In 1790, George Rogers Clark, for whom the county is named, led a group of Kentuckians, including Simon Kenton, into this territory and defeated the Shawnee Indians at the Battle of Piqua. One member of the tribe was a boy of 12 named Tecumseh, who later became a famous Shawnee leader.

In the 1840s, Springfield was known as “the town at the end of the pike”. The city flourished when completion of the National Road (Rt. 40) stalled here due to lack of funding. Springfield’s heritage is derived from its pioneering roots in industry, culture and agriculture. In 1845 Wittenberg University was established here.

The Turner Foundation www.hmturnerfoundation.org, founded in 2001, works for the good of the city of Springfield and Clark County. The vision of the Turner Foundation is a community filled with a spirit of hope, creativity, excellence, and pride. Kevin Rose of the Turner Foundation is our main point person in Springfield.
Thursday, September 29

- Opening Cocktail Reception  
- Dinner on Your Own

Across the street from our headquarters hotel, the Marriott Courtyard Inn, is the impressive Richardson Romanesque Heritage Center of Clark County (1887-90), formerly the City Building and Market. Designed by Charles A. Cregar and spanning an entire city block, it is perhaps the most iconic structure in the city. Our Opening Reception will be here. Our keynote speaker will be Kevin Rose, historian with the Turner Foundation. A self-guided tour of the Heritage Center is included.

Friday, September 30

- Breakfast on your own at the hotel (included)  
- Lunch included  
- Cocktail reception included  
- Dinner on your own

The first stop on our walking tour this morning is the Warder Free Library and reading Room (1890), a building conceived for local industrialist Benjamin H. Warder by Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge, the successors to the firm of Henry Hobson Richardson. It is one of three remaining Richardsonian Romanesque libraries designed by the firm. Benjamin Warder was no stranger to Richardsonian design; prior to the architect’s death in 1886, Warder commissioned Richardson to build a residence for him in Washington, DC.

Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge returned to Springfield in 1893 to design the Bushnell Building, our next stop. Asa S. Bushnell was one of the principal partners in Warder, Bushnell & Glessner — the firm that manufactured the Champion Reaper. He would later serve as Ohio’s Governor (1896-1900). Like his partners Benjamin H. Warder and John J. Glessner, Bushnell was an admirer of H.H. Richardson and so hired his successors to design this commercial building. It is one of the first examples to show the firm moving from Romanesque toward the neo-classical elements of the Second Renaissance Revival. We will also stop at Springfield’s News-Sun Building, designed in the late 1920s by Schultze and Weaver, the architects of the Waldorf-Astoria, as well as many other Jazz Age hotels. The interior has an oak-paneled vestibule stenciled with patterned arrows, suggesting the tips of fountain pens. Our tour will also feature Frank M Andrew’s Lagonda Club (1894) and other downtown commercial buildings. After lunch there will be an opportunity to walk to the nearby Masonic Temple (1926) by Columbus architect Howard Dwight Smith. A shuttle will be available for those wishing to visit the Springfield Museum of Art, which has an impressive collection of regional American artists.

A highlight of the trip is the evening’s reception at Frank Lloyd Wright’s Westcott House (1906-8). The Westcott is the architect’s only Prairie Style house in Ohio, and not only embodies this signature style, but extends his concept of relating the building to its site by means of a terrace, pool, gardens and other landscape elements. Both house and gardens have recently undergone a meticulous restoration.

Getting There

Springfield, Ohio is 30 minutes east of Dayton and 60 minutes west of Columbus. It is 22 miles from the James M Cox International Airport (DAY), which is served by AirTran, American, Continental, Delta, Frontier, United, and U.S.Airways. There is no shuttle service from the airport to the hotel, but cab service is available. Two options are Airport Yellow Cab (937) 222-1779 and Dayton Yellow Cab (937)228-1155; pre-booking a cab is strongly advised. We may possibly be able to provide private pickup depending on your arrival time. Please email your flight information to Sylvia Johnson sylvia5@uakron.edu and we will see what can be arranged. Alternately, you can fly to Columbus International Airport (CMH), which is served by more airlines than Dayton (in addition to those listed above, Air Canada, Alaska, and Southwest also fly there) and with more daily flights, but we will not be able to arrange for private pickup there. By car Springfield is accessible via Interstate 70. The closest AMTRAK station is in Dayton. Again, taxi service is available from Dayton to Springfield via several taxi services (Airport Yellow Cab 937-222-1779 and Dayton Yellow Cab 937-228-1155 are two) and pre-booking is strongly advised.

Dress

The weather will be temperate and light layered clothing and comfortable walking shoes are suggested.

Eating Out

Our hotel restaurant is excellent and there are several fine restaurants within walking distance from the hotel.

Hotel Information

Our headquarters hotel is the Courtyard by Marriott Downtown Springfield, 100 South Fountain Avenue, Springfield, OH, where we have secured a block of rooms at a special rate of $99 single or double occupancy. Continental breakfast is included. For reservations call 1-800-MARRIOTT (1-800-627-7468) and be sure to mention that you are members of the Victorian Society in America group. These rooms will be held for us exclusively until Monday, August 29, 2011. After this date the discounted will may no longer be available and the rooms will be subject to availability.

MAKING RESERVATIONS AND ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE HOTEL ARE YOUR RESPONSIBILITY AND AT YOUR EXPENSE. THE SOCIETY’S ONLY ROLE IS TO SECURE THE DISCOUNTED GROUP RATE.
Saturday, October 1

- Breakfast on your own at the hotel (included)  • Lunch included
- Cocktail reception included  • Dinner on your own

This morning’s tour will highlight the architecture and history of the Greater Springfield Region. We will start with a drive through Wittenberg University and the surrounding College Hill District. Founded in 1845 as an American Lutheran College, Wittenberg has been a cornerstone of the Springfield region for over 165 years. We move on to the massive chateauesque Ohio Odd Fellows Orphan’s Home, designed by the Columbus firm Yost and Packard in the late 1890s. It is one of three group homes built in Springfield around the turn of the 20th century, including the Ohio Masonic Home and the Knights of Pythias Home – giving Springfield the nickname “The Home City”.

Our next stop, Ferncliff Cemetery, was platted during the Civil War and covers over 240 acres of rolling hills and pastoral landscape. We will stop briefly to see some of its amazing mausoleums, including the Bushnell (Robert H. Robertson) and the Gothic Revival Bookwalter.

After a box lunch, we will tour privately owned Mast Castle, which is currently in the process of lengthy restoration. This massive home was built for Phineas and Anna Mast in the early 1880s. Local lore has it that Mast hired immigrant cabinet makers and stone masons from Italy for its construction. The house contains exotic woods, stone fireplace mantels, and stained glass windows. We will be able to explore all spaces in the castle, from the grand parlor to the third-floor servant’s quarters.

In the nearby East High Street Historic District we will tour the interiors of four distinctive private houses, including: the Rowley House (1884), a textbook example of the Eastlake style; Dimond House (1888), designed by New York architect Joachim Mathisen; the Field-Carr-Johnson House (1884); and the Norton House (1868), childhood home of publisher W. W. Norton. We will conclude at the spectacular Richardson Romanesque Bushnell House by Robert H. Robertson (1887). Many are familiar with homes of Bushnell’s partners – the the Benjamin H. Warder residence in Washington, DC and the John J. Glessner house in Chicago – both designed by Richardson in 1886. The three houses, which the famed Norcross Brothers constructed concurrently, share noteworthy characteristics, including finely carved stone and wood detailing.

We will conclude the day with a progressive cocktail party at three private homes in the South Fountain Historic District.

Sunday, October 2

- Breakfast on your own at the hotel (included)  • Lunch included

This morning we drive through Ohio farmland and rolling hills to the Piatt Castles, Mac-A-Cheek and Mac-O-Chee. These unique 19th-century structures were built a mile apart by the two Piatt brothers on what were once the vast family landholdings. Mac-A-Cheek, completed in 1871, was the home of Abram Piatt, Civil War General and gentleman farmer. Its eclectic architecture and eccentric interior woodwork are the result of his unique vision and the inventiveness of successive generations. Don Piatt, writer and diplomat, began construction of a Carpenter Gothic cottage on the property in the 1860s. Not long afterward, he asked John L. Smithmeyer to design a substantial remodeling of the structure, which was completed in 1881, with frescoes by Oliver Frey. Mac-O-Chee is under restoration. We will have lunch at a local café in West Liberty.

The last delicious treat of our study tour is Louis Sullivan’s jewel box bank in Sidney, Ohio. Built in 1918, the People’s Savings and Loan Association is one of Sullivan’s eight rural town banks designed between 1906 and 1920. Sullivan found in one of the bank officials, LaFayette M. Studevant, a visionary client who recognized in the architect’s design an opportunity to express the bank’s progressive outlook. In his open floor plan and organic design, Sullivan demonstrated his own democratic ideals and social conscience. Using tinted brick, marble, mosaic and terra cotta, he created the polychrome elevations that give it the “jewel box” quality. It is believed that Sullivan considered this his best bank design. The bank has been a good steward of the building and both its exterior and interior have been well preserved.

Our bus will leave Sidney in time for a 4:00 pm drop off at the Dayton Airport for those with evening flights. The bus will then return to our hotel in Springfield.
Registration Information

Registration can be made via check (preferable), credit card or money order. Checks should be made payable to The Victorian Society in America. The Victorian Society in America is not responsible for accidents, injury or loss of personal items during this program. The Victorian Society in America reserves the right to make such changes to the schedule, sites to be visited, or personnel as may become necessary or desirable. Reservations are made on a first come, first served basis.

As this mailing has been sent via first class mail reservations will be taken immediately.

RESERVE EARLY AS SPACE IS LIMITED. Phone or fax reservations will ONLY be taken with a credit card payment at the time of reservation. Send your fax reservations to (215) 636-9873. Registration can be made via check, money order, or credit card (VISA, MASTERCARD, or DISCOVER only). Checks should be made payable to The Victorian Society in America. Please note that we do NOT take American Express.

The Victorian Society reserves the right to alter the schedule of events or cancel events should it become necessary.

Refunds
Refunds will only be given until September 2, 2011. A $50.00 administrative fee will be deducted for each refund. After September 2 no refunds of any kind will be given.

Trip Insurance
If you think that there is a chance that you will need to withdraw from this trip after you have paid you may wish to consider buying trip insurance. Trip insurance protects you against unforeseen need to cancel a trip. Trip insurance can cover the VSA fee and your airfare and hotel costs. There are many providers of this kind of insurance: one place to start looking is www.insuremytrip.com, (800) 487-4722. The VSA is providing this information purely as a service to you: we do not receive any compensation from any insurance organization.

FALL STUDY TOUR

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Enclosed is my check for $ ______________ made payable to The Victorian Society in America

Please charge my □ Mastercard □ Visa □

Expires ______________________

Please note that we do NOT take American Express

Signature ______________________

Name ______________________

Additional Participant ______________________

Address ______________________

City ______________________ State ______ Zip ______________________

Phone (day) ______________________ Phone (evening) ______________________ Fax ______________________

Email address ______________________

The Victorian Society in America
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