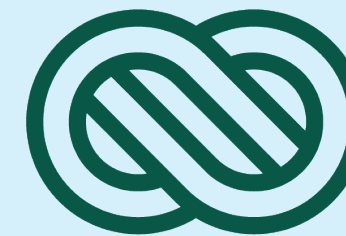


**Hardin County Community Foundation**  
**Dedicated to the enhancement of life**  
**for ALL people of Hardin County**



Dan Robinson, Kenton Times

**Hardin County Community Foundation**  
**P.O. Box 343**  
**Kenton, Ohio 43326**  
**or contact any of the Trustees or Members**  
**Visit us online at [www.hardinfoundation.org](http://www.hardinfoundation.org)**



**HARDIN COUNTY**  
**COMMUNITY**  
**FOUNDATION**



**2021 Annual Report**

# TRUSTEES

**Jeff Knedler**  
**Hempy Water**

**Janette Jacobs**  
**Jacobs Farms**

**Mary Dickinson**  
**HSLC**

**Michael Hood**  
**Attorney at Law**

**Samuel Norris**  
**Director**  
**MLJ Hardin County Library**

**Ronald Zimmerly**  
**President - CEO**  
**Liberty National Bank**

**Matthew Jennings**  
**CEO**  
**Quest Federal Credit Union**

**Saundra Neely**  
**Retired - Ada Area**

**Charles Van Dyne**  
**Attorney at Law**

**Dr. Todd Oates**  
**Kenton Family Eye Care, Inc.**

**Lee Ann Loveridge**  
**Retired - Forest Area**

**Bruce Neely**  
**Retired - Ada Area**

**Don Ritchey**  
**Owner**  
**Block Insurance Agency**

**David Schwemer**  
**Attorney at Law**

**Tim Thomas**  
**Editor**  
**Kenton Times**

**Gina L. Messner**  
**Court Administrator**  
**Hardin County Common Pleas Court**

**Marie Sprang**  
**Retired-Kenton Area**

**Beryl Rogers Dudek**  
**Agent/Owner**  
**Rogers Nationwide Insurance**

## IN APPRECIATION OF OUR TRUSTEES EMERITI

**Betty Arn, Mary Bowden, Norman Fleming, Pam Smith, Ruthanna Tobey\*,**  
**C. Richard Hubbard, John Jester\*, Lois Jury\*, Robert Reed, Jr. \*,**  
**Keith Gensheimer, Russell E. Berger, Bill Hart\*, Fred Markley\***

**\* Indicates deceased**

**If you have any questions or would like an additional report please feel free to contact**  
**any Trustee or write:**

**The Hardin County Community Foundation**  
**P.O. Box 343 - Kenton, Ohio 43326**

**Visit us online at [www.hardinfooundation.org](http://www.hardinfooundation.org)**

Dear Members, Community Members and Friends of the Foundation:

It has been a pleasure to continue to serve as President of the Hardin County Community Foundation over the last several years. I am humbled by the opportunity to serve the Foundation in this capacity, and I continue to strive to learn and grow to best position the Foundation for growth, now and into the future.

The Hardin County Community Foundation continues to perform at a high level, and we are proud to report that our assets have surpassed a new milestone for year end 2021 with the Foundation holding \$10.9 million. Once again, our investment committee continues to do a great job making sure that we have funds available to grant to our community and this year our total grants awarded will be \$227,000. It takes not only our trustees and the sound committee work that they do throughout the year but the support of our members to grow our balance sheet to provide these much-needed funds to our community. 2021 saw a return to more normal times within in person meetings for the Trustees and Committees which was a pleasant break from the prior year.

The Foundation not only grew its investment portfolio but also established four new funds under board control this year ranging from mobility assistance, financial assistance for youth 4H and FFA students and beautification initiatives in downtown Ada. We encourage community members to reach out to any trustee if they have a desire to establish a fund for the benefit of a certain cause or a general fund that benefits all.

I would like to thank my fellow Officers for their support and hard work over the year and recognize Ron Zimmerly, Vice President, Gina Messner, Treasurer, Mary Dickinson, Secretary, Marie Sprang, Assistant Secretary and Jannette Jacobs, Assistant Treasurer.

I look forward to serving the Foundation and I find the duties and responsibilities to be an honor and a pleasure. On behalf of our board of trustees, I want to wish you all the best in 2022 and beyond.

Respectfully,

*Matthew T. Jennings*

Matthew T. Jennings  
President



**HARDIN COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION STATEMENT OF  
ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES - CASH BASIS**

<b>Asset Year</b>	<b>2021</b>
Cash & certificates of deposit held locally	\$662,899.08
Stocks, cash and bonds held by Stratos	\$10,176,341.00
HCCF Building & equipment	\$124,164.530
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$10,963,404.61</b>
<b>GRANTS &amp; SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED 2020</b>	<b>\$199,791.88</b>

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - DECEMBER 31<sup>ST</sup>, 2021**

**FUND ACCOUNTING**

The financial statements are presented in accordance with the principles of fund accounting, whereby revenues and disbursements are classified into funds according to their nature and purpose. The Foundation records its activities in the following funds;

**FIELD OF INTEREST** allow donors to support a broad area of concern such as the arts, education, health care or services for children. The Foundation awards grants to programs or organizations that are most likely to achieve positive results for that area of interest.

**DESIGNATED** support specific charitable organizations identified by the donor. If the named charity is no longer active or providing a needed service, another organization with a similar purpose is selected by the Governing Committee to receive the grant.

**SCHOLARSHIPS** can be designated for any level of education, from preschool to post graduate work. Donors may designate a particular field of study, select eligibility requirements and name an advisory committee. The donor can designate a graduate of any school in Hardin County.

**ADMINISTRATIVE FUNDS** support the ongoing operation of the Hardin County Community Foundation.



**HARDIN COUNTY  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION**



# *Some Projects Throughout The Years*



## Report of Hardin County Community Foundation Grant Committee For The Year 2022

Requesting Entity	Project Description	Approved
Abundant Life Assembly of God	Real Kids Camp	\$1,000.00
Ada Exempted Village Schools	Storybook walk on the school grounds	\$750.00
Ada Exempted Village Schools	New books for struggling readers	\$1,000.00
Ada Liberty Joint Ambulance District	AED	\$1,400.00
Ada Public Library	Summer reading program	\$1,200.00
Alger Community Fire Association	SCBA tanks	\$2,400.00
Alger First United Methodist Church	School supplies	\$1,000.00
Alger Public Library	Summer reading program	\$1,200.00
AMVETS Riders Chapter 1994	Ramps for area veterans	\$750.00
Angels for the Elderly	Cargo van for deliveries	\$2,400.00
Belle Center Free Public Library	Summer reading program	\$500.00
BKP Ambulance District	Ballistic vests and helmets for use in an active shooter event and an humeral head IO trainer	\$1,900.00
Blanchard Dunkirk Washington EMS	CPR mannequins	\$900.00
Blue Star Mothers of America OH 32	Care package shipments for deployed troops; personal care items and clothing items for veterans in assisted living or nursing facilities	\$1,650.00
BMRT Ambulance District	CPR mannequins and King Vision Laryngoscope	\$1,400.00
Camp Common Ground	Camp Wednesday program	\$800.00
Camp Common Ground	Bathhouse updates	\$2,300.00
Children's Boutique at The Outreach Center	Clothing for needy children	\$750.00
City of Kenton	American flags to be hung in downtown	\$1,455.00
City of Kenton	Picnic tables, trash cans and signage for local parks	\$2,400.00
Critter Crusaders Rescue	Spay and neutering, and medical care for animals	\$1,000.00
Dolly Parton Imagination Library	Books for children	\$3,000.00
Dunkirk Community Improvement Corp	Ball field conditioning	\$750.00
Dunkirk Fire Fighters	Educational materials for Fire Safety Week	\$750.00
Dunkirk Masonic Lodge	Winterfest	\$500.00
First Baptist Church	Bondi Funds designated to Faith Baptist Church	\$2,461.00
Forest Area Community Improvement Corporation	Maintain and expand Charlie Brown Christmas Celebration	\$900.00
Forest Area Community Improvement Corporation	Signage, electrical components, light posts for new and current gazebo	\$1,582.00
Forest Fire Department	KNOX boxes	\$900.00
Forest Firefighters Association	Educational materials for Fire Safety Week	\$250.00
Forest Police Department	Body cameras	\$650.00
Forest Police Department, Jackson-Forest		
EMS and Forest Firefighters Association	Public Safety Days	\$1,000.00
Forest-Jackson Public Library	Summer reading program	\$1,200.00
Greenwood Grange #1061	Insulation	\$900.00
Harco Industries	Concrete wheelchair landing pad	\$1,900.00
Hardin County 4-H	4-H scholarships	\$1,000.00
Hardin County 4th of July Committee	Fourth of July fireworks	\$2,500.00
Hardin County Ag Society	Painting	\$1,900.00
Hardin County Armory Restoration Foundation	Replacement sofa; lights; tables; stools; emergency lights; toilet paper dispensers; janitorial supplies	\$3,400.00
Hardin County Board of DD- Simon Kenton	Playground equipment	\$2,500.00
Hardin County Community Foundation Building Fund	Hart Funds designated to the Foundation Building Fund	\$1,591.00
Hardin County Family YMCA	Summer day camp	\$1,487.00
Hardin County Fourth of July Committee	Licensing and canopies	\$750.00
Hardin County Golf Foundation	Trees	\$900.00
Hardin County Humane Society	Spay/neuter program	\$1,500.00
Hardin County Probate Court	Educational materials	\$1,000.00
Hardin County Recovery Court	Educational materials	\$400.00
Hardin County Veterans Service	Annual Veterans Dinner	\$900.00
Hardin Hi-Lighters 4-H Club	Signage and a fire extinguisher	\$400.00
Hardin Hills Health Center	Reclining lift chairs	\$7,721.00
Hardin Leadership	Community project for 2022	\$400.00

Hardin Leadership	Leadership program scholarships	\$500.00
Hardin Memorial Hospital	Lichty Funds designated to Hardin Memorial Hospital	\$1,094.00
Hardin Northern Community Center	Community meals	\$900.00
Hardin Northern History Brigade	Museum admission and lodging for Gettysburg trip	\$600.00
Hardin Northern Public Library	Summer reading program	\$1,200.00
Hardin Northern School Library	Teen Read Week activities	\$1,200.00
Hardin Northern Student Government	Motivational speaker on mental health	\$1,200.00
Heartbeat of Hardin County	Curriculum programming and infant car seat program	\$900.00
Helen Mabrey Shoe Fund, Inc.	Shoes for needy children	\$1,500.00
Helping Hands Outreach	Back to School Project	\$5,000.00
House of Prayer Pentecostal Church of God	New toilets	\$400.00
Jackson-Forest Joint Ambulance District	Public Safety Days	\$1,000.00
Keep Hardin County Beautiful	Winter decorations for planters around courthouse	\$2,182.00
Keep Hardin County Beautiful	Courthouse flowers	\$2,511.00
Kenton Area Swim Team	Laptop and team management software	\$1,000.00
Kenton Athletic Boosters	Upgrade concession stand and equipment	\$400.00
Kenton Band Boosters	Popcorn machine	\$500.00
Kenton City Parks and Recreation	Improvements to Hole #7 of the disc golf course	\$900.00
Kenton City Schools	Back Pack Program to feed needy students	\$2,000.00
Kenton City Schools- Cafeteria Services	Summer Lunch Delivery bus equipment	\$750.00
Kenton City Schools- Elementary 3rd Grade	Leadership Club materials	\$500.00
Kenton Fire Department	Handheld sonar device for water emergencies	\$3,400.00
Kenton Full Gospel Church	New sign and front entrance railings	\$900.00
Kenton Full Gospel Church-		
Bread of Life Food Pantry	New railings and roof	\$900.00
Kenton HHWP Head Start	Funds to enhance study topics	\$750.00
Kenton High School Theatre Department	Spotlights	\$1,188.00
Kenton Little League, Inc	Supplies to maintain the facilities	\$750.00
Kenton Police Department	Bullet resistant vests	\$900.00
Kenton Top Twenty & Kenton Dimensions	Show choir mini-camp	\$1,000.00
Kenton Tree Commission	Trees	\$400.00
Kenton-Hardin Health Department	Youngpeters Funds designated to assist the Health Department	\$2,183.00
Kudo Studio	Art supplies	\$400.00
Lake of Lights	New LED lighting	\$900.00
Love INC of Hardin County	Furnishings for conference room and board room	\$600.00
Mary Lou Johnson Hardin County Library	Adult outreach program	\$1,400.00
McGuffey Church of Christ	Annual Block Party	\$750.00
McGuffey Church of Christ	Programs to put on the Chromebooks to enhance the Bible lessons	\$1,000.00
McGuffey Church of Christ	Emergency food pantry	\$750.00
McGuffey Fire Company	Rescue tools for extrications	\$1,400.00
McGuffey Memories Historical Society	Christmas in the Scioto Marsh program	\$650.00
McGuffey Memories Historical Society	Picnic on the Green program	\$650.00
Memorial Park Golf Club	Summer youth golf clinic	\$1,376.00
Midwest Regional ESC	Equipment and materials to engage learning	\$1,000.00
Midwest Regional ESC	Update cooking appliances and supplies in Students with Disabilities classroom	\$1,000.00
MLJ Hardin County District Library	Summer book giveaway and funds to rebuild the garden boxes	\$1,000.00
Mt Victory Community Improvement Corp	Flowers for downtown urns	\$767.00
Mt Victory Community Improvement Corp	Historical marker for Henry Martin Park	\$2,750.00
Mt Victory Community Improvement Corp	Portable restroom	\$400.00
Mt Victory Community Improvement Corp	Memorial Day Antique Car Show and Petroliana Swap Meet expenses	\$400.00
Mt Victory Community Improvement Corp	Gravestone Guardians workshop	\$1,400.00
Multiple Agencies	Freed Funds designated to multiple agencies	\$33,000.00
Neighborhood Center		
Corporation of Hardin County	Food pantry	\$2,400.00
New Hope Ministry Park, LLC	Blessing Box	\$900.00
New Hope Ministry Park, LLC	New furnace	\$1,400.00
Northern Hardin County Fire District	AED	\$1,400.00
Our Savior's Lutheran Church	Weekly outreach meetings via Zoom	\$400.00
Painter Creek Community Grange	Spouting	\$400.00
Project Linus of Hardin County	Materials to create blankets for ill children	\$750.00



Quilts for Kids of NW Ohio	Quilting materials for ill children	\$500.00
R.A.M.S. Ministry	Meals for USV athletes and opponents	\$1,000.00
Ride to Live	Mental health and suicide prevention speaker	\$1,000.00
Ridgemont Activities Boosters	Weight room equipment	\$2,000.00
Ridgemont FFA	Equipment for project based learning	\$1,000.00
Ridgemont Public Library	Summer reading program	\$1,200.00
Ridgeway Firefighters	Insulation and metal to insulate fire station	\$900.00
Riverdale Accelerated Reading Program	Incentives for reading	\$2,000.00
Ronald McDonald House	Housing for Hardin County families with sick children	\$900.00
Roundhead Fire Department	Uniform badges and dress shirts	\$650.00
Roundhead UM Church	Monthly fellowship meal	\$650.00
Safe Haven of Hardin County	Signs for domestic violence awareness	\$350.00
Safe Haven of Hardin County	Storage unit rental	\$600.00
Safe Haven of Hardin County	Annual Holiday Gala	\$650.00
Saint Vincent DePaul Society of Immaculate Conception	Hygiene items	\$900.00
Scioto Junction Model Train Club	Restoring and maintaining a caboose to be on display at the fairgrounds	\$2,400.00
and Hardin County Historical Museums, Inc.	Clothing, coats, hygiene items and incentives for at risk youth	\$1,000.00
Silver Creek Church	Turn Around Outreach serving Hardin County Juvenile Court	\$900.00
Silver Creek Community Church	Dick Funds designated to assist with mobility issues	\$448.00
Simon Kenton	Insurance for members	\$500.00
Simon Kenton Chapter Order of DeMolay	Food for community meals and a garbage disposal	\$2,400.00
SOUP		
Southeast Hardin Northwest	Rescue saw	\$650.00
Union Joint Fire District	Maintenance and operation fees for the heart monitor/defibrillator	\$2,000.00
Southeastern Hardin Ambulance District	Bless the Back Pack program- food for needy children	\$1,500.00
St John Evangelical Lutheran Church- Dola	Trees	\$500.00
Tree Committee of the Village of Mt Victory	Festival youth activities	\$2,000.00
Tree Town Festival	Annual Ox Roast	\$400.00
Trustees of Memorial Hall		
Upper Scioto Valley Ambulance District-	Winter coats, jackets and hats for members	\$1,400.00
Alger Station		
Upper Scioto Valley Ambulance District-	Tables and chairs	\$900.00
Roundhead Station	Books for summer reading	\$1,200.00
Upper Scioto Valley Schools		
Upper Scioto Valley Schools-	Backpack Blessings Program	\$1,500.00
Middle School Student Council	Playground equipment	\$1,900.00
Veteran's Memorial Park District	Awning for the front of the village office	\$300.00
Village of Alger	Security cameras for outside the village office	\$400.00
Village of Alger	Replacement of council chairs	\$400.00
Village of Alger	Veterans banners program	\$1,400.00
Village of Alger Veterans Flag Committee	Trash cans for downtown and the park	\$400.00
Village of Dunkirk	Landscaping and to purchase flower pots	\$650.00
Village of Forest	Interior pavilion renovations	\$900.00
Village of Forest- Park and Recreation Board	Food pantry	\$900.00
Village of McGuffey	Painting of the exterior of the village community building	\$900.00
Village of McGuffey	Handicapped accessible picnic tables and sidewalk	\$900.00
Village of Ridgeway	Free art activities	\$650.00
Wolf Creek Art Center	<b>Total Grants Awarded</b>	<b>\$214,796.00</b>

#### Scholarships

Spath Scholarship	USV Student	\$5,000.00
Spath Scholarship	USV Student	\$5,000.00
Rushsylvania Rough Riders Scholarship	Ridgemont Student	\$500.00
Rushsylvania Rough Riders Scholarship	Ben Logan Student	\$500.00
Jerry Jester Scholarship	Kenton Dollars for Scholars	\$1,000.00
Catherine Lens Scholarship	Kenton Dollars for Scholars	\$500.00
Mr. & Mrs. O.J. Hogan Scholarship	Kenton Dollars for Scholars	\$500.00
	<b>Total Scholarships Awarded</b>	<b>\$13,000.00</b>

## ***Some Projects Throughout The Years - Continued***



# MEMORIALS TO FOUNDATION BIOGRAPHIES

## PEG BALDWIN-MCVITTY MEMORIAL

Peggy Baldwin McVitty was born in Fairfield, Alabama. She married Mondo Baldwin on April 1, 1944 while he was serving in the US Air Force. Shortly thereafter they moved to Kenton where she lived until 1994. Peg was active in Scouting as she and Mondo had two sons, Wayne and Michael who were Eagle Scouts. She was the first woman in the area to receive Scouting's Silver Fawn award for service to Scouting. She was active in Laureate Beta Mu Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi where she had held every office in the local chapter, and, in 1989 received the Reverend International Award of Distinction. She was a member of the Kenton Garden Club having held all offices and served as past director of Region Two of the Ohio Association Garden Clubs. She was past president of the Hardin County Council on Aging Board of Trustees. She was the recipient of the Hardin County Senior Citizen Award in 1997. She was a member of the Keep Hardin County Beautiful Commission and had written articles for the Commission's Tricycle. She was a member of the Hardin County Ambassadors. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Kenton where she was active in the United Methodist Women and had served as the first women chairperson of the Administrative Council. She was a Sunday School teacher for 48 years and a charter member of the Chancel Bell Choir. Mondo died in 1992 and in 1994 she married James McVitty and moved to the Forest area. She became active in the Forest United Methodist Church and served on the Forest Jackson Library Building Committee.

She died March 16, 2002.



## ELLINOR NASH BARRETT AND OLIVER WAGNER BARRETT

Both families have lived in Hardin County since the late 1800s.

Oliver (Ollie) Barrett (1925 - 2004) was born to Margaret Wagner Barrett and Ray Barrett, and graduated from Kenton Senior High in 1943, and immediately entered the army where he served until 1945, being awarded the Purple Heart and Silver Star. For many years he was associated with Western and Southern Life Insurance Company, until he joined North American Rockwell, ending his career as Director of Personnel. Activities included sports of all kinds the Masonic and Elks Lodges, and the First United Methodist Church. He died in 2004.

Elinor Nash Barrett born 1927-2018 to Irma Hamilton Nash and William Nelson Nash, also graduated from Kenton Senior High School in 1945 and attended Bowling Green State University. Activities included the choir of the First United Methodist Church, in which she sang for over 40 years, Eastern Star, and Minerva Club.

The couple was married on February 23rd, 1947 and had two sons, Stephen and Scott, and three grandchildren.



## **PARL W. AND EUNICE I. BECK DESIGNATED TO HARDIN HILLS HEALTH CENTER**

Mr. and Mrs. Beck were long time residents of the City of Kenton and owned a farm in Pleasant township.

Mr. Beck was primarily self employed and was the owner and operator of a garage and lawn mower repair shop in Kenton.

Mrs. Beck worked many years at the Woolworth Store and at the Farmers Livestock Barn in Kenton.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Beck were long time members of the Walnut Grove Church in Pleasant Township.

Parl Beck died January 23, 1998 and Eunice Beck died January 30, 2006. Mrs. Beck, who spent her last few years at the Hardin Hills Health Center, was interested in benefiting the home and residents therein.



## **FRANK & RUTH BERLIEN**

Frank Berlien was born to a pioneer family of Hardin County who believed in public service to their community and their country, as his grandfather, Peter, served his country in the Civil War and his father, George, was Hardin County Sheriff. Frank and Ruth Berlien were married in 1937 and were a couple very dedicated to their community.

During their 54 year marriage, the Berliens participated in many charitable activities with groups that included the First Methodist Church, the Masonic Brethren and the Gideon Ministry. Frank, the President of the Huntington First National Bank of Kenton, was also city councilman for a number of years. Upon retirement from Huntington, he became very active with the Gideon Ministry and with Masonic work. While serving a number of years as church treasurer, Frank was the author of several articles on the long, rich history of the church. Ruth, born near Alliance, Ohio, worked 12 years for the Ohio Department of Agriculture in Columbus. She served as church secretary in the 1940s and was a member of the United Methodist Women and Sarah Circle. During World War II, Ruth was the executive secretary for the Hardin County Red Cross.



# **THE BERNARD FAMILY FUND**

## **DESIGNATED TO EDUCATION & MUSIC PROGRAMS & MARY LOU JOHNSON LIBRARY**

**This fund was established in 2002 by Leo J. "Barney" Bernard in memory of his wife, Elizabeth "Betty" Fox Bernard and their son, Michael E. Bernard. It was created to enhance music programs in the Kenton City Schools which the Board of Education is otherwise unable to fund and to support the Mary Lou Johnson/Hardin County District Library in such amounts as the Foundation trustees determine.**

**Bernard is a name long associated with business and civic activities in Hardin County. Leo Bernard owned and operated the Bernard Furniture Store in Kenton from 1956 to 1974. He was a member of the Board of Directors of the former Kenton National Bank, Wilco Corporation and San Antonio Hospital. He was a member of the American Legion and the Elks and held leadership positions with the Chamber of Commerce, American Heart Association and the Knights of Columbus. Born in 1914, Leo, known as "Barney", graduated from Kenton High School in 1932. He served in World War II, as did his brothers, Jerome and LeRoy. LeRoy was one of nine local soldiers killed in the Battle of Munda in the Pacific Theater of war in 1945. Until his death in February of 2005, Barney's lifelong love of golf and the pursuit of family history continued to occupy him as well as attending services at Immaculate Conception Church.**

**On June 2, 1941, Barney married Elizabeth "Betty" Fox, the daughter of Dr. D.C. and Katharine McArthur Fox. Kate Fox was a descendant of Donald McArthur who, with his son, Peter, was the first non-native American settler in Hardin County. Dr. Fox was a country doctor, farmer and businessman. Betty graduated from Kenton High School in 1932 and from the Ohio State University in 1936. She was active in church, charitable and cultural activities, including the San Antonio Hospital Guild, Catholic Ladies of Columbia, University Women's Club, Music Club, Fortnightly Literary Club, and was a lifelong member of the Immaculate Conception Church. Betty passed away in June 2000.**

**Betty and Barney were the parents of five children, Daniel Fox Bernard, Michael Eugene Bernard, Mary Katharine Franzel, Marie Eleanor Sprang, and Anne Elizabeth Keller.**

**Mike was born in Kenton in 1946, graduating from Kenton High School in 1964. After earning a bachelor's degree from the University of Notre Dame in 1968, he served in the U.S. Army. Mike graduated from the Ohio State University College of Law and practiced in Kenton and Columbus. He was twice elected Hardin County Prosecutor and served this community with pride. Mike passed away in 1995 and is survived by two sons and 5 grandsons.**

**Daniel F. Bernard graduated from Kenton High School in 1960, Iowa State University in 1964 and earned his law degree from Duke University. After serving in the U.S. Navy JAG Corps, he began the practice of law in Colorado where he made his home. Highly respected in the legal and civic communities of Longmont, CO, Dan died on August 3, 2011 and is survived by his wife of 43 years, Dale, their two children and six grandchildren.**





## FRANK & BETTY BONDI

### DESIGNATED TO FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH KIDS PROGRAM

Frank Bondi was born and raised near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in the borough of Aspinwall. He served in the European Theater during World War II with the First Army from Normandy to Germany. In 1945, he returned to the States as a hospital patient assigned to the "Greenbrier" Hospital where he met an Army nurse, 2nd Lt. Betty Smith from Kenton, Ohio who would become his wife. After their marriage, they spent several years in Pittsburgh, then moved to Kenton where Frank became involved in the financial life of Hardin County. During the next 47 years, Frank served his community in many areas. He was treasurer of the Hardin County Fair when many improvements were made, including the Grange Building, the Gazebo, and the Community Building. As a member of the Kenton Board of Education, the new Senior High School and the Oaklief Elementary School were completed. As moderator of the First Baptist Church, the new First Baptist Church east of Kenton in

the Myers Addition was erected. While Frank was president of the Huntington First National Bank, the new bank building on the corner of Franklin and Main Streets was built in 1976, now known as the Liberty National Bank. Frank has been active in many fund raising activities. In 1971, the Kenton Area Chamber of Commerce named him Citizen of the Year.

Betty accepted a position as a school nurse at Mt. Victory and Ridgeway and later was staff nurse for Hardin Memorial Hospital until she retired in 1987. She continued working part time with Hardin Hospice Care until 1996. Betty was very active in many civic activities. A volunteer for the Sullivan-Johnson Museum and a member of the American Cancer Society board. She was an active member of the First Baptist Church of Kenton, where she held many offices. She was church clerk and was active and held offices in the Baptist Missionary Society as well as the Regional American Baptist Churches Association. Betty enjoyed reading, sewing, travel, and her role as a grandmother.

## ROBERT D. AND MARTHA H. BRIGHT

Robert D. "Bob" Bright was born in Findlay in 1926 and graduated from Findlay High School in 1944, Bob served his country during World War II, enlisting in the U.S. Navy where he served in the Pacific Theatre aboard the LST 834. Following the war, Bob attended Findlay College and the Montgomery and Taylor Watchmaking School in Poplar, Missouri. Bob was a highly successful salesman and eventually formed his own marketing company. In 1949 Bob married the love of his life, Martha Helen "Marty" Bish. Marty was also a 1944 graduate of Findlay High School and earned a bachelor of arts degree from Bowling Green State University in 1949. Marty's first job was as an "elevator girl" in the Niles building in Findlay, Ohio and she subsequently worked as the manager of two separate law offices for the next 50 years. Bob and Marty were both active in their community and loved young people.

Not blessed with children of their own, Bob and Marty mentored many young people over the years, helping them find their way in life personally and professionally. They both loved animals. Bob was an avid horseman and dog lover. Marty loved birdwatching and she especially enjoyed her "kitties" - stray cats that she fed and adopted. They both had a special place in their heart for "strays", both four-legged and human.





**A Memorial was established by the family of Dr. Louis and Roberta Black**



## **VICTOR & VIRGINIA COLMEY**

### **DESIGNATED TO CHILDREN & EDUCATION**

Mr. and Mrs. Colmeyer were long time residents and farm owners in Blanchard Township. Mr. Colmeyer was a professional engineer having graduated from the University of Indiana in 1935 and traveled world wide primarily overseeing bridge construction, including one project in the Soviet Union.

Mrs. Colmeyer was a nurse and also traveled extensively in her hobby of

breeding, selling and showing of English Bulldogs.

Although not having any children, the Colmeys always maintained an interest in young people and their education.



## **FRANK & RUTH COOK**

Frank N. Cook was born September 27, 1910 in Kenton. He graduated from Kenton High School in 1928. He married Ruth E. Barrett who was born February 16, 1914 in Goshen Township. She graduated from Kenton High School in 1932. They were married October 16, 1932.

He worked as a mechanic and for Ohio Power before serving in the Navy from 1943 through 1946. Upon discharge from the Navy he started Cook's Garage and continued with that until 1964, when he became a Nationwide Insurance Agent.

He served on the Kenton City Council for several years and was Mayor of Kenton from 1965 thru 1975. He also served as secretary of Grove Cemetery from 1960 through 1975.

Ruth was a bookkeeper for Cook's Garage and Nationwide business. Upon their retirement in 1975, they moved to Cessna Township where Frank enjoyed farming, his boxer dog and his horses.

Ruth continued her enjoyment of raising beautiful roses and country life.

# **JAMES & CAROLE CRATES**

Born in McComb, Ohio, Jim spent most of his life in Kenton. After graduating from Kenton High School in 1958, Jim received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Ohio Northern University in 1962 followed by receipt of a Juris Doctorate degree from the ONU Petit College of Law in 1965.

Carole (Lingrel) was born in Kenton and graduated from Kenton High School in 1961. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in education from Bowling Green State University in 1965.



Jim and Carole married in 1965 and soon after Jim entered service in the Army as an officer with the Judge Advocate General's Corps from 1966 – 1970. This time with the JAG Corps provided the couple with new adventures as they found themselves stationed in Seoul, South Korea and in Washington, D.C. In 1968, Jim became the only attorney from Hardin County to be admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court. After these few years away, Jim and Carole made the decision to return to their hometown to raise their children, Ashley and Britton.

Upon return to Kenton, Jim joined the law practice of Paul McKinley, Sr. and was soon elected to serve as the Hardin County Prosecutor from 1972 – 1976. Until his passing in 2011, Jim continued to practice law with Paul McKinley, Jr. He had a long and well-respected legal career and never lost his love of the law.

Jim and Carole both believed in giving back to the community where they were raised. Consequently, they joined and held leadership positions in many local organizations.

Jim served on the boards of the ONU College of Arts & Sciences, Mount Victory State Bank, and the Veterans Memorial Park District. He served as Chairman of the Hardin County Board of Elections and as a Pleasant Township Committeeman. His other memberships included: Hardin County Bar Association, Hardin County Republican Party, Kenton Elks Lodge (past Exalted Ruler), Indian Lake Moose Lodge, Lions Club, Latham Masonic Lodge, Aladdin Shrine Club, Hardin County Shrine Club, American Legion Post 198, Amvets Post 20, and a 35 year member of Wolf Creek Grange.

Carole has served on the boards of the Mary Lou Johnson Hardin County Library, Kenton's Excellence for Education Foundation, Kenton YMCA, and the Community Concert Association. Her memberships continue in the Fortnightly Literary Club, University Club, and the Hardin County Astronomy Club.

Carole would like to encourage other local families to find time to give back to their beloved community.

# **DR. J.C. & GRETCHEN CURTIS**

Jesse C. Curtis, Jr. was born and raised in Hardin County. He graduated from Kenton High School and from Ohio State University in 1943 with a BS in Agricultural Economics. He served in World War II as a captain in Field Artillery. In 1950, he graduated from OSU with a doctorate in Veterinary Medicine. He returned to his home community and served as a veterinarian for 21 years with his animal hospital on East Columbus Street. Dr. Curtis then sold his practice, becoming President/CEO of Home Savings and Loan. He retired after another 21 years, having had two successful careers in his lifetime. He served as director emeritus for Home Savings. Being active in the community, he served as scoutmaster of Troop #150 of the First United Methodist Church. Dr. Curtis served as Ward 2 councilman for several terms, was past president and treasurer of the Kenton Rotary Club. He was a longtime director of the Hardin County AAA serving as president and treasurer.



Gretchen Ashba Curtis was born in Hardin County, but grew up in Toledo, Ohio. She graduated from Toledo Hospital School of Nursing in 1943. She was nurse manager of the Obstetrical Department at Ohio State University. Gretchen and J.C. Curtis were married January 23, 1944. After their return to Kenton, Mrs. Curtis was active in the daily operation of the Curtis Animal Hospital. Later, she became nurse manager of the Medical Unit of Hardin Memorial Hospital where she served 7 years. Mrs. Curtis was also active in the community, serving the Red Cross in nurse recruitment for 10 years. She also worked with girl and boy scouts. She served the First United Methodist Church as president of the United Methodist Women, program chairman and circle leader. She continues to be an active part of the mission work of Deborah Circle with the Annabel Ashba Fund for Mission.

Dr. and Mrs. Curtis enjoyed their many years in Hardin County.

## **A memorial was also established to honor the Curtis children**

**Children of Dr. J.C. Curtis, Jr. and Gretchen Ashba Curtis**

Gretchen S. - OSU Graduate, BS in Nursing and MS in Pediatric Nursing. She also has an MS in Management from Regis University, Denver, Colorado.

Craig A. - OSU Graduate, BA in Education and MS in Public Relations and specializes in Marketing.

Lisa L. - OSU Graduate, BA in Theater and Design with an MS in Consumerism from Colorado State University.

Kent W. - Graduate of MIT with a BS in Mechanical Engineering and an MBA from Pepperdine University.





## **EDWARD AND DEBORAH DICK MEMORIAL FUND**

**DEDICATED TO HARCO INDUSTRIES CLIENTS AND  
SIMON KENTON STUDENTS WITH MOBILITY ISSUES**

**Deborah Kay (Ehlen) Dick was born on August 18, 1949. Edward Dick was born on April 23, 1949. Both were graduates of the Kenton High School Class of 1967. They were married on May 11, 1974 in Kenton. Many were saddened by their untimely deaths just weeks apart in 2021. They were parents of Morgan (Clint) Sneary and Adam (Ashley) Dick and loving Mooshie and Papa to 4 grandchildren.**

**Deb was an avid and knowledgeable collector of antiques and an outstanding decorator. She was a member of the Country Connection Club and was instrumental in the formation of downtown Kenton's Square Repair which became a part of the Hardin County Chamber and Business Alliance. She was a kind and selfless woman. Deb had a great sense of humor and was loyal to her community and friends. She was a former member of the First United Methodist Church in Kenton.**

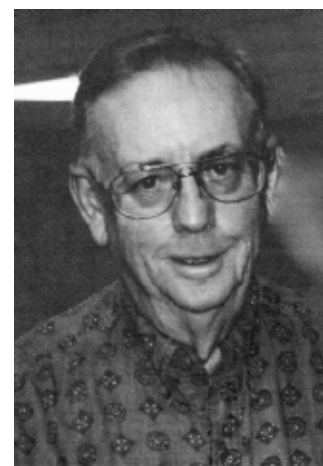
**Ed served in the US Navy and was a member of the famed US Navy Blue Angels. A graduate of the Pittsburgh School of Aeronautics, he later spent his career at Marathon Oil as a mechanic. He went on to work as a contractor. He enjoyed woodworking, collecting antiques, art, classical music, Notre Dame football and most of all, spending time with his family. Ed was a former member of Immaculate Conception Church in Kenton.**

**Even after Deb suffered a tragic illness which confined her to a wheelchair, she never lost her enthusiasm for hometown life, antiques, shopping and enjoying the activities of her children and grandkids. Always at her side, Ed lovingly cared for her. Their children, Morgan and Adam, wish to award grants to Simon Kenton School and/or Harco Industries to assist students and clients with mobility needs through mobility infrastructure, recreational equipment or mobility devices.**

## **THOMAS BRUCE EDDY**

### **1947-2011**

**Bruce Eddy, was born in Kenton, Ohio to James D. Eddy and Betty (Moore) Eddy Schroeder. He graduated from Kenton Senior High School, and worked at various Kenton businesses throughout his lifetime, retiring from the Hardin County Engineer's Department. A US Army veteran, he served in the Vietnam War. Bruce was a Veterans Service Commissioner, member of VFW Post 3333 where he was a past judge advocate, Sr. Vice, a Trustee, and a Commander Pro Temp twice. He was a member of the Vietnam Veterans of America, a life member of Amvets, American Legion, and the Kenton Moose Lodge. Bruce will always be remembered for his dry sense of humor, his love of history, and his devotion to military and community service. The foundation thanks Bruce's family and the VFW Post for their donation to honor the memory of their loved one and comrade in arms.**





## THE CLAY AND ROBERTA FLINN FAMILY FUND

Gerald Clay Flinn and Roberta Ann Nash were married on Valentine's Day in 1960. Clay and Roberta were both born and raised in Kenton, Ohio, Clay was born on January 20th, 1935 and Roberta was born on January 12, 1937. Clay and Roberta graduated from Kenton High School, Clay in 1953 and Roberta in 1955 and continued their education with Clay attending Ohio State University graduating in 1959 with a degree in Civil Engineering and Surveying and Roberta graduating from Miami Valley Hospital School of Nursing in 1958. Clay served his country as a member of the National Guard from 1959 to 1965. They were proud parents of 3 children, Amy Jo Okuly, Brian Clay Flinn and the Rev. Douglas Robert Flinn.

During Clay's time at Ohio State, he worked summers for the Hardin County Engineers Office and later would work for the Engineers Office from January of 1960 through March of 1991, serving as the County Engineer for the last 10 years. Aside from working at the Engineers Office, Clay was a Registered Surveyor and managed his own business from 1965 until 1981. He also worked at Golden Giant Building Systems in the late 1960's and again in the early 1990's. Clay continued his commitment to community service by serving as the Mayor of Kenton from 1991 until the time of his death in 1999. He enjoyed being a member of the Hardin County Posse, Professional Engineering Association, First United Methodist Church, Elks, Rotary and the Masonic Lodge. He was posthumously inducted into the Hardin County Hall of Fame in 1999. Many remember him doing acrobatic tricks in his airplane and flying was a hobby he enjoyed for many years.

Roberta worked almost her entire career at Hardin Memorial Hospital in Kenton until she retired in 1992. Roberta is a 70 year member of the First United Methodist Church, 60 year member of Elizabeth Circle and Choir for 46 years. She also is a 60 plus year member of Eastern Star, Lambda CCL, Minerva Club, Kenton Garden Club, Hospital Guild, Keep Hardin County Beautiful and the Tree Commission. Roberta was awarded the Hardin County Citizen of the Year Award in 2005.

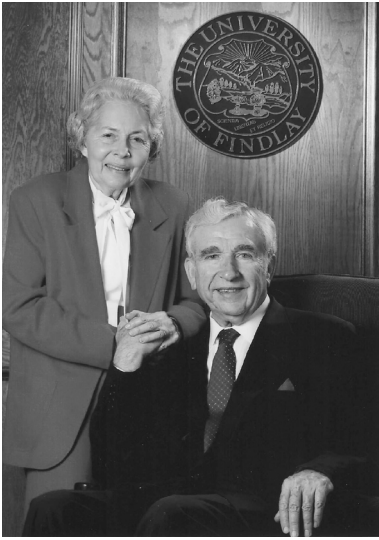
The Clay and Roberta Flinn Family Fund is dedicated to the City of Kenton and/or Historic Courthouse District for improvement projects, revitalization projects, beautification initiatives and/or downtown community events.



## CHARLES & ESTA MAE MOOTS FOGLE TED C. & MARY J. FOGLE

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Fogle were farmers. They owned and lived on a farm in Blanchard Township near Bridgeport.

Mr. Ted Fogle was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Fogle. He was a graduate of Oberlin College and he and his wife Mary J. owned and operated the A.E. Roby Office Supply and Printing Company in Kenton for many years.



# **Dr. DeBow and Catherine Freed**

## **A legacy of leadership, service and giving**

DeBow Freed was born on August 26, 1925 and grew up on his family's farm near Hendersonville, Tennessee. He was elected president of his high school class, graduated and was appointed to and graduated from West Point in 1946. He did not know it at the time, but a daughter, Catherine Moore, was born on December 27, 1925 in Texas, of a prominent Army physician. Catherine and DeBow would meet while he was in the service and marry in 1949. They had a son, DeBow II, who died in 2014.

DeBow was commissioned in the Infantry. He served overseas for a total of seven years including stations in Japan, Germany, Iran, Korea, and Vietnam. He attended and taught at the Infantry School, Fort Benning, GA, attended the Army Command and Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, KS and the Air War College at Maxwell Air Force base, AL. He was the chief of the nuclear branch of the Defense Atomic Support Agency at Sadia Base, Albuquerque, NM, and liaison to the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory for the military service and concurrently, earned a masters' degree from the University of Kansas and a PhD in nuclear engineering at the University of New Mexico. As chief of the nuclear branch of the Defense Atomic Support Agency, Dr. Freed became the principal briefer for the military services on atomic and nuclear matters for military, congressional and other national visiting groups for three years when interest in those areas was extremely high.

He was later assigned to the West Point faculty to help modernize the physics program and initiate an academic major in nuclear engineering.

Catherine held a bachelor degree from the University of Texas, master's degree from the University of Kansas and PhD (honorary) from Ohio Northern University. She was a full partner in life and contributed greatly while Dr. Freed served. Catherine taught at the University of Kansas and New Mexico as well as near their stations. Catherine was very active in campus and community affairs and held many leadership roles that contributed greatly to the success of the institutions and communities they served. She was a lay minister in the Methodist and Presbyterian churches, taught Bible study and conducted services. Catherine was on Regional Girl Scout councils, worked with the United Way and other service and charitable organizations. Dr. Freed credits Catherine for many of their opportunities to serve.

In 1987, Dr. Freed was chosen by the Army Chief of Staff and the West Point Superintendent from among 47,000 West Point graduates as the model for the study which led to the fifth purpose of a West Point cadet's education which was for each cadet "to aspire to a lifetime of service to the nation." Dr. and Mrs. Freed's commitment to military service is recognized in a room at West Point that is dedicated to them and in the book *West Point Leadership, Profiles of Courage*, which profiles 180 West Point graduates, who are characterized as having helped shape the world. The text notes the key role and unique contributions Mrs. Freed made to the institutions which prospered under their leadership and in their lifetime of service to the nation. The Freed's greatly enjoyed military service but believed they could make additional contributions in private church-related higher education as a part of their commitment to lifelong service. After 23 years of military service Dr. Freed retired from active duty and entered into private higher education as Dean at Mount Union College. Then as President of Monmouth College in Illinois and later became President of Ohio Northern University, Ada, OH and finally serving as President of the University of Findlay, Findlay, OH for a total of 32 years of college or university presidency. The Freed Family Foundation has directed the distributions of the income from their donation to the Hardin County Community Foundation to support specifically, Ohio Northern University, Village of Ada, the Ada area and Hardin, Hancock and Allen county organizations.



## MARILYN GREEN

Marilyn Elliott Green was born in Zanesfield, Logan County, Ohio, where she grew up on her family farm. Marilyn also was involved in school agricultural activities and a cheer leader for the East Liberty Jay Hawks High School where she was a 1952 graduate and later took computer training from Apollo Career Center. Marilyn married in 1954 and later moved to Ada, Ohio, where they built the Ada Dairy Queen in 1957 and started a family. While managing the Dairy Queen, Marilyn later worked as a legal secretary for Charles VanDyne, an Attorney at Law in Ada, a position which she held for over 50 years. Marilyn was a member and past president of the Ada Kiwanis Club and a member of the Kenton Elks Lodge #157. She was also a member of the Ada Christmas decorations committee and the Harvest and Herb Festival Committee. Marilyn formally attended the Ada First United Methodist Church. Marilyn was a gracious, lovely lady, always ready to extend a helping hand to anyone in need. Marilyn had a great passion for cooking and baking wonderful foods and desserts and it brought her great joy and pleasure in sharing them with her friends and neighbors. She will always be remembered as a generous and caring friend and as a loving and devoted mother to her sons Gregory and Kent.



## RONALD OWEN HARE



Ronald Owen Hare, one of the five children of Frank and Alma Hare, lived in Kenton his entire life. Born in 1933, his early life on the farm developed his ethic for hard work. He carried this lesson to his adult life. Ron and one of his brothers acquired Williams Transfer, a company engaged in moving heavy equipment in and out of factories as well as moving complete buildings from one location to another. Ron sold his interest in Williams Transfer to his brother in 1976, but longed to be back in the driver's seat. In 1980, he formed Industrial Movers, Inc., and operated it until he retired in the late 1990s. His mechanical problem solving ability drew clients seeking his ability in northern Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana. He oversaw moves of everything from the old equipment and file cabinets from the Courthouse when the records were computerized to huge metal forming presses at the Rockwell factory in Kenton.

He designed and manufactured an attachment which allowed his towmotors to do the work of a crane in factories where a crane could not get inside.

Most of all, Ron was a "people person". After retiring to his farm outside of Kenton, many people will remember sharing a story and cold drink while enjoying the view of his pond. He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Kenton, where he made sure the snow was cleared from the drives for the other church members. Most people will remember him passing through town in his GM pickups, his half chewed cigar in his mouth. But his most enjoyable moments were enjoying a sunny afternoon cruising in his 1926 Dodge.

**A Memorial was established by The Mt. Victory State Bank**

**A Memorial was established by Home Savings & Loan Co.**

**A Memorial was established by Eula Doster Hirsch**

# **WILLIAM D. & KRISTA S. HART**

**William Douglas Hart was born the youngest child of Russell Hart, Jr. and Mae Louise (Eberhart) Hart on October 25, 1949. Russell was a decorated veteran of WWII and worked as a police officer, a fireman and as a foreman at Kenton Structural and Ornamental Iron. Mae worked various jobs outside the home such as North Electric and Essex Wire. They are also the parents of Charles R. Hart and Danny Lee Hart, both of whom are deceased, and Sherry L. Lewis.**

**Krista S. (Holtzberger) Hart was born the oldest child of Lewis and Rosella (Susie) Holtzberger on January 19, 1957. Lewis and Susie also are the parents of Jennifer Tynan, Timothy Holtzberger and Thomas Holtzberger. Lewis farmed and drove school bus during his work life, while Susie was a homemaker and worked in a school cafeteria.**

**William (Bill) D. Hart graduated from Kenton Senior High School in 1967 and then graduated from Clark Technical School in 1969. After serving in the US Army from 1970 to 1973, Bill graduated from The Ohio State University in 1976. Bill then graduated from Pettit College of Law at Ohio Northern University in 1980. On May 16, 1981, Bill and Krista were married in Kenton. They are the parents of Andrew L. Hart and Emily M. Roy. Andrew and wife Amanda in 2016 gave birth to Harrison Douglas Hart.**

**Krista, while working full time outside the home, attended and graduated from The Ohio State University, Fisher College of Business with honors. She obtained her CPA certification and opened her own accounting office. Later she worked for various governmental agencies from which she retired. Krista enjoyed time with her children and grandson, golf, knitting, reading and of course, Mahjong.**

**Bill started the private practice of law in November 1980 in practice with James L. Crates and Paul N. McKinney, Jr. During that time, he also served as an assistant city law director, an assistant county prosecutor, and child support enforcement attorney. In 1991 Bill opened his solo practice law firm and also was appointed Judge of the Hardin County Municipal Court, a part time position. For a period of 14 years Bill served on the municipal court bench, until his election in 2004 to the Hardin County Common Pleas Court. He served in that position until his retirement on December 31, 2012. After retirement Bill served as a Director of the Wyandot Mutual Insurance Company for a few years.**

**Bill believed that giving back to the community was very important and therefore he gave freely of his time. His professional life led him to be involved in many community organizations such as: Hardin Memorial Hospital for ten years and serving as President for a year; Hardincare, Inc. board and President; Kenton Rotary Club; Hardin County Chapter American Heart Association; Hardin County Chapter American Cancer Society; Dollars for Scholars; Kenton Elks Lodge; Kenton Moose Lodge; Treasurer of Memorial Park Golf Club and Hardin County Sesquicentennial Committee. Professionally Bill was active in the Hardin County Bar Association; Ohio State Bar Association; Ohio Judicial Conference; Ohio Common Pleas Judges Association; and the Ohio Association of Municipal/County Court Judges. In his spare time Bill was a little league baseball, softball and soccer coach and was an assistant golf coach for his daughter's high school team.**

**Bill's greatest passion was always his involvement in the Hardin County Community Foundation. From being asked to help prepare the legal work to form the Foundation to serving as Vice President and then for 10 years as President. Bill worked diligently to see that the Foundation succeeded. During his 28 years of serving on the Board, Bill never considered the work a burden, but rather a privilege to be able to help Hardin County become a more vibrant and caring community.**



# MAX AND SHARON HEILMAN

Max Heilman was born and raised in Goshen Township. After graduation from Kenton High School, he earned his degree at The Ohio State University in ag engineering. He married Sharon Parrott, who was born in Delaware County and grew up in Hardin County. She graduated from Kenton High School and received a teaching degree at Bowling Green State University. They married December 27, 1959. They raised five children and have sixteen grandchildren.

Max was a lifelong farmer and recognized for his innovations in the swine business. He was in leadership in various statewide ag organizations. In the local community he volunteered as a member of Kenton First United Methodist Church, 4-H club advisor, Kenton school board, board member of Community First Bank, Veterans Memorial Club House Board, and Hardin County Airport Board. Flying and racing vintage Jaguars were two things he enjoyed.

Sharon was a loving mother and grandmother. Along with her family she loved her church and community. Her involvement in church included teaching Sunday school and singing in Chancel choir for over fifty years. She participated in the United Methodist Women, and Elizabeth Circle. In the community she volunteered with the Goshen Girls 4-H club, local Hospice board. Farm Bureau, state and local boards for Pork Producers and was a founding member of the Mistletoe Ball.

Max and Sharon were proud to be a part of this community and believed in giving back.



# Clarence & Melba Jean (Roszman) Hensel

Clarence and Melba Jean were both born in 1930 and grew up on farms in the vicinity of Marseilles, Ohio. They became high school sweethearts at Marseilles High School with a class of 12 students, where Clarence played basketball and Melba Jean was a cheerleader. They were married on March 30, 1952, at Melba Jean's parents' home. They bought their lifelong farm in southwestern Wyandot County and started their family which included four children: Teresa (Dan) Harris, Jeryl (Scott) Kissling, Bonita (Doug) Cochran, and Rodney (Linda) Hensel. Clarence farmed and went to work at the local stone quarry, Tri-County Limestone. Together they founded Hensel Ready Mix in 1963, which is still in operation today. Clarence and Melba Jean worked side by side in the daily operations for thirty years. Clarence and Melba Jean were very active and held numerous offices in the Order of the Eastern Star, Loyal Order of Masons, Wyandot County Council of Aging Board, Farm Bureau, Grange and lifelong members of the Marseilles United Methodist Church. They loved their family, especially their eleven grandchildren and many great grandchildren, following their school music and sporting events. Clarence became known for his homemade ice cream which he shared at many family gatherings and social events. Clarence and Melba Jean passed on November 22, 2019 after being involved in an automobile accident. They are missed by their family and all who knew them. Clarence and Melba Jean were the generous donors that allowed the Foundation to purchase their permanent office space on East Franklin St. in Kenton and also have a grant fund established in their name.





## **OREN & MARY ALBERTA HOGAN**

### **DESIGNATED SCHOLARSHIP**

Oren J. Hogan was born in 1902 and served 16 years with the U.S. Marine Corp. At the age of 18, he served with the Mounted Marine Detachment in Peking, China. He also served 5 years as a guard Lieutenant for the U.S. Bureau of Prisons. In 1928, he married Mary Alberta Hogan who was from Hardin County. From 1946 until 1972, Oren served as the Hardin County Veterans Service Officer. Oren also served his local community by being President of Kenton City Council from 1950 to 1951 and was one of the founders of Veterans Memorial Park. He was an active member of Post 198 of the American Legion Post 3333 Veterans of Foreign Wars and Lodge 157 of the Elks.



Mary Alberta Hogan graduated from Kenton High School in 1924 and from The Ohio State University in 1929. Mary also attended Miami-Jacobs Business College. From 1933 until 1974 Mary was the owner/operator of M.A. Hogan Elevator in Grant. Mary was active in the community by being involved in the local PTA, the Northwest District of Ohio PTA as the Director and was a life member of the Ohio Congress of PTA. In her spare time Mary was also active by being local President of the Tuberculosis Association and serving in the auxiliary of both the American Legion and VFW Posts of which her husband was a member.

Together the Hogans made Hardin County a better place to live and their generosity after their deaths help make the lives of current students brighter.



## **ALBERT & JUNE HORN**

Albert H. Horn, Jr. was born October 3, 1922 in Huron County, Norwalk Ohio, to Albert H. Horn, Sr. and Ruth (Limbird) Horn. He graduated from the Tiffin Columbian High School and Tiffin University. He served with the United States Navy in the South Pacific and China during World War II, receiving an honorable discharge in 1946. Upon his return to the United States, Albert became an agent with the Internal Revenue Service with offices in Toledo and Lima and then moved to Kenton to establish the IRS office in 1951.

While residing in Kenton, he was a member of the Masonic Lodge #154, the Order of the Eastern Star Latham Chapter #364, the Kenton Elks #157, served as president of the Kenton Jaycees 1964-1965. He was also a member of the St. John's United Church of Christ serving as president of their Council in 1957.

In 1957, he married June Castor, daughter of W. Murray and Dorothy (Patterson) Castor. June was born in Kenton, Ohio and was a graduate of Kenton High School and the Lima Memorial School of Nursing. She was surgery supervisor at Lima Memorial Hospital before returning to Kenton where she was employed by the Kenton Physicians Group for several years. While in Kenton she was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star Latham Chapter #364, Minerva Club, Kenton Music Club, and the Methodist Church chancel choir.

In 1966, Albert was transferred and the couple moved to Bryan, Ohio in May of 1967. Albert was a member and Paul Harris Fellow of the Bryan Rotary Club serving as its president 1983-1984. He served on the Board of the Community Hospitals of Williams County since 1972, a member of Zenobia Temple of Toledo and Scottish Rite Bodies in the Valley of Toledo. Albert served on the search committee to acquire and organize a YWCA in the City of Bryan and was instrumental in establishing the Bryan Area Foundation in 1969 and served as a trustee and treasurer for that group for 19 years. June was a member of the Association for Recognizing Talented Students for the Bryan High School. She also was a member of the Bryan Fortnightly Study Club and a life member of the Community Hospitals of Williams County Auxiliary. They both were members of the Wesley United Methodist Church of Bryan, where they were active in the life of the Church.

In 1983, Albert Horn retired from the IRS and opened a private practice as a tax consultant with offices in Bryan, Ohio. Albert and June were the parents of one daughter, Jennifer, who resides in Dublin, Ohio.

# **THOMAS G. & HELEN (STEINER) JESTER CONSERVATION MEMORIAL**

Designated for flowers, shrubs and trees in our public parks and recreation areas.

Thomas and Helen Jester were born and raised in Hardin County. Thomas was first a farmer and then turned to the landscape business where he spent almost 50 years. Helen was a homemaker and very interested in flowers and was a long time member of the Kenton Garden Club. She was also active in D.A.R. and both were lifelong members of the First United Methodist Church.



## **JOHN & RUBY JESTER**

John F. Jester was born and raised in Hardin County, graduating from Kenton High School. For over forty years, John was a designer, manufacturer and distributor of commercial Christmas decorations. He served on the Kenton City Board of Education and also served many years as a director of the Home Savings and Loan Company. He was a veteran of World War II. He held memberships in the Masonic Lodge, Kenton Elks Lodge #157, Chamber of Commerce and supported many civic projects including the beautification of downtown Kenton. He was a member of the advisory council of the Hardin County Juvenile Court. He received the Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year Award in 1988. John served as President of the Foundation from 1991-2007.

Ruby A. Jester was born in Kenton and graduated from Kenton High School. After graduation she was a secretary at Frigidaire Corporation in Dayton, Ohio. From 1949 to 1962, she was a secretary for "Alaskan Artist," Fred Machetanz and his wife, Sara, the author of children's books. In 1965, she was employed in the medical records department at Hardin Memorial Hospital and retired in 1978. She was an active member of PTO and an active member of Beta Child Conservation League. She was also a volunteer at the Hardin County Historical Museums. Being long time members of St. Johns United Church of Christ, they have been involved in various areas of Church life.



## **JERRY D. JESTER SCHOLARSHIP 1939 - 1966**

Jerry was born and raised in Kenton. He graduated from Kenton Senior High School where he was a member of the track team. Jerry graduated from Bowling Green State University in 1961 with a B.A. Degree in Geology. After a year he enlisted in the Air Force and was assigned to the Operations Section as a Cartographic Officer with the Alaskan Air Command in Anchorage, Alaska. Cancer cut his career short in 1966.



## TERRY KEISER TREE FUND

Terry Keiser came to Ada as a student in the early 1960s from Canton Ohio. After graduating in biology, he went to graduate school. He returned to Ada as a part-time instructor and law student. In 1967, he started teaching full time and rose from the rank of instructor to full professor and professor emeritus over the years, chairing the Department of Biological Sciences for 25 years. He joined the ONU President's Office as the Director of Sustainability involving many tasks including the establishment of the 16 acre solar field. Service included 6 terms as a member on the ONU Board of Trustees. He was a member of the village council for 23 years, a founder of the Ada Tee Commission, chairman of the Ada doctors committee, an appointee of the Ohio Bicentennial Commission, Ada CIC, a longtime member of the Ada Liberty EMS trustees, director

emeritus of Liberty National Bank, a member of the Hardin County Board of Health, the Elks, Kiwanis, the Dunkirk Masonic Lodge. He is a life member of the ONU Lehr Society. In 2009 Terry was honored as Ada's Distinguished Citizen.

Professionally he served as president of the Ohio Academy of Science, identified as an Ohio STEM EXEMPLAR, chairperson of the Ohio Biological Survey, national offices in the American Fisheries Society, 2017 recipient of the Herbert Osborne Award for his contributions to Ohio's natural history.

His contribution to the Hardin County Community Foundation is designated to provide monies to the Village of Ada for trimming trees in the community. He continues to serve Ada as the village Forester. Terry and his wife Chris continue to live in Ada.



## KEITH & LAURA KINNEAR

Keith Kinnear was born in 1945 in Kenton, Ohio. He graduated from Kenton High School in 1963 and received a degree in business administration from Ohio University in 1967. He married Laura Tighe of Ada, Ohio. Laura earned a degree from Ohio University and served the schools of Hardin County as a speech-language pathologist throughout her career. They had two sons, Jason and Andrew.

Keith was a veteran of the United States Marine Corps, earning his "Wings of Gold" as a Naval Aviator in 1970. Flying, either for business or personal reasons, would prove to be a lifelong passion.

As a business professional, Keith spent much of his career in the manufacturing industry. He enjoyed extended periods with several local businesses including Imperial Cup Corporation and InnoPlas Corporation. Building and growing businesses through the development of people was always a focus. He valued listening, asking the right questions and being available whenever needed. His dedication to Hardin County stemmed from a sense of community with its residents. Though several assignments caused him to move from the area, he always made his way back to Kenton...a place he loved to call "home". Keith was committed to serving his community. He was a lifelong member of First United Methodist Church and Elks Lodge #157. Throughout his lifetime, he served on a number of boards, among these were Liberty National Bank, the Hardin County YMCA, the Hardin County Airport Authority and the Hardin County Board of MRDD. Keith became a Community Foundation Board Trustee in 2007. At the time of his death in 2014, friends and family honored his service by providing this memorial fund to the organization.





## **KIRK & HELEN KIRKLAND**

### **DESIGNATED MEMORIAL FOR RECREATON**

Clyde W. "Kirk" Kirkland was born March 5, 1916, in Bellaire, Ohio, to Dr. C. Wallace Kirkland and Ona Jebb Kirkland. Raised in Bellaire, he was a 1940 graduate of North Carolina State University with a degree in electrical engineering. He was a lieutenant colonel in Army ordnance during World War II, serving in North Africa and Italy, and he received a Bronze Star. He worked for the Ohio Power Company for 38 years, and retired in 1978. He was a member of Elks Lodge 157, and of the Rotary Club, and he received the Paul Harris Award.

Helen Johnson Kirkland was born February 1, 1916, in Fromberg, Montana, to Van Elbert Johnson and Helen May Linn Johnson. Raised in California, she graduated from the nursing program at French Hospital in San Francisco in 1937. She received her flight nurse training at Bowman Field, Kentucky, in 1944 and served with the 813th Air Vac U.S. Army Air Corps as a 1st Lt. flight nurse during World War II.

Kirk and Helen met at Williams Field, Arizona, in 1942, and they were married in 1945. They enjoyed traveling, and made extensive trips together throughout the United States. Later, they visited their children from Central America to Nepal. Their favorite sport throughout life was golf, and they enjoyed playing on many courses around the United States, and were active in local golf associations.

## **HELEN KURT**

Helen Eleanor Kurt was born September 1, 1912 to parents living on a farm in Pleasant Township. She attended Dunkirk schools until her parents built a home in Kenton. She then attended Kenton Grammar School and graduated in 1930 from Kenton High School where she was an honor student. After graduation, Helen enrolled at Findlay College where she completed the secretarial course of study in 1931.

After college, Helen worked at Champion Equipment Co., later known as Philips & Davies Co. She retired in 1939 due to health problems.

She was a lifelong, faithful member of St. Johns United Church of Christ, being baptized there in 1914.

Helen was known as the lady who drove a 1951 Packard automobile into the late 1990s. She remembered a number of charitable organizations in her will.





## **CATHERINE LENS**

**1888 - 1976**

### **SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FUND**

Catherine Lens taught in the Kenton City Schools for many years. She taught Latin and French and established the first French Club at Kenton High School in 1923. Catherine was a graduate of Miami University and studied special courses at The Ohio State University, the University of Wisconsin and the University of Chicago. Catherine's scholarship trust was established to help students achieve the ideal that higher education was something to strive for in life, a principle that she held dear to her heart.

## **MAXINE AND JOHN F. LICHTY**

### **DESIGNATED TO HARDIN MEMORIAL HOSPITAL**

John (Pete) Lichty was born in Bucyrus, Ohio on October 31, 1917 but spent most of his life in Kenton. He graduated from Kenton Senior High School and The Ohio State University. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II and returned home to continue his father's insurance work until 1986. Pete was very active in his community despite contracting polio and subsequent paralysis in 1952. He was president of the little league baseball, a life member and past secretary of the Kenton Elks 157, a former secretary and life member of Ridgeway VFW, a member of the American Legion Post 198, and a 50 year member of Latham Lodge and the Scioto Chapter. He also served as a member of the Hardin Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees for 12 years, was a former secretary and member of the Kenton Chamber of Commerce, and a member of St. John's United Church of Christ.



Maxine Lichty was born in Goshen Township on July 16, 1921. She graduated from Kenton Senior High School and Bliss College. In 1942, she married Pete Lichty and raised three children, John Peter, Patricia, and Cynthia. Maxine was also very active in the community. She was a member and former president of the Hardin Memorial Hospital Guild. Maxine also volunteered at the hospital for many years. She was a member of St. John's United Church of Christ, Minerva Club, the Elks Ladies Bridge Club, and the Memorial County Bridge Club.



## **CARL R. LOTZ**

**1927-2003**

Carl R. Lotz was born August 24, 1927 in Hardin County to Henry and Mary (Willeke) Lotz. He graduated from Kenton High School in 1946. He was married to Kathryn Young who passed away September 1988. He was a member of St. John's United Church of Christ, Latham Masonic Lodge No 154 and a 32nd degree Mason. He was also a member of the Hardin County Shrine Club, Kenton Lions Club, Kenton Elks Lodge No 157, Hardin County Farm Bureau and Kenton Moose Lodge No 428.

Carl was a veteran of the U.S. Army. He was a farmer and Pleasant Township Trustee. He represented Pleasant Township on the BKP Board of Trustees and Grove Cemetery Board.

# **JAMES MCVITTY**

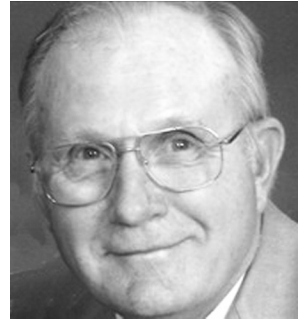
James was born on May 14, 1930 in Mt. Blanchard to the late Carroll and Helen (Nesbaum) McVitty.

James was a 1948 graduate of Forest High School. He was a prominent life-long farmer and a devoted lifetime member of the Forest United Methodist Church where he served in many leadership roles and played on the church dart ball league.

James was very active throughout his life within the community having served on leadership boards and committees such as The Gideons International, Farm Bureau and was a 50 year 4-H adviser. He was a Director Emeritus of Community First Bank, Grand Lodge 50 year Mason where he received the Community Service Award and a Jackson Township Trustee for several terms.

For hobbies he enjoyed truck rides around his farm land, woodworking, fishing with his nieces and nephews and listening to music.

He married Peggy Baldwin on May 21, 1994, and she preceded him in death on March. 16, 2002, he then married JoAnn Vermillion on October 15, 2005, and she preceded him in death on January 8th, 2019.



# **DeWAYNE "BUD" RAMGE & VIRGINIA "JANE" RAMGE**

DeWayne Ramge was born and raised on a farm in Goshen Township, Hardin County, and remained on the family farm until he retired. He met his wife, Jane Buchenroth of Bellefontaine, and they worked together to be successful in farming while raising four sons, two who have followed in their father's footsteps. Bud and Jane were lifetime members of Goshen Grange and very active and supportive of the St. John's United Church of Christ as well as other community organizations. Bud was a member of the Hardin Central School Board and also served on the Kenton City School Board. He was a director of the Kenton Savings Bank and, later, a long-time Board member of the Home Savings and Loan Company of Kenton.







## **ROBERT G. REED, JR.**

Bob was born in Kenton, Ohio on September 21, 1936, and was reared on a farm in the Belle Center area. He graduated from Belle Center High School in 1954, where he was Valedictorian of his class. He attended The Ohio State University and received his bachelors degree in 1958. He then graduated from The Ohio State University College of Law in 1960. After graduating from law school, Bob entered the U.S. Army in 1961 where he served as a Captain and Legal Officer in the Judge Advocate General's Corps. Upon completion of a three year active duty tour, Bob returned to his home in the Hardin County area in 1964 to engage in the practice of law, and spent the next fifty years actively engaged in that pursuit. During his time of practice, he practiced law from time to time with Mark Hanna, with whom he was associated with for many years. At various other times his legal career also associated with Attorneys Michael Bernard, James

Ansley, and John Neville. Bob Reed was respected and held in high regard by his peers, and by the members of his community. Bob Reed was quiet in demeanor, and had the reputation of being an intelligent, dignified, honest, and courteous lawyer and citizen. Bob also served his community in a quiet and very generous manner. His good deeds to the community were always done without fanfare or undue publicity. He was a faithful member of the Belle Center Presbyterian Church and Lawrence Valley Grange. Bob was a long time member and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Mary Lou Johnson-Hardin District Library. Bob was especially generous in his financial support of the Hardin County Community Foundation, the Hardin County Genealogical Society, the Hardin County Humane Society, and the Mary Lou Johnson Library. Bob is survived by two brothers, John E. Reed and Joseph M. Reed, and a sister, Jane M. Lay. His family can be very proud of Bob for his long and respected legal career, for the service that he gave to his country and to his community. Bob was truly a good person, and his family, the legal profession, and the community in which he resided were fortunate to have known his presence. He will be greatly missed and remembered by all.

## **ISABELLE REXIN**

### **1907-2004**

Isabelle Rexin was born July 12, 1907 in Hardin County to Howard and Della (Burdett) Huey. On August 28, 1933 she married Henry R. Rexin, who proceeded her in death February 1979. The Rexin's had a daughter, Mary Lou Knapp.

The Rexin's owned and operated Rexin's Furniture and Appliances in Kenton. Isabelle was a 1925 graduate of Kenton High School. She was a member of St. John's United Church of Christ and served on the Women's Guild and Naomi Circle at the church. She also was a member of the Culture Club and Alpha Honor Circle.



## **NED RICHARDS**

### **1914 - 1996**

Ned Richards was a lifelong resident of Kenton. He graduated from Kenton High School in 1932 and worked at the F.W. Woolworth store. He then owned and operated the "Corn Crib" at the corner of Detroit and Franklin Streets for many years before joining R.E. Allen Wholesale as a manager for over 25 years.

## **E. STUART & WINIFRED ROGERS**

### **DESIGNATED TO YMCA**

E. Stuart Rogers was born in Wood County and moved to Kenton with his parents at an early age. Graduating from Kenton High School, he entered the insurance business with his father at Rogers Nationwide Insurance. He retired after 33 years. Stuart was quite involved with the Kenton community in many areas. He was a member of the Airport Authority to help acquire an airport for Kenton and was its first manager. He was a past president of the board that helped establish the Community Improvement Corporation, Hardin County Genealogical Society and Farm Bureau Council. He was county commissioner from 1980-1984, past president of the Kenton Chamber of Commerce, director of the Hardin County Auto Club, and former president of the Ohio Northern Parents Association. Stuart received the 1981 Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year Award.



Winifred Rogers graduated from the Riverside School of Nursing of Toledo and was dedicated to helping in the development of health services for the Hardin County community. A former president of the Hardin Memorial Hospital and Riverside Methodist Hospital, and was instrumental in the leasing of the Sullivan-Johnson Museum to the county. She was a member of the Hardin Memorial Hospital Guild, Hardin Home Health board of directors, Kenton Music Club, St. John's United Church of Christ, Kenton Garden Club, Latham Chapter Order of Eastern Star, Hardin County Farm Bureau Council and a charter member of the Sullivan-Johnson Museum. She was the 1987 recipient of the community service award from the Kenton Chamber of Commerce.

## **THE RUSHSYLVANIA ROUGH RIDERS**

The Rushsylvania Rough Riders began in the 1950s as a family friendly horse club that held horse shows in the Logan County Area. In 1962 the club purchased land outside of Rushsylvania and continued to have horse shows with various classes that could be entered by anyone interested in showing their horse. As the years passed and the horse industry began to specialize, the club began to produce only timed event shows.

The Rushsylvania Rough Riders have always felt it was important to support the youth in the area. It is with this mindset that the club decided to give two scholarships each year to Ridgemont and Benjamin Logan Schools.



## **HELEN A. SLACK**

Helen Ann Hanawalt Slack was born 1920 in Kenton to George and Cecelia Hanawalt. After graduating high school in Kenton she moved to Columbus to join her sisters and worked for many years at the U.S. Dept of Defense Construction Supply Center. After Helen's first husband passed away she moved to Florida. When Helen was again widowed she returned to Kenton in 1989. Helen enjoyed playing bridge and golf with her friends and was an avid Notre Dame football fan. She was also an active and supportive member of Immaculate Conception Church. She read widely and followed current events closely and enjoyed talking politics. Helen spent much of her time in later years looking after her elder sisters who also returned to Kenton upon their retirement. Helen passed away at the age of 94 in August 2014 and is buried in Kenton.

## **BERNARD & OPAL SPONSER**

Bernard Sponsler was born May 28, 1916 in Taylor Creek Township. He graduated from Belle Center High School in 1934. He married Opal Kurt, who was born May 27, 1916 in Blanchard Township. She graduated from Dunkirk High School in 1934. They were married May 9, 1942 and lived in Taylor Creek Township. Bernard and Opal were both very active in their Church teaching Sunday school classes and holding many offices. They were active in the Masonic Lodge and the Eastern Star. She was a Past Matron and he was a Past Patron and Past Master and a 32 degree Mason. He was a Charter and active member of the Kenton Kiwanis Club serving as Lt. Governor of Division II in 1975. Bernard served on the Ridgeway and Ridgemont Boards of Education for 12 years.

He served as Hardin County Commissioner from 1976-1984. During his tenure the Simon Kenton School and Harco Industries became a reality, the County Museum was opened, the fairgrounds expanded, and the Hardin County Council on Aging was formed and the center built.

Together they farmed, raised sheep and horses, and collected antique Minneapolis Moline tractors. It was in this shared life they believed that by their tending of the soil, their work in the Church and Community they would hopefully leave the world a better place for those who follow.



## **RUSSELL SCHWEMER & WILLIS SCHWEMER**

Willis Schwemer, born May 6, 1906 and Russell Schwemer, born October 26, 1907, were sons of Charles Schwemer and Elizabeth (Kroft) Schwemer, who were Cessna Township, Hardin County, Ohio farmers for many years. One brother, Clement, predeceased Willis and Russell.

Willis Schwemer continued to farm in Cessna Township until his death on April 6, 1986.

Russell Schwemer worked at Swift-Ohio for over 40 years.





## STERLING SISTERS

### SCHOLARSHIP



Mary M. born April 29, 1921 and Patty A. born July 22, 1936 to Guy and Ruth (Baum) Sterling, lived their entire lives on the family farm in Hardin County. Mary was a 1939 graduate of Belle Center High School. She had hoped to be a nurse but due to a farm accident, her plans changed. She became a hospital clerical secretary at San Antonio, Hardin Memorial Hospital and retired from St. Rita's Medical Center in Lima. After retirement she served on the board of the Hardin County Red Cross and the Hardin County Bloodmobile.

Patty was a 1955 graduate of Belle Center High School. She earned a Licensed Practical Nursing Degree in 1958 and was proud to be in the first class of the Lima School of Practical Nursing.

After working at San Antonio and Hardin Memorial Hospital, she found her calling working with Dr. Jay Pfeiffer in Kenton for nearly 25 years. Mary and Patty were 7th degree members of Lawrence Valley Grange, the Hardin Memorial Hospital Guild, the Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, Moonlighters Hardin County Homemakers Club and the Fides Chapter of Kings Daughters of Belle Center. They both spent many years enjoying and volunteering at the Hardin County Fair as grange members and members of the Hardin County Homemakers. The Mary M. and Patricia A. Sterling Scholarship fund was established in 2022 and its purpose is to provide scholarship funds for the benefit of any student residing in Hardin County who is affiliated with Jr. Grange, 4-H, FFA, or any similar entity.

## RAY & MARY (HARRIS) THOMPSON

Ray Thompson (4-22-1919 to 1-30-2004) and Mary Harris Thompson (3-9-1920 to 11-13-2002). Ray married Mary Harris in 1941. Both were born and lived their lives in Kenton, OH where they raised their family.

Ray graduated from KHS; attended Ohio State on a football scholarship; served in the US Army in WWII and fought in the European Theater. After VE day, his unit was sent to the Pacific as part of the force scheduled to invade Japan.

Ray served the Kenton City government over five different decades. His public service started in 1954 when he was appointed as First Ward Councilman and then won 2 subsequent elections leaving office in 1959. He returned as Council President for 3 -two year terms beginning in 1964. In 1975, he was appointed as At-Large Councilman and was elected for 2 more terms. He was elected as Mayor for 2 terms from 1984 - 1991. During the 1960s, his tenure included building a new water treatment plant and in the 1980s a new fire station and municipal building. In

1975, Ray was instrumental in starting the Kenton Rescue Squad (now known as BKP) and was one of the first to take the 400 hour medical training course to provide help on emergency runs.

Ray worked as a jeweler and watch repairman at Kraus Jewelers and retired from Rockwell International in Kenton. Ray was very active in Kenton and Hardin County politics plus many civic and charitable organizations including Masonic Temple, Elks, and VFW.

Mary, as a housewife, loved to sew, crochet/handcrafts, and bake. She prepared and delivered meals to elderly in their neighborhood and supported Ray in his various community duties and civic activities. She was employed and retired from the Kenton Times.

They were members of the Epworth Methodist Church. Their work in the Church and the community was important to both of them as they always tried to improve life in Kenton.

Ray and Mary had 3 children, Sharae T. Bell (born in 1943), Connie T. Fruehan (born in 1947), and Ray Jr (Sept 1956 to Oct 1979).

Ray is a direct lineal descendent of James A. Thompson, a Patriot of the American Revolution. From 1700, each of his male ancestors served in the US military. Ray and Mary's daughters, Sharae T. Bell and Connie T. Fruehan are members of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

In 2018, the Alan and Connie (Thompson) Fruehan Endowment was established in memory of her parents to support Kenton and Hardin County civic organizations most meaningful to Ray and Mary in such amounts as the Foundation Trustees determine.





## **OKEY AND ETHEL VANDYNE**

### **DESIGNATED TO COURTHOUSE GROUNDS**

Okey VanDyne was born in Jamestown, Ohio, on April 12, 1904. Following graduation from Jamestown High School he attended Cedarville College for two years. He then moved to Ada for the purpose of attending the Warren G. Harding College of Law at Ohio Northern University. He was a barber by trade and financed his own way through law school by working at his trade in the local barber shops in Ada. While attending law school, he met and later married Ethel Preston who was born November 12, 1907, on a farm in Marion Township in Hardin County. Following graduation and admission



to the Bar in 1931, Okey practiced law in Hardin County until his death in 1959. His son, Charles, joined him in the practice of law in 1956. Ethel VanDyne graduated from McGuffey High School and served as a legal secretary for both her husband and her son for a period of time in excess of fifty years. In addition to her secretarial skills, Ethel was well known for the excellent food dishes which she enjoyed preparing and sharing with friends. Ethel died on October 9, 2001.

## **THE STAMBAUGH FAMILY MEMORIAL**

### **DESIGNATED TO YMCA**

### **JOHN B. STAMBAUGH 1856 - 1942**

John B. Stambaugh arrived in Hardin County in 1888 and after many difficult years won the struggle to establish a successful farm on the Scioto Marsh. He later became a Hardin County Commissioner, then State Representative for the area as well as the chairman of the building committee to erect the County Courthouse.

### **JENNINGS M. STAMBAUGH 1896 - 1982**

Jennings, after serving in WWI, returned to Hardin County to manage the Stambaugh Farms. Unlike his father, Jennings shunned the political spotlight. His family and the farm were his loves, while he quietly supported many local projects and people.

Both his sons elected to return to Hardin County after serving several years overseas in WWII.

### **JOHN J. STAMBAUGH 1919 - 1988**

John, a graduate of Ohio University, managed the Stambaugh Farms from then until his death. He was a "man of the land" and it was with great pride and joy that he was able to enlarge and modernize. A loving family man, he demanded anonymity for the many charities he supported.

### **RICHARD E. (DICK) STAMBAUGH 1920 -2010**

Dick, a graduate of Pratte Institute in Interior Design, also came home to Hardin County. He established a furniture factory in an unneeded onion storage in McGuffey where he first made custom solid wood tables, then furniture systems tables specified by architects. His tables can be found in many public buildings throughout the United States. He is now retired.



## **DON W. AND BARBARA J. SPATH**

### **DESIGNATED TO GRADUATES OF UPPER SCIOTO VALLEY**

Don was born in Alger Hardin County in 1937. All younger years were spent in and around Foraker, McGuffey and Kenton. He graduated from McGuffey High School in 1955. In 1956 he married Barbara J. Glett of Jackson Center and moved to the Indian Lake area. In 1962, Don took control of Fire Safety Services, Inc. In 2002, he retired to spend time on the family farms in Logan and Shelby counties.

Barbara was born in 1937 in Logan County and spent her younger years in and around Jackson Center. She graduated in 1955. Don and Barbara raised two sons, Steve and Scott. They also have three grandchildren.

# Ruthanna Tobey

Ruthanna Tobey was a lifelong resident of Mt. Victory/Dudley Township where she was born June 11, 1926. Ruthanna was the daughter of Hattie (Shuster) and Charles Tobey. She was the youngest of 6 children. Her father was hoping that the sixth child would be a boy and at her birth, he declared "Well, she'll have to be my little Jake". Thus, she was known by her family and close friends as "Jake" her entire life. Her siblings were: sisters Major Mary I. Tobey (career Army nurse), E. Maxine Steinman (of Kenton), and Betty C. Tobey; her brothers, Charles H. Tobey and Lowell Shuster (a first cousin whose mother died shortly after childbirth and was raised by the Tobey's). The children were raised during the depression and Ruthanna said she had 2 dresses: one on a nail in the bedroom and one on her back. This no doubt led to her fondness as a working adult for clothes shopping for herself and others. When her sister, Mary, and both brothers left on a bus the same day to enter World War II she took up the slack to farm alongside her father.



Ruthanna lived most of her life in the village of Mt. Victory. Ruthanna could be seen around town wearing stylish work clothes-never pants for herself or female employees-or in a baseball cap and tattered clothing if she was in the midst of a project. She was a lady of contrasts who had a stern appearance, but a very soft heart.

As a high school student, she worked for the Mt. Victory Schools and the Mt. Victory State Bank. After graduation from Mt. Victory High School in 1944, Ms. Tobey was planning on attending Findlay College, having received a full scholarship. But as many of the "greatest generation" she remained in Mt. Victory caring for her ill mother and supporting her sister, Betty, who had polio as a child and required physical assistance. Ruthanna began her work life at the bank as a teller, advancing to assistant cashier and cashier before becoming President of the bank. She had many friends in the Amish community who banked with her. If children came into the bank, she always had a special sweet treat for them. She remained President of Mt. Victory State Bank until her retirement in 1995.

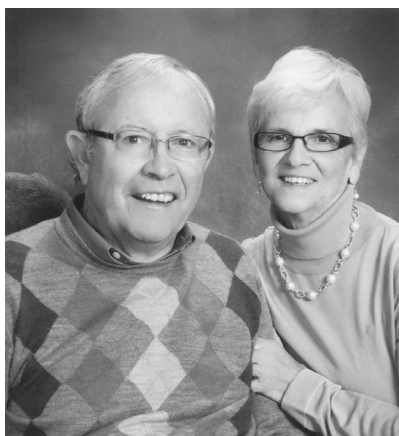
In 1975 Ruthanna was appointed by Governor James A. Rhodes to serve on the Ohio State Banking Board. She had the honor of being the first woman appointed to this position. During this same time, about a 20-year span, The Mt. Victory State Bank was operated by an all female team of employees.

Her sister E. Maxine Tobey Steinman lived in Kenton and Ruthanna spent much time with her nephews and nieces: Dr. Charles Steinman of Salisbury, NC, John Steinman of Kenton and Jane Steinman Kaufman of Philadelphia, PA as well as Charles R. Tobey of Battle Creek, MI and Kathy Shuster Pipkin of Ferndale, WA. She is survived by 12 great nephews and nieces and 18 great grand nephews and nieces.

Ruthanna always took pride in the Mt. Victory community and surrounding area and served as a trustee of the Hardin County Community Foundation. After 10 years of service, she retired as an Emeritus Trustee.

She enjoyed caring for her home throughout her life, with bounteous flowers overflowing the window boxes. It was her pride and joy; she found pleasure in decorating, landscaping, traveling the world, baking pies and collecting walnut period furniture. Her true joy was in her three generations of nephews and nieces. She passed away on December 21, 2019.





## HOWARD AND RUTH WATKINS

Howard N. Watkins Jr. was born and raised in Hardin County. He graduated from Kenton High School and received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture from The Ohio State University. He spent six months in New Zealand as a foreign exchange student. He married Ruth Ramsey on April 26, 1959. They have three children, Brian, Mark and Alison Watkins Gill. Howard returned to Hardin County after college to be a part of the family farm. He served his country for 8 years in the Army Reserves. He was active in the community serving as a County Commissioner, Pleasant Township Trustee, The Kenton School Board, the First United Methodist Church, and Treasurer of the Memorial Park Golf Assoc. He was a director on the board of Home Savings and Loan, Chairman of the Board

of Trustees of The Ohio State University Lima, and served on the Board of the Wyandot Mutual Insurance Co. He was honored as Hardin County citizen of the year, selected to the Agriculture hall of fame, and was honored by the Hardin Memorial Park Golf course Board.

Ruth was born in Logan County and graduated from Ridgeway High School. She earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education from The Ohio State University and a Masters in Reading from Bowling Green State University. She spent 30 years teaching in Hardin County. Ruth is a founding member of University Club II, active with the First United Methodist Church, Elizabeth Circle, a member of Minerva Club, and Hardin County Ambassadors. In retirement she has volunteered at Hardin Memorial Hospital and the Mazza Museum at the University of Findlay.

## WILLIAM & MARY WENTZ

William was born in Hardin County to William Monroe Wentz and Edna Lark Brooks Wentz. His great grandfather Daniel Wentz came to Ohio from Germany in 1851. Great grandmother Christena in the 1850's also. Great, great grandparents Johann Ulrich Wagner & Anna Barbara Born and family came from Switzerland in 1850's also. The Brooks family tree goes back to mid 1700's in Virginia.

William served about 4 years in the U.S. Army in World War II. He is a life member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, American Ex P.O.W.'s and member of American Legion. After returning home he worked in construction. He & Mary were self-employed in construction contracting until retirement. They have 2 sons William Alan Wentz and James Ray Wentz. Mary was born in Hardin County to William Wells & Evaline Josephine Johnson Wells. She graduated from Kenton High School in 1941 and during the World War II years, worked at Wright Field, Dayton and Camp Atterbury Hospital, Indiana.

William & Mary were married in Indianapolis in May, 1944. After the War she worked as a Homemaker and Bookkeeper for their business, was active in Cub Scouts, Disabled American Veterans Aux. and PTA and Hospital Guild.



# DR. RICHARD AND SUSAN ASHBA YOUNGPETERS

Richard (Dick) Youngpeters (1942-2012) attended Kenton Public Schools for 12 years where he was a member of the Wildcats football team, and graduated from Kenton High School in 1960. He received a BS from Otterbein University in 1964 and an MD from the University of Cincinnati. After completing his internship and residency in pediatrics with the US Navy, Dick established a pediatric practice in Cincinnati. He devoted his professional career to serving the health and medical needs of children, including those from impoverished neighborhoods.

Susan Ashba Youngpeters was born in 1943 and also attended Kenton Public Schools for 12 years, and married Dick in 1964. She supported Dick's pursuit of his career and served as an assistant in his Cincinnati office for many years. Dick and Susan had three children, Cheryl, Roger, and Christine. This memorial was established by Gretchen Ashba Curtis and her family.

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| Improving  | the quality of life in Hardin County through charitable giving.   |
| Providing  | a vehicle for donors with varied interests to support charitable and community activities.  |
| Assessing  | and responding to emerging and changing community needs in the fields of education, youth services, recreation, arts and culture, social services, and civic and community development. |
| Developing | a permanent endowment for the community.  |
| Serving    | as a catalyst to initiate projects vital to the community.  |

# HARDIN COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES



*Sandra Neely*



*Bruce Neely*



*Tim Thomas*



*Lee Ann Loveridge*



*Mary Dickinson*



*Marie Sprang*



*Gina Messner*



*Charles VanDyne*



*Dr. Todd Oates*



*Janette Jacobs*



*Samuel Norris*



*Donald A. Ritchey*



*Matthew T. Jennings*



*J. Michael Hood*



*David J. Schwemer*



*Beryl Rogers Dudek*



*Jeff Knedler*



*Ron Zimmerly*



## **WHAT ARE SOME GOOD REASONS FOR GIVING TO THE FOUNDATION?**

1. The community where an individual has lived and prospered has a claim on a reasonable part of their substance. Without sound community life, there can be little real wealth for anyone.
2. A gift produces perpetual benefits, long after the giver is gone.
3. A gift shows concern and responsibility. Money carelessly given can become wasted, but a gift to the Foundation works with no time limit in sight.
4. A gift unites people. There are no distinctions based on the amount of the gift. All are united by a common bond of generosity and concern.
5. A gift will yield benefits for the child of tomorrow.
6. A memorial fund of \$5,000.00 or more, given by a person or group, can be designated to a particular objective. Several such memorial funds are now active in the Foundation.

## **ARE DONATIONS TAX DEDUCTIBLE?**

Yes. Your attorney or tax advisor can help you here. The Foundation can also refer you to a qualified advisor. Proper handling can yield maximum tax benefits.

## **WHO MANAGES THE FOUNDATION?**

The Trustees and members, a group of area citizens serving without pay.

## **HOW DOES THE FOUNDATION ACCOUNT TO DONORS?**

Through an annual report showing a balance sheet and disbursement of proceeds for the past 12 months. It is printed in the Kenton Times and Ada Herald and read over WKTN Radio. A full annual report is mailed to all members and is available on our website: [www.hardinfoundation.org](http://www.hardinfoundation.org)

## **WHAT ASSETS CAN I GIVE?**

Contributors have established charitable funds with the following:

- Cash
- Securities traded on major exchanges
- Closely held stock
- Real estate including residences or farm land
- Oil and gas leases
- Insurance policies
- Variations or combinations of the above

Foundation trustees will be glad to discuss proposed gifts with you. Those that cannot readily be converted to the financial benefit of charity or that carry unusual potential liability may not be accepted.

# Tour Of Our New Building

