

Log by Log

**Beavercreek
Historical Society**



**Summer 2012
Volume 21
Number 3**

A Publication of the Beavercreek Historical Society. Affiliated with the City of Beavercreek.

BeavercreekHistoricalSociety.org

2012 Heritage and Herb Day Planning Underway

by Jill Kincer, Interim President

The 2012 Heritage and Herb Day will be held on Saturday, September 15, cosponsored by the BHS and the Flower Trail Garden Club. Hours will be from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Wartinger Park. The festival, as most of you know, is one of our major annual events when the historic structures are open to the public, and the park comes alive with all sorts of activity.

Planning for the event is currently underway despite an unexpected setback due to the recent withdrawal of BHS member Jenny Harvey as the chair for this year's event. Jenny's husband has had a job transfer, and thus the Harvey Family is relocating to Virginia in early July. We wish them well and surely thank Jenny for her service to the Society. She was able to get a lot of the preliminary planning accomplished before she had to leave. But now we must go back to our membership to ask for assistance in continuing to plan and pull this event together. We need your help!

The Board believes the planning can best proceed if we have a General Festival Chair (or co-chairs if that works better) and then have other members working under that leader(s) as subcommittee co-chairs for various areas including Food, Musicians, Vendors/Artisans, and Children's Activities. Nancy Wagner has already volunteered to chair the Children's Activities subcommittee, so if you are willing to help in that area, please call her at 426-1272. Our primary need at this point is for a member to come forward willing to serve as the General Festival Chair. For planning purposes, we need to fill the main chair slot by July 31st.

We have faith that members will step forward to not only help get this event rolling through the planning stage, but also to help at Wartinger Park on Saturday, September 15. Laura Bader and Nancy Makley have once again volunteered to make phone calls for workers. We will, as we have in the past, need volunteers to help in various tasks including set-up, take-down, food servers, welcome table, etc.

Please give these volunteer opportunities some serious consideration. Call Jill at 429-0291 or email her at wmkincer@aol.com if you are willing to take on any of these roles or if you have questions, comments or suggestions.

Attention All! You're Invited to an Ice Cream Social

Featuring the Beavercreek Strummers. Starting at 6:15 Ice cream at 6:30. Bring the family! July 24th in the barn at Wartinger Park. Annual Meeting of the Beavercreek Historical Society will follow the Strummers performance. Join us for recognition of Living History Volunteers and Election of Officers.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Our condolences and sympathy to the family of ... William (Bill) Hagenbuch, who passed away in late May. Bill and his wife, Grace, who predeceased him, were valued Lifetime Members of the Beavercreek Historical Society who over many years supported our efforts to preserve the past for the future. The two of them made many worthwhile volunteer contributions to various Beavercreek community activities and causes, and leave behind a legacy of civic service and dedication.

Congratulations are in order to ... Steve Baldwin, for having his local Beavercreek creative design firm, Baldwin Creative & Company, named by the Better Business Bureau as one of the top three finalists in the 1-10 employee category of the 2012 Eclipse Integrity Awards. These awards are given to Miami Valley businesses and nonprofits who model ethics, honesty and integrity for the community. Congratulations to Steve. We are proud to have you on board as our Newsletter Editor.

Wendy and Bob Kirchoff, for being presented the City of Beavercreek’s Culture Award at the annual Volunteer Recognition Event held in April. Wendy and Bob’s nomination cited their energy, drive and initiative as a team to undertake tasks that need to be addressed and for their active participation in many events and projects of the BHS. Wendy serves as our Treasurer, and Bob is a Johnny-on-the-spot worker. Thanks to both for their great support to our Society.

Welcome to new members **David and Stephanie Lindsley**.

Farewell, best of luck and thank you to... Jenny Harvey, who is relocating to Virginia with her family due to her husband’s job transfer. Jenny has been the chair of Heritage and Herb Days for the past few years, and her energy and dedication has been greatly appreciated. We thank her so very much for the time and hard work that position required and certainly wish her and her family our best as they move to their new community.

SPRING LIVING HISTORY *by Gerry Smalley, Director of Living History*

The Spring Living History program was held April 16 through May 10. We hosted 13 classrooms from Fairbrook, Shaw, and Parkwood. We had wonderful weather for most of the days. There were 350 students who attended our program. The volunteers were very helpful and we were able to complete the full program for all the classes. Thanks to the following people who were there to make the program work: Grace Axer, Art and Kathy Bauer, Bob Bader, Paralee Henderickson, Denny and Becky Jarvi, Jill Kincer, Charlotte Hopkins, Sharon Jernigan, Gina Kahn,

Dottie Kamammer, Edie Kiest, Don Kocarek, Carl and Stephanie Lindsley, JoAnn Manske, Shirley McCourt, Lois Neal, Diane Phillips, Janice Rice, John Rohdehammel, Martha Rothman, Julie Sanderson, Traudl Schrick, Lisa Shearer, Ronna Spahr, Ed Stafford, Nancy Wagner, and Mary Lou Wilkinson. Also a big WELCOME to our new volunteers, Linda Foster, Diana Hoffman, Jennifer Moser, and Claire Tieffey. Glad to have all aboard. Also a big THANK YOU to those behind the scenes Laura Bader and her group who make the doll kits and yarn balls, Karl and Linda

Hogrefe for the pioneer soap, and Wilma Stafford for cutting all of the quilt squares. After taking the responsibility for the Living History program for 8 years I am delighted to have Stephanie Lindsley agree to assist me in the fall. Stephanie and two of her children, Grace and Carl have been working with the program as volunteers for the past 3 years and have been a tremendous asset. I am not getting any younger so I think this change will be best. The Living History program is very important to me and I will continue to help as much as I can. I hope to see you all in the fall.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thanks to the Green Clover Gals and Guys 4-H Club, the Living History Potato Patch was weeded, news papered, and mulched in on May 31. The club advisers, Amy & Fred Rohrback, and Ron Lambert brought their club members to Wartinger Park on Thursday, May 31 to weed and mulch the potatoes that were planted during Living History. If you stop by the park, feel free to pull any new weeds you see growing. Now all we need is some much needed rain. Thanks again Green Clover Gals & Guys.



ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR BEAVERCREEK HISTORICAL SOCIETY WILL BE AT THE ICE CREAM SOCIAL.

PRESENTING THE NOMINATED SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR THE 2012-13 YEAR:

President - Jill Kincer	Treasurer - Wendy Kirchoff
Vice President External - Bob Wagley	Secretary - Donna Lawson
Vice president Internal - Nancy Wagner	

BEAVERCREEK CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN TO CELEBRATE A 200TH ANNIVERSARY

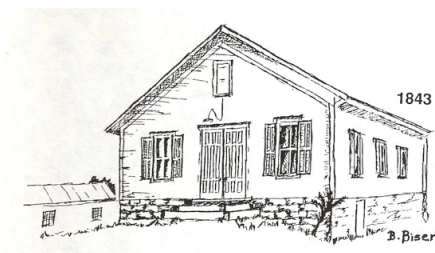
By Sylvia Hess

This fall Beaver Creek's oldest worshipping congregation, which began meeting in 1805, will be celebrating the 200th anniversary of the official recognition of the congregation in 1812.

As was the custom for the Brethren (then known as the German Baptist Brethren or Dunkers), they met for worship in homes for many years. The first "meetinghouse" was finally erected in 1843, on land donated by Jacob and Mary Zimmerman. It was located on the northwest corner of the Dayton-Xenia "Pike" and Bellbrook-Fairfield crossroads in the village of Zimmermanville. (A CVS store now occupies that plot of land.) In 1893, the meetinghouse was razed and a larger church re-built on the site; it was later remodeled in 1935.

The congregation's first "elder" (no paid ministers at that time period) was Moses Shoup. He and his wife Elizabeth built the large brick home which still stands just south of Fairbrook School. One of the barns on that property was the site of the early gatherings (usually spring and fall) for the distinctive Brethren communion service known as the Love Feast. Since the Brethren were mainly rural, the rich farmlands of southwest Ohio were a big draw, and many of the early settlers were from the stony lands of Maryland. Other early Brethren names in Beaver Creek include Philip Harshman (whose log house would have been large enough to be

used for worship gatherings), Jacob Coy (known to be in this area by 1800), Ferguson, Darst, Turnbaugh



(Durnbaugh), Koogler, Miller, and Stoneburger.

Betty Biser's sketch of the first meetinghouse (36 x 70 feet).

In 1882, there was a split in the congregation, as members struggled with questions of adaptation to a changing world. Should the custom of "plain dress" be retained? What about higher education? Sunday School for children? Should congregations be hiring a salaried minister? Those who wished to retain the previous ways built a meetinghouse at the corner of North Fairfield and Lantz Road. The "Old Orders", as they were called, continued to meet there sporadically as late as the 1970's, until the property was sold to Charity Baptist Church in 1977. It is now the site of the Wright-Patt Credit Union.

In 1958, the congregation built its current facility, which is located across the street from the high school. Lida Ferguson had invited

the congregation to look at some of the Ferguson farmland; when the trustees asked about the price for 4 acres, she told them if they took the property "as far back as the oak tree", the price would be \$1. On one side of the new property was the land lab that the Fergusons donated to the high school, and on the other, lots marked for a housing development. The Fergusons would probably be interested to know



The remodeled 1893 church building.

that part of their former farmland, behind the church's parking lot, now serves as a community garden, with free plots for anyone interested in producing some of their own food.

In the late 90's, major renovations were made to this contemporary-style building with its unusual art-glass chancel window. In a nod to history, ground breaking for a new addition was done in the same way it had been done for the main building: using an antique wooden plow, drawn by the congregation instead of by horses! Another bit of area history is preserved in the

Continued on next page.

Continued from page 4

stone fireplace in Brethren Hall (the "shelter house" behind the church which is also used by the Scouts and other community groups). The stone came from a demolished 22-room house on Huffman Avenue in Dayton.

As a denomination long involved with disaster and service ministries (for example, the well-known Heifer International originated just north of Dayton with a group of Brethren), in April 1974, tragedy landed on our doorstep. Almost overnight, the church building was transformed into headquarters for

Brethren Disaster workers from many areas responding to the Xenia tornado. Sunday School rooms became sleeping quarters and storage space for donated supplies, and a kitchenette strained to provide meals for an over-whelming number of volunteers. One of the first needs was to cut and move the wood from fallen trees; much of that was hauled back to the church to be cut and split into firewood by the Boy Scout troop. The Scouts then sold the firewood and donated half the proceeds to Xenia's relief fund.

A more light-hearted tradition enjoyed by many community members is the Ice Cream Social held on the church lawn before Beaver Creek's 4th of July Parade. Begun in 1966 as "strawberries and ice cream", the social still features homemade ice cream, but the berries have been replaced with a wide variety of home-baked pies and cakes (as well as other picnic food).

The congregation is planning a "Homecoming" celebration for the last weekend in October.

The Old Stage Coach Inn - From Beaver Creek Chronicles 1

Stories handed down over the generations relate the old brick residence located on Dayton-Xenia Road near the intersection of Beaver Valley Road as being an Inn and Stage Coach stop. Travelers headed north to Yellow Springs or east to Xenia, or west to Dayton, would stop at the inn, which also had a livery stable near the house itself. Riders would change horses at the stable, which reportedly had stalls for 12 to 14 horses. In later years, this became a blacksmith shop for Charlie Johannes, who purchased the property in the early 1900s.

Built beside an Indian trail, and also thought to have been a slave trail, the house has a small dirt dugout with a small entrance door under the living room floor; it could easily have hidden three or four people. Folklore of the area includes the story that Abraham Lincoln once stayed overnight at the inn, while he was touring the area on his presidential campaign.

This fact, however, was never substantiated.

It is known that the inn was built about 1810 by Frank Stoll, who is buried in the Old Beaver Cemetery on Dayton-Xenia Road. Built in the vernacular style, or somewhat different from the accepted architecture of that day, the residence was constructed of brick, as a two-story building in a rectangular shape, and with a gable tin roof. The house had a raised portico with wooden pillars across the façade; there were two entries on the front with glass transoms. All windows had twelve panes of glass. There were two chimneys, one at each end of the house, and three stairways leading to the second floor. The original stone steps and old hitching post can still be seen today at the front of the property.

In the early days, a large porch stretched across the rear of the building; this was later enclosed

and made into an additional bedroom and a new kitchen.

This property was also known as the first high school for Beaver Creek. In the year 1887, while a new high school was being constructed at the corner of Factory and Dayton-Xenia Roads, classes for the 20 or so pupils were held in an upstairs room of the Inn. Late in the following year, the students transferred their books and equipment to the new building just up the road.

Note: Sources include Chester and Dorothy Puckett (former owners of the property at 2358 Dayton-Xenia Road) and Clarence Johannes, a descendant of the Johannes family. According to 2012 county records, the property is currently owned by Dennis Puckett of Florida and is for sale on the real estate market.

Stay in Touch With BHS eNotes

By Jill Kincer

There is a new opportunity for members of the Beavercreek Historical Society to better keep in touch on a two-way basis. Actually, it’s not anything new at all; it’s been around for quite some time, and, yes, you are right! It’s known as email, and our electronic messages will be called BHS eNotes.

Up to this point, when we’ve asked for your email address, it has been with the assurance that it will only be used to contact you in case of meeting cancellations due to bad weather, etc. But the Board is looking for additional ways to expand our communication with our membership. After on-going discussion, the consensus is that now is the time to expand the use of email to keep our members informed about events planned by the Society, opportunities for you to become involved, and additionally to let you know

about other historically centered activities in the surrounding area. This is also another way you can easily initiate contact with someone on the Board when you have suggestions, comments or concerns.

This will in no way take the place of the quarterly issues of the Log by Log newsletter but will simply supplement those as a way of reaching as many members as possible between issues. Our quarterly newsletter has specific deadlines, and often needs arise for communication with the membership soon after the newsletter has been sent. An email communication link will help alleviate these troublesome situations.

We promise we will not sell or distribute your email address. All emails will be sent as blind copies, so you will not see the

other recipients’ names and email addresses, nor will they see yours. We will send short email group messages only to those members who choose to be on the email list. A high volume of messages is not expected. We realize that unfortunately some of our members are not connected by email, but also know that many of you use it on a regular basis.

Messages will have the subject line: BHS eNotes. If you would like to be a part of the BHS eNotes group, please let us know by sending an email asking to be included to: **bhsohio@gmail.com**

Be sure to use lower case text in the address. We promise that if you receive the emails and prefer not to continue, we will take you off the list at your request. If you have questions or concerns, feel free to call Jill Kincer at 429-0291. We hope you’ll give it a try!

HARVEST DINNER DATES SET FOR OCTOBER

The Beavercreek Historical Society’s annual Harvest Dinners will be held on October 19 and 20 at 6 pm. The meal will include an appetizer, salad, bread, main course and dessert served hearth-side in the Harshman House (1803) and the Ankeney House (1824) by servers in period dress.

This is a major fund raiser for the group and many of you have

volunteered to help serve, tend fires, and wash dishes in the past and we hope you will do so again this year. If you haven’t had the opportunity to be a part of this very enjoyable evening, it is not too early to volunteer. The event will be chaired by Helen Haun. Committee members include Wendy Kirchoff, Carolyn Fourman, who will be taking care

of reservations (433-7510) and Jill Kincer who will be recruiting volunteers (429-0291).

Complete details about how and when to make your reservation will be mailed to each member in early September. Mark your calendars so you won’t miss volunteering and/or attending the annual Harvest Dinners.

Seeking Your Stories ...

The goal of the Log by Log Newsletter is to keep our readers abreast of what is happening currently with the Beavercreek Historical Society and to share historical information about Beavercreek’s past – be it a century past or the more recent past. After all, our organization’s official purpose is preserving the past for the future. We very much appreciate those of you who have been contributing articles and hope you will continue to do so; but we also seek to broaden our input, hearing from others who also have interesting stories to share with our readers. If you have an interest in writing, particularly

articles regarding happenings from the past, please let us hear from you. Because this is a quarterly publication, we ask that each article be self-contained with the start and finish of the story contained in one issue on one page. The recommended length is within 640 words without a picture, or 500 words or less if there is an accompanying picture or pictures. You may submit your article by email to our Log by Log editor, Steve Baldwin at sbaldwin@baldwincreates.com. Call Steve at 937-912-0230 if you have questions. We’d love to hear from you!

OFFICERS FOR 2011 - 2012:
Jill Kincer
Interim President
429-0291
Bob Wagley
VP, Internal Operations
426-8325
Nancy Wagner
VP, External Operations
426-1272
Wendy Kirchoff
Treasurer/Interim Secretary
429-1520

Contact us at:
bhsohio@gmail.com

Yes, I’m Interested.

I'd like to join!

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Benefits of membership:

- Quarterly Newsletter
- Advance Invitation to Society Events
- Email Updates
- Access to Vast Historical Knowledge
- Preserving the Past for the Future

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

Annual Memberships (check one):

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

Or Lifetime Memberships (check one):

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

Plus, additional donation appreciated \$_____

How can I help?

Volunteers are needed in the following areas:

- ☐ Developing oral history of Beavercreek
- ☐ 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

Upcoming Events:

Board Meeting, July 12

Coy House – 6:30 PM

Annual Meeting & Ice Cream Social, July 24

Wartinger Park – 6:15 PM

Board Meeting, August 9

Coy House – 6:30 PM

Board Meeting, September 13

Coy House – 6:30 PM

Newsletter Submission Deadline

September 21 – 5:00 PM

Quarterly Meeting, October 23

Beavercreek Board of Education

3040 Kemp Road – 7:00 PM

*Edible & Medicinal Plants Found
in the Beavercreek Area*



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 Annual Meeting

July 24, 2012 | 6:15PM | Barn at Wartinger Park

BHS to Host 3rd Annual Ice Cream Social

The city's historical society invites one and all to a very sweet deal – a good old community ice cream social allowing us to spend some quiet time with friends and neighbors!

In addition to ice cream and conversation, the society will have some old-fashioned toys for the younger ones to enjoy. For the delight of everyone we will feature our community's *The Beavercreek Strummers*. It's all free!

Following the program, the Historical Society will conduct a short business meeting which is also open to the public. As this is our annual meeting, an election of officers will take place. In addition to the printed slate of officers (see Pg.3), individuals are urged to nominate themselves or others for the positions of President, Internal Vice President, External Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.



Find us on Facebook!