

Mathews House Museum to show off new look

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After being closed for nearly two years, the Mathews House Museum at Navarre will reopen Sunday with a brand new look. The museum, at 123 High St., will be open from 2 to 4. It is operated by the Navarre-Bethlehem Historical Society.

Three rooms on the first floor have new wallpaper reminiscent of the building's 1830s era and new woodwork. Laminated flooring has been installed to give the look of being aged. A bedroom on the second floor has also received new wallpaper.

Dave and Kathy Waltz of the Ridgewood Historic District in Canton did the wall-papering. Janet Lynn chose the wallpaper for the office area, Kathy Waltz the parlor and Don Cooke the dining room. Jim Lynn of Richville and Jeff Kraus of the Navarre area laid the floors. They are all members of the Navarre-Bethlehem Historical Society.

Sue Gordon of Sherwin-Williams in Massillon was instrumental in choosing the paint colors used in the house. Jack and Vera Evans of Navarre also historical society members stripped the old wall paper and cleaned the house.

"We had a setback in May



T-R/Jim Cummings

Jim Lynn (L) of Richville and Jeff Kraus of Navarre look over an antique stereoscope in the Mathews House Museum at Navarre.

2004 when a hail storm damaged the outside of the museum, pitting the brick and roof. The brick had to be repointed," said Cooke.

In the upstairs, one room features various antique toys, while a bedroom has a rope bed and a glass-front display case filled with vintage cloth-

ing.

Activities Sunday will begin at the Massillon Museum at 121 Lincoln Way E., Massillon, at 12:30 where an exhibit of painting by William T. Mathews, the painter of presidents, will be displayed through Oct. 16. At 1 p.m. Alexandra Nicholas, Massillon Museum cura-

tor, will give a lecture.

All attending are invited to the Mathews House Museum for a Victorian tea on the lawn at 2.

Chris Craft, a member of the Massillon Museum, will portray Mathews, who was born in the Navarre house more than a century ago. The

afternoon will mark the grand reopening of the Mathews House.

Reservations will be appreciated for the tea. Cost is \$12 for Massillon members and \$15 for non-members. Reservations can be made by calling the Massillon Museum at (330) 833-4061 or stopping by the museum. Proceeds will be shared to help fund the Mathews exhibition and the Mathews House Museum.

William's brother, Alfred Mathews, was an illustrator of the Civil War and American West.

Joseph and Sarah Sharland Mathews built the house in 1836. They were parents of five children. Mathews had previously purchased 52 acres of land from Nathan McGrew in 1833 before building at the site. In November 1833 Joseph Mathews laid out of the village of Rochester located on W. Canal St. and E. High St.

Some Mathews descendants are planning to attend the re-opening of the museum and Navarre-Bethlehem Township Heritage Education Center at 124 Canal St., Navarre.

The Historical Society purchased the house in 1977 and began restoring the structure to its original grandeur. It had been used as a doctor's office and a family from Holland once owned the house before the historical society purchased it at an auction.

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