

Log by Log

**Beavercreek
Historical Society**



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BeavercreekHistoricalSociety.org

New Beavercreek Schools' Names Reflect Community's History

Submitted by Jill Kincer

On a sunny Sunday afternoon in mid-September of this year, the Beavercreek City Schools held an official dedication ceremony for the two new schools opened this 2013-14 school year which are located in the eastern edge of Beavercreek on Dayton-Xenia Road. As these were the first new buildings constructed in Beavercreek since 1969, the official names for these new schools were eagerly anticipated by many in the community.

It was a real privilege to be among those asked to serve on the committee that was charged with the task of recommending names to the Board of Education. The committee held early discussions and then asked for community input to help them in their task before making a final recommendation. The names the Board approved, as recommended by that committee, were Jacob Coy Middle School and Trebein Elementary, both names directly related to the history of Beavercreek. It has indeed been a pleasure to find so many people who enthusiastically supported these name choices for buildings whose names honor our community's past where students will be preparing for the future. **Article continues on pg. 3.**

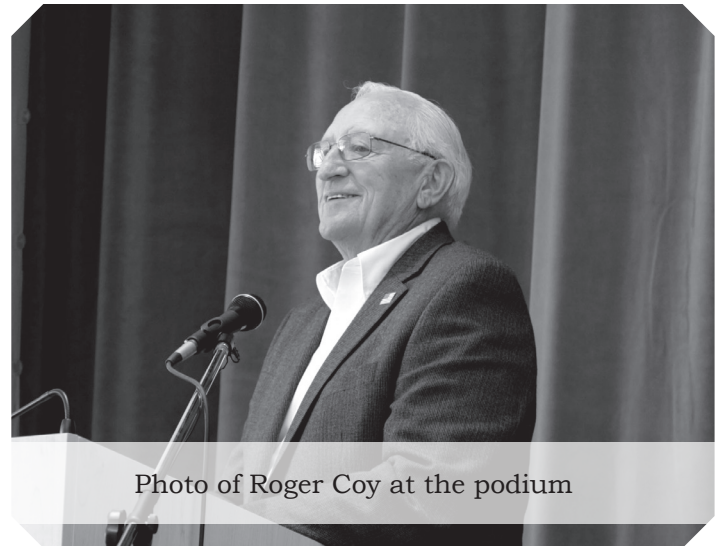


Photo of Roger Coy at the podium

Trebein Elementary School, looking across the courtyard to Coy Middle School.



Saluting Our Volunteers: Zelma Robinson

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

Whether you join as a new member or renew your membership in the Beavercreek Historical Society, one of the first people to make note of that is our Membership Chair, Zelma Robinson. She's been handling that duty for the past four years, and she shares that it is position she enjoys. Zelma's is the friendly face that greets you at our quarterly meetings when you sign in. She is a faithful attendee and active participant at Board of Trustees meetings, keeping the other board members abreast of membership with updated lists, etc. One important part of that job is to keep track of who has paid their dues and who has not—and she chuckled as she asked that members reading this article might take just a minute to check the expiration date on the label of this newsletter. "Memberships run from January 1 through December 31 of each year, so if your mailing label says your expiration date is 2013, please send in your dues!" she said with a smile on her face.

Zelma joined the BHS about 12 years ago after she began working on her family's ancestry and learned that her great-great grandparents most probably lived in a log cabin in Tennessee. From that information, she began pondering more and more about what life must have been like for them. Having lived in Zimmer Estates just off Kemp Road in north Beavercreek since she and her late husband built there in 1968, she was aware of the log cabins at Wartinger Park; and thus from the log-cabin connection, she became a member of the Society.

For several years she organized the artisans and



demonstrators at Heritage Day celebrations, which involves contacts with many people and decisions regarding canopy placement on the day of the event, sign making, etc. She and her daughter demonstrated German paper-cutting at one of the events. When the Society held a Quilt Show two years ago, she assisted in planning, set-up/take-down and displayed quilts she had made in the show.

Zelma, a Dalton, Georgia native, shares that her mother was an excellent seamstress who could

see a dress, make a sketch and then recreate it to perfection. Taught by her mother to sew, it turns out, however, that Zelma doesn't sew ladies' clothing. She sews quilt tops and bears—yes, teddy bears!

During the teddy bear craze of the early 1990s, she started collecting bears, and she and her husband traveled around Ohio collecting them. She had been making stuffed dolls and other types of stuffed animals, when her husband said, "I know you can make these bears, why don't you try?" So she began making mohair teddy bears with fabric from Germany with great success. She had already been working at the Daisy Barrel in Fairborn, so she began teaching a bear-making class at the store. She still gathers with four friends once a month to make them. In addition, she does piecing of quilt tops, then has someone else do the actual quilting. All in all, she has probably finished about a dozen quilts.

In addition to her BHS activities, sewing interests and being involved with her family, Zelma is a 33-year member of TWIG #11 of Beavercreek (Dayton Children's Hospital Auxiliary). We are thankful to have Zelma Robinson as an active volunteer in the Beavercreek Historical Society. We thank all of 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.

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I was honored to be invited to be a part of the dedication ceremony to share historic information as to the significance of the name Trebein Elementary. Beavercreek native and retired Assistant Superintendent of Beavercreek Schools, Dr. Roger Coy (Jacob Coy's direct descendant) was asked to share information about his ancestor for whom the middle school is named.

In addition to Roger Coy and his immediate family, other direct descendants of Jacob Coy in the audience that day included Dr. R. Gayle Ferguson, retired Superintendent of Beavercreek Schools, and a sister trio of Donna Coy Lawson, Carolyn Coy Fourman and Judy Coy Cormany. There may have been others unknown to me as there are many area citizens who trace their roots to this early pioneer who valued education and gave land for the first school.

Bob and Laura Bader and other Beavercreek Historical Society members were also in the audience that afternoon. Bob approached me later asking if I would be willing to share my comments from that event with the BHS membership through the Log by Log newsletter. I contacted Roger Coy, a BHS member, to see if he would be willing to share his remarks, and although he had delivered his portion of the program referring to brief outlined notes, he was happy to share his notes, which I will paraphrase for newsletter readers in a related article on page 7. As I had written out my remarks, they are shared as delivered that day in this issue in a second related article which appears on pages 8 and 9. I hope you enjoy reading them.



Photo of Jill Kincer
at the podium

Welcome New Members!!

Joan & Stephen Tobias | Amber Carlos & Family

Short snippets from The Centinel of the North-Western Territory

First published issue, Saturday, November 9, 1793

CENTINEL of the *North-Western* TERRITORY.

Open to all parties—but influenced by none.

At the Card Manufactory in the Town of Pittsburgh, the corner of Water and Market Streets, by A. ADGATE and Co.

Is manufactured and kept for sale a constant supply of all kinds of cotton and wool cards either by the box or single pair, at the same prices as at their factory in the city of Philadelphia. Also machine, hatters, stock, printers and jack cards: where likewise will be kept for sale, a neat and fashionable assortment of dry goods, and groceries of all kinds; of a superior quality, at the most reduced prices for cash or country produce.

Pittsburgh, November 1, 1793

A Special Salute to the Flower Trail Garden Club

Submitted by Jill Kincer

In 1956, the Flower Trail Garden Club was founded with the objectives of stimulating the search for knowledge, love of gardening and aiding in the protection of native trees, plants and birds. Through these past 57 years, with hard work and service of many dedicated members, the club made many contributions to the Beavercreek community. But, sadly, with a declining membership, they have made the difficult decision to disband at the end of the year 2013. At the November 25, 2013 meeting of Beavercreek City Council, outgoing Mayor Vicki Giambrone presented a special proclamation to three long-time Flower Trail members—Judy Haas, Traudl Schrick, and Francis Wartinger—who represented in spirit all of the gardeners who had ever played a part in the organization's efforts.

The proclamation noted that the Flower Trail Garden Club:

- *Assumed care of Wartinger Park in 1976 as a bicentennial project until 1983 when the property was turned over to the City of Beavercreek;*
- *Planted and cared for the herb garden in Wartinger Park for 37 years, incorporating their Herb Day Festival with Heritage Day Festival every fall since 1995;*
- *Planted 70 trees between the years of 1976-1987 and celebrated Arbor Day with the addition of a native tree each of the following years;*
- *In 1982 undertook the financial and manual responsibility to move the Nicodemus-Zink log house from its original site to Wartinger Park;*
- *And in early 2000, under the leadership of Eileen Richardson, took steps to construct a replica of the Jarusiewicz log house, after the original structure had been badly damaged by insect infestation.*

The Flower Trail members also planted and maintained the lovely rose garden that surrounds the Nicodemus log house, which fronts onto Kemp Road next to the fire station.

The many years of dedication of so many Flower Trail members to make Wartinger Park such a lovely spot and the partnership of the two organizations have been highly valued by the Beavercreek Historical Society. So it is with sadness that we mark the decision to disband but with great affection and gratitude that we say: Thank you, Flower Trail Garden Club, for fifty-seven years of making Beavercreek a more beautiful place to live!



Pictured from left to right, Frances Wartinger, Traudl Schrick, Judy Haas, and Mayor Vicki Giambrone.

The Beavercreek Mapping Project

Submitted by Bob Wagley

One of the new features added to the 2013 Heritage and Herb Day activities was the mapping project. This idea sprung from Bob and Lorraine Wagley had seen similar projects in both Bologna, Italy and San Juan, Puerto Rico. The mapping project is attached to the wall in the barn to be used for future events, thus providing an ongoing record of our past and present.

Attached to the wall in the barn are two large maps, one of Beavercreek and one of the World. On the table, in front of maps, are instructions and color headed pins. The instructions urge people to stick a pin into where they live in Beavercreek. It also urges them to stick a pin or pins into the world map indicating the places where their ancestors had lived. Another feature of the project is a supply of note cards people can fill out telling about their most important memory of Beavercreek and drop it into the basket.



Given the number of pins in the maps, this project was a success. Our only wish was that more people would have filled out memory cards. However, here is a sample of some of the cards we received:

- One of my favorite memories in Beavercreek is when we went to the creek and saw lots of wildlife.
- Making a candle at Heritage Days. Wish it was still here.
- Heritage Days & Living History
- My favorite memory of Beavercreek is making corn meal (one of our Living History Program activities)
- My favorite memory in Beavercreek is when I first found my 4th great grandfather's burial site on the farm which he owned for 1799 until his death in 1809 in Greene County.

Board of Trustees 2014

President: Jill Kincer

Internal Vice President: Robert Wagley

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Thank You to Our Harvest Dinner Volunteers

Submitted by Helen Haun

The 2013 Harvest Dinners were served by firelight to 98 guests on October 18 and 19 in the Harshman and Ankeney houses at Wartinger Park. The dinners were a great success due to the wonderful volunteers of the Beavercreek Historical Society and the Greene County Master Gardeners.

Judy Hill, Sarma Orłowski and Bonnie Freund were the Master Gardeners that helped create a festive atmosphere inside and outside the homes. Our guests were greeted warmly by our servers and hosts. Traudl Schrick, Claire Tuffy, Edie Keast, Jamie Ferguson, Nancy Wagner, Carolyn Coy Fourman and Lorraine Wagley served in the Harshman House. Sarah and Fred Haller, Mary Bayman, Bob Wagley, Bob Zimmer and Helen Haun served in the Ankeney House. The dishwashers were Traudl Schrick, Carolyn Coy Fourman, Jill Kincer, Donna Lawson, Bob and Lorraine Wagley, Wilma Jingling, Diane Phillips and Brianna Johnson. Our steadfast fire starters were Bob Bader, Wendell Kincer, Bob Wagley and Jerry Haun. Our path was lit by the Steve Baldwin family. Our heartfelt thanks to all these volunteers who make the Harvest Dinners a popular event in our community. We couldn't do them without you.

(Editor's note: We cannot run this article without adding special thanks to **Helen Haun**. Helen and Lorraine Wagley teamed up to prepare the wonderful beef and homemade noodle entree and all the trimmings replete with gingerbread dessert for the dinners. Being that she is a modest person, we are not surprised that Helen totally omits the fact that she chaired this event, putting a great deal of time and hard work into planning, preparing, setting up, and wrapping up this major fundraiser for the Society. So many thanks to you, Helen!)



Dr. Roger Coy Salutes Ancestor Jacob Coy

Dr. Roger Coy opened his presentation at the September 22, 2013, dedication of Jacob Coy Middle School by thanking the School Naming Committee for recommending the name Jacob Coy for the new middle school, the school administration for supporting the recommendation and the members of the Board of Education for their vote of approval. He shared the names of his immediate family members in the audience that afternoon and delineated each relationship in terms of “greats” as they related to Jacob Coy. Citing references for his comments as Greene County History by G.S. Dills, the Beaver Creek Historical Society’s Beaver Creek Chronicles, Faith of our Fathers by Miriam Engle Allen and personal information shared by his father Russell Coy, Roger gave a brief history of Jacob Coy’s life.

18 year-old Johann Jacob, his parents and siblings came to the United States from Germany in 1757; his parents died on the voyage and were buried mid-sea. Jacob, as he was called, then penniless, took his brothers and sisters to Maryland where he worked off a six-year indentured servitude. He married, and some time later came down the Ohio River to Cincinnati and followed the Pinckney Road to near what became known as Alpha, Ohio. He signed the deed, reportedly for nearly 3000 acres, for his land in the Greene County Court House on December 31, 1801.

Roger shared that he still owns five acres of Jacob’s original large tract of land on Shakertown Road situated next to Coy Homestead Estates. He proudly possesses the two original deeds for the property with President James Madison’s signature on them. He and his wife Shirley took the deeds to Olde World Restoration in Cincinnati and had them cultured; they have now been framed, appraised and will be passed down to his children.

It was Jacob Coy who gave a portion of his land on which Beaver Creek’s and Greene County’s first one-room school house was built. Telling tales about hunting rabbits, pheasants, mushrooms or black raspberries with his father, Russell, Roger noted that during those outings, his father would point out stones in the fields and identify them as the

foundation of the first Beaver Creek school.

Later the land that held the remains of that first school became part of a large housing development, and that particular property was purchased by a teacher who knew Roger. She called him one day and shared that she and her husband were moving some of the stones from that foundation. She told him that if he would like, he was welcome to come pick up the cornerstone. Thus the cornerstone of the first school house in Beaver Creek and Greene County found a new home in the hearth of a lower level fireplace in Roger’s home on Shakertown Road.

Roger, a long-time educator in Beaver Creek serving as teacher, coach, principal, retiring as Assistant Superintendent, pointed out to his audience that the area is rich in Beaver Creek school history. State Representative Herman K. Ankeney once owned a home in the woods just across Dayton-Xenia Road from where this school dedication was now taking place, and Roger noted that Beaver Creek’s Ankeney Middle School on Shakertown Road bears that name. He proudly noted that Jacob Coy’s many-great-granddaughter, Sharma Coy Nachlinger is the new principal at Ankeney Middle School this school year.

“So, Jacob,” Roger proudly declared, “your far-sighted generosity is still present in Beaver Creek education two hundred plus years later!”

He ended his presentation with thanks to Janice Saddler Rice and any others who were responsible for extending the invitation to him to share the Jacob Coy story on this day.

Did You Renew? Check Your Label!

Memberships run from January 1 through December 31 each year. If your address label reads 2013, please send in your renewal soon. (If you have sent yours in recently but the date 2013 still shows, it may have been received between the deadline for publication and the printing of this newsletter.)

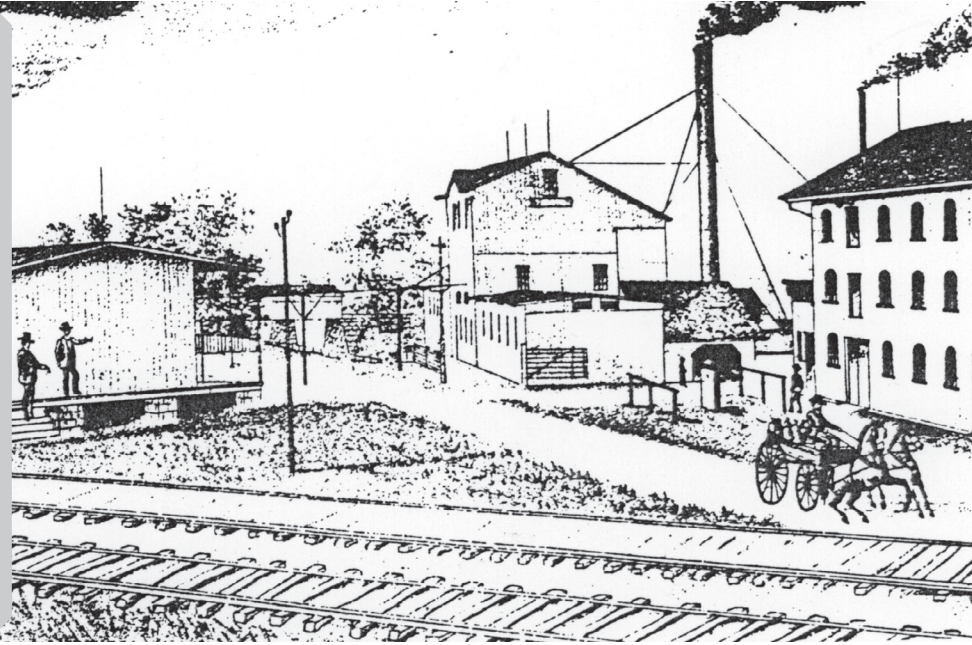
Trebein Settlement and Old School History Cited As Basis for Naming New Elementary

Jill Kincer's Remarks from the School Dedication Ceremony, September, 2013

Greene County Atlas, 1874 –

F.C. Trebein's mill with covered bridge crossing the Little Miami River shown in the background. Dayton-Xenia Road and Dayton & Xenia Railroad tracks shown in the foreground.

Source: Photo from page 155 of the *Beavercreek Chronicles*.



Thank you, Board President Al Nels, and thank you so much to the Beavercreek schools for inviting me here today as a representative of the Beavercreek Historical Society and the many good community people who served on the School Naming Committee. I was honored to be invited to be a part of the committee that recommended names to the Board of Education for this exciting new building project! The committee members felt a great responsibility in choosing names to be recommended. Interestingly enough, the two names that were chosen in the end were submitted not only initially by members of the committee, but also by multiple members of the community in response to a request for public input. There were many very worthy names considered; and the task of winnowing those down to just two was challenging. A very serious part of our challenge was to pick names that would stand the test of time and have some appropriate significance to the community.

Let's take a moment to share some historical significance of the choice of Trebein as a name for

this elementary school. If you were to fly over this site, you would clearly see the scenic Little Miami River to the southeast just beyond Dayton-Xenia Road as it meanders through this eastern portion of our township. You can go online to Google Maps to see just how close we really are to that river even though you do not see it from this location.

A small settlement began to grow up along both sides of the Little Miami River in the early 1800s soon after Ohio became a state. It had a blacksmith shop, a wagon shop, a flour mill powered by water from the river, even a distillery, a grocery store and a cluster of family homes.

The railroad would eventually pass through. Roads of earlier times traversed a covered bridge across the Little Miami there, where at that time Dayton-Xenia and Trebein Roads intersected.

The settlement was known by several different names early on until a man named F.C. Trebein moved to the village in 1868, bought the mill, and purchased

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a large home along the north side of Dayton-Xenia Road that had been used as an inn and stage coach stop. That large home, still standing today, became known as Trebein Manor, and soon the bustling little settlement became officially known as Trebein.

In 1883, a brick one-room schoolhouse known as Trebein School was constructed about ½ mile north of that old covered bridge, housing grades 1 through 8. The building, nestled into the side of a hill, still stands today as a residence on Trebein Road and can actually be seen from the east-facing windows of our new modern Trebein Elementary that we dedicate today. As you look at that old building from this location, you will see why it was also sometimes referred to as Westview School—because the view the children had from the tall windows looked to the west.



The original Trebein School still sits tucked into the hillside along Trebein Road and can be seen across the fields from windows in Beavercreek City Schools' new Trebein Elementary, constructed 130 years later.

In contrast to the school we dedicate today, the old one on the hill was originally heated by two wood-burning stoves, as the boys in the upper grades took turns keeping up the fires during the school day. The students sat on simple wooden benches, and walked to and from school in all sorts of weather. In fact, one of the students in 1888 was the father of Herman Ankeney, in whose honor Beavercreek's Ankeney Middle School is named.

Unfortunately, as years rolled along ... one-room school houses were closed, fire destroyed the distillery, water-powered mills became a thing of the past, and time took a toll on the old buildings.

The path of those roads changed with modern progress in order to better connect to Route 35, so traffic no longer flows directly through Trebein. The railway bed is now the bike path. Today, some houses remain in the quiet peacefulness of old Trebein as well as a lovely little park alongside the Creekside bike trail.

But how very pleased those early residents of this eastern portion of Beavercreek Township would be to know that today another school is being dedicated, with skilled teachers ready to prepare students for their future, to begin new traditions while honoring the past of a small settlement and a one-room school house by naming this building Trebein Elementary School.



Aerial view of new school complex at corner of Dayton-Xenia and Ankeney Roads in eastern portion of Beavercreek Township, dedicated in September 2013. Coy Middle School (left wing) and Trebein Elementary (right wing) are two separate schools connected by a shared kitchen & HVAC equipment.

Living History Fall 2013 *Submitted by Becky Jarvi, Fall Living History Director*

We were blessed with lovely weather for most of the days of Living History this fall. With the addition of Trebein Elementary we had 13 classes of enthusiastic third graders.

One of my favorite moments involved music. I knew that Kathy Bauer and I both played dulcimers. We agreed to play at a lunch break when the weather cooperated. Hearing our plans, Shirley Richardson-McCourt brought her ensemble of recorders. We placed our chairs under trees by the Harshman House and played as the last morning classes were ending. Very quickly we were surrounded by students curious and eager to sing along. They began suggesting songs. John Rhodehamel materialized to lead the singing. It was so much fun! Even though time prevailed, several of the students said, "Oh, don't stop." This only happened once, but what a joy it was.

Gerry Smalley had warned me that it is harder to find volunteers in the fall than the spring and that was true. It is a busy time of year. But there were several folks who were willing and able to be amazingly supportive. I am very grateful to everyone who participated in the program. They made it possible. The 29 of us worked with 317 students. Brandon Wooley is a home-schooler who came with his mother, Christine, to teach finger knitting. He was a great help. Shirley was there every day, and Diane Hetzel led the herb classes ten times.

Recognizing the changing demands of Living History, the increase in classes and the diminishing pool of volunteers, Jill Kincer invited Sarah Haller, Gerry Smalley and me to meet with her and discuss how we envisioned the future for the program.

We all agreed that it needed to be compressed in a way that would require fewer volunteers but still provide the hands-on experience with early Beaver Creek history. We decided that the focus would be on food, shelter, and clothing, the basic essentials of the settlers. For this coming spring session the student activities will be reduced from nine to six. The time allotted for each activity will be lengthened a bit, and the program will end around noon when the students can have their lunches and time to try out the old-style toys. The six daily activities will be quilting, finger knitting, spinning, herb gardening, butter churning, and the barn-garden chores.

Amber Carlos, a new member and volunteer, has agreed to direct the spring program. We are so pleased and know she will bring new energy and ideas to this program as it goes into its 22nd year. I will look forward to being the director again in the fall.

I hope you will encourage people you know to volunteer with Living History and welcome Amber with your support this spring.

Notecards for Sale

Notecards and envelopes with black and white ink drawings illustrated by Cathy Gross are for sale by the Beaver Creek Historical Society! The notecards are sold in packs of 6 and feature historical landmarks in Beaver Creek, including new drawings of the Tobias-Zimmer Barn, the 1827 Jacob Coy Homestead, the Jarusiewicz Cabin and the Ankeney House. If you are interested in purchasing a pack of cards for \$6 each, please contact **Nancy Wagner** at 426-1272.



We appreciate your support and value your membership!

Annual Memberships

- ☐ \$5.00 - Student (age 18 and below)
- ☐ \$15.00 - Individual
- ☐ \$20.00 - Family
- ☐ \$50.00 - Club/Organization

Lifetime Memberships

- ☐ \$500.00 - \$999.00 - Preservationist
- ☐ \$1000.00 and above - Historian

Note: Annual memberships begin January 1st and expire December 31st. The expiration date of your membership appears in the corner of the label on your newsletter.

Please send your check and this form to: **Beavercreek Historical Society
1368 Research Park Drive
Beavercreek, OH 45432**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail (please print clearly): _____

(For use only for communicating information about the Beavercreek Historical Society.)

Volunteers are always welcome to participate in the following areas:

- Developing oral history of Beavercreek
- Writing for the Quarterly Newsletter
- Tours and historical programs at the park
- Craft demonstrations
- Acquisitions committee
- Publicity committee
- Working on barn or house preservation
- Creative fundraising committee
- Membership committee
- Educational committee
- Hospitality committee

Upcoming Events:

Board Meeting, January 9

Coy House – 6:30 PM

Quarterly Meeting, January 28, 2014

Peace Lutheran Church – 7:00 PM

Mary Todd Lincoln, Presentation by Debe Dockins, Washington Township Libraries

Board Meeting, February 13

Coy House – 6:30 PM

Board Meeting, March 13

Coy House – 6:30 PM

Newsletter Submission Deadline

March 21 – 5:00 PM

Quarterly Meeting, April 22, 2014

Peace Lutheran Church – 7:00 PM

Norman Rockwell



1368 Research Park Drive
Beavercreek, Ohio 45432

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

Beavercreek Historical Society Quarterly Meeting

January 28, 2014 | 7:00 PM | Peace Lutheran Church

The Life of Mary Todd Lincoln

Learn about the wife of our 16th President including her childhood, her courtship with Abraham Lincoln, her years in the White House, her life after the death of the President and her insanity trial. Was she truly a hellcat as Lincoln's secretaries called her or a helpmate to her husband?

Debe Dockins will provide this information and an answer to the above question at the Beavercreek Historical Society Quarterly Meeting In January. She is the Community Outreach and Development Coordinator at the Washington-Centerville Public Library. Debe holds a B.S. in Journalism with an emphasis in Public Relations from Murray State University in Kentucky. She is responsible for running the Dottie Yeck Good Life Award Writing Contest, the Erma Bombeck Writing Competition and the Speakers Bureau. She leads two book discussion groups and assists with adult programming at the library.

