

TRACKER

Robinson Circus Silver Presentation Pitcher

By Pam Lovatt



In December of last year as Susan Rolih was preparing for her move from Terrace Park to Atlanta, she gifted The Terrace Park Historical Society a beautiful Sterling silver pitcher that she had found at auction. The pitcher was presented to John Robinson of the Robinson Circus and future resident of Terrace Park with the following inscription:

*Presented to John Robinson by Faran & McLean
proprietors of the Cincinnati Enquirer
as a token of their Gratitude for his devotion and
Friendship during the dark period of the last Four Years -
Cincinnati, Sept. 7th 1865*

James J. Faran and Washington McLean, owners of the Enquirer, were also political actors of some note. Faran's political career was as a Democrat and he served in both the Ohio House and Senate, and later the U. S. House of Representatives. He was the Mayor of Cincinnati from 1855 to 1857. McLean, though a newspaper man for most of his career, was active in the leadership of the Democratic Party before the Civil War. Both were known for their anti-war and anti-abolitionist views.

John H. Robinson, started the Robinson Circus in 1842, and moved its winter home to Cincinnati in 1854, then to Terrace Park in 1860 where he built the 17-room mansion we know as the circus house.

His life and the life of the Circus are well-known lore in our village. The historical society has boxes and boxes of memorabilia and artifacts, photos and legendary stories, all documented and carefully archived by the volunteers who make preserving Terrace Park's history their labor of love.

This beautiful example of Gorham Silver with its Greek themes was created in the early 1860's as a production piece. It was inscribed by Harry R. Smith, a Cincinnati retailer, for its presentation to John Robinson. That's what we know. The rest of the story is still buried just asking for aspiring historians to go digging in Enquirer archives and circus lore for what Faran and McLean meant by "the dark period of the last four years", and how John Robinson showed his "devotion and friendship" and to whom.

We are fortunate that Susan Rolih is such a tireless sleuth for bits of Terrace Park's history, and for her generosity in giving up this beautiful piece for all of us to enjoy.

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tphistoricalociety@gmail.com**Website:**
tphistoricalociety.org**Location:**
St. Thomas Church
100 Miami Avenue
Terrace Park, Ohio
45174**Find Us:**
Lower level from the Terrace Place
entrance**Visiting Hours:** 1-4pm Thursdays**Officers:**
President: Laurie Baird
Treasurer: Marcia Moyer**Trustees:**
Susan Rodgers
Sylvia Stirsman
Suzy Ricketts
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Diana Wallace**Trustees Emeritus:**
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President's Letter

October 28, 2019

Fall is a time to reflect ...

Along with all the amazing color going on in Terrace Park, we are very pleased to inform you that last spring the Terrace Park Historical Society awarded our Terrace Park Scholarship to two graduating seniors at Mariemont High School. Please share our congratulations and Best Wishes to Sydney Messner and Holly Byers.

Sydney is attending The University of Cincinnati and Holly is attending The University of Virginia. We are pleased to help them get a jump start on some of their expenses. The Terrace Park Historical Society is proud of our youth and we are thankful for all who applied and wrote essays for the scholarship. The history of our area will be in good hands with our youth leaving the "nest" of Terrace Park while keeping their roots close to their hearts.

The TPHS is also very grateful for the ongoing support of all our members. We look forward to bringing you many more programs and events in the upcoming year.

Laurie Baird

2019-20 President

Thanks to our Supporters

We have been very fortunate to receive two grants this year:

\$4000 from The Orpha Ann Gatch Foundation and \$1500 from August A. Rendigs, Jr. and Helen Rendigs Foundation. We have also gained another Lifetime Member: Sandy Ader, a long-time Terrace Park resident, in memory of her husband, Thomas Ader.

Our sincere thanks go out to all of our supporters for their contributions to the ongoing work of our society.

2019-2020 Directory

Our staff of volunteers, headed by Marcia Moyer, have successfully compiled and printed the 2019-2020 Village Directory, keeping up a tradition started in 1959.

Directories are available for \$10 at the Village Office and at the TP Historical Society (lower level of St Thomas Church from 1-4 on Thursdays).

Miami Grove Nature Preserve Historic Walk

We would like to thank Steve Early for providing a fun and informative tour of the Miami Grove Nature Preserve on Saturday, October 12. Around 20 people attended, enjoying the lovely fall weather and apple cider. They learned about the colorful history of this forgotten strip of riverbank that was once home to a community known as Miami Grove.

Oral Histories Preserved

Thanks to board member, Sylvia Stirsman, our entire collection of oral histories is now digital!

Sylvia acquired the necessary equipment and spent many hours converting each of the original 98 microcassette tapes to a digital format that can be easily accessed and stored. Our new oral histories are already recorded digitally, but the task of converting the backlog of 98 old ones was daunting. If you are interested in hearing them, they are available in our office.

High School History

Many visitors have enjoyed our collection of Terrace Park High School yearbooks from 1929 - 1957 and we hope to broaden this collection with the addition of yearbooks from Mariemont High School, starting in 1959. In addition, we are looking for copies of our high school newspapers, both the Bulldog from Terrace Park High School and The Warpath from Mariemont. If you have copies that you no longer want, please consider donating them to us.

Thank You to Sandy Koehler

Volunteers make the world go round...

It is with utmost respect and well wishes that we say "Thank You and Job Well Done" to one of our most prized volunteers. Sandy Koehler has been affiliated with the Terrace Park Historical Society for many years. Her devotion to details and her sense of hospitality have been invaluable to each and every one of our programs in the past. We will miss Sandy as we plan our upcoming events but know she will be one of our most valuable supporters and cheerleaders. Thank you Sandy for serving on our board. We appreciate all you have done for us!

With Sandy leaving our board, this opens up our need for more volunteers. We are in the process of renovating our office space at St. Thomas Church. If anyone would like to join the Terrace Park Historical Society and help us re-configure our space, this is a wonderful opportunity to put your creative ideas to good use. We want to create a space that will enhance the historical treasures we now have and look forward to growing our educational and historical collections regarding the wonderful place we call home, Terrace Park!

Please contact the Terrace Park Historical Society or Laurie Baird if you would like to join us. Board meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month in our offices at St. Thomas and last around one hour. We look forward to welcoming anyone who would like to join us!

Laurie Baird
President - TPHS

Terrace Park Historical Society Volunteer Staff

by Pam Lovatt

Your Terrace Park Historical Society is staffed entirely by volunteers led by Board President, Laurie Baird. On the day I visited, Anne Cherry, Carol Cole, Leslie Jones, Lynn Mileham, Libby Rost, and Sylvia Stirsman were hard at work. They with their many counterparts have primary responsibility for cataloging and safely storing the myriad data and paraphernalia that document Terrace Park's history.

Over two hundred years of history, from the years of the Robinson Circus to scripts and posters from Terrace Park Players' productions are housed in the Historical Society's offices in the lower level of St. Thomas Episcopal Church. There are individual files on most historic homes and community buildings in the village.

If you're curious, this is a great place to start researching what interests you.



I am the newest volunteer to join the staff and will be writing and editing articles for the newsletter. I live in an historic house on Sycamore Avenue, off Miami one block from Wooster Pike. If my house were on the other side of the street it would be in Milford. It was built in 1905 to house the ticket office of the railroad. Several additions later, it is still one of the tiniest houses in Terrace Park. Occupied by me, 2 cats named Leo and Lucy, and a rescue lab mix called Daisy, we often host the pets of our neighbors when they travel.

Last month marked 13 years since I moved into this beautiful village and it remains the very best decision of my life.

Terrace Park Historical Society

100 Miami Avenue
Terrace Park, Ohio 45174

Membership

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our members for their support.

To our Lifetime members - Thank you for your very generous contributions - you have already donated substantially to our organization.

To our non-Lifetime members - We hope that you will continue to find our work worthwhile. You can use the following form or renew online at tphistoricalsociety.org/membership

Membership Renewal Form

Yes! We want to continue to support the Terrace Park Historical Society by extending our membership through 2020. Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation for the following membership:

Individual(\$15) Heritage(\$50) Family(\$25) Corporate (\$100)
 Lifetime (\$1000 Payable over 4 years) Donation

Your Name: _____ (As you would like it to appear in our records)

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Email address: _____ (We send very few, and only important email notices)

Thank you - we appreciate your help!

The Terrace Park Historical Society is recognized as a nonprofit organization by the IRS, IRS Code: Section 501(c)(3), Tax Identification Number: 51093908