

# Tracker

*Tracking our Past and Present for the Future*

Volume V, Number 1

Winter 2006

## **Board Members**

*Helen C. Barnett*

*Stanley Brown*

*Carol B. Cole*

*Carol C. Cole*

*Susan Abernethy Frank*

*Elizabeth A. Holloway*

*William L. Holloway*

*Leslie C. Jones*

*Sandy Koehler*

*Lou Ann Mauk*

*Deborah Gammons Pendl*

*John Rockaway*

*Frances Stafford*

## **Editor**

*Pat MacMillan*

## **Legal Counsel**

*Ken Bassett*

## **How Did the “Tracking” Begin**

In a way, the Terrace Park Historical Society started at the April 17, 1995 meeting of the Terrace Park Women’s Club. Pat Henley “recommended that the Terrace Park Woman’s Club start a project of collecting pictures of Terrace Park homes and recording their history”. She had noticed that there were so many changes taking place in Terrace Park that those changes should be recorded. A committee was formed and work began. We were actually interested not only in the buildings themselves but also in the people who lived in them.

The next decision to be made was what to do with the information collected. A book would be out-of-date almost before it was printed and it was important to add information over the coming years as the face of Terrace Park continues to change. After much discussion, it was decided to put the information on the Internet. Lee Cole designed the original database but it had to be put into a different format for the Internet. This was done by Lee’s former colleague, Herb Anderson. With a great deal of assistance from Gregg MacMillan, [www.tpsurvey.org](http://www.tpsurvey.org) was born.

By 2000, the Village of Terrace Park was anxious to dispose of some of their non-governmental archives stored in Community House cellar and we saw our opportunity. In the Spring of 2001, a meeting was held to determine if there was interest in forming a Historical Society and, one might say, the rest is history.

We are a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization with well over 200 memberships comprised of Individual, Family, Heritage, Corporate, and Life members. We publish a newsletter *The Tracker* four times a year before each of our public meetings. In the beginning, we stored our materials in a cupboard in the Guild Room at St. Thomas. The Village gave us valuable scrapbooks kept over many years by Stan Miller, who for many

years was the unofficial historian of Terrace Park. Al and Lynn Nelson donated a copier (still in use), which had to be small and light enough to lift in and out of the cupboard. When St. Thomas undertook its big building campaign, we moved our archives and work to the basement of Lee and Carol C. Cole’s home at 629 Myrtle Avenue.

We copied all the pages in Stan Miller’s scrapbooks, cut them apart so they could be arranged in a useable order. Eventually, we were given two rooms on the middle floor of the old Education Building at St. Thomas. You will find a group of volunteers working on Thursday afternoons from 1-4. Although a great deal of time is spent organizing materials, other tasks include recording and transcribing oral histories, creating a searchable index of *Village Views*, gathering additional information on Terrace Park houses and families, and other research.

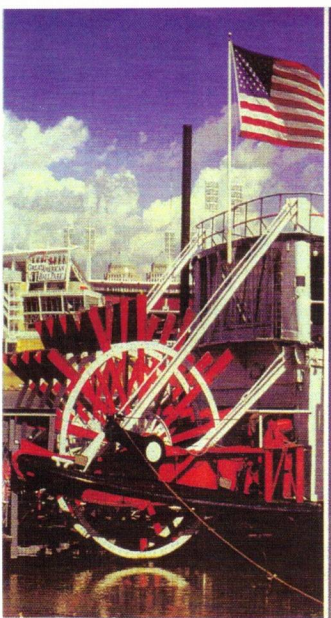
Since we did not get started before the computer age, one of our first purchases was Past Perfect software, which is designed specifically for historical societies. We are very appreciative of donations of computers, file cabinets, desks, tables, chairs, scanners and copiers—all necessary for working in the archives.

We maintain a second website [www.tphistoricalsociety.org](http://www.tphistoricalsociety.org). In the present format, both websites were designed by Tarak Boulares, who also helps Lee Cole and Herb Anderson with keeping the site current. This website includes information about the society, Trustees, how to join, upcoming meetings, sale items, and articles written that include historical information about Terrace Park. There are links to related resources, including the text of Ellis Ransley’s out-of-print book, [A Place Called Terrace Park.](#)

The newest addition to our otherwise volunteer staff is Pat MacMillan, Office Manager and new editor of the *Tracker*.

# “Romance of the River”

## Highlighting the Steamboat Days in Cincinnati



Jane Greene’s wit and wisdom really shine when she speaks about the history of her family’s business: Steamboats on the Ohio River. The Greene Line Steamer Company, founded in 1890, owned the famous Delta Queen as well as many other famous steamboats. Jane’s stories of river travel and adventure on the Delta Queen have been entertaining audiences around the United States for several years. Now she is coming to Terrace Park (which happens to be her birthplace) on Sunday, February 26, at 4:00 P.M., at the Community Building.

“Mother Nature rules the river but the soul of the river is the soul of the passengers. It is in your blood. Steamboating will always be a fixture on America’s heartland rivers”, Jane explained. Letha Greene, Jane’s mother, described in her book *Long Live the Delta Queen*, “Today’s Steamboaters will proudly keep those big, red paddlewheels churnin’, their wake beating out the rhythm of an American way of life that is kept alive by the elegant paddlewheelers of the Delta Queen Steamboat Company. I never heard a whistle sound so pretty as when she first blew for landing at Louisville. As we glided smoothly upstream, it was like floating on a mysterious magic carpet. No sensation of moving or waves rocking. I could realize the boat was in motion only by observing the changing shoreline as it slowly slipped by.”

Jane is the granddaughter of the late Captain Mary Greene, the nation’s first woman riverboat captain. She was so named after her mother Letha Jane Greene. She was born in Terrace Park but moved to Hyde Park at age 4.

She recalls “I do remember the corner deli called Louie’s, the ball park where I got knocked in the head with a baseball, envying my siblings who were old enough to go to school there, the lively parties at our home when my dad, a jazz piano player, would play with his steamboat band, the gorgeous autumns, and the friendly smiles of neighbors. I recall that the citizens of Terrace Park were a prosperous, well educated, courteous, genteel people—reminiscent of the kinds of passengers who rode our boats”.



Jane Greene

The Greene family lived at 716 Floral Avenue. Jane retired after 32 years of teaching English in the International Studies Program at Withrow High School. She can be reached at [www.greenline@fuse.net](mailto:www.greenline@fuse.net).

Jane spent most of her summers on the Delta Queen where she traveled with her family to New Orleans and other ports. She loved this life and has many exciting and hilarious tales to tell. After her father died suddenly when Jane was only seven years old (he was a real personality, loved by all), her mother became President and CEO of the company. Both of Jane’s parents’ love of the river and of the wonderful steamboats was passed on to other family members. Jane is very willing to recommend river cruises that are available today. She also recommends a variety of readings and resources for those who are especially interested in steamboats.

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Jane’s program “Romance of the River” will not only inform you about an important part of our history, but she will also entertain in a very animated way.



**MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR**

**SUNDAY  
FEBRUARY 26**

**TERRACE PARK  
COMMUNITY CENTER**

**ROMANCE OF THE  
RIVER**  
Presenter: Jane Greene

**3:30 Refreshments  
4:00 Program**



# New Ways to Support TPHS

Send a donation in memory of a loved one, in honor of a birthday or an anniversary or any other occasion. Just send to Terrace Park Historical Society, P. O. Box 3, Terrace Park, OH 45174. We will notify the recipient or the recipient's family, depending on the circumstances.

The transfer of stocks can take place as a donation to the Historical Society. We have already had some Lifetime members pay their dues (\$1000) by transferring stocks. Contact Susan Frank (859-261-1776) or Carol B. Cole (831-5161). You, too, can also become a Lifetime member. We already have 17 and we are just getting started!



## Save This Date

**SUNDAY, MAY 7  
4:00 P.M.**

Fred Rutherford will present "The Early Settlers of the Lower Little Miami River Valley" at the Spring Program. Fred and Terrence McConville are co-authors of Pioneers of the Lower Little Miami River Valley.



## Your Ad Could Be Here

Advertising will be available beginning with the Spring *Tracker*. Rates are very reasonable. Corporate members receive a complimentary ad in one of the upcoming publications. For more information, contact Susan Frank at [safrank@fuse.net](mailto:safrank@fuse.net) or phone 859-261-1776.

## GETTING TO KNOW YOUR BOARD



Current Board members and their years in Terrace Park.

Helen C. Barnett	89
Stanley Brown	45
Carol B. Cole	24
Carol C. Cole	45
Susan Frank*	56
Betsy & Bill Holloway	42
Leslie Jones*	52
Sandy Koehler	29
Lou Ann Mauk	18
Debby G. Pendl*	27
John Rockaway*	26
Frances Stafford	29

\* Not consecutive years

# Thank You Pat Henley

Pat Henley has retired as Editor of *the Tracker*. Pat and her husband Bob raised their children in Terrace Park and have lived here for 53 years. As first editor of *The Tracker* in 2001, she continued to volunteer for the job through the end of 2005.

Pat strongly believes in the importance of communication...the lifeblood of an organization. She did an excellent job of providing us with a quarterly newsletter and other postcard reminders. We appreciate her hard work. Her creativity and talent will be missed.

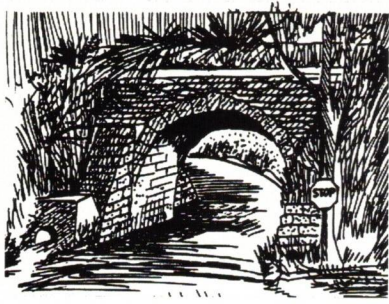
# Members Galore



**WE HAVE OVER 100 NEW MEMBERSHIPS, WHICH TRANSLATES TO WELL OVER 200 NEW MEMBERS. ADD THAT TO THE CURRENT MEMBERSHIP AND WE ARE ON A ROLL. THE TOTAL OF ALL THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP WILL BE LISTED IN THE NEXT TRACKER AS WE ARE STILL RECEIVING DUES.**

We are very diverse! The Amy and Thor Tangvald and family has only lived in the Village for one year. Then we have Helen Christopher Barnett who has lived in the village for 89 years. We have close by members from Anderson, Mariemont, Milford, Loveland, Newport (KY), Fairborn, Hyde Park and Indian Hill. We cover the country with memberships from St. Pete Beach and Naples, Florida; Ordway, Colorado; Seattle and Redmond, Washington; Eden, Utah; South Hampton, Pennsylvania; Fuquay-Varina, North Carolina; San Francisco, California; Wilsonville, Oregon; Tucson, Arizona. We are all ages, shapes and sizes AND we are still welcoming more members!





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*Terrace Park Historical Society*

P.O. Box 3  
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[www.tphistoricalsociety.org](http://www.tphistoricalsociety.org)

[www.tpsurvey.org](http://www.tpsurvey.org)

## *Tracking our Past and Present for the Future*

### **Did You Know?**

- The last graduating class from Terrace Park High School was 1957.
- In the 1940s, the high school was housed in two “colony” buildings, one stucco and one wood, behind the elementary school in what is now the parking lot off Myrtle.
- Two-thirds of the high school students were from Newtown (they paid group tuition).
- Terrace Market delivered groceries to the homes and would come in the back door and put perishables away (if no one was home).
- The home at 622 Myrtle was originally the stable or carriage house for 625 Elm.
- There were no leash laws until the late 1970s (dogs ran free).
- When the train ran through the Village, passengers could get off.
- There was a motel where Fiberge is currently located.
- The basement of the Community House was used for target practice by the police, Terrace Park Rifle Club, and some other residents.
- Wiebold’s building was originally The Parker House, a soda fountain and restaurant.
- The fire department gave children fire engine rides during Fire Prevention Week.
- Villagers had to pick-up their mail until 1963, when delivery began. (Originally you just went to the window and asked for your mail, later you had your own P. O. Box).
- Wrenwood Lane, Kris and Kent Circles, Robinwood Lane and Circus Place (formerly property of the Robinson Circus) were wide open fields where children could play and “hobos” from the trains could hide.
- The first Terrace Park home of the first two presidents of the Terrace Park Historical Society was located at 711 Yale.
- Through the 1940s kindergarten was held in the Community House.
- There was an annual donkey basketball game (in the 1950s) in the Terrace Park gym (same one as today) and real donkeys were ridden as students played basketball. This was sponsored by and a fundraiser for the Girls Athletic Association.