have consistently drawn 85 to 100 cars each show. It's become a well-attended and festive day with live entertainment and craft and food vendors.

In the 12 years of presenting the show, we had never had to cancel for any reason..... until 2016. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in August, the set date for each show, it rained....a lot. Now, if you own a show car that you have spent years lovingly restoring and polishing, you probably do not want to take it out in bad weather. We cancelled and immediately made the following Saturday the “rain date.” We scrambled to do damage control; rescheduling entertainers and vendors, sending post cards to our regular exhibitors and placing news items in local papers.

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Unfortunately, on the third Saturday in August, it rained. We jointly threw in the wet towel, packed the trophies off to the maker to have the date changed from 2016 to 2017. Perhaps Mother Nature will smile on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in August, 2017.

The car show takes several months of preparation; mailings to exhibitors, public relations, booking entertainment and vendors and finding qualified folks to judge the cars. We’ve done all this for so many years and we each have our designated tasks; it has become second nature to us. But it was a disappointment to go through all the prep and then have to cancel.

Additionally, the car show is the only major fund raising event we do each year. We depend upon the income from the event to keep the lights on at the Society. There has been considerable belt tightening.



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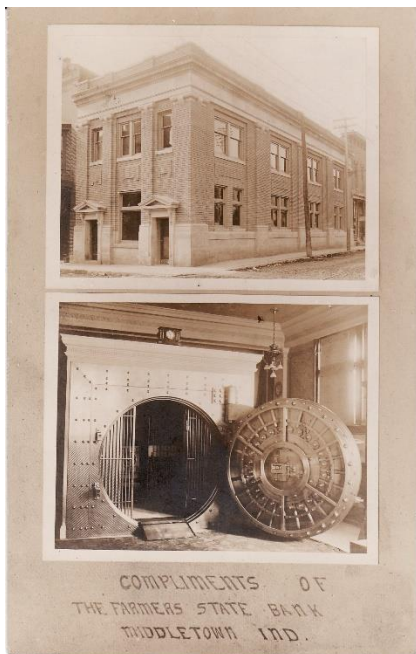
### MEMORY CORNER

The historic building on the southwest corner of Locust and Fifth Streets was erected in 1912. The lower floor served as Farmers State Bank until the mid-1970's when the business moved to 8<sup>th</sup> and Mill Streets. The upper floor was the Middletown Public Library and the office of the Fall Creek Township Trustee.

A fire in the vacant bank space and the sale of the great vault door left the structure an empty ruin for many years. A local resident has purchased the building and has stated he will not tear it down because it is the cornerstone of the downtown historic district."

Many of us attending Central Grade School remember that the bank had a weekly savings plan for students - 25 cents per week. I loved going to the library and looking out the big windows on the town. I read every Thornton W. Burgess series and couldn't wait for the next book to be published.

Martha Minnick, Historian



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Historical Society  
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[www.middletownhistory.us](http://www.middletownhistory.us)

#### Hours of Operation

Thursday	10a.m.-3p.m.
Friday	12n-3p.m.
Saturday	10a.m.-12 Noon

Copies of Middletown Fall Creek Township Historical Society's 2016 annual financial report are available to members by sending a SASE to the above address

### COMPUTER EQUIPMENT DONATED

We use our computers until we can't read the keys anymore. The local IT wizard, Scott Emswiler, comes to our rescue when the machines are too tired to work, and, after coaxing them along for a bit, they come back to life for a while. We are really in need of new equipment, but due to our shortfall in income this year, the budget will not permit it.

Kelly Fields, who joined our Board recently and is now co-Historian with Martha Minnick, mentioned that his son works with a company that refurbishes computer equipment and can make them available at no cost to non-profit organizations.

Sure enough, Kelly walked through the door recently with a lap top and a whiz bang desk top computer that puts our former equipment to shame. We are now in the process of transferring info from one to another.

Kelly and Ross Fields ----  
THANK YOU MUCHLY!!

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Aside from a couple of rainy days in August, 2016 was a good year for the Society. We consistently add interesting and sometimes surprising artifacts to our collection. We are fortunate to have a solid core of active volunteers upon whom the Society's existence depends. Alas, we are an aging group and there is a disconcerting lack of people who might perpetuate the loving and caring for the community's living breathing history.

We are enclosing a brochure outlining the many ways by which caring individuals may help to ensure the financial future of the Society. You can review four endowment funds on your membership renewal form. Donations can be made to any one of them.

Dr. Brank DeBruhl

#### *dates of interest*

- Lion's Club Fair, Dietrich Park, June 5<sup>th</sup> – June 10<sup>th</sup>
- Middletown High School Alumni Association covered dish luncheon, Noon, July 30<sup>th</sup> at Shenandoah High School
- 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Historical Society "Cruise In" Dietrich Park, August 12<sup>th</sup> – 5:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- Watch for announcements regarding our Spring and Fall Speaker Series.
- Middletown Fall Fun Fest September 15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>
- Christmas Parade, December 2<sup>nd</sup> 4:00 p.m.

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