



Pickaway County Historical and Genealogical Library

February 2026

210 North Court Street
Circleville, Ohio 43113

Library Hours:

Tuesday – Friday
1 pm – 4pm

Email us at:

pkwyhist@pchql.org

Closed: Holidays & the
Friday after Thanksgiving,
& Christmas Eve through
New Year's Day

Phone: (740) 474-9144

<http://pickawaygenealogy.org/>



Bob Mabe

THE HISTORY OF PHARMACIES

The speaker at our January library program was Pharmacist Robert Mabe. Mabe is the owner and founder of the Apothecary Drug Stores in Ashville and Circleville. He received his pharmaceutical degree 55 years ago.

Mabe shared with us how the drug store business has evolved over the years. At the beginning of the 20th century most drug stores filled very few prescriptions. Typically doctors dispensed needed medicines from their physician's bag. This meant that drug stores of the time were typically the place to find supplemental items like herbal remedies, salves, or a bottle of 'grandma's special cure-all.' They supplemented their sales by offering other household goods, and often a counter to sell soft drinks and ice cream.

During Prohibition, the drug store was the place to get your prescription for 'medically-necessary' alcohol. As bottles of whiskey were dispensed, a form was submitted to various government authorities to prove its legality.

The pharmacy business has changed greatly. Mabe says we now have only three giant pharmaceutical companies providing the bulk of the country's drug supplies. Much of our modern medicines are now manufactured in China and Europe.

Of special interest to area residents is the historical drug store on display at the Ashville location. Customers are able to take a peek at a typical pharmacy of the past. Mabe has collected a wide variety of bottles and pharmaceutical tools one might have found at a late 19th/early 20th century drug store. Stop by the Ashville Apothecary and see for yourself.



Your source for local history





GIANT PUMPKIN CLUB GROWERS VISIT LIBRARY

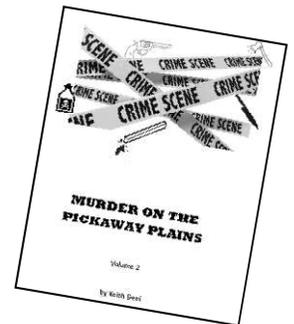
Members from the Giant Pumpkin Club stopped by the library on January 30th for a private tour. They were able to view some of the library's extensive collection of Pickaway County history. The collection includes family genealogy records, school pictures, court files, property maps, sheriff ephemera, and so much more.

After the tour the club presented a generous donation to the Historical Society in memory of Jo Liggett. If your group or club would like a tour, just call us to make arrangements.



NEWS OF INTEREST

- The Library works hard to catalog our existing archives as well as the steady stream of incoming items. As of late January, our master database record count stood at 1,308,360 separate entries.
- More Murders? Yes, Volume 2 of "Murders on the Pickaway Plains" will soon be available for purchase exclusively at the library. Another 23 crimes have been retold in 'true-crime' fashion. Read about Adeline Roby, the Darbyville woman who took her neighbor to court insisting he was insane and a danger to the community. Three years later, her murder proved she was right. Or discover the 1886 account of how 'peaceable' Benjamin Beachtell, the lock tender at the Circleville aqueduct, was compelled to defend himself against an angry and drunk passenger. Sadly, he delivered a fatal shot and was sentenced to one year in the Ohio Penitentiary. Reserve your copy today!



FOUND IN THE LIBRARY ARCHIVES...

This 1938-39 Cigarette Dealer's License was required to be prominently displayed at Hiram Lama's retail store in Adelphi.



A closer examination of this 19th century Fairfield County Atlas helps us understand how STOUTSVILLE got its name.

