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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Biography of Sara (Sally) Dana Willson.....	2
President’s Message: Club will honor past presidents in May.....	2
Member’s Moment – Edgar Shaudys.....	3
Club inducts Westerville real estate agent as new member in March.....	4
Durham/Chapel Hill club will host 2019 Torch convention.....	4
Responding to the Evite from Secretary Seelbach.....	5
Schedule of Torch Club speakers and their papers for 2018-19.....	5
Board of Directors for Torch Club of Columbus, Ohio, for 2018-19.....	5

Presentation by Sally Willson on April 4 **“A Journey Back in Time”**

Sally Willson inherited four suitcases stuffed with letters, diaries and documents representing multiple generations of her family. She then began her own journey of discovery. Who were these ancestors? What stories did they have to tell?

Sally will answer those questions as she recounts her family’s history and domestic life in 18th and 19th century America in the Torch paper, “A Journey Back in Time,” that she will present to the Columbus Torch Club on April 4. Club members Diane McKenzie, Bruce Smith and Otha Gilyard will participate in the presentation as they read excerpts from the letters and diaries.



Sally Willson

“A Journey Back in Time’ will take us to 1700 and 1800 when travel was by tall ships, horseback, stage coach, canal barge and eventually railroad cars,” Sally says. “First, we will join 300,000 Europeans to experience what it was like to sail across the Atlantic in the 1700s, unlike the 300,000 Africans who forcibly crossed in the same period.” For Sally’s ancestors, the destination was Philadelphia.

“Then we’re going to travel by horseback over Indian trails, rivers and creeks in frontier Pennsylvania with two young missionaries, Yale graduate David McClure and Princeton graduate Philip Vickers Fithian. Next we will meet John Johnston, a young Scotch-Irish minister who immigrated to Pennsylvania in 1784. Unlike McClure and Fithian who returned home to the East Coast after their missions, Johnston settled permanently in Pennsylvania’s remote western frontier and became the first regular pastor of two primitive log churches.”

Sally explains that Rev. Johnston’s story is based on letters dating from 1801 to 1889, plus diaries and photographs. She compiled his story over three years with multiple visits to archives at Princeton University Seminary, Huntingdon County Historical Society and Venango County Historical Society in Pennsylvania, Ohio History Center, Rare Books and Manuscripts Library at Ohio State University Libraries, Columbus Metropolitan Library, and Family Search Center in Reynoldsburg. She also visited

cemeteries in Huntingdon and Franklin, Penn. She received technical help and support to prepare her presentation from TV and video producer Amy Paulin.

From Johnston’s story, “we will learn how unforeseen circumstances and Pennsylvania’s remote distances created tragedy and challenge for generations to come,” Sally says.

Biography of Sara (Sally) Dana Willson

Sara (Sally) Dana Willson, a retired financial planner, has lived on both coasts of the United States and in India. She now calls Columbus home.

Sally grew up in the suburbs of Philadelphia, attended a girls’ school, and earned a B.A. degree from Tufts University in 1962. She earned a master’s degree in journalism in 1991. She married a Peace Corps volunteer and lived in India.

Her career includes working in the Office of Economic Opportunity and on the India Desk at the Peace Corps in Washington, D.C. She was a media specialist at Cornell University for five years. She taught in high school in California and taught writing and editing at the University of California’s Davis and Riverside campuses. When she and her husband moved to Columbus, Sally changed careers and became a financial planner.

Sally is a member of US Together, Alliance Francaise and Ohio State University Women’s Club. She has been a member of the Columbus Torch Club since 2017. She enjoys golf and pickleball.

President’s Message: Club will honor its past presidents in May

Gene Gilliom’s presentation, “China – Off The Beaten Path,” was another home run for the Babe Ruth of Torch presentations! Thank you, Gene, for an amazing presentation with breathtaking images of the culture, customs and landscape.

We have been privileged with so many unique papers this Torch season, and our upcoming paper is no exception. Sally Willson has been working on her presentation, “A Journey Back in Time,” for literally years. Her story and inspiration are the essence of: Knowledge – Experience – Fellowship. In Sally’s case, you can add private investigator to the list. You’ll see what I mean when you hear her paper.

At our May meeting, we will be honoring all past presidents of Torch. This is a one-time, unprecedented event, and I am honored to be able to recognize those who led our Columbus club to the vibrant and strong organization we are today. This segment of our program will be a memorable and meaningful tribute, and I’m hopeful it will inspire others to join the board and become active in roles that will propel us forward for another 100 years!

“Purpose is the reason you’re on this journey. Passion is the torch that lights your way.” – Will Craig

Looking forward to seeing you all very soon.



Tom Costantiello

Member's Moment – Edgar Shaudys

Presented by Howard Gauthier on March 7, 2019

Ed is a farm boy from Pennsylvania who has spent his adult life in Ohio. Ed came to Ohio to enroll in the liberal arts program at Wilmington College at a time when the college was engaged in setting up a college farm and a limited curriculum in agriculture. While Ed served as a laboratory assistant in the biological science courses, he also participated in the development and management of the college dairy herd and in the organization of the college's creamery and milk processing plant. It is not surprising that he was initiated into Delta Sigma Delta, the Agricultural Honorary Fraternity. More significantly, as a student, Ed met a young coed, Elizabeth Ann Townsend, who would become his wife. Today, they have four children, 11 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Recently, they celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary.

Based on his performance as an undergraduate, Ed was selected as a graduate student in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology at The Ohio State University. After receiving both his M.S. and his Ph.D., he accepted a joint position in the department and the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center. The result has been a highly successful career as a scholar and scientist. Most of Ed's more than 70 publications pertain to farm management problems in Ohio. They are all directed toward providing answers that are useful in practical decision-making. In addition to being useful for farmers and extension agents, the publications serve as useful classroom teaching aids.



Howard Gauthier (left) presented Edgar Shaudys for the Member's Moment in March.

Ed was recognized as an outstanding teacher. His case problem method of teaching farm management was popular with students who found it to be a unique learning experience. Students were presented with farm management problems. Working in groups, they were challenged to apply economic principles to see which group could arrive at the most feasible solution. The focal point of his courses was the analysis of actual commercial farm problems. The quality of his teaching was evident in the department nominating him for the Distinguished Undergraduate Teacher Award of the American Agricultural Economics Association. Ed has served several terms on the College of Agriculture's curriculum committee and was involved in the formation of the college core course, "A Study of Our Socio-Economic System," that may have benefited the faculty as much as the students.

Although Ed's interests have focused on farm management in Ohio, he did participate in a collaborative research program funded by the Midwest Universities Consortium for International Activities. He spent two summers in Somalia as a team member and chief of party.

Ed also has been active on several North Central States committees of the Farm Foundation. He has served as a member and chairman on committees dealing with farm management, commercial agriculture, agricultural productivity, land-use and taxation. He was college vice president of the

American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers and the executive secretary-treasurer of its Ohio chapter.

In addition, Ed was a board member at his alma mater, Wilmington College, for 11 years and its board chairman for three years. Locally, he has been a member of the Grandview Heights Library Board of Trustees for 30 years; a member and chairman of the Grandview Heights Board of Health; and a member of the Columbus Real Estate Board. Ed holds a real estate broker and salesman license. Also, he manages two farms as a landlord share operator and F.T. Shaudys Rentals, Ltd., for flats and townhouses.

On a personal note, Ed has a longtime hobby of restoring and showing classic cars, especially Oldsmobiles. He has restored about a dozen high-performance Oldsmobiles. He and Elizabeth have attended and participated in shows from Canada to Texas and from New York to California. They chaired the National Oldsmobile Club meet in Columbus at which 600 cars were shown and attended by more than 3,000 participants.

Club inducts Westerville real estate agent as new member in March

Jan Johnson

Jan Johnson is a Realtor and a broker and owner of RE/MAX Impact, a real estate firm located in Westerville. Born in Lima, Ohio, Jan earned her B.S. degree in accounting from the University of Dayton in 1979.

She worked at Cooper Tire in Findlay in the area of cost accounting and audit. She established a tax preparation service and operated it for 30 years. She also ran a catering company for 10 years.

Jan has been a Realtor with the Columbus Association of Realtors since 1994. She was recognized as Broker/Owner of the Year by RE/MAX of Central & Northern Ohio. She received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Columbus Association of Realtors. She lives in Westerville.



Jan Johnson (left) and her sponsor, Dorothy Driskell.

Durham/Chapel Hill club will host 2019 Torch convention

The annual convention of the International Association of Torch Clubs will be June 20-23, 2019, at the Croasdaile Country Club in the North Carolina country setting outside Durham. The Durham/Chapel Hill Torch Club is the convention host. Registration by May 14 is \$350. Complete registration information is in the winter 2019 edition of *The Torch* magazine.

Among the Columbus Torch members who will be attending the convention are Tom Costantiello, the club's president; Violet Meek, the club's president-elect; Dorothy Driskell, IATC vice president; and Liz Short, IATC Region 5 director.

Responding to the Evite from Secretary Seelbach

Club secretary Thom Seelbach will send you via electronic mail an Evite to attend the Torch Club meeting on April 4. Respond promptly to the Evite so he will have an accurate count of meals needed. You also may respond to him at tseelbach@gmail.com or (614) 457-5103.

The directions for responding to the Evite are:

1. After you click on the email from Evite, it will bring up a new window on the Evite website. You must click your response in this new window for Evite to register your response.
2. The guest count is the actual number of attendees. If only you are attending, the count will be 1. The cost for a guest to attend the meeting and dinner is \$30. A potential member may attend one meeting without charge.

Schedule of Torch Club speakers and their papers for 2018-19

October 4, 2018: **“Kelton House Shares Sophia’s Secret”** by Diane Selby and Mary Oellermann

November 1, 2018: **“A Century of Chemical Warfare: Trenches, Treaties, Therapy”** by David Lenz

December 6, 2018: **Shiloh Baptist Men’s Chorus**

January 3, 2019: **“Advancements in Ohio Law and How They Affect the Estate Planning Process”** by Eric Gamble

February 7, 2019: **“Time Changes Everything”** by Jeff Baker

March 7, 2019: **“China – Off the Beaten Path”** by Gene Gilliom

April 4, 2019: **“A Journey Back in Time”** by Sally Willson

May 2, 2019: **“Super Flow in the Universe”** by Will Saam



Torch Club’s monthly meeting agenda

- 4:30-5:30 p.m. Board of Directors meeting
- 5:30-6:15 p.m. Cocktails and conversation
- 6:15-6:35 p.m. Business matters
- 6:35-7:30 p.m. Speaker
- 7:30-8:45 p.m. Dinner and table discussion

Meetings are conducted in The Ohio State University Faculty Club, 181 S. Oval Drive; (614) 292-2262.

Board of Directors of Torch Club of Columbus, Ohio, for 2018-19

President – Tom Costantiello

President-elect – Violet Meek

Immediate Past President – Rich Davis

Secretary – Thom Seelbach

Assistant Secretary – Susan W. Smith

Treasurer – Howard Gauthier

Assistant Treasurer – Susan Tilgner

Fellowship Chair – Nancy Wardwell

Membership Chair – Dorothy Driskell

Nominating Chair – Rich Davis

Newsletter Editor – Steve Sterrett

Director-at-Large Dorothy Driskell (2019)

Director-at-Large Richard Meyer (2019)

Director-at-Large Jeff Caswell (2020)

Director-at-Large Deborah Stevens (2020)