



HUDSON HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

• ESTABLISHED 1962 •

## April News

April 9, 2020

### Message from the President

#### Displays of Humanity in Hudson

In the face of this unprecedented worldwide coronavirus pandemic, I am reminded of two periods in history when the Hudson community united and overcame similar challenges.

#### Hudson in World War I

Just over 100 years ago, on the morning of November 11, 1918, as Hudson was receiving news of the end of World War I with the signing of the Armistice, the world was fighting another global crisis: the influenza pandemic or "Spanish flu." And while the Hudson community would come together to celebrate the end of the war with a great celebration on the Village Green and a parade up Oviatt Street that ended with a ceremony at Western Reserve Academy's Chapel, the influenza epidemic had dramatically altered life in Hudson and across the country.

Over 3,000 deaths were reported in Ohio alone during the months of October, November, and December 1918. The influenza epidemic sweeping across America was described as "the deadliest scourge that ever had invaded the United States."

The flu was rapidly spreading through the Hudson community with public events postponed or canceled and schools closing and reopening on a weekly basis for months, in order to control the spread of the flu. On October 10, a month before the signing of the Armistice, one of Hudson's physicians, Dr. J. Edgar Allport, delivered a speech at Western Reserve Academy for students and faculty, called "The Flu, and How to Avoid It." Accounts in the local newspaper reported that Dr. Allport made house visits to as many as 40 people a day who had the flu.

Hudson physician and WWI veteran Dr. George A. Miller (1875-1935), a graduate of WRA ('97), was among thousands of doctors and nurses who were the first ones to be sent home from Europe after the signing of the Armistice, to help their communities battle the influenza epidemic.

Martha C. Clark (1879-1946), a Hudson schoolteacher, was the only Hudson woman to serve in the Great War, and at the age of 38, joined the Red Cross as a nurse. Clark was sent to Camp Upton in Yaphank, N.Y., on eastern Long Island, where she cared for New York State soldiers who were stricken with influenza. She also served overseas for about six months as a Red Cross nurse.



David Hudson Lee (1893-1919), Hudson WWI veteran and the only Hudson casualty of WWI.

David Hudson Lee (1893-1919), a fifth-generation descendant of Hudson founder David Hudson, was one of 81 WWI veterans from Hudson. He contracted influenza in the winter of 1918 while serving with the American Expeditionary Force. While he survived the virus, it left him weakened and susceptible to other illnesses. On June 6, 1919, at the age of 26, Lee passed away in Koblenz, Germany, from lobar pneumonia, the only casualty from Hudson in the First World War.

David Hudson Lee's passing occurred less than a week after the dedication and unveiling ceremony of Hudson's WWI Memorial bronze tablet on the Clock Tower, on Memorial Day, May 30, 1919. During the dedication, Dr. W.I. Chamberlain said that "the 81 veterans whose names appeared on this tablet were but following the often-repeated example of patriotism and sacrifice when they offered their lives in the Great War." He went on to say that "Hudson had been blessed in not losing a son either on the battlefields of Europe, upon the high seas or in camp, where thousands had died from disease, a record

which would be hard to duplicate in any town in the United States."

## Hudson in World War II

While the influenza pandemic of 1918 appears to have briefly isolated countries, communities and individuals around the world, it was during WWII that we united as a nation, working collectively to support one common goal.

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, the United States was thrust into WWII and everyday life across the country was dramatically altered. Food, gas and clothing were rationed. The country sold war bonds or "Liberty Bonds" that were marketed to play on Americans' sense of patriotic duty, with slogans such as, "If You Can't Enlist, Invest. Buy A Liberty Bond" and "Defend Your Country with Your Dollars." Communities conducted scrap drives, collecting metal, aluminum cans and rubber, all of which were recycled and used to produce armaments. In September 1942, Hudson's American Legion Lee-Bishop Post 464 led the scrap metal drive and donated, among other collected items, a German 6-inch long-range gun/cannon, which weighed 1,320 pounds and was mounted on top of Hudson's WWI Memorial, located in front of the Boy Scout Cabin on the southwest Green.

To help build the equipment necessary to win the war, women were employed in defense plants in positions that had been strictly for men. People were encouraged to plant

"Victory Gardens," as they had done in WWI, to supplement rations and boost morale.

The unprecedented mobilization of funds, people, natural resources and materials for the production and supply of military equipment and military forces during WWII became part of daily life on the home front and was a critical component of the war effort.

Late in World War II, warplanes dropped bombs on the dikes that protected an island in southern Holland, flooding towns and leaving residents devastated. Among those was the tiny village of Wester-Souburg -- and Hudson came to the rescue.



Flooded village of Wester-Souburg, Holland, in 1944.

In the 1920s, Western Reserve Academy Historian and Special Assistant to the Headmaster Helen Kitzmiller (1888-1955), discovered that the bell in WRA's Chapel had been cast in a foundry in Wester-Souburg in 1611. Upon hearing of the disaster in the Dutch village in 1944, Hudson residents came together to host events -- clothing drives, dinners, teas, a play, dance and bazaar -- to raise funds for the relief effort. Hundreds of CARE packages, blankets and children's essentials were shipped from Hudson to Holland in 1945.

In 1948, the town was still struggling to recover. The first "Wester-Souburg Day" was established in Hudson on March 20, 1948. A committee of six supervised 110 third-, fourth- and fifth-graders who made 1,500 paper tulips for a campaign to raise \$1,000 for the small Dutch town. A ringing of the WRA Chapel bell marked the start of ticket sales in Hudson. Colorful red and yellow tulips decorated Main Street store windows and the windows of private homes throughout Hudson. The event raised \$1,500.





The children of Hudson eagerly joined the aid and relief effort for the people of Wester-Souburg. Many, like these young residents in 1948, collected clothing and helped with events to raise funds for the suffering village. Notice the paper tulip taped to the car window.

Newspapers across the country noted this "spontaneous program by which American towns are 'adopting' needy European towns and villages, sending them relief goods and, more important, developing a kinship with their Old-World counterparts." Hudson's effort was notably mentioned as one of the first in the United States to develop this "town-to-town" relationship.



Hudsonstraat, Wester-Souburg, Holland.

Photo by Grace Goulder Izant in 1956

Wester-Souburg, which was incorporated into the city Vlissingen in the 1960s, still has a street named "Hudsonstraat" that honors the humanitarian effort and generosity of Hudson's residents during WWII.

In October 2018, HHA featured an excellent presentation from longtime Hudson resident Molly Logan, who told the remarkable story of how this unique connection between Souburg and Western Reserve Academy inspired Hudson residents to organize and launch a community-wide effort to provide aid and relief to the small village across the ocean. When the HHA program was announced, past co-president Don Husat poignantly noted that, "It's important for Hudson residents of today to learn about and celebrate the righteous deeds of our forefathers, whether it was working to end slavery or coming to the rescue of a suffering village in Holland. ... Our compassion and sense of community in Hudson are just as unique and inspiring as our town's historic buildings and architecture."

Today, while we cannot physically come together and have been forced apart by a state-wide stay-at-home order, social distancing and self-isolation, there are overwhelming signs of humanity, of people coming together in our community. The City of Hudson, churches, community organizations, institutions, corporations and individuals are all thinking about our community, businesses and the importance of providing aid and relief to people in need.

HHA shared information on Saturday via an April E-News update noting two local organizations, "[Hudson OH Helps](#)" and the Hudson Community Service Association's "[Helping Hands](#)," that are helping Hudson residents with shopping and errands. The [Hudson Community Foundation](#) is also committed to match up to \$10,000 in community donations to the [Hudson NOW Fund](#) to support other local non-profit organizations serving the Hudson community.

It is encouraging to see the support of our neighbors, businesses and our community. In the weeks and months ahead, we will continue to monitor ways in which we can collectively support our community. Thanks to all of you who have volunteered, donated or checked in on friends and neighbors. As Hudson dealt with the Spanish flu and provided aid to the people of Wester-Souburg, we will get through this together!

Be well and stay healthy.

Christopher Bach  
President  
Hudson Heritage Association

## April and May Programs Cancelled

The April and May programs have been canceled because of COVID-19. We look forward to a time when we can reconnect and share our interest in history, preservation and community.

# CANCELED

## 1846 Oviatt-Curtiss House Update



1846 Oviatt-Curtiss homestead.

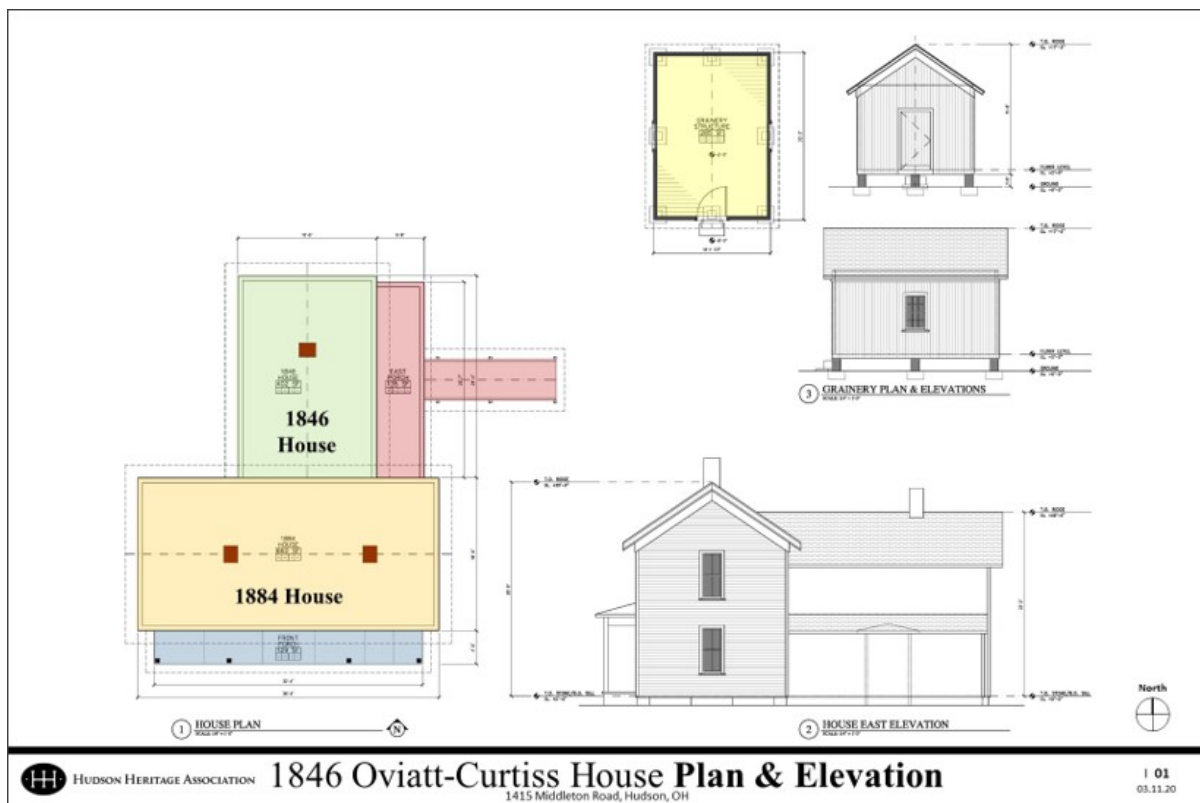
When HHA learned that the City of Hudson approved the demolition and development of the **1846 Oviatt-Curtiss homestead** on Middleton Road, a media campaign was quickly launched and subsequently picked up by local television and print outlets. HHA successfully alerted Northeast Ohio that the new property owners were offering the historic home and outbuildings at no cost to anyone willing to move them.





HHA has received close to 200 inquiries from as far as Colorado, Florida, Texas, Michigan and Pennsylvania, as well as across the state of Ohio. We have contacted six realistic prospects who expressed interest locally and have property available in the Hudson area. In addition to the logistics of moving of the house (permits, tree trimming, utility disconnects, etc.), planning, coordination and costs of constructing a new foundation on a new property are being considered.

The estimate to move the house is approximately \$50,000, with additional costs depending on the final location and distance moved. The estimate was calculated by the Wolfe House & Building Movers Company, located in North Manchester, Indiana, using information provided by HHA that included the overall dimensions of the historic house and a drawing of both the house and the large grain crib shed, which was priced separately.



HHa is working with interested individuals and the current owners of the house and property, with an April 30, 2020 deadline to determine the fate of the historic 1846 Oviatt-Curtiss House and its outbuildings. There are still questions to be answered, procedures to coordinate and no immediate commitments to move the house.

Anyone interested in potentially moving and saving the historic 1846 Oviatt-Curtiss House should contact HHA for complete information on the house-moving estimate, house preparation guidelines, routing planning tips, a scaled drawing of the overall house plan and background information on the Wolfe House & Building Movers Company. Please contact HHA at [info@hudsonheritage.org](mailto:info@hudsonheritage.org).

## 1927 Middle School Update

### HHa Cultural Arts Center Request for Proposals (RFP) Submittal

On behalf of Hudson community organizations, institutions and the community at large, the Hudson Heritage Association was pleased to have the opportunity to present a proposal on March 20 to the Hudson City Schools for the adaptive reuse of the historic 1927 Hudson High School building.

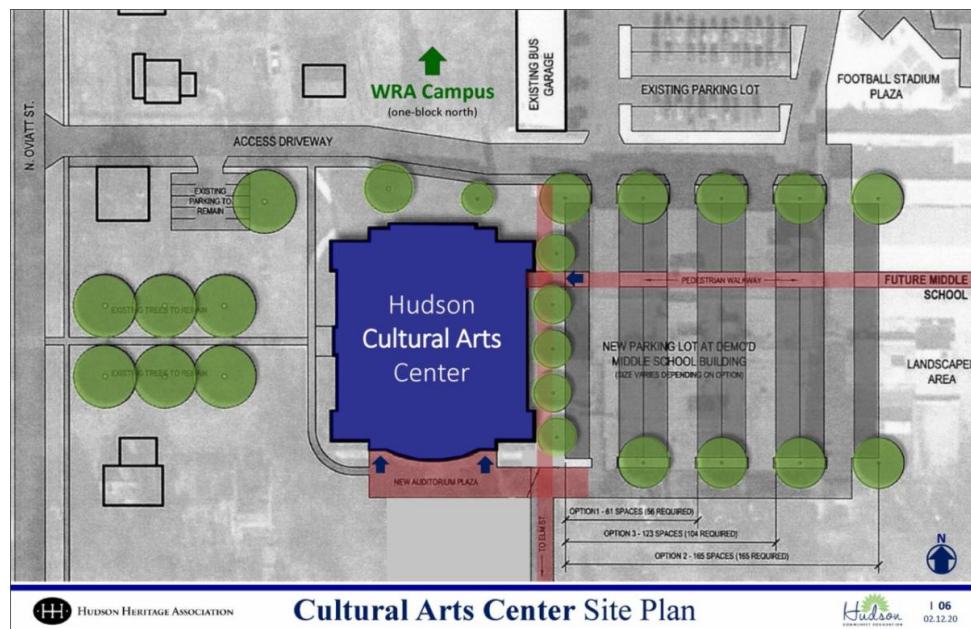




As HHA past President Don Husat expressively stated, "We think it's critical that Hudson take a very thoughtful approach as it considers the future of Hudson Middle School. The decisions affecting this building will be permanent and will have significant ramifications for our historic neighborhood. This is the last building standing with any link to the legacy of Hudson's school district. Thousands of current and past Hudson residents have passed through its doors. Its grand façade and solid structure testify to our community's commitment to educational excellence."

The RFP submittal detailed descriptions of HHA's proposed steps and key components in developing an understanding of a Cultural Arts Center and what this means for the community of Hudson. In order to further understand the viability and impact of a Cultural Arts Center located within the existing 1927 Building, HHA recommended that a feasibility study be implemented. This feasibility study would supplement the comprehensive Hudson Middle School Feasibility Study Report already completed in April 2017.

The Cultural Arts Center Feasibility Study would focus on the following: Market Analysis, Business Planning, Operational & Governance Models, Tax Credit Analysis, Programming/Planning/Phasing Strategies, and a Cost Estimate. HHA believes that the proposed Cultural Arts Center Feasibility Study, community programming and visioning workshops, community questionnaire and survey, and exploring precedent projects in other communities, will help provide the Hudson City Schools, potential developer/investor and community stakeholder partners with a sound foundation for decision-making.



Now, over 90 years after the construction of the former Hudson High School, the idea of preserving the building, restoring it to its former grandeur and renovating it for the 21st century, is a very exciting and viable proposition.

Our community has a real interest in - and need for - a cultural arts center. At least 30 community groups and organizations, both large and small, need space for activities, meetings and performances. HHA believes that the adaptive reuse and repurposing of the 1927 Middle School Building as a Cultural Arts Center will provide a place to bring people, community organizations and institutions together for shared experiences in arts and culture, youth and senior education, civic and social activities and services.

We are in the early stages of exploring what a Cultural Arts Center for Hudson would mean, how the 1927 Building could be used, how it could serve the needs of the entire community, what groups, organizations and institutions would participate in its success, how it would be paid for, who would own and operate it, and how it would be financially sustained and maintained.

We imagine a Cultural Arts Center being developed, organized and operated by a public-private partnership, potentially combining community-focused, city-run operations, like the Barlow Community Center and HCTV studios, with not-for-profit and for-profit enterprises. Partnering with community organizations with similar missions that support education, arts and culture, social services and civic activities, to increase awareness and engagement by providing programming for the 1927 Building's 600-seat auditorium and stage house will also be key to the Cultural Arts Center's success.



We are in the early stages of exploring what a Cultural Arts Center for Hudson would mean, how the 1927 Building could be used, how it could serve the needs of the entire community, what groups, organizations and institutions would participate in its success, how it would be paid for, who would own and operate it and how it would be financially sustained and maintained.

As originally planned and intended, the 1927 Building was designed, built and integrated into the surrounding neighborhood and continues to be part of the historic fabric of the community. Its unique location, walkable setting and physical relationship to the existing school campus, neighborhood and historic downtown a few blocks away have made it a cornerstone to the community. A Cultural Arts Center will bring both social and economic revitalization, support and strength to the neighborhood and Historic District, contributing to a strong and vibrant downtown.

The 1927 Building Study Committee, comprising community stakeholders and District Staff, will review and evaluate the proposals submitted to the District and determine next steps. Several of HHA's board members are on the 1927 Building Study Committee and will recuse themselves from the evaluation process. It remains unclear what the impact of COVID-19 will have on the RFP review and selection process. HHA will continue to provide updates.

## HHA Board Spotlight

### Liz Leonard -- Thank You for Serving HHA!

As we near the end of our programming year, HHA would like to feature the outgoing members of our Board of Directors, highlighting some of the accomplishments of their tenure and thanking them for the gifts of their time, expertise and passion for Hudson and for HHA's mission.



Hudson is very near and dear to Liz Leonard's heart.

When former HHA Co-President Inga Walker called in 2017 and asked her to join HHA's board, Liz didn't have to think about an answer for long. Her husband, Nat, grew up in Hudson, and her children were raised here.

Liz has called Hudson home since 1999. She says serving on the board was "an opportunity to give back to the community that had given me so much."

During her first board meeting, Co-President Don Husat asked for volunteers to organize HHA's 55-plus years of documents, photos, history and other materials. Liz took on the project with remarkable enthusiasm and passion.

Almost three years later, the work is nearly complete and HHA's archives are organized, secure and accessible. With help from fellow board member Kathy Russell, HHA's historic house reports are now



stored using standard archival practices and are available for viewing digitally on the HHA website.

A complete bibliography of HHA reference materials (housed at the Hudson Library and Historical Society Archives) is listed under the website resources tab. All other materials, including newsletters, past and current advocacy and fundraising efforts, news clippings and educational materials, are currently being microfilmed and digitized.

Liz's fondest memories: "Unearthing old news articles and letters written about and by the original founders of HHA, including those of my late father-in-law, Henry Leonard, who served on the HHA board in the 1990s."

Before starting on the HHA board, Liz volunteered with Therapy Dogs International as a handler. Liz and her dog Fenway were regular visitors at the Cleveland Clinic, Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital and the Hudson Library children's room. Her favorite place in Hudson is The Learned Owl Book Shop and her favorite building is the Western Reserve Academy Chapel.

When she's not hunched over her computer working on the novel she's writing with her daughter Sarah, Liz enjoys warm-weather sports such as biking and kayaking.

HHA thanks Liz for her service to the Board and for accomplishing so much in her 3-year tenure!

## HHA Seeks Board Candidates

Do you want to be actively involved in an organization that impacts the aesthetics of Hudson's Western Reserve architecture, seeks to protect its historic buildings, and advocates for responsible growth? HHA would like to hear from you!



Since 1962, Hudson Heritage Association has worked diligently to protect the historic buildings, the village streetscape, and the Western Reserve architectural aesthetic that make our city unique. HHA strives to raise public awareness concerning issues that affect the historic integrity of our community, and interfaces with local government to protect the city's historical assets. The volunteer board provides programming featuring local preservationists, historians and craftsmen; publishes a monthly e-newsletter; and conducts workshops and field trips relevant to its mission.

Board of Directors qualifications include being a resident of Hudson, a member of HHA and a commitment to advancing the mission and goals of Hudson Heritage Association. Desirable skills and interests include an appreciation for historic architecture, an interest in historic research, writing and marketing, community advocacy and a strong desire to work with a dedicated board.

Committees include Member Services and Development, Advocacy, Marketing, Programs, History and Documents and Preservation Awards. Committee assignments are determined by interest and skill set.

If you would like to help HHA in its efforts as a board member, please contact HHA at [info@hudsonheritage.org](mailto:info@hudsonheritage.org) or email Kathy Russell, Nominating Committee Chair, at [kathleen.o.russell@gmail.com](mailto:kathleen.o.russell@gmail.com).

New directors will be elected to three-year terms.

## 2020 Program Dates

April 9

Removing Gorge Dam with Elaine Marsh

**CANCELED**

May 14

Case Barlow Farm Barn  
Annual meeting/event for HHA members only

**CANCELED**

[Home Page](#) | [Events & News](#) | [About Us](#) | [Membership](#) | [Contact](#)

Hudson Heritage Association | [info@hudsonheritage.org](mailto:info@hudsonheritage.org) | [www.hudsonheritage.com](http://www.hudsonheritage.com)

PO Box 2218 - Hudson, OH 44236

Follow us:



Hudson Heritage Association, P.O. Box 2218, Hudson, OH 44236

[SafeUnsubscribe™ {recipient's email}](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Customer Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [info@hudsonheritage.org](mailto:info@hudsonheritage.org) powered by



Try email marketing for free today!