

# Log by Log



**Beavercreek  
Historical Society**

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[BeavercreekHistoricalSociety.org](http://BeavercreekHistoricalSociety.org)

## Thanks to Our Harvest Dinner Volunteers

**By Bob Zimmer**

The Harvest Dinners were served to a total of 142 guests in the Ankeney and Harshman houses at Wartinger Park on October 29, 30 and 31st. The event was a great success due to our army of Society volunteers and the Greene County Master Gardeners.

Meal servers were Bill and Gerry Smalley, Sarah Haller, Ruth Tobias, Mary Bayman, Jamie Ferguson, Lorraine Wagley, Eleanor Kohlman, Frances Wartinger and Claire Tuffy. Dish washers were Pat and Gary Browning, Bob and Lorraine Wagley, Traudl Schrick, Wendell and Jill Kincer, Lynn Hickman-Long, Zelma Robinson and Nancy Wagner.

The Greene County Master Gardeners provided and arranged the beautiful authentic vintage 1800's decorations. Bob Wagley tended the fires and Bob and Wendy Kirchoff lit and set the lanterns across the bridge lighting the way to the houses.

A very special thanks to you all. As the old saying goes "Many hands make the burden light." It couldn't have been done without you.



**Don't forget to attend the January 25, 2011 Quarterly Meeting! See back page for details.**

# HAVE YOU SEEN THE QUILT SQUARES?

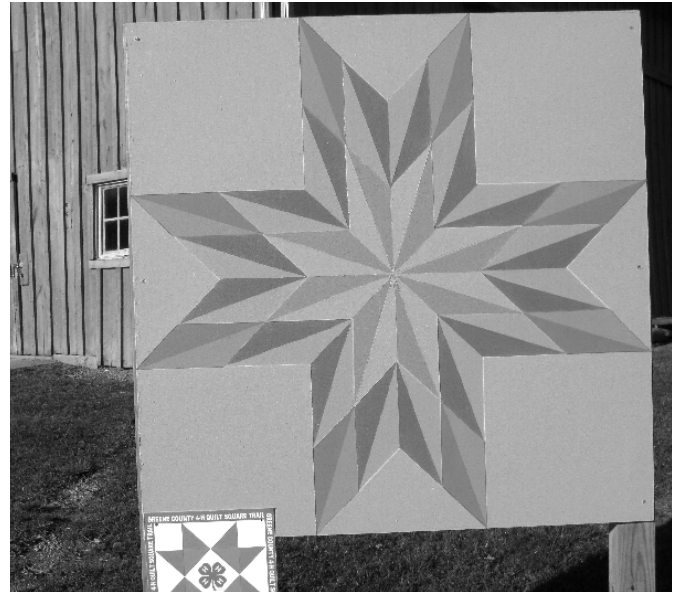
By Jill Kincer

Perhaps as you've driven by Wartinger Park recently, you've noticed a large colorful free-standing sign right next to the Tobias-Zimmer Barn that looks like a giant quilt square. Or maybe you've seen others as you've passed various barns or buildings in Beavercreek or in other Greene County locations. If you're wondering what those are all about, please read on.

Throughout the year 2010, the 4-H clubs of Greene County have been painting eight foot by eight foot quilt squares to create the Greene County 4-H Quilt Square Trail. The purpose of this project is

to enhance Greene County by showing pride in our agricultural history and appreciation of the richness of life here. It also offered 4-H club members throughout Greene County the opportunity to participate in a community pride project. The squares could be placed on any public or private building or could be free standing, and they needed to be located in places that were easily visible from the public road.

We are pleased that Wartinger Park was selected as a site on the Quilt Square Trail. The square at the Park is the Lone Star quilt pattern and was painted by Jeff



Grice, a 4-H advisor and great supporter of the project. If you'd like to know more locations along the Greene County 4-H Quilt Square Trail, contact the Greene County Convention and Visitor's Bureau office in Beavercreek at 429-9100 regarding a soon-to-be available brochure about this interesting project.

# Ken Wartinger Memorial

By Bob Bader

A memorial for Ken Wartinger is in work at Wartinger Park; Ken passed away in early 2010. It will consist of a second bench installed in the garden dedicated to Marie Wartinger, Ken's wife. The flagstone area has been expanded to better accommodate two benches. Two new benches have been purchased, one as Ken's memorial bench and the other as a replacement for the existing bench in Marie's honor. The memorial is being funded by the Wartinger family.



*"Marie's Garden With Ken's and Marie's Memorial Benches"*

# Moler Family

by Ruth A. Tobias

... Continued from past edition

++ Oliver Hazard Perry Moler (1831-1891), was married to Elizabeth Aley (1832-1886). (She is not the Elizabeth Aley that his brother Littleton married.) He lived all his life on a 151 ½ acre farm in the neighborhood south of Zimmerman. In 1860 his farm was worth \$8,400 and his personal belongings at \$1,000. After Elizabeth's death in 1886 Oliver was married to his second wife, Mrs. Sarah Smith (d. 1926), for a little over a year before he died in 1891. She petitioned the court for additional support money from Oliver's estate and was granted another \$100 per year, bringing her annual stipend to \$250. When Oliver Moler's farm was sold at a sheriff's sale in August 7, 1891, it brought over \$70 per acre, which was a large price for an "exceeding fine piece of land."

Oliver and Elizabeth Moler had fifteen children: Minerva (1852), Ruhanah (1854), Franklin F. (1855-73), William (1857), David (1858), Edwin A. (1859-84), Perry (1862), Lincoln (1864), Hattie (1868), Emma F. (1870), Charles C. (1872), Silva (1873), Rebecca M. (1875), Harvey (1878), and John Erwin. Silva and Ruhanah died as infants. Minerva was married to George Rockafeld and they lived in Cheyenne, Wyoming with their three children. Hattie was married to William Iddings and lived in Indiana with two daughters.

Lincoln and his young wife lived in Wymore, Nebraska. They had been married less than a year, when she died suddenly in January 1893. Perry, William and John lived for a time in Kearney, Nebraska. Perry Moler had moved back to Montgomery County by 1900, had one daughter and owned a grocery store, before becoming a carpenter.

++ Julia Moler, John Sr.'s daughter, was 25 in the 1860 census. She was either married by 1870 or had died, since she is not listed in that census.

## Vandiver Banks Moler

(1797-1884) was a farmer and a blacksmith who lived most of his life in Montgomery County. He did a "work exchange" when someone needed his skill as a blacksmith. He would leave his plowing to work in his shop, and the one needing the work would finish the plowing. At harvest time it was customary to have "bees" -- other farmers in the neighborhood would help harvest a field. There was always alcohol provided during these "bees." Vandiver was a staunch Methodist Episcopal and didn't approve of drinking. He offered to pay a crew to harvest his field if they wouldn't drink on the job. Farmers in the neighborhood objected. However, Mr. Dean from Dayton, also a teetotaler, came with his crew and harvested the field faster than any other group

had done. The neighbors were impressed and one hired his crew to work his harvest. But when Mr. Dean saw a bottle of alcohol in the house, he pulled his crew out and the work was left for the farmer to finish.

Vandiver said that the only good crop to have locally was wheat. Corn, oats, and the other normal produce were worth nothing as cash crops or for bartering. It cost 2 ½ bushels of wheat to buy a pound of coffee. As far as other foodstuff, wild turkeys and other game were plentiful, so the larder was never bare.

Vandiver was married to Elizabeth Hull, who was eight years older. They had the following children: Adam (1819), Julia Ann (1821), David (1823), Ruhama (1825), John (1827), Sarah Elizabeth (1829.), and Elizabeth (1830). The children listed in the 1860 census were Frances (1826), John (1827), and Harriet (1830). In 1870, Vandiver, age 73, listed himself as a retired merchant with property worth \$4600, and personal assets of \$300. Elizabeth was 81 that census year. In 1880 he was a widowed retired farmer, aged 83. His daughter Julia Ann was married to John Nesbitt in Montgomery County. Their children were born in 1840 (James) and in 1843 (Martha Ann.)

## My Life: One Story at a Time

The Beaver Creek Historical Society is sponsoring "MY LIFE: ONE STORY AT A TIME" on the 2nd and 4th Monday's from 3:30 – 5:00 beginning January 10 and ending May 23rd. This class is free and open to all (donations to the Beaver Creek Historical Society accepted). The sessions will be held at the Coy House in Phillips Park at 1981 Dayton-Xenia Road.

Bob Wagley has been leading "My Life: One Story at a Time" for over 10 years. The "class" is not one of formal instruction. Each person writes a story outside of class and then reads it in class. You could say this is more a gathering of people who enjoy sharing stories about their life, their family and their ancestors. Reading the stories in class helps other members recall similar occasions in their life. We have a great time,

laughing often and occasionally shedding a tear. Some of the students have been attending these sessions for almost the full 10 years and still haven't run out of stories to tell. It is great fun to think about the good things that have happened in your life and it is therapeutic to recall the time when things weren't so pleasant! Experiences that seem ordinary to you may be very interesting to your children or grandchildren.

In a recent "Dear Abby" column (November 16, 2010), a man wrote to Abby about a special gift he had requested from his mother. He asked her to write her life story—things she did as a child, her experiences about growing up and all of the experiences of her life. His mom wrote it and he had her story bound. He was able to give this wonderful gift to his children

and grandchildren. While this was a "Dear Abby" story, you can do the same thing for your loved ones.

Writing your family history is not difficult when you use your own words. It is made even easier when you do it "one story at a time." Please don't worry about making mistakes in spelling or grammar. If they bother you, you or someone else can edit your stories. The important thing is that only you know as much about your life and if you don't write about it, your children, grandchildren and others will miss out on the richness of your experiences.

For more information or to sign up please contact Bob Wagley, robertwagley@att.net or 426-8325. The class will be limited to 12 students so contact Bob as soon as possible.

## ACQUISITIONS

Mr. and Mrs. James Koontz have recently donated two large display cases which are now located at the Coy House.

Cheryl Mullikin has donated papers depicting the Traffic Control Plan for the corner of Dayton Xenia Rd and N Fairfield (dated July 1976) which were needed for the development of the shopping

area at that intersection. The papers belonged to Cheryl's grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Shellabarger. The papers will be included in our research files at the Coy House.

Charlotte Hopkins has donated several pieces of clothing, C1900, including a woman's lace and taffeta bodice, one child's and two baby Lawn Linen and lace

dresses and accessories. Their permanent location is yet to be decided.

We thank all of the above people for adding interesting pieces to our collection. If you are interested in donating items, please call Lorraine Wagley, Acquisitions Chairman at 426-8325.

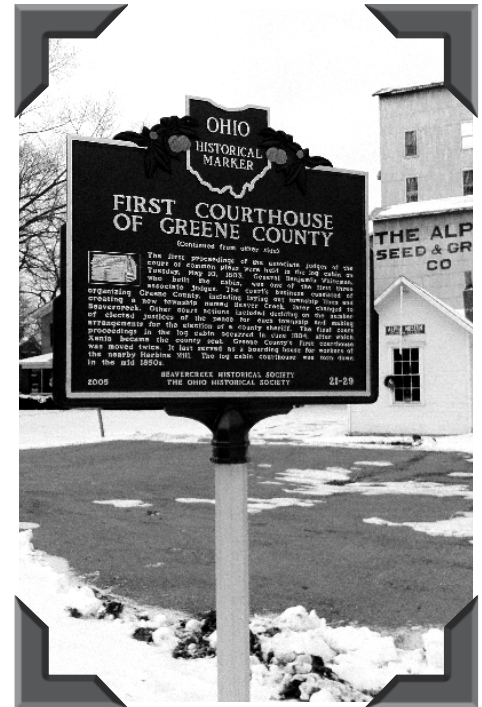
# BEAVERCREEK'S HISTORICAL MARKER REPLACED

By Laura Bader

A historical marker, which was a first for Beaver Creek and purchased through the Historical Markers Program of the Ohio Historical Society, was installed in Alpha. The marker commemorates the first court house in Greene County, which was located near the site of the old Harbine home along Route 35, just south of Alpha.

The formal dedication of the marker was held on May 4, 2005. The site chosen for the installation was at the historic old Alpha mill. The marker depicts appropriate text, shown on both sides, with a small image of that first log cabin. The image was taken from a very old sketch of the cabin which is pictured on page 13 of the BEAVERCREEK CHRONICLES publication.

During the summer of 2010 the marker was accidentally destroyed. The new marker, an exact replica of the first one, has been purchased and installed by the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department of Beaver Creek. We are indebted to Mike Thonnerieux, Director of the Parks Department, for undertaking this project. Our sincere thanks to Mike and others of his department who were involved.



## Yes, I'm Interested.

### I'd like to join!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Annual Memberships (check one):

- \$5 Student (age 18 and below)
- \$15 Individual
- \$20 Family
- \$50 Club/Organization
- \$100 - \$499 Patriot

#### Or Lifetime Memberships (check one):

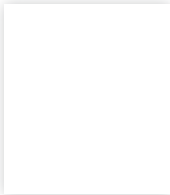
- \$500 - \$999 Preservationist
- \$1000 (and above) Historian

### How can I help?

#### Volunteers are needed in the following areas:

- Developing oral history of Beaver Creek
- Writing or editing for monthly newsletter
- Tours and historical programs at the park
- Craft demonstrations
- Acquisitions committee
- Publicity committee
- Working on barn or house preservation
- Creative fundraising opportunities
- Membership committee
- Educational committee
- Hospitality committee

Send checks (payable to Beaver Creek Historical Society) and this form to:  
1368 Research Park Drive, Beaver Creek, Ohio 45432



## Upcoming Events:

### Board Meeting, January 13

Coy House - 7:00 p.m.

### Quarterly Meeting, January 25

Beavercreek Board of Education Room,  
3040 Kemp Road - 7:00 p.m.

### Board Meeting, February 10

Coy House - 7:00 p.m.

### Board Meeting, March 10

Coy House - 7:00 p.m.

### Newsletter Submission Deadline

March 22 - 5:00 p.m.

### Quarterly Meeting, April 26

Beavercreek Board of Education Room,  
3040 Kemp Road - 7:00 p.m.

1368 Research Park Drive  
Beavercreek, Ohio 45432

"The objectives of the organization are to preserve structures of historical significance, to develop and present community education programs, and to create a learning center for historic education."

## Beavercreek Historical Society Quarterly Meeting

January 25, 2011 | 7:00 PM

## Mining Lamps History

Colin Gatland is a photographer and collector of mining lamps and the stories behind them. Colin collects not only carbine and oil lamps, but also the stories of the successes and hardships that were endured by the miners who worked in the coal, copper, gold and diamond mines of the United States.

Please join us at our Quarterly Meeting on Tuesday, January 25, 2011 at 7:00 PM. The meeting is free and open to the public. The program will be presented at the at the Beavercreek Schools in the Administration Building, 3040 Kemp Road.

## Do you have something to submit?

The next issue of Log By Log will mail on April 1st, 2011. If you have something to include, please send it to the editor by the March 22nd, 2011 deadline. Submissions can be sent to:

[sbaldwin@baldwincreates.com](mailto:sbaldwin@baldwincreates.com)



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