

# Log by Log

**Beavercreek  
Historical Society**



**Winter 2013  
Volume 22  
Number 1**

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

BeavercreekHistoricalSociety.org

## Ken Wartinger Memorial and Dedication Ceremony

by **Bob Bader**

A dedication ceremony was held in conjunction with Heritage Day, September 15 for the memorial in honor of Ken Wartinger. Ken Wartinger was very active member of the Beavercreek Historical Society. Fourteen Wartinger family members from five states, among 30+ others, attended the ceremony. The memorial consists of a new sign for Wartinger Park positioned so that it is very visible to traffic traveling both ways on Kemp road, and a flag pole with a lighted flag and suitable plantings. A bronze plaque honoring Ken is mounted on a limestone stone.

The sign is a dark green with white lettering identifying the park and along with the posts are made from a very durable and maintenance free plastic. Space is provided for logos that will be introduced later. The flagpole is illuminated at night

so that the flag may stay hoisted all the time. Plantings surrounding the sign include 'Heavy Metal' Switch



Grass, 'Icee Blue' Juniper, 'Woods Blue' Aster, 'Munstead' Lavender, 'King Alfred' Daffodils, Dianthus and White Salvia.

Speakers at the dedication ceremony were: Jill Kincer,

President, Beavercreek Historical Society, Cathy Plum, Wartinger Park Coordinator, Greene County Master Gardeners, Mike Thonnerieux, Director, Parks, Recreation and Culture Department, City of Beavercreek and Robert Bader, Project Chairperson, Beavercreek Historical Society. Key speaker was Jim Wartinger, Ken's son. (See page 4 for separate article.)

Funding for the project was provided by the Wartinger Family, the City of Beavercreek and the Beavercreek Historical Society. Mike's staff installed the flagpole, light and the sign and accomplished all the electrical work. Cathy designed the garden and selected the plantings; the Master Gardeners will maintain the plantings in the future.



## Saluting Our Volunteers: *Lorraine 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.)*

Lorraine Wagley has been making contributions to preserving Beaver Creek's history for over 37 years. With a degree in Art Education, she admits that her greatest interest was always in Art History. That fact seems to point where her life's interests have led her, and her community has been well served by her dedication.

When she and husband Bob moved to Beaver Creek in the mid-1960s, they bought an old house located in the Knollwood area that was a true handyman special. Lorraine recalls among other problems, there were 43 broken windows. They discovered that the core of the home was a log cabin which county records show was built around 1803. Their home is officially designated as a Historic Structure by the City of Beaver Creek and was open as part of a past tour of homes offered by the Historical Society.

Lorraine and business partner Carolyn Daily operated Ampersand Antiques located in a quaint shopping area at the corner of North Fairfield and Lantz Road from 1977 to 1995. Many antique and country décor collectors loved checking out the store to see



what treasures might be waiting, as presentation and variety were always the shop's hallmarks.

Meanwhile, in 1975, with the 200th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence approaching, Lorraine and Bob joined with 15 other Beaver Creek citizens to put together a very special local project. Known as the Beaver Creek Bicentennial Historical Committee, the group began searching for and compiling details of the lives of Beaver Creek's earliest pioneers. The final product was published as *The Beaver Creek Chronicles*, now known as Volume I. She cherishes the time spent working with and getting to know delightful people whose memories went back to early days riding the old traction line as it ran from Dayton to Xenia—those who are now gone but whose memories live

on through the *Chronicles* to inform us today.

In 1986, Lorraine became a member of a newly formed Beaver Creek Historical Committee, the forerunner of the Beaver Creek Historical Society. Through the years, Lorraine has remained an active member, serving in the early days as Treasurer. From 1997-1999, she joined other members in compiling additional historical information published as the *Beaver Creek Chronicles*, Vol. II. She became Acquisitions Chairperson in 1999, setting up an

inventory system to track objects that have been donated or purchased, and she continues to serve in that role today. Over the years she has been involved in many Society programs and projects, including Living History, Harvest Dinners, Heritage Days and more. If there is an activity planned, you can just about put money on the fact that Lorraine Wagley will be there quietly contributing her time and energy.

One of her favorite memories as a part of the Society is attending a wedding at Wartinger Park on the porch of the Harshman House, the bride sharing that her fascination with the historical park dated from her visit there as a young girl on her elementary school's field trip for Living History. That for Lorraine seemed to make so many things so very worthwhile.



## Projects, Events and Priorities

The Board has established an ad hoc committee to review existing and identify potential society projects and events and their priorities. Dwindling volunteer support is putting a strain on the number of activities the Society can support. Your input – comments, ideas, and opinions - is desired on not only existing projects and events that the Society accomplishes but new ones that you would like to see the Society consider or possibly undertake. Please contact Bob Bader, 426-4871, Bob Wagley, 426-8325 or Wendy Kirchoff 429-1520 with your thoughts by 31 January.

## Art and Music:

### *Excerpt from the Beavercreek Chronicles Volume 2*

At the turn of the twentieth century, cultural entertainment in Beavercreek centered around involvement in local churches or benevolent organizations. One such organization whose members still gather today in Beavercreek is the Knights of Pythias Silver Star Lodge founded in 1894.

The lodge held its first meetings in the upstairs room of a two-story commercial building located on the south side of Dayton-Xenia Road, just west of Fairfield Road, where a restaurant stands today. This large board building in Zimmerman had a variety of uses by its owners over the years. In 1895, the lodge had an agreement with the building's owner, Dan Sipe, to rent all but two first floor rooms for \$50 per year thus securing a permanent meeting place.

In 1899, the lodge trustees voted to approve the purchase of a half acre of land on which they would build a new lodge.

Considered at the time to be in Alpha, the property was located approximately 150 feet south of Dayton-Xenia Road on Factory Road. It was purchased from Daniel Overholser for \$125. In December of 1899, exterior construction of the new hall was almost completed when it was blown down by a heavy wind. The members began work immediately on its reconstruction and the "Silver Star Lodge #668 K of P in Alpha, Ohio" was dedicated on June 6, 1900. The new two-story building was 40 X 60 feet, the upper story being used for the K of P Hall meetings and the lower to be used as an "audience room." Many attended the dedication ceremony which was open to the public and included visitors from Dayton, Osborn, and Xenia. Everyone enjoyed the spread of homemade dishes and special music by the local "Brown Band."

From that day on, the lodge became a well-known gathering spot for basket suppers and ice

## ACQUISITIONS

### **Recent donations to the Historical Society include the following:**

Recently a Great Wheel (spinning wheel) was donated to us by Christine Martin on behalf of the Bill Hagenbuch family. It is now on display in the Ankeney House. We thank them for this donation.

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

cream socials. Organizations held their regional meetings there, and the lodge held dances which helped to pay the loan for the hall's construction. In 1906, the K of P began renting the hall to the Board of Education for a year at a time where it could hold regular meetings as well as four special events each year. These "special meetings" included a Mass Day, graduation commencement, an operetta, and one other meeting of the Board's choice. As the community began to support the annual events, the hall became known to the locals as the Alpha opera house, giving it distinction as the local center of entertainment for the area.

- By Cathi B. Leitschuh

**Sources:** History of Silver Star – A Century of Pythian Brotherhood by Vincent B. Duncan; and recorded interviews with Wendell Marshall.

# Kenneth Wartinger

## **Excerpts for Jim Wartinger's tribute to Ken during the dedication ceremony for the memorial in his honor:**

Good Morning, Thank you all for coming to honor Dad.

Dad worked to help grow this park, he was a member of the Beavercreek Historical Society, and donated period antiques for display at the park. He supported the Flower Trail Garden Club and their efforts to preserve the park.

Dad would have loved this flagpole in his honor; he always flew the flag at home. Mom and Dad always flew the flag when I came home from the Air Force or when we visited. Mom always said it was just like when the President was in residence. I have a picture when we installed the flagpole at the house. Mom and I smiling she on one end of the post hole digger me on the other, second picture Dad smiling me on one handle of the post hole digger, me on the other. When the pictures were taken, they went in the house and guess who was left with both hands on the post hole digger. ME!

I was very fortunate to be born into the Wartinger family. The qualities that made my brothers such good men were instilled in them by my mother, Marie and the man that we honor here today our father, Ken Wartinger. Let me introduce you to Ken so you will know what made him special. Dad was famous from his first breath, he was born January 1,

1927, Dayton's New Years Baby, first son of Henry and Martha Wartinger. Over time he was joined by brothers Don and Tom and sister Norma Jean. Dad grew up in East Dayton on Parrott Street. I remember him telling me that his mother used to give Don and him a nickel, they would go to the bakery and buy pretzels, then sell them all over the neighborhood; they would work to earn money to spend the afternoon at the movies. Eventually the family moved from Dayton out to a small house on Indian Ripple Road, close to where I 675 is now. Dad went to Beavercreek Schools and he and Don were known to raise a little cain in their younger days racing cars down Grange Hall when it was still a dirt road. Dad played clarinet in BHS band and that is where he met my mom, she also played clarinet and sat next to him in band.

Dad went off to WWII in 1944 and was part of the Army of Occupation of Japan. He was on the boat that was going to land on mainland Japan if Harry Truman had not dropped the bomb on Hiroshima. He told me that two of three men were supposed to die if they had made that landing.

When he came back he and mom were married in 1949, and he went to school in Chicago for television. But as he always said, "life is what happens while you are waiting to do other things"; my mom got pregnant and they came back to Dayton for the birth. They never left.

Dad went on to be a route salesman for Borden's Dairy, and Miami Maid Bread, he worked for Mad River Public Schools and he owned his own Realty company. He worked long and hard for us. Dad always made time for our sports teams and activities even though he would be up to go to work at 2 and 3 am. He participated in Shrine parades for 20+ years and was master of Knollwood Masonic Lodge and secretary of the Xenia Commandery. He was a flea marketer; Dad loved a good deal and buying and selling.

The thing that struck me as I was writing this tribute was from the very beginning every thing that Dad was involved in revolved around people. He loved to talk and socialize. From his route jobs and real estate he knew everyone. He wouldn't use a computer or fax, he talked to people he dealt with. He always kept an extra chair in his flea market booth so someone could sit down and talk. He loved people. And that really summed up who he was. He treated people like he wanted to be treated and expected the same. He was generous and kind.

The best thing about my Dad was his sense of humor. We used to laugh and pick on each other constantly. Every time we would call and talk on Sundays I would tell him a joke or he would tell me one.

I Love You, Pop.

# John and Kenny

**Excerpts from Jim Wartinger's tribute to Ken during the dedication ceremony for the memorial in his honor. These remarks are about Jim's brothers John and Kenny.**

I would like to open my comments by commemorating the person to whom this park was named, my brother John. It has been 37 years since John passed away and some of you may not know much of him. To give you an idea [of] who he was let me share this article from The Xenia Gazette from 1975 [written by Mrs. Dale Boyer].

"This is a letter I have been meaning to write for four years. But I am like all the other parents in our town - never have taken the time to thank the young men (or boys if you prefer) who take time to teach and guide our children at the YMCA. I had such an occasion to observe these young men in action two summers (1971 - 72) their names were Carl Bowman and Johnny Wartinger. Both were enrolled in college, working

at the Y. These two years they also took time from their busy schedule to manage a team in the Y Little League Senior Division. My son was fortunate enough to be on that team. At first I had my doubts, but soon they were gone when I saw the patience, love and perseverance demonstrated by these two young men. Never an unkind word, never yelling at the kids for doing something wrong - only praise when they did it right and instructions on how to overcome their errors. Of course, the kids adored and worshiped them in return. At the end of the season we had the usual "awards banquet." Each of the kids received an award, not just one or two (another form of love shown by these two). They not only had this love for the kids, but for each other, for you see Carl was black and Johnny was white (another good lesson for our kids). Johnny had also been in a very serious industrial accident when a teenager, so had to give up his own ball playing. But they made a great team. Why am I writing this now,

four years later? Johnny Wartinger died July 5th of a heart attack at the young age of 26. I hope this letter repays him in a small way for all the time, energy and love he gave to my son.

[Signed]Mrs. Dale Boyer."

That was John, a caring, loving person.

It is ironic that we are standing next to a fire house today, a second person I would like to recognize who also gave of himself to the citizens of Beavercreek was my middle brother Kenny. He was a husband, father, paramedic, and fire chief of Station 2 in Beavercreek and someone who touched and preserved many lives in Beavercreek. He delivered a baby in the back of the ambulance and saved many structures. He also worked with 4H, and played in the Beavercreek High School Band. He had a great sense of humor and I never heard a person speak a bad word about him. I am proud to call him my brother.

## DID YOU REMEMBER TO RENEW?

All membership renewals are now due in December. Please check the date near your name on the address of this newsletter if you aren't certain if you are current. If it reads 12/31/2012, then we hope you'll take a moment soon to send in your renewal for 2013. Your membership and support are important to continuing the Society's efforts to preserve Beavercreek's past for the future!

## With Sympathy ...

We are sad to report the recent death of long time member Harold "Bud" Filer. Bud will long be remembered for constructing the fireplace in the Ankeney House. Bud had acquired bricks from the first Beavercreek High School that was located at the corner of Dayton-Xenia and Factory Roads when it was demolished. He used these bricks in the fireplace. Our sincere sympathy is extended to his wife Marilyn and family.

## Board of Trustees: *Comings, Goings, & Openings*

**Gerry Petrak** recently joined the Board in the role of Publicity Chair and we welcome her! She's gotten off to a flying start, and we are glad to have her energy as part of the Beaver Creek Historical Society leadership team. Welcome, Gerry!

**Becky Jarvi** and **Shirley McCort** have stepped forward to become our new Co-Directors of Living History for the Spring of 2013, as **Gerry Smalley** has had to pull back from that position due to health reasons. (See Living History article on Page 7). We are so very thankful for their willingness to lead this most important educational project with our community's third graders, and we wish Gerry our best as she recovers from her surgery.

**Julie Sanderson** recently resigned from her position as our Education Chair, citing her busy schedule as a wife, mother, student working toward a nursing degree, school and church volunteer. The Society extends many thanks to Julie for her efforts on its behalf in recent years and we're glad to know that she intends to remain involved in activities sponsored

by the organization going forward. Thanks, Julie!

**Board Openings** include two positions-- Education and Program Chair. We encourage our members to seriously consider stepping forward to serve. If you are willing to be a co-chair with another person, that is certainly acceptable. The Board meets on the second Thursday of each month (except December), and we are very understanding when members' occasional travel or family plans conflict with those meetings. New faces, new ideas and new approaches are valued, so please give some thought to becoming involved. Give Jill a call at 429-0291 if you'd like more information.

**Heritage Day Chairperson** is another slot for which we seek a volunteer. There is a very detailed report from this year's event that is available for a member willing to step into this role, and there are a number of folks who are willing to assist. But we need a chairperson in order to make this very popular event a reality for 2013. Co-chairs would be welcomed!

### OFFICERS

President	Jill Kincer 429-0291
External Vice Pres.	Bob Wagley 426-8325
Internal Vice Pres.	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 Schrack
City of Beaver Creek	M. Thonnerieux

## New Project on the Horizon for Wartinger Park

An exciting new Historical Society project is in the active planning stages for Wartinger Park that will offer visitors historical insights. New informational signs are being designed that will be placed in various locations within the park telling the stories of the origins of each structure, providing information as to their original locations, and sharing other general historic information about life in early Beaver Creek. Many visitors come to the park throughout the seasons, and the new project will allow them to leisurely take their own walking tour of Wartinger Park and have some understanding of the history of these wonderfully preserved structures, some over 200 years old. The ad-hoc committee working on the project is chaired by Bob Bader and includes Steve Baldwin, Mike Thonnerieux, Nancy Wagner, and Jill Kincer.



# Living History News

By Gerry Smalley | Living History Coordinator

Fall Living History went very well despite my jittery feelings and concerns. Because of my health I had much concern over the program as we had a total of 13 days to complete. The weather couldn't have been much better, and the volunteers stepped up and kept things going. Since it has been several months since we finished the program successfully, I don't have much to say but a big THANKS to all who came through and were there to help out.

We had several new people to join us. Thanks to Debra Arrington, Kathy Haller, Bill Hunt, Marcy Mobley, Clara Tiffany and Christina Wooley who were there to step in as our new volunteers. Of course, it wouldn't have been successful without those who have been volunteering previously: Grace Axer, Bob Bader, Art and Kathy Bauer, Mary Bayman, Linda Foster, Bob Gustin, Elizabeth Hargus-Tiemam, Paralee Hendrickson, Charlotte Hopkins, Dennis and Becky Jarvi, Sharon Jernigan, Gina Kahn, Dotty Kamammer, Edie Keast, Jill Kincer, Don Kocarek, JoAnn Manske, Shirley McCort, Dianne Phillips, Janice Rice, John Rhodehamel, Martha Rothman, Traudl Schrick, Gerry Smalley, Ed Stafford, ClaireTuffey, Bob and Lorraine Wagley, Nancy Wagner, and Mary Lou Wilkinson. I hope I haven't forgotten anyone. But the program would not run without each and every one of you.

Thanks to all those behind the scene who greatly contribute to the program: Laura Bader and Wilma Stafford who work very hard to provide the quilt pieces along with the doll kits, and to Carl and Linda Hogrefe for the pioneer soaps. A big thank you to Wendell Kincer for reworking all the stilts to make them safer and more user-friendly for the children. And thank you to all those who came to set up and clean up before and after the program, especially this year as my health made it difficult for me to do many of the chores.

I have had surgery and hope by the time you read this I'll be well on the mend. The spine surgery went well but has not been easy to bounce back. The rule of no 'BLT' has not been easy to follow--'Bend, lift, twist!--and much discomfort accompanies it. I have so appreciated all the cards and encouragement I have received from so many of you over these past few months.

There are two of the long term volunteers who are stepping up to take over the program for the spring. Becky Jarvi and Shirley McCort will be your Living History Coordinators. I look forward to seeing all of you in the spring only in the back ground. I really think this program is wonderful and will help in any way to keep it going. I wish Becky and Shirley a wonderful spring and hope you will give them the same support you have given me. Looking forward to spring and nice weather, your former Living History Coordinator, Gerry Smalley.



Photos of Main Elementary students continue on page 8.

pg. 7



## 2012 Harvest Dinners Earn Top Rating

The October sold-out Harvest Dinners, served in the glowing firelight of the Harshman and Ankeney log homes, earned a top rating from the diners in attendance on both evenings. This major fundraiser for the Society was a great success once again.

Chairman Helen Haun put together a wonderful menu which featured an entrée of homemade chicken and dumplings, a taste of fresh grape juice and tasty sides of applesauce, salad, crackers, old-fashioned breads and dessert of sweet potato pie topped with fresh whipped cream. In addition to Helen's homemade chicken and dumplings and grape juice, members who also contributed homemade foods to the event include Bob Zimmer (applesauce) and Becky Jarvi (crackers). Mm-m-m good, as they say.

The fall setting was enhanced with natural decorations created and artfully placed by the Master Gardeners. The dinners were served by members dressed in period garb, while candle-lit lanterns marked the walking path to the homes for attendees.

It was very gratifying that so many members came forward very willingly to volunteer for all the various duties that this event requires for success. If you were one of those people, we do sincerely thank you!

## BHS eNotes

Information about the Beaver Creek Historical Society is now available to you electronically through email via BHS eNotes. This won't take the place of the Log by Log, but will be a way to reach as many members as possible between issues. Additional information about other historical programs sponsored by neighboring societies will also be shared.

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.



**Don't forget to attend  
the January 22nd  
Quarterly Meeting.  
Details on back!**



## Dr. Robert Riordan

Dr. Robert Riordan is a Wright State University Professor of Anthropology and Chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. Since his arrival at WSU in 1976 he has been an active anthropologist studying and teaching about prehistoric sites in Beavercreek and beyond. Dr. Riordan has directed the on-site at the Pollock Works hilltop enclosure in Greene County and the Wright Cycle Company where Orville and Wilbur invented powered flight. He has also worked at several small rockshelter sites with prehistoric components as well as a housesite related to the Underground Railroad. He will be a speaker at the Jan. 22nd Quarterly Meeting.

## Yes, I'm Interested.

### 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

## Upcoming Events:

### **Board Meeting, January 10**

Coy House – 6:30 PM

### **Quarterly Meeting, January 22, 2013**

Peace Lutheran Church, Lower Level  
Fellowship Hall – 7:00 PM

*Robert Riordan presenting Prehistoric  
Mounds & Earthworks in Beaver creek &  
Western Greene County*

### **Board Meeting, February 14**

Coy House – 6:30 PM

### **Board Meeting, March 14**

Coy House – 6:30 PM

### **Newsletter Submission Deadline**

March 21 – 5:00 PM



1368 Research Park Drive  
Beaver creek, 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."

## **Beaver creek Historical Society Quarterly Meeting**

**Jan. 22, 2013 | 7:00 PM | Peace Lutheran Church**

**3530 Dayton-Xenia Rd | Fellowship Hall (East Canopied Entrance)**

---

## **Ancient Mounds and Earthworks: Beaver creek and Beyond**

Dr. Robert Riordan, an archaeologist at Wright State, will speak about the Woodland period mounds and earthworks of southwest Ohio. A few in the vicinity of Beaver creek will be discussed, as well as his long-term archaeological projects at the Pollock Works in Cedarville and his current project at Fort Ancient in Warren County.

He has reviewed the actual mounds in Beaver creek and developed a list of nine local mounds that have been placed on the state inventory, most of which are destroyed. During the talk he will touch on his study and work at other archeological sites including the Wright Brothers Memorial Mound Group and the ongoing project at Fort Ancient. He will inform us about the 'woodhenge'-like structure at Fort Ancient which has been described by the curator of archaeology at the Ohio Historical Society as one of the most significant projects going on in North America. The meeting is free and open to the public. Come and bring a friend!