

Log by Log

**Beavercreek
Historical Society**



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BeavercreekHistoricalSociety.org

Zimmerman Family attends Beavercreek Church of the Brethren 200th Anniversary Homecoming

submitted by Joe Zimmerman



Zimmerman family members in attendance.

In October 2012 the Zimmerman family had the honor of celebrating 200 years of history with the current membership of the Beavercreek Church of the Brethren. Our ancestors, the Shoup & Zimmerman families were founding members of this church. Jacob Zimmerman, a direct ancestor, gave land in 1843 to build the first place of worship. From these early days of commitment, a congregation has grown to be a vibrant living member of the Greene County community. The 200th celebration service was held on the evening of October 27th and over 30 Zimmerman family members, descended from the original founding family, were in attendance. Family members traveling as far as California,

Florida and Georgia were there to participate. Two members participated in the homecoming program by sharing their musical talents. Susie Dinsmore played the offertory hymn on the organ, and Mark Couser provided a hymn on the Carpenter Saw. Both were great-great grandchildren of Jacob Zimmerman. During the service, the pastor, Ty Pyles, recreated the role of Jacob Zimmerman and before our eyes, our ancestor came to life to address those in attendance. **Article continues on page 4.**



Historical artifacts were on display at the celebration.



Church painting celebrating 200 years.

Saluting Our Volunteers: *Robert Wagley*

(Note: This is a continuation of a series of articles that focus personally on the many volunteers that together make the Beaver Creek Historical Society a vital part of our Beaver Creek community. We thank and salute ALL who in any way contribute to the Society's mission of preserving the past for the future.)

Bob Wagley says that living in an old historic home is probably what drew him to become involved in the Beaver Creek Historical Society in 1986, the early days of its existence.

Raised on a farm in northeast Indiana, he was one of just eleven students in his graduating class from Hartford Township High School. He enrolled in Ball State University as a business major, but took a course in arts and architecture which piqued his interest in history and antiques. Bob went on to earn his Masters degree, then began a teaching career in Business Management at Wright State University while earning his Ed.D. at the University of Cincinnati. He retired from active teaching in 1995.

Bob has served the Historical Society for the past ten years as Internal Vice President and has been arranging its quarterly meeting programs since 2007. You may find him starting fires in the cabin fireplaces for Living History. He might be appearing in his period garb at Harvest Dinner where he often is a server or at



Heritage and Herb Days where he has served for many years as a faithful committee member, taking on many tasks including demonstrating his chair caning talents. He has chaired the BHS entry into the 4th of July parade in past years. He steps up to help in many ways when needed.

Bob's one personal contribution that he alone makes to our Society is to encourage people to create personal histories to pass along to future generations. The activity he leads is not a class where one learns how to write, but rather a gathering of individuals all interested in the process of writing their own personal stories, with Bob facilitating and encouraging the process. It is titled *My Life: One Story at a Time*.

Extended periods of travel have enriched the lives of both Bob and Lorraine. They have spent extended periods of time in Great Britain, Italy, Germany and Chile, often involved with sabbaticals, faculty exchange programs, etc. Bob has been President of the WSU Retirees Association three times, and has served for eight years as an advisor to the University Center for International Education Board. He also enjoys singing as he was with the Dayton Philharmonic Chorus for three years and now is with the Miami Valley Chorale.

Bob shares that his outstanding memories of events with the BHS include two vastly different occasions: (1) observing the transformation in 1986 of the Harshman House from its original Fairfield Road location and its state of utter disrepair, to its dismantling, relocation and reconstruction as it appears in the park today, and (2) that Sunday afternoon at Wartinger Park during Heritage and Herb Days several years ago when Hurricane Ike blew with full fury through Ohio, and the scurried efforts to get displays, the food tent, and people to safety. We thank Bob for his many contributions to the Beaver Creek Historical Society. We thank all our volunteers, as we could not do what we do in our community without the willingness to serve that is modeled by so many of you.

COMING IN JUNE—New Special Event At Wartinger Park

Mark your calendars now for **Saturday, June 8, 2013**, and plan to attend the **History Blooms at Wartinger Park** event planned for that day. We're arranging for an interesting collection of activities to show off the park in late spring with emphasis on how the pioneers related with the land. We're hoping for a sunny day with the old-fashioned rose bushes and flower beds in full bloom. This event will be jointly sponsored by the *Beavercreek Historical Society*, the *Master Gardeners* and the *Flower Trail Garden Club*—lots of folks who share a love for that pretty little park tucked into the center of our city.

The event will be free, with hours from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., offering:

- Docent-guided tours of the historic homes decorated for spring, the flower and herb gardens, and the historical barn
- Displays of antique farm equipment
- Flower Show provided by *Flower Trail Garden Club* featuring three classes of floral arrangements
- Individual or group photography (available for purchase) in 1800s period costumes by *Trudy Leis of Masters Peace Photography*
- Food for purchase from *Harvest Mobile Cuisine Food Truck*, operated by Beavercreek native and Culinary Institute of America graduate chef *Patrick Sartin*, who specializes in preparing foods using local ingredients

If you would be willing to take a two-hour shift to act as a docent in one of the log homes, please call either Wendy Kirchoff (429-1520) or Jill Kincer (429-0291), who are co-chairs representing the BHS for this event. Also co-chairing **History Blooms at Wartinger Park** are Traudl Schrick representing the *Flower Trail Garden Club* and Cathy Plum from the *Greene County Master Gardeners*.

Interested in becoming a member?

I'd like to join!

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Benefits of membership:

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

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 need 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
- ☐ Working on barn or house preservation
- ☐ Creative fundraising opportunities
- ☐ Membership committee
- ☐ Educational committee
- ☐ Hospitality committee

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

Friendly Gardens

1852 Trebein Rd. near the intersection of Fairgrounds Rd. Opening Day is on **Saturday April 6, Wednesday 9am-6pm, Saturday and Sunday 1pm-6pm** or call before visiting: 776-8828 for Dave Jansen, Nursery Manager; 532-5667 for Akhilesh Nigam, Owner

We want to let you know that Dave Jansen, who has twice been our Quarterly Meeting presenter, is opening **Friendly Gardens**. Dave's presentations were well received and centered on edible, medicinal and useful native plants. Friendly Gardens will feature native plants of Ohio, some non-native plants that support birds, butterflies, caterpillars, bees and beneficial insects. During your visit you might want to purchase some freshly baked whole grain breads and pies. See or contact Dave before June 30 if you would like him to pay a free visit to your home or business and give you some suggestions on developing an environmentally friendly yard.

If you want to learn more about edible, useful, and wildlife supporting plants and mushrooms, join Dave on Sundays 4-6 (March 24, April 28 and May 26) for a walk through Glen Helen. Meet him at the Trailside Museum on Corry St., Yellow Springs.

ACQUISITIONS

A block and tackle and a hanging scale with weights was donated by Evelyn Nelson (who recently passed away) in memory of her husband, Glen, a past president of the Historical Society. These items will be on display in the barn.

A Nikon Coolpix camera was donated by Dodd Camera as an award for sending in information to *Film Dayton* about Wartinger Park. This information, along with photos, will be added to their database of possible film locations.

If you are interested in donating an item please contact Lorraine Wagley at 426-8325.

Zimmerman Family article continued from page 1.

The following is a snippet of that communication:

Welcome Jacob...."My family along with several other families, emigrated from Maryland. We were farmers and sought the fertile land of Ohio. In the early days of the church we worshiped in homes and local barns. In 1843 I donated a parcel of land to the church on the corner of Fairfield and Dayton-Xenia roads. I was primarily a farmer, but also operated the family mill, a grocery and an inn for the westward bound traveler. The small community became known as Zimmerman, Ohio. We brethren were known for our brotherly love and that our word was as "good as a bond". Deeply spiritual, we were considered straight-laced, sober, dressing and living simply. I would like to share with you a biblical verse, which I carried upon my person in the form of a card, a compass of my faith. The verse is that of Proverbs 22:6; "*Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it.*" Later my son Cornelius would carry this card, and that card, like our faith, has been passed on to my descendants, many of whom are here this evening, who continue to be faithful servants of Christ."

Attention All Volunteers ... You're INVITED!!

Annually, the City of Beavercreek Parks Advisory Board recognizes community members who volunteer in park activities. That means many of you would certainly meet that definition! Please consider attending this year's Volunteer Recognition Event, which will be held on **Thursday, April 25, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.** at the *Beavercreek Golf Course, 2800 New Germany-Trebein Road, Beavercreek, OH 45431*. Light hors d'oeuvres will be served and a cash bar will be available.

Phone 427-5514 (Parks Office) to R.S.V.P. The deadline is April 5. However, as our newsletter is just arriving in early April to your home, let them know if you are calling a few days after that date, and we feel certain they will be happy to take your reservation. It's a nice way for the city to recognize people who give of their time to make Beavercreek a better place in which to live.

Welcome to the Home of President Theodore Roosevelt

by Larry and Julia Marple

At the Beaver Creek Historical Society Quarterly meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, April 23, 2013 at 7 PM, you will have an opportunity to spend an evening with President Theodore Roosevelt and his second wife, Edith. Hear President and Mrs. Roosevelt talk about their lives from TR's sickly childhood, through his early political career, life in the White House, TR's exploration of Africa and South America, as well as stories of the Roosevelt children and more. Along with the program will be a display of items related to the family. The meeting will be held at Peace Lutheran Church, Lower Fellowship Hall, 3530 Dayton-Xenia Rd. Beaver Creek, Ohio. For more information, call Bob Wagley, 426-8325.

Larry and Julia Marple have been portraying President and Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt since May, 2008. Many of Larry's characteristics (height, weight, vision, and "activeness") are the same as TRs. The Marples have been involved with historical portrayals for many years. Julia worked in the museum/living history field for over 13 years. Larry has been a teacher for 22 years and has been involved in historical reenacting for over 25 years.



Larry Marple has studied Theodore Roosevelt for many years and can do various portrayals of him in addition to the one being presented in Beaver Creek. He also does Civil War reenactments. The Marples live in the Springfield, Ohio area. Visit his website at www.troosevelt1904.com for a listing of his programs, schedule, photo gallery and a TR biography.

Spring Living History *by Becky Jarvi*

The Spring session of Living History will give a taste of early Ohio living to more than 300 third grade students from three Beaver Creek Elementary Schools. For this session Shirley McCort and I are stepping in as co-directors. Gerry Smalley has been very helpful passing on the information and the many details involved with the program.

The biggest challenge is filling the volunteer positions. When I got around to doing the math I was astounded to realize that eleven slots to fill for twelve days is a lot of volunteer time. Please volunteer! There is time allotted for volunteer training sessions and there are descriptive handouts available for each class/chore. Volunteer and tell your friends about the program. It is

THE DATES FOR THE PROGRAM ARE:

April 12 – Set up

April 15 – Fairbrook

April 16-18 – Possible volunteer training

April 22-26 – Fairbrook and Shaw

May 3 and May 6-10 – Parkwood and Shaw

rewarding and a lot of fun working with this age group. The morning session runs from 8:45 until 11:30 and the afternoons go from 12 until 1:30. For more information or to volunteer please call or email **Becky Jarvi** at: 427-1751 or rjarvi@woh.rr.com.

The Alpha Methodist Church: *Excerpt from the Beaver Creek Chronicles Vol. 2*

The Alpha Methodist Church was officially organized in September 1868, when a Bible class was organized which later formed a Sunday School (May 30, 1869) and then a church.

The Sunday School had no meeting place of its own. At first, the group used a large two-story building in Alpha located just north of the Pennsylvania Railroad. The first floor of this building housed a blacksmith shop and the upper story was divided, half being used for a wagon maker's shop and the other half as a town hall. The Sunday School was allowed to use all three of these rooms on Sunday.

As the Sunday School grew, its leaders felt they needed to have some "preaching," so a Preacher Ewing did the honors on October 24, 1869, the first time that such a service was recorded. From that time on there was preaching just occasionally, but by different preachers; there was no regular minister paid by the organization.

There is a record of a very large meeting held in the meeting house on Sunday, October 28, 1869, in which three different preachers took part; they were Preachers Shaffer, Howland and Evans. The Bible Class and Sunday School continued and a Literary Society was also added. The first communion was held on February 6, 1870.

Early in the year 1870 the group began planning to build its own church and by March 14, 1870,

they had officially organized into the Alpha Methodist Church. The men largely responsible for the success in organizing the group included Jacob Harbine, David Gray, John Harbine, Solomon Glotfelter, Daniel Overholser, Sr., J. C. Murphy, George Kent and many itinerant preachers.

Shortly after the official organization, bids for the construction were received. Frank Smith of Xenia was the low bidder at \$3,200. His contract to build was written by David Gray. One interesting fact about the new construction is that part of the money for the building was considered "California Gold" brought back to this area by David Gray. He was one of the "49ers" of the 1849 gold rush and was said to have been one of the few successful ones to find gold.

Historical facts about the church are somewhat uncertain and confused during the latter part of 1870 and early 1871. Reportedly, although the church building was completed, proper payment was not made to the builder. Finally, the Superior Court authorized Jacob Harbine and Daniel Overholser to sell the church in October 1871. It was purchased by John Harbine for \$1,333.35. He allowed the Methodists 1/3 share and the Reformed 2/3 shares. The debt was finally settled, with Daniel Overholser of the Methodists paying most of it.

In the latter part of 1871, the church was again taken over by the Methodists, and a dedication

took place on August 4, 1872. Three ministers took part in the ceremony: Reverends Parsons, Howland and Hawker. The church was then used by both the Methodist and the German Reformed Congregations, each holding one service in the morning and one in the afternoon.

Some of the most faithful Christians down through the years are found in the names of the following families: Overholser, Machael, Miller, Gray, Harbine, Shank, Snyder, Wingarter, Munger, Ankeney, Edwards, Wolf, Hubbell, Hagenbuch, Haines, Coy, Davis, Toms, Volkenand, Brill, Gentner, Masters, Huston, Leshner, Brown, Reichart and others.

Note: Over the years improvements and additions have been added including an educational unit. Since 1956 the church has been owned by the Nazarenes.

Excerpts from *The Xenia Daily Gazette*, about 1970; and *History of the Alpha M P Church* by D. C. Overholser, courtesy of Carolyn Brill. Photo (of the Alpha Methodist Church; known today as the Alpha Church of the Nazarene) courtesy of Beaver Creek News Current.



Board of Trustees: *April News Notes*

Heritage Day Chairperson is in place as **Wilma Stafford** has agreed to serve as chair for September 2013 event. Thanks so much, Wilma, for stepping up! Members, mark your calendars now for Saturday, September 14. We feel certain many of you are delighted that we will continue this traditional fall event and hope you will be willing to step up to volunteer as the time nears.

Cathy Leininger has agreed to take on the role of **Oral Historian** for the Society. We are encouraged that our efforts to collect oral histories of Beavercreek can again continue after a few years' hiatus. Thanks for volunteering, Cathy!

The **4th of July Parade** is always a good time to have our Society visible to many in our community who may not otherwise know about us. We have our traditional old wagon which makes a great entry, but we need someone in charge to take care of a few minimal tasks. Call Jill at 429-0291 if you are willing to chair this very short term commitment.

Program Chair search continues. We have just three quarterly membership programs per year that need to be scheduled—January, March and October, as our July meeting is traditionally our Ice Cream Social. Programs for October 2013 and January 2014 have already been set, plus lots of ideas that have been gathered. Please give this some serious consideration. If you have questions, call Bob Wagley, our Internal Vice President (426-8325) who has been doing double duty Program Chair and VP.

Welcome to new member **Barbara Lilly**. We are glad to have you as a member.

Condolences to the family of **Barbara Walker**, who passed away in January. She was a dedicated and active member who contributed time to various efforts of our Society, particularly to assembling the rag doll kits used at Living History and Heritage Day. She will be greatly missed.

OFFICERS

President	Jill Kincer 429-0291
Internal V.P. Ops.	Bob Wagley 426-8325
External V.P. Ops.	Nancy Wagner 426-1272
Secretary	Donna Lawson 434-3004
Treasurer	Wendy Kirchoff 429-1520

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Acquisitions	Lorraine Wagley
Archive Co-Chairs	Carolyn Fourman Donna Lawson
Education	(Open)
Long Range Plan	John Rhodehamel
Membership	Zelma Robinson
Newsletter	Steve Baldwin
Programs	(Open)
Publicity	Gerry Petrak

LIASISONS TO THE BOARD

Flower Trail Garden Club	Traudl Schrick
City of Beavercreek	M. Thonnerieux

Nominating Committee Set for 2013–14 Officers

Mrs. Gerry Petrak has accepted the role as Chairperson of the Nominating Committee to prepare a slate of officers to serve our Society during the 2013–14 organizational year. Joining her on the committee will be Bob Zimmer. If you are interested in serving as an officer, we would be very happy to hear from you as new faces and ideas are always welcomed. Please contact Gerry at 426-1646 or Bob at 439-2665 for more information.

The deadline will be April 24, 2013.

Upcoming Events:

Board Meeting, April 11

Coy House – 6:30 PM

Living History, April 15 thru May 10

Quarterly Meeting, April 23, 2013

Peace Lutheran Church – 7:00 PM

Meet and learn about the lives of President Theodore Roosevelt and his wife, Edith, as portrayed by Larry and Julia Marple.

Board Meeting, May 9 and June 13

Coy House – 6:30 PM

Newsletter Submission Deadline

June 21 – 5:00 PM

Annual Meeting/Ice Cream Social, July 23

Wartinger Park – 6:00 PM, 3040 Kemp Rd.



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

April 23, 2013 | 7:00 PM | Peace Lutheran Church
3530 Dayton-Xenia Rd. | Lower Fellowship Hall (East Entrance)

It's Time to Meet the President and His Wife!

Spend an evening with President Theodore Roosevelt and his second wife, Edith. Hear President and Mrs. Roosevelt talk about their lives from TR's sickly childhood, through his early political career, life in the White House, TR's explorations of Africa and South America, as well as stories of the Roosevelt children and much more. Along with the program is a display of items related to the family. Come and bring a friend!

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For more information visit www.troosevelt1904.com.

