

QUARRY CHAPEL RESTORATION COMMITTEE

of

KNOX COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Post Office Box 14

Gambier, Ohio 43022

October, 1972

Dear Friend,

This summer the long process of deterioration of the Quarry Chapel was arrested. Now a drive for the preservation and restoration of the building is under way. You can help.

As you know, the Chapel has been empty and neglected since that fateful spring in 1937 when vandals desecrated it. Since then the building has faced the ravages of time, weather, and the destructive playfulness of youth. That it has endured is a testimony to the loving care and skill which built it. Yes, the walls of the vestibule have deteriorated, and the falling of the chimney has severely damaged the altar area, but the main part of the Chapel is still structurally sound. However, with the roof leaking badly we cannot expect the interior timber to remain sound. Also the accumulation of water around the foundation, due to the leaking roof and the disintegration of the gutters, will eventually destroy the stone walls themselves.

In 1967 the Diocese of Ohio transferred the deed for the Chapel and grounds to the Trustees of College Township for use as a historical monument. The Trustees have done minimal maintenance, but they are prohibited from using public funds or raising money by donation for more serious work. This spring a series of public meetings aroused wider interest in the Chapel and led to the revitalizing of the Knox County Historical Society. The Society is incorporated and tax-exempt. The Trustees then appointed a group, the Quarry Chapel Restoration Committee, to work within the Society for the preservation of the Chapel. This committee has made a thorough investigation of the condition of the building and discussed the necessary work with contractors.

We need your help. You can help us build our archives with information and pictures by sending them to Louise Adams. Your copy will be returned to you with care. Also very important, you can give us the names of others who know or care about the Chapel. Send these to Jane Lentz. And, of course, you can help us with fund-raising by sending a donation now in care of Tom or Dukie Mill. Your donation is tax deductible and will automatically make you a member of the Knox County Historical Society.

You will be hearing from us again, soon.

Sincerely,

Harold Burch

Harold Burch, Chairman

Louise Adams, Katherine Allen, Jack Bateman, Beverley Clifford, John Converse, Mary Flecknoe, William Klein, Jane Lentz, Tom and Dukie Mill, Vera Walters McCoy

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Post Office Box 14

Gambier, Ohio 43022

October, 1972

Dear Friend of Quarry Chapel:

Quarry Chapel needs to be closed to the elements if it is to endure. This observation has been confirmed by expert opinion and has guided the work of the Restoration Committee in recent weeks. The question is "How is this to be done?"

It could be done more or less permanently so that planning could begin for the restoration of the interior. This would require that all the seriously deteriorated stone work, mainly in the walls of the altar area and vestibule, be torn down and rebuilt. The rest of the walls need a careful tuck-pointing. All of the wooden superstructure of the vestibule and altar area would have to be removed and rebuilt with new materials: scissor trusses, beams, rafters, and sheeting. On the main part of the building the slate would have to be removed and the rotten sheeting and trim replaced. The roof of the entire building could then be replaced with slate roofing and copper crown, flashing, valleys, and gutters. Our contractor assures us that this would make the building weather tight and virtually maintenance free for 15 or 20 years. The cost of the work would be \$15,700.

Since you cannot put a sound roof on unsound walls, most of this work needs to be done at one time. However, we could put off the tuckpointing that is not absolutely necessary now. We could also give the roof, once its wooden structure was made sound, a temporary covering of heavy tarpaper. This would enable us to postpone about \$5,000 of the total cost. The winter months would then be used to raise the additional funds and the work be completed next summer. This plan involves a minimum loss of time and effort. Its achievement is the immediate goal of the committee. We need \$11,000. We could reasonably begin work with \$9,000. We have \$3,500. Please send your contribution or pledge now.

If we receive \$9,000 by the seventh of November, the necessary stone work can be done before freezing. The building could be closed tight by the first of the year. You can see the urgency of prompt action.

If the necessary funds do not come in promptly, we will patch the holes as best we can with plastic sheets. We fear, though, that even this delay will increase the difficulty of succeeding in restoring the Chapel. With the passage of each day, building costs rise and the deterioration of the building continues. Time is on the side of the enemy. Please help now.

Sincerely,

Harold Burch
Harold Burch
Chairman of the Committee

Tom and Eula Mill
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas C. Mill
Coordinators of the Fund Drive

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KNOX COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Post Office Box 14

Gambier, Ohio 43022

January 18, 1973

Dear Friend of Quarry Chapel:

Enclosed is a copy of the letter which was sent out in October to those who attended the public meetings concerning the Chapel last spring and summer. It will give you a general background in the work of the committee and the ways in which you can help. I would like here to bring you up to date.

Detailed plans for the restoration of the exterior of the building have been formulated with the assistance of a general contractor and an architect. Restoration and preservation of the exterior requires that all the seriously deteriorated stone work be torn down and rebuilt. The sound walls will be carefully tuck-pointed. The wooden superstructure of the main part of the building is still sound, but the scissor trusses, beams and rafters of the altar area and the vestibule will have to be replaced. The roof of the entire building will be replaced with slate roofing and copper crown, flashing, valleys, and gutters. Our contractor assures us that the building will then be weather tight and virtually maintenance free for 15 or 20 years. The cost would be \$15,700.

In our planning we have tried to break the work down into stages and thus spread the cost over several years. Unfortunately, a sound roof is essential to the building's preservation and you cannot put a sound roof on unsound walls. The first stage of the work, planned for as early in the spring as masonry work is feasible, will cost nearly \$11,000.

This is our first effort to go beyond those who showed initial interest in the chapel and their immediate friends in our search for funds. From nearly 60 donors have received \$6,000. We could reasonably begin work with \$9,000.

Will you please send a donation or a pledge now.

Sincerely,

Harold Burch

Harold Burch
Chairman of the Committee

Tom and Eula Mill

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas C. Mill
Coordinators of the Fund Drive

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Post Office Box 14

Gambier, Ohio 43022

March, 1973

Dear Friend:

Spring is now only weeks away. Among your plans for this season we hope you have set aside a place for the work of restoring the Quarry Chapel.

As we told you in our earlier letters, the first stage of the work will cost nearly \$11,000. In order to begin work on this stage we need \$9,000 in hand. We have nearly \$7,500. This progress is reassuring, but one more giant step is needed.

We have made plans for a variety of fund raising activities during the spring and early summer, including card parties, picnics, and auctions. These activities will help us to complete the first stage, but the money will come to late to help us now. In order to get a firm commitment from our contractor to schedule the work this spring we need \$1,500.

Postponement will cost another year. Please send your donation now.

Sincerely,

Harold Burch

Harold Burch
Chairman of the Committee

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Post Office Box 14

Gambier, Ohio 43022

March, 1973

Dear Friend:

Most of the young men who have studied at Kenyon College have memories of the small stone church which stands on the crest of a hill east of Gambier. Although your memories may not be the sort intended by its original builders, we hope that the beauty of the building and site has stayed with you.

The Chapel has been empty and neglected since 1937 when vandals desecrated it. Since then the building has faced the ravages of time, weather, and the destructive playfulness of youth. That it has endured is a testimony to the loving care and skill which built it. Yes, the walls of the vestibule have deteriorated, and the falling of the chimney has severely damaged the altar area, but the main part of the Chapel is still sound. However, with the roof leaking badly we cannot expect the interior timber to remain sound. Also the accumulation of water around the foundation, due to the leaking roof and the disintegration of the gutters, will eventually destroy the stone walls themselves.

Efforts to preserve the Chapel are now under way. In 1967 the Diocese of Ohio transferred the deed for the Chapel and grounds to the Trustees of College Township for use as a historical monument. The trustees have done minimal maintenance, but they are prohibited by law from using public funds or raising money for more serious work.

Last summer interest in the Chapel led to the revitalizing of the Knox County Historical Society and the formation of a group to work for the preservation of the building and the beautification of the grounds. We have made a careful analysis of the condition of the building, with the help of expert opinion, and have begun fund raising. The first stage of the work will cost nearly \$11,000. We have raised nearly \$7,500. In order to begin work in April we need at least an additional \$1,500. In fact we need it now.

Your contribution will be tax-deductible. Please help now.

Sincerely,

Harold Burch

Harold Burch
Chairman of the Committee

Tom and Eula Mill

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Coordinators of the Fund Drive