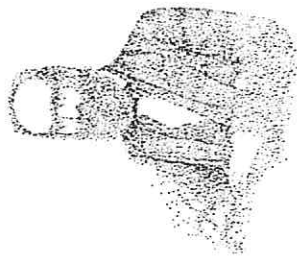


Platt R. Spencer Historical Society

Sept. 2013 Issue 1



Platt R. Spencer

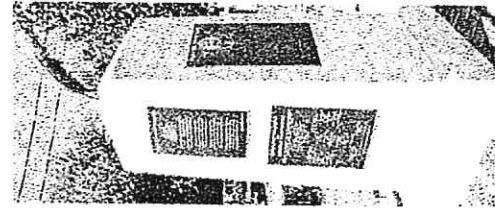
1800-1864

Welcome to the first issue of the Platt R. Spencer Historical Society's newsletter for members, and future members- of any state or country! (see application at end).

The PRSHS has been diligently working for several years on projects to honor the man and keep his achievements alive in local history. Known as the "Father of American Penmanship", Spencer was the inventor of Spencerian Script that standardized the written word throughout the U.S. and abroad, as well as an ornamental penmanship used in certificates, signs, etc.

He was instrumental in founding the business colleges of the U.S., was an active citizen in Geneva and Ashtabula County (strong supporter of the temperance and abolitionist movements) and not least of all, was a husband and father who raised several talented offspring who carried on his work. The large cemetery stone with a quill in Evergreen Cemetery (Eastwood St., Geneva) is a testament to his students' admiration.

His home still stands on the west side of N. Myers. His nearby schoolhouse, on the east side of the road, but now gone, was called the Log Seminary.



The Spencer/Saga monument (erected in the summer of 2012) in front of the Western County Courthouse, the moving of the N. Myers Rd. stone to the courthouse, and the re-establishment of a Spencer room within, were a joint effort of the City of Geneva, area businesses and organizations, the CIC,

and especially Master Penman Michael Sull and many of his students from all over the globe who have taken part in Sull's Spencerian Saga classes held at Geneva-on-the-Lake for over 25 years. (Harvest Crittenden, a Master Penman continues to teach the Spencerian Saga each October and talks to area students.)



One of the early projects of the Society was to



urge the Geneva Area School Board to keep the Spencer name on the new elementary school when the old one was demolished. Geneva Platt R. Spencer Elementary carries Geneva's "claim to fame" into the future and is carved into sandstone atop the front door in Spencerian Script provided by Michael Sull.

Recently the Society spoke to the school board and mailed many letters with signed petitions encouraging the continuation of cursive writing in Geneva and Ohio, the home of American penmanship. We were assured that it is being taught in 3rd and 4th grades, and that Geneva's elementary school continues its annual penmanship contest.

Can you help the Society with future projects by joining or sending a donation? We are looking to obtain street banners and highway markers, preserve artifacts, sponsor educational programs, special events, etc. Other suggestions? See #'s below.*

PRSHS Officers and Board:

Pres.: Beth Stillwell V.P: Vaughn Reese
Treasurer: Phillip Schmidt, *440-466-6414
Recording Secretary: Catherine Schmidt
Corresponding Sec'y: Charlotte Hunt
Mary Lou Cheney, Nancy Howle, Barbara Pruden,
Richard Pruden, Barbara Rand, Donna & Vaughn Reese, Lucille Romeo.

-----cut & mail-----

PRSHS MEMBERSHIP REQUEST

Single membership, \$10 ; Couple, \$15;
*****due July 1 annually*****

Payable to P.R.Spencer Hist. Soc. C/O Phillip Schmidt, *6297 N Ridge W, Geneva, OH 44041

Name(s) _____

Mailing Address – street or P.O. Box _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone(s) _____

Email _____