



Quarterly Newsletter

28 Clay Street
Tiffin, Ohio 44883
419-447-5955

Museum Hours

Wednesday – Saturday
12:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

Leiner Exhibit

The Seneca County Museum opened its newest exhibit featuring the Leiner & Son Store. The display showcases the Museum’s large collection of Leiner men’s hats as well as other menswear items. Some of the store’s memorabilia is on loan from Pete & Dianna Krupp, owners of Viewpoint Graphics, the site of the former Leiner store.

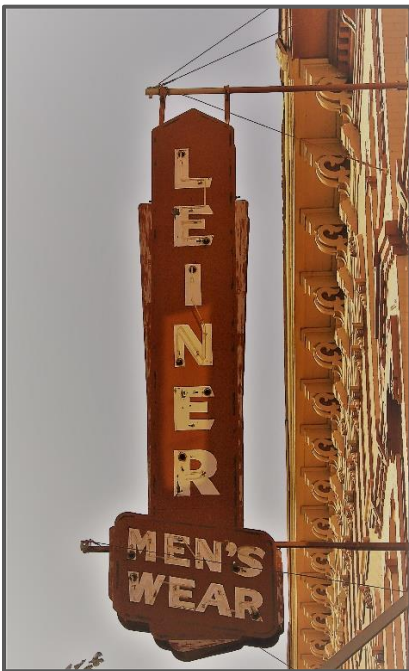
The Leiner store was opened in 1852 by Charles Leiner, an immigrant from Bavaria, who was skilled in the trades of hatter and furrier. The first Leiner store location was across from the Courthouse. It would relocate twice, with the second and final move to 132 S. Washington Street.

Charles managed the store and in 1890 welcomed his son, Henry, as an associate. Henry and his family resided in a beautiful home on Jefferson Street which is the current location of MLAD graphic design services. The owner, Mark Levans, graciously printed some of the Leiner family photos from his collection to add to the Museum exhibit. The photos bring to light the fun-loving spirit of Henry’s family.

Henry Leiner’s only son, Karl, joined the family business in 1920 and would later become active manager when his father became ill. Karl’s sister, Alma, was also employed at the store, serving as bookkeeper. The fourth and final generation of store ownership was Charles P. Leiner who successfully operated the family business until he closed the store upon his retirement in 1991.

The Leiner Exhibit pays tribute to the 139 years of family ownership. For some visitors it will be a trip down memory lane and for others a lesson in gentlemen’s attire in a by-gone era. Whatever the motivation, you won’t want to miss this rare opportunity. The exhibit runs through February 25th.

Thank you to our exhibit supporters.



Pictured is the original, neon, Leiner Men’s Wear sign. Today, faded memories of the by-gone store are still present above its former location at 132 S. Washington Street in downtown Tiffin. The space is now the location of Viewpoint Graphics.

Photo: John Huss



Museum Tid-Bits

- *Christmas Open House: Sunday, December 5th from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.* Stop in to reminisce and enjoy a Christmas past with dulcimer music and festive décor. Music will be provided by the Goodtime String Band.
- *Speaker Series: The Museum will continue to host its speaker series with a pause in November due to Thanksgiving. The speaker series will resume on **Thursday, December 9th** with John Bing presenting a program on Christmas happenings in Tiffin in 1870. The free event will begin at **7:00 p.m.** in the Fort Ball Room.*
- *The holidays are approaching, and the Seneca County Museum Gift Shop has unique items for that special someone. Many items are posted on the Museum website online store or please stop by the Museum, Wednesday through Saturday 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Gift Shop will also be open during special events and programs. A portion of these sales benefits the Seneca County Museum.*

Summer restoration project completed



Scaffolding surrounded the Seneca County Museum for much of the summer as Tim Persinger and his crew from Universal Historic Building Restoration gave the Rezin Shawhan home some needed attention. The overall project was completed in two phases and entailed the capping of eight chimneys, pointing and repair of brick, cleaning of stone, coating of the home's foundation and front wall, and rebuilding the porch skirting.

The Barnes-Deinzer Seneca County Museum Foundation would like to thank Universal Historic Building Restoration for their meticulous work and attention to detail. The Foundation is also very appreciative of the Teach Grant that it received through the Tiffin Community Foundation that assisted in funding a portion of the project. The Barnes-Deinzer Seneca County Museum Foundation is committed to fulfilling its mission of being a good steward of the Seneca County Museum which includes the overall care of the Museum buildings.

Behind-the-Scenes Heroes

When visitors come to the Museum there are several people they meet, from a greeter at the door to the docents that guide the tours, to a gift shop attendant. However, there are those unsung heroes the visitors most likely will never see. These Museum volunteers are gifted artisans who have assisted us with special projects.

When the Barnes-Deinzer Seneca County Museum Foundation took over operation in January of this year, an assessment of interior repairs was made. It was clear that a few items on the list needed quality artisans. A section of very intricate plaster molding was missing in the drawing room and a portion of a spindle in the front hallway banister railing was missing.

Miraculously, Hans Klink reached out to the Museum as he had heard that we might need his expertise. He had apprenticed in Germany as a plasterer beginning at age 13 and continued in that trade. In the 1980's he moved to America. His craftsmanship is noticeable throughout northwest Ohio in many area churches and in the Hancock County Courthouse. Hans stated that he was honored to be able to work in the Museum as it was such a fine home with quality plaster ceilings with intricate detailing.



We are grateful to Hans for his generous offer of time and exceptional talent in assisting to restore the original appearance of the Museum drawing room cornice.

Another item on the list of repairs was a broken spindle on the front stairway banister. Board member Jane Supance suggested we again contact her brother, Steve Corthell, who had already utilized his engineering and carpentry skills to solve one of our cabinet moving issues. Steve had the equipment and wood-working skills to master this next task too. His meticulous eye and careful hand crafted a duplicate spindle piece. He also perfectly matched the finish to the existing spindles making the repair undetectable. Steve has become an invaluable volunteer member of the behind-the-scenes professional restoration crew.



We are most grateful and humbled by your kindness and support!



From: The Barnes-Deinzer Seneca Co. Museum Foundation

DONATIONS

Anonymous

Jim & Lisa Weaver – In memory of Earl & Louise Dittus (Junior Home Kids)

Mr. Russell & Dr. Paula A. Neuman – In honor of Rodney Young

MEMBERSHIPS

Jim & Lisa Weaver, Lexington NC – 2 Lifetime

Linda Ardner, Tiffin OH – Lifetime

Andrew & Amy Jones, Huron OH – 2 Lifetime

Michael Kerschner, Tiffin OH – Lifetime

Mimi Johnson, Tiffin OH – Lifetime

Derek & Anne DeVine, Tiffin OH – Family

Dan & Char Pope, Tiffin OH - Couple

Roxanna King, Tiffin OH – Individual

Larry & Linda Michaels, Fremont OH - Couple

Thank you all for your generosity and support.

Show your support for the Seneca County Museum by becoming a Friend/Benefactor. Please fill out the form below and send it, along with your payment, to the address below. Of course, you may also bring it to the Museum. Annual memberships are renewable in January of each calendar year. Please make checks payable to the Barnes-Deinzer Seneca Co. Museum Foundation. The Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Thank you!

**Friends of the Seneca County Museum
Membership Registration**

Please fill in the form and mark your membership choice below.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

- _____ Individual membership - \$15
- _____ Couple membership - \$25
- _____ Family membership - \$40
- _____ Individual lifetime membership \$100

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