

# Log by Log

**Beavercreek  
Historical Society**



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

## **The Great Wheel Gift** *by Becky Jarvi*

As soon as I saw Grace Hagenbuch's great wheel in the Ankeney House I began dreaming of it spinning wool again.

Last September I met Ed Rowe at the Wool Gathering, an annual event for textile enthusiasts held at Young's Dairy. Ed was spinning on a great wheel. I learned that he restored antique wheels and builds new ones. Fortunately I saved his business card. A phone call confirmed that he was willing to look at this wheel. When Ed began asking very specific questions about missing parts, dimensions and alignments I handed the phone to my husband, Denny. Before long he too was excited at the thought of giving new life to this old tool.

From Denny's photos and measurements Ed was able to create a spindle. Once we got clearance from the Historical Society's curator, Lorraine Wagley, we took the wheel to Oberlin where Ed and his delightful wife Etta treated the wheel, and us, like old friends.

He immediately put us to work making cornhusk bearings for the new spindle to ride in. He could

tell that the original bearings were of leather but said he prefers husk ones because they don't require constant applications of oil. He taught us how to dismantle the wheel and put it back together. He showed us how to measure and install a string drive band.

Finally, with all that redone late in the afternoon, Ed regretfully determined that the missing bearing in the hub of the wheel could not be ignored. The original one was likely made of cow bone. He set about using his wonderful skills and equipment. Within an hour he fashioned a new bearing for the hub from solid aluminum. It had to be tapered on both the inside and outside dimensions.

With the new hub in place the old wheel once again could set upright and inline with the spool. Throughout the day Ed and Etta had talked about details of the spinning process; now he demonstrated it moving backward and forward, which is why it is sometimes called a "walking wheel." My dream came true! What a joy to hear the whir from the tip of the spindle as the wool twists into yarn. What fun it is to imagine the history of this wheel.

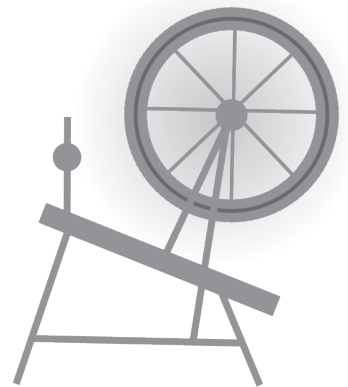
Ed believes it is over 150 years old.

Ed and Etta spent the entire day with us.

Their time, the materials and all his work were a gift to the Beavercreek Historical Society. The two of them demonstrate spinning at many historical venues and were glad that this wheel will get to show off in public.

Denny and I drove home amazed at the day's adventure, feeling that everyone from the past who had ever valued this spinning wheel were smiling down on us.

We were sent home with instructions to clean and treat the wood. It was good to wash away years of accumulated coal dust. It took us several days of work, gluing spokes and even carving a holding pin. We had gained the confidence and know how to dismantle the wheel parts, to make new cornhusk bearings, how to put it all back together again and to spin.



## Saluting Our Volunteers: Gerry Smalley

*(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.)*

Born in Old Town, north of Xenia, where members of the Shawnee Tribe once roamed, Gerry Johannes Jetter Smalley's parents moved to Grange Hall Road in Beaver Creek when she was just three months old. Later her parents, both Beaver Creek natives, bought a farm on Lantz Road where she grew up. Her mother attended the old Beaver Creek High School (which later burned down), and in 1933 was a member of the first class to graduate from the new consolidated building, now known as Main Elementary. Gerry coincidentally was a member of the last class to graduate from that building in 1954. The farmland of her childhood is the location where she and her husband, Bill Smalley, built their new home in 2005 and now reside.

In 1999, following the death of her first husband Frank Jetter, Gerry found herself needing something to do. She had retired from her teaching position at Main Elementary and had time on her hands. She read an article about the Beaver Creek Historical Society's Living History program



and the need for volunteers. A phone call was placed, and the rest is history.

Gerry found the program a good fit for skills she learned growing up on the farm—especially quilting and making butter. In the spring of 2005, Gerry became the Director of Living History. It was a job she enjoyed very much; a highlight was always when she had children of her former students coming through the program. She loved the enthusiasm of the children and the parents who often shared that “there is no better field trip than this one.” She served in that position until the fall of 2012, when severe problems with her spine had to be remedied by

surgery and a lengthy period of recuperation. We are glad to report that she was able to return as a volunteer during the most recent spring sessions, again doing what she loves—making butter with the children.

Gerry, in addition to teaching 25 years mainly kindergarten at Main Elementary, was a 4-H advisor for at least 45 years, although she's not sure exactly how many! She took over from her mother, and now her daughter has taken over the 4-H leadership from her, although she still helps. She was involved with many Greene County fairs. Her children raised sheep and a milk cow, and they did their own milking!

This past spring, Gerry received the City of Beaver Creek's Culture Award as recognition of her leadership and dedication to the Living History program. The well-deserved award, given by the City of Beaver Creek Parks, Recreation and Culture Board, was presented by City Council member Debborah Wallace at the annual Volunteer Recognition Ceremony held at the Beaver Creek Golf Club. We give heartfelt thanks to Gerry for her service and are glad to know that she intends to remain involved with Living History going forward albeit in a supporting role. We indeed thank all our volunteers, as we could not honor our community's historical heritage without the willingness of so many of you to serve.

# First History Blooms Event Earns Compliments

The visitors to the June History Blooms event at Wartinger Park were full of compliments about it. "This is just absolutely wonderful," said one visitor from a nearby community who shared that she is active in her community's historical group. "You are so fortunate to have this lovely setting here in Beavercreek, and everything looks just beautiful today." And indeed it did!

The period U.S. flags were flying, the sky was blue and the temperatures were perfect. But most importantly, the flowers were abloom and the cabins were inviting and cheerful.

The first-time event, co-sponsored by our Society, the Flower Trail Garden Club and the Greene County Master Gardeners, featured tours of the herb garden and the various flower gardens, as well as tours of the historical structures. The Flower Trail members put together a very lovely collection of arrangements with their flower show in the Nicodemus House. Trudy Leis of Masters Peace Photography brought her 1800s costumes for dress-up pictures, and the

Fressa Food Truck had tasty offerings that many enjoyed. Thanks to member Kathy Bauer and the Hithergreen Strummers for the dulcimer music that added to the day's relaxing mood.

Acquisitions chairperson Lorraine Wagley publicly acknowledged and thanked Chris Martin, daughter of the late Grace and Bill Hagenbuch, for her donation of the Great Wheel to our Society's collection. Becky Jarvi and Shirley Richardson McCourt provided spinning demonstrations on the wheel on the front porch of the Ankeney House.

Thanks to all who volunteered to help out in any way from the three sponsoring organizations. Tasks involved included preparing the gardens for visitors, decorating the cabins for a spring day, and serving as docents to share information with our visitors. Additionally, the City crew who takes care of mowing and trimming at the park had done a top notch job. The event was co-chaired by Traudl Schrick (Flower Trail), Cathy Plum (Master Gardeners) and BHS members Wendy Kirchoff and Jill Kincer.

## Photos from the History Blooms Event



Lorraine Wagley (left) publicly thanked Chris Martin (center) for donating the Great Wheel (in background). Becky Jarvi (right) demonstrated spinning on the porch as a busy pioneer mother might have done while keeping an eye on her children.



Traudl Schrick, a dedicated BHS and Flower Trail Garden Club member, shares the sights and delightful smells of the Wartinger Park herb garden with an interested little visitor.



Living History Volunteer Clara Tiffany with husband Kent and children Addison and Austin posed in 1800s outfits provided by Trudy Leis of Masters Peace Photography at the History Blooms event.



### Acquisitions

**Dick Jones**, from Dallas, GA, donated *a set of china* which had been owned by Mable Dietz Jones (1898-1981). She was the sister of Martha Dietz Coy and Lewis Dietz of Beaver Creek. It is now on display in the Coy House.

**Charlotte Hopkins** has donated *a food slicer and a ricer*. They are on display in the kitchen of the Ankeney House.

**Bob and Lorraine Wagley** have donated *a clothes dryer* which had belonged to Lorraine's grandmother. It will be used in the clothes washing portion of Living History.

**Grace Axer** has donated several family pieces: *2 pairs of eyeglasses and a framed poem*. These items can be seen in the Coy House.

We thank all of the above for sharing their family pieces with the Historical Society. **If you are interested in donating an item please contact Lorraine Wagley at 426-8325.**

### Report from the Nominating Committee

*by Gerry Petrak with assistance from Bob Zimmer*

A full slate of officers are running for their next terms of the BHS Board. The following people have agreed to run for the 2013-14 year:

**President** – Jill Kincer

**Vice President for Internal Operations** – Bob Wagley

**Vice President for External Operations** – Nancy Wagner

**Treasurer** – Wendy Kirchoff

**Secretary** – Donna Lawson

The election will be held Tuesday, July 23, at the Ice Cream Social & Annual Meeting. Ice cream is scheduled to be served beginning at 6:15 p.m. Please come!

### 2013 Heritage Day Planning Underway

Saturday, September 14, 2013 is the date to mark on your calendar for this year's Heritage Day celebration at Wartinger Park. Co-chairs Wilma Stafford and Bob Wagley have been busy getting the planning underway.

This year's event will feature several new additions—recognition of one of Beaver Creek's earliest settlers William Maxwell (see related article, pg.5) and a display of antique fire equipment. Traditional Heritage Day activities will continue to include children's games, tours of the historic homes and barn, craft demonstrations, vendors and a food tent. A number of new and interesting vendors will be on hand displaying their crafts. We always depend on our loyal members to volunteer for the many activities and for donations of desserts, etc. If you are willing to help in any way, please call Bob at 426-8325.

## Board of Trustees

### Officers

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**President:**

Jill Kincer (429-0291)

**V.P. Internal Ops:**

Bob Wagley (426-8325)

**V.P. External Ops:**

Nancy Wagner (426-1272)

**Secretary:**

Donna Lawson (434-3004)

**Treasurer:**

Wendy Kirchoff (429-1520)

### Standing Committee Chairs

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**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

### Liaisons

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**Flower Trail Garden Club:**

Traudl Schrick

**City of Beaver Creek:**

M. Thonnerieux

## William Maxwell, Early Beavercreek Settler, to be Honored at 2013 Heritage Day

This year's Heritage Day event will have a new feature—that of recognizing contributions of one of our founding settlers. The honor of being the first early settler to receive such a salute at Heritage Day will go to **William Maxwell**, 1755 - 1809. A list of his contributions to our local and state heritage include:

- 1793** Published the first newspaper in the Northwest Territory, *The Centinel of the North-Western Territory*, while living in Cincinnati.
- 1795** Served as second postmaster of Cincinnati until 1797.  
Published the first book in the Territory, *Laws of the Territory Northwest of the Ohio*, which came to be known as Maxwell's Code.
- 1796** Purchased 1015 acres of land in eastern portion of what became Beavercreek Township.  
Helped cut a road from Dayton east to Alpha; present Dayton-Xenia Road still follows part of that original road.
- 1803** Elected a member of the House of Representatives of first General Assembly of Ohio.  
Appointed one of three Associate Judges of Court of Common Pleas for Greene County, first session held in Alpha.  
Commissioned Captain of new state militia, later promoted to Lt. Colonel.
- 1805** Elected Greene County Sheriff, resigned judgeship.
- 1806** Provided (with two others) corn and flour to prevent Shawnee Indians still residing at Old Town from starvation.
- 1807** Retired as Sheriff to his farm and concentrated on his livestock business.
- 1809** Died after a brief illness, and is believed to be buried near Valley Road south of U.S. Route 35 in an area early known as Allen's woods.

William, a soldier in the American Revolution, and wife Nancy raised a total of nine children, and their son John is said to have been the first white child born in Greene County. According to the Beavercreek Chronicles, Nancy stated in an interview late in her life that she and William never had a door on their cabin southeast of Alpha, but used a blanket to cover the doorway. When William had to be away from home, Nancy and the children would sleep in the loft of the cabin to avoid detection if Indians came around. Supplies for William's funeral included two pair of hinges—possibly hinges that may have been to put a door on the cabin since William would no longer be there for protection.

In 1941, the Dayton Club of Printing House Craftsmen erected a memorial monument to William Maxwell, and it currently stands alongside the bike path in the area where the early settlement of Trebein was located. Additionally, the Ohio Newspaper Association presents the William Maxwell Award in recognition of outstanding individual achievement in the advancement of the newspaper profession.

*CENTINEL of the North-Western TERRITORY.*

*Open to all parties—but influenced by none.*

## Hear Ye! Read All About It! A 220 Year-Old News Story

*submitted by Jill Kincer*

William Maxwell and his family were one of the first families to settle on the Beaver Creek before 1800, arriving as per tax records in 1798. Prior to coming in this area, William lived in Cincinnati; and while there, he published *The Centinel of the North-Western Territory*, the first newspaper in what was then still the Northwest Territory. The first edition was dated November 9, 1793. The Treaty of Greenville had been signed in 1787, just five years previous, where the indigenous people of the area ceded their rights, and most had moved further west. Thus the historical setting for what we thought our newsletter readers would find interesting from that first print edition.

The language used is exactly what appeared in print at that time, and may seem to some inappropriate by today's standards. Society's views and vocabularies have a way of changing over 220 years. The only minor change made below (for easier reading) is that the letter "s" replaces the letter "f" which was then often used for an "s" sound. Other than that, the punctuation, capitalizations and other spellings are as Mr. Maxwell wrote.

### **CINCINNATI, November 9, 1793**

*Many reports having been circulated with respect to the attack made by the savages upon a convoy of provisions, some little time ago, between fort St. Clair, and fort Jefferson, the following is an authentic account of that affair.*

*Lieut. Lowrie, of the second and ensign Boyd, of the first sub-legions, with a command consisting of about ninety, non-commissioned officers and privates, having under their convoy twenty waggons loaded with grain and commissaries stores, were attacked between day-light and sunrise, seven miles advanced of fort St. Clair, on the morning of the 17th ult. These two gallant young gentlemen, with thirteen non-commissioned officers and privates, bravely fell in action. It would appear that, after the fall of the officers, the party did not make much resistance, which was naturally to be expected.*

*The Indians killed or carried off about seventy horses, leaving the waggons and stores standing in the road, and they were brought into the camp, six miles advanced of fort Jefferson, on the 20th ult, with fearcely any other loss or damage, except what is before related.*

*In the twilight of Saturday evening, the 19th ult, a party of about forty or fifty Indians made an attack upon White's station, ten miles north of this place, at the moment they were discovered, two men, a woman and three children, were outside of the station, one of the men and two of the children were killed, the others could not gain their cabbins but fled to some others on the opposite bank of Mill-Creek, about eighty yards distant.*

*The Indians ran instantly into the station, which was only secured by a rail fence, between two ranges of cabbins several paces apart, two of these cabbins were evacuated, and only two men left to defend the whole station—they both fired, at each shot, an Indian fell, the others picked up the dead bodies, and in great trepidation retreated, one of the men fired a second time as they were going off, and wounded another. Two dead have been since found at no great distance, and a rifle gun of considerable value beside one of them, which was probably him who was wounded in the retreat. It is conjecture they hastened back to the settlements, as none have since been discovered on our frontier.*

*We learn that the army are preparing to go into winter quarters on the South-west branch of the Miami, six miles in advance of fort Jefferson—the ground of encampment is already laid off, in the form of a rhombus, three hundred yards long, on a commanding situation.*

*The mounted volunteers under Gen. Scott, are to return home, the convalescents, and such as are dismounted, by the way of the road, the others, were, on the second inst. with ten days rations, to set out on an excursion, and by a circuitous route, come in, but what is particularly intended, or what course they make take, has not yet transpired.*

# Spring Living History 2013

*submitted by Becky Jarvi*

Thirty-one volunteers worked through 132 shifts in twelve days to provide the Living History program to 293 third graders from three Beavercreek Elementary Schools: Fairbrook, Shaw, and Parkwood.

Sometimes the weather was lovely. Sometimes it was too cold, windy and wet to even think of planting a potato in the ground or threading a needle. But it is a great program and no matter the weather the children head back to their school at one o'clock tired but still excited about the historical park and the experiences of the day.

Shirley Richardson McCourt and I served as co-directors which worked out great. Gerry Smalley was very generous with her time and information to insure we anticipated the many details the program requires.

There are so many people who support the effort in the background. I especially want to thank Jill Kincer who is so good at planning, Laura Bader for tirelessly organizing the creation of doll kits and to Wilma Stafford for fabric cutting. John Rohdehammel brought the supplies for gardening this Spring and Denny Jarvi got fireplace clean-out duty. The Wal-Mart Pharmacy is a generous supporter, giving us the plastic vials for cream-to-butter shaking. The Kroger Company gave us a \$30 gift certificate.

With great appreciation I want to thank each of the thirty-one volunteers who came to work with the students. I know we are there because we value the program, but I have gone around bragging that not a single volunteer forgot to show up. Considering how the twelve days were dragged along the calendar, I think that is amazing. Thank you everyone. I hope you are looking forward to doing it all again in the Fall.

## 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 fund-raising 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



## Upcoming Events:

### **Board Meeting, July 11**

Coy House – 6:30 PM

### **Annual Meeting/Ice Cream Social, July 23**

Wartinger Park – 6:15 PM, 3040 Kemp Rd.

### **Board Meeting, August 8 and September 12**

Coy House – 6:30 PM

### **Heritage Day, September 14**

Wartinger Park - 3040 Kemp Rd.

### **Newsletter Submission Deadline**

September 20 – 5:00 PM

### **Living History, September 22–October 12**

### **Harvest Dinners, October 18–19, 2013**

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

### **Quarterly Meeting, October 22, 2013**

Peace Lutheran Church – 7:00 PM



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/ Ice Cream Social**

***July 23, 2013 | 6:15 PM | Wartinger Park | 3040 Kemp Rd.***

## **IT'S ICE CREAM SOCIAL TIME ONCE AGAIN!**

All Beavercreek Historical Society members and their families are invited to attend the Ice Cream Social and Annual Meeting on Tuesday, July 23, 2013, in the Tobias-Zimmer Barn at Wartinger Park. Ice cream will be served starting at 6:15 p.m. There will be gooey toppings available so you can make your own sundae if you like. Thanks to Carl and Linda Hogrefe for arranging for the treats!

At approximately 7:00 p.m. Denny Jarvi will give a short presentation about the Great Wheel work the Jarvi family arranged to have done by a knowledgeable professional to bring the 150 year-old wheel to working condition, and Becky will demonstrate her skill at spinning for us that evening. (See related article on pg.1) We'll hope to begin our brief Annual Meeting, including the election of the officers for the 2013-14 term, around 7:15 p.m. Additional nominees will be accepted from the floor. Please mark your calendars and attend!

