

Log by Log

**Beavercreek
Historical Society**



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Harbine Industrial Complex: *Continued*

Submitted by Robert Bader

The current interest in the Harbine Industrial Complex (HIC) is precipitated by the recent design change for the Route 35 upgrade in the vicinity of Alpha, particularly the Factory Road interchange, which impacts the archaeological remains of the HIC. Refer to the spring 2014 issue (Vol.23 Issue 2) of the Log by Log for more detail and the requirement to recover archaeological information prior to the impact of the planned construction in this area. The area of attention is the southeast corner of the intersection of Factory Road and Route 35.

The construction of the Beavercreek Wastewater Treatment Facility in the 1990s, just south of what is now the Yellow Brick Road, obliterated the remains of the HIC distillery and a portion of the mill race. The results of the archaeological data recovery efforts related to this area of the HIC are summarized in the document "The Distiller's Tale: Archaeological Investigations at the Harbine Distillery and Millrace..." which is available in the Greene Room of the Greene County Public Library.

Delving a little more deeply into the Complex, refer to the accompanying **Figure 1A**, 1874 map of the Alpha area, **Figure 1B**, the 1896 map from Riddell's Atlas and **Figure 3A (pg. 3)**, the 1946 Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) aerial photograph. Housing for factory workers along Factory Road is indicated in all three figures. The location of the grist mill or the flowering mill is just north of what was Alpha-Bellbrook Road and was located on the mill head race, just west of Beaver Creek. Now, the Yellow Brick Road cuts through that general area. The mill dam is visible or indicated in all three figures and still exists in part. Note the location of the Harbine House which was pictured in the spring issue of the Log by Log. **Article continues on pg.3.**

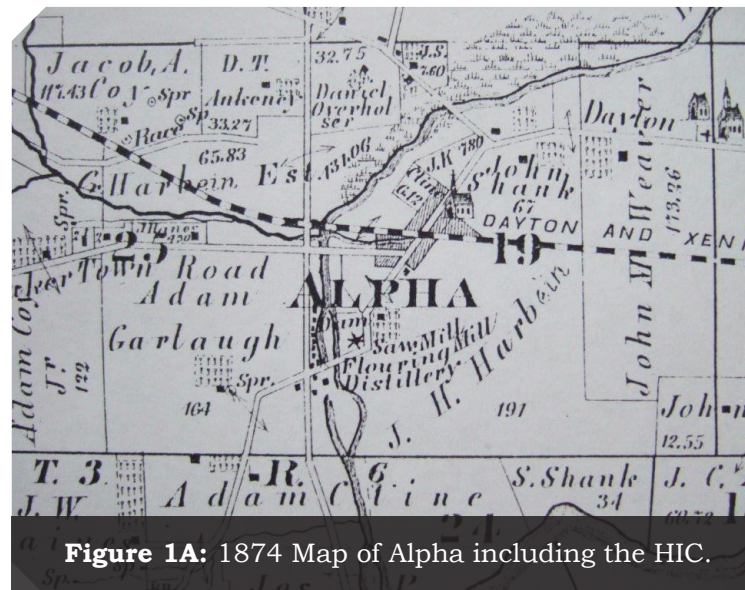


Figure 1A: 1874 Map of Alpha including the HIC.

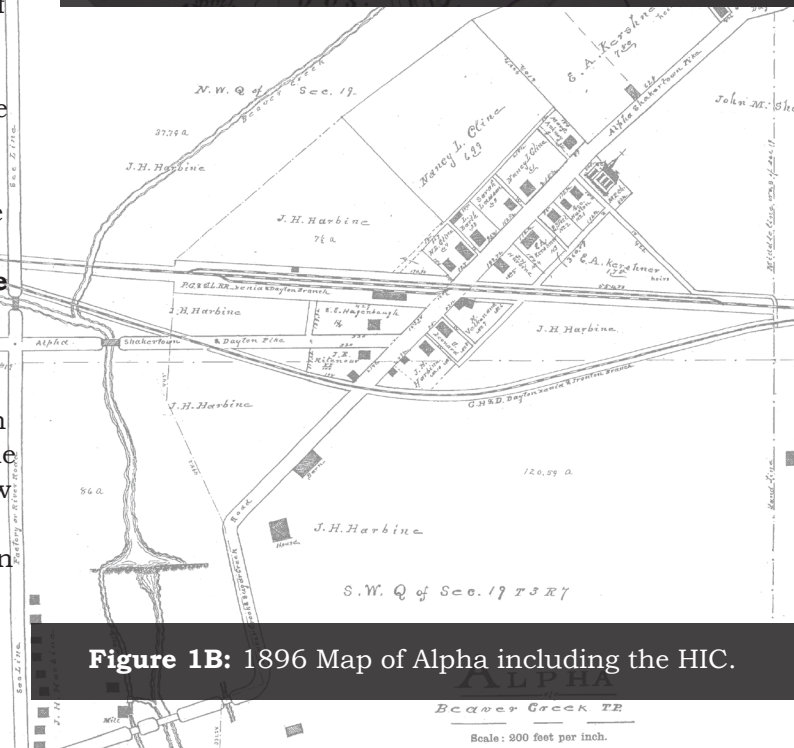


Figure 1B: 1896 Map of Alpha including the HIC.

Saluting Our Volunteers: Wilma and Ed Stafford

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.

It is with great pride that Wilma and Ed Stafford share that they are both life-long residents of Beavercreek, each recounting the locations where they lived as children. As a matter of fact, Ed still lives on the same Shakertown Road farm where his great-grandparents settled in the 1860s. Wilma's mother was a Shoup family member with long-time Beavercreek roots by birth. Her family lived on Patterson Road, in what became the Woodhaven subdivision in the 1960s. They were each active in 4-H as children and knew each other through that activity, but later as adults became reacquainted through activities at Mount Zion Church and married. They have witnessed first hand many changes in the landscape as suburban developments spread over farm fields, and a simple township form of government grew to city status. It is important to them that the people who live here now have an opportunity to know the true history of the area that grew to become the City of Beavercreek.

Their involvement with the Beavercreek Historical Society began in 1999, when Wilma became a part of a Greene County Master Gardener's class. There went out a request for a person who would be willing to lead a group of people that would be responsible for tending the gardens at Wartinger Park. A cousin of Wilma's and Kathy Bauer (a current Society member) also agreed to join in this undertaking, and the three of them took over the gardening. They worked to establish native plants at the park. Wilma became the Master Gardeners' liaison to the Society's Board of Trustees and served in that position until she became ill in 2004 and was no longer able to continue.

A life-long farmer, Ed has been a right-hand man, often tilling the Wartinger Park flower beds and the farm garden for Living History, and taking his turns leading the farm gardening activity with the elementary school children who attend the program. His experience of 30 years as a school bus driver possibly gave him special insight in dealing with inquisitive children. He was also a sixteen-year

member of the Greene County Agricultural Society Board of Directors (often called the Fair Board).

Through her association with the Society, Wilma became friends with Laura Bader who for many years coordinated the work needed to have large amounts of fabric cut for several Living History activities done by the

attending children. Wilma began cutting fabric by hand, a task she reports "kills your arms." She came across a machine she simply calls a "cutter," a machine with rollers equipped with a specific die for the cut one wishes to make. Up to ten layers of fabric can be cut with one roll, and more if the die has multiple cutting units. She reports the fabric still needs two steps prior to being run through the machine: it has to be ironed so that it is smooth, and it has to be cut to the size of the die. But all in all, it is a great time-saving device. The Society extends great thanks for Wilma for all the cutting she has done to provide supplies for Living History as well as for purchasing this equipment out of pocket.

Ed and Wilma have enjoyed attending Quarterly Meetings of the Society over the years, where Wilma often helped provide refreshments. Both have assisted often at the annual Heritage Day celebrations, with Wilma co-chairing the event with Bob Wagley recently. We thank not only the Staffords but 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.



Continued from pg.1. A covered bridge on old Alpha–Bellbrook Road, previously Beaver Creek–Sugar Creek Road, spanned Beaver Creek.

Figure 3B shows the remains of the east bridge abutment along with Beaver Creek City Parks director Mike Thonnerieux. (See the separate article on **pg.4** on how the bridge was destroyed in 1950.) **Figures 3C and 3D** show the east part of the mill dam where it existed to dam Beaver Creek and form the mill pond. The location of this portion of the mill dam is across Beaver Creek from the beverage carry out business that currently exists on Factory Road. Note the cut limestone as well as the remaining boulders at the dam site. The earthen portion of the dam continues east until it meets with what is now Alpha Road— formerly a portion of Alpha–Bellbrook Road—south of Route 35.

Much of the area between Factory Road and Beaver Creek has been filled. The mill race is no longer visible and neither is the cutoff from the mill race to Beaver Creek. The exact grist mill location is questionable.

AMEC Co. of Louisville, Kentucky, recently conducted explorations of potential sites for archaeological data recovery. Remote sensing techniques, including magnetometers and electricity resistivity equipment, were used. Shown in the photo, **Figure 3E**, is a technician using a remote sensing electricity resistivity tool. Data recovered by these techniques will be interpreted and used to develop a data recovery plan that will be implemented once the Route 35 project moves forward. In addition, the data recovery plan will include locating and interpreting archival data. Potential Beavercreek Historical Society sources among others have been identified. ASC Group, the project's cultural resource consultant, along with ODOT and the Ohio State Historic Preservation Office will develop the data recovery plan. The plan is anticipated to be available later this year but will not be able to be implemented until funding becomes available for the Route 35 project. See future issues of the Log by Log for continued coverage on the Harbine Industrial Complex.

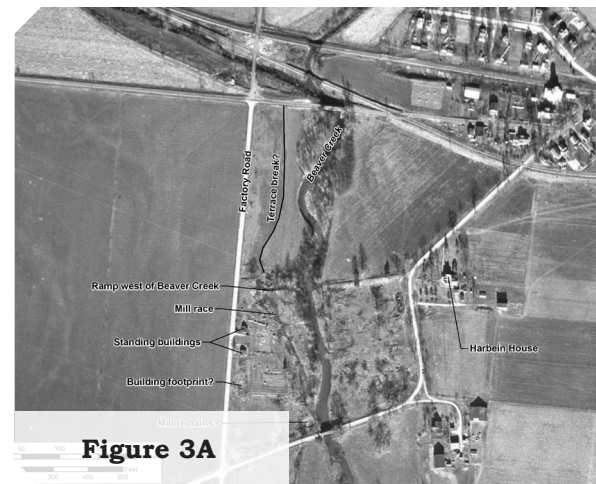


Figure 3A

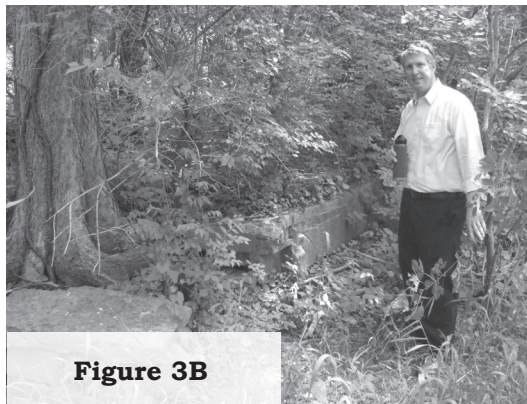


Figure 3B

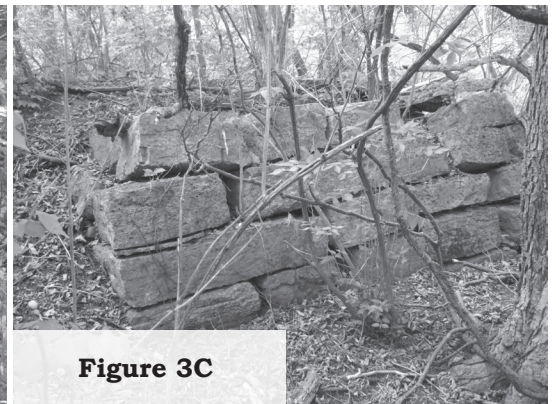


Figure 3C

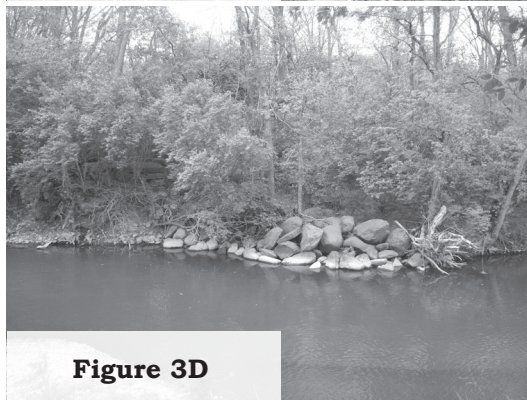


Figure 3D



Figure 3E

Figure 3A: 1946 Aerial Photo of the HIC.

Figure 3B: Alpha-Bellbrook Road Covered Bridge Abutment.

Figure 3C: Cut Stone Blocks Forming Part of the Beavercreek Mill Dam.

Figure 3D: Remnants of Stone/Boulders At Beavercreek Mill Dam.

Figure 3E: Technician Using the Electrical Resistivity Remote Sensing Equipment.

Condolences are Due

With sadness we announce the recent death of Betty K. Biser who died May 27, 2014. Betty was a long time member of the historical society. She was always present at our Living History sessions, teaching the children to make quilts. Our sympathies go to Betty's daughters Kathleen Armstrong, Kristine Brock, and April Lemaster, plus her many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Collapse of the Alpha-Bellbrook Road Covered Bridge

Submitted by Robert Bader, Extracted from the July 27, 1950 issue of the Xenia Gazette

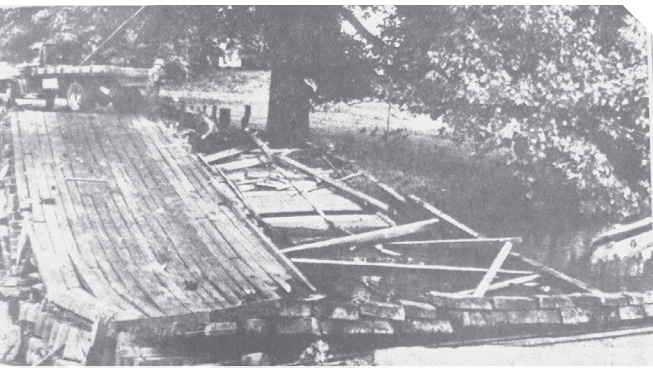


Figure 4: Greene County Road Crew works to clear the remains of the Covered Bridge.

Another picturesque but ancient covered bridge in Greene County met its end on July 18th. The bridge collapsed into Beaver Creek when a heavily loaded coal truck passed over. County Engineer Fred Lemcke said that the 80 year old bridge, posted for a 6 ton limit was probably overloaded to about 12 to 15 tons. The driver of the truck was apparently unhurt although the failing structure knocked off the tail gate, a mirror and some 100 pounds of coal off of the truck. The driver continued without stopping. Lemcke indicated that the bridge would have probably been abandoned in a few months since the highway department will do away with that part of the road when the new Route 35 is constructed.

Stone from First Schoolhouse Foundation

Beavercreek Historical Society donates stone from first schoolhouse foundation; stone to be incorporated into design of new preschool building.

A thick slab of Ohio limestone, which was part of the foundation of the first school house built in Beavercreek and in Greene County, was recently presented as a gift from the Beavercreek Historical Society to the Beavercreek City Schools. Jill Kincer, the Society's president, made the presentation of the stone, measuring approximately 18 x 22 inches, at the May 15, 2014, Board of Education meeting. It was recently recovered from an anonymous donor's private property which was at one time part of the 3,200 acre tract of land originally owned by early Beavercreek settler, Jacob Coy.

The schools have announced that the stone will be incorporated into the design of the district's new preschool building which will be located on the property where the Board of Education's Central Office is located, adjacent to Wartinger Park on Kemp Road. It seems very fitting that this placement will complete an approximate 214-year journey for that piece of limestone, from being a part of the foundation of that first school built so long ago (circa 1800) to soon become integrated into the exterior design of a new school being built in the 21st century within the same community.

Jill's remarks at that May15 presentation, shared here, explain more about how this all came about (*article continues onto page 5*):

“Good evening! I am here tonight representing the Beavercreek Historical Society, and on behalf of our Board of Trustees and all of our members, some of whom are here, we thank you for this opportunity. The stated purpose of the Beavercreek Historical Society is “preserving the past for the future,” and thus, tonight we hope to make that statement even more meaningful through the presentation of a very special gift to the Beavercreek schools. It was a bit difficult to gift wrap, so we have it here for you in this manner. (Editor’s note: The stone was concealed beneath a large cloth before being revealed.)

We are so very pleased to be able to present to you this evening—a foundation stone from the first school house in Beavercreek which was also the first in Greene County. Let me briefly recount for you how it made its way to you in this room this evening:

Last September at the official dedication of Trebein Elementary and Jacob Coy Middle Schools, there were a number of people who attended who have lived in Beavercreek their entire lives, and others like me who came here as adults but have adopted it as a much beloved home. There was talk of history, and of that first schoolhouse in Beavercreek that was built around 1800 on Jacob Coy’s land—which was, of course, cited as the reason for giving our new middle school his name.



The history books of Greene County only state that “the first schoolhouse was erected in the southeast corner of Section 31 about two miles west of Alpha on the property of Jacob Coy.” Other more precise information about its location never appeared in print to the best of our knowledge, and for most people within our community, including the Beavercreek Historical Society, its exact location was lost to time.

During his presentation about his ancestor’s contributions at that September dedication ceremony, however, Dr. Roger Coy made mention that when he was a young man, he and his father would hunt the fields of the Coy land, and his father would often point out to him the stones from the foundation of that old school house. Roger also further shared that later owners of the property, who are now deceased, were aware of the early history of the stones on their parcel, and had let him know that they had rearranged the stones from their original foundation position into a different configuration on their property, and offered him one for his home.

Now those of us who love history have a touch of detective within us. We always want to know more about the past. My history-buff antennae went up immediately upon hearing Roger’s remarks, and curiosity prevailed! We followed up with Roger, made a few phone calls, and were thrilled to actually locate the remaining remnants of that foundation. One of our first thoughts upon seeing those stones was that one of them needed to go to the Beavercreek City Schools.

The current owners of that private property have asked to remain anonymous. They wish no recognition nor do they want the location identified. But we are truly appreciative that they have graciously consented to allow us to remove some of these stones from the property for public display. They are aware that this stone is being presented to Beavercreek Schools this evening and that others will be used at historic Wartinger Park in a Historical Society project underway at that location. We sincerely thank them for making these historically significant limestone foundation stones available to the Beavercreek community.

So it seems fitting to again repeat the Beavercreek Historical Society’s proud purpose—preserving the past for the future—as we make this presentation. We are certainly most pleased to officially present to Beavercreek City Schools this stone from the foundation of Beavercreek’s first schoolhouse, erected on Jacob Coy’s land.”

What's going on Here Anyway? *Submitted by Jeanne Wensits*

I can't say for sure when I started noticing those old, timeworn concrete posts languishing close to the road. Maybe you've seen them, too, right there on the sharp bend on Alpha-Bellbrook Road just before it dead ends into Factory Road near US 35. In **Figure 6A**, three forlorn old posts in a small grove of trees, stand like sentinels of bygone days. I've wondered what used to be there.

One day I just pulled over. Tromping through the silent trees I started to see large concrete, horizontal blocks scattered here and there. Slowly the blocks took on a suggestion of a building foundation. Huh.

Some people have told me they thought there once was an old barn there. John Rhodehamel recalls delivering hay to a barn in that area way back when. Further inquiries have suggested it was part of the Shoemaker Dairy Farm ... Now we're getting somewhere!

Greene County records tell us that that barn area and all the property north to what is now US 35 was owned by the Adam Garlaugh family in 1874 and changed hands many times. Much later 1929 tax records reveal that it was transferred to W.A. & A.R. Shoemaker. In **Figure 6B** the 1940 aerial photo shows a cluster of buildings on the left and our

lonely barn standing off the right with the beginning of a few trees or shrubs behind it. I don't know when the barn came down but aerial photos show no buildings were there at all in 1993.

That is no surprise because, by 1981, the property was owned by the Eastbell Company and developers had acquired 161 acres, including the barn site, for a major shopping mall. Construction plans called for a 672,000 square foot facility, about half the size of the Dayton Mall at that time, at the southwest corner of the intersection of US 35 and Factory Road.

Area neighbors expressed concerns about congestion and the insufficiency of road plans to handle the anticipated traffic volume. More traffic and engineering studies ensued. In the end it appears that what did the project in was the conclusion that the area was in a flood plain. The Little Miami River, which had attracted and sustained early settlers, around which a town had grown up and prospered, again impacted the character of the landscape.

So now we see a huge empty field with little more than three crumbling posts and a smattering of foundation blocks sheltered by those ever-faithful trees to bear witness to what once was and what might have been in Beavercreek.



Figure 6A



Figure 6B

Welcome New Members!

Let's give a warm welcome to our newest members of the Beavercreek Historical Society:

Jeanne Wensits and **Ralph and Janice Speelman**. **Editor's Note:** Jeanne, who has shared the above article on this page, sent this submission as her first piece in a publication. We look forward to sharing more of Jeanne's writings in future issues of the Log by Log!

Acquisitions

Grace Axer has donated a *children's story book* which is now in the schoolroom in the Jarusiewicz Cabin. Bob and Ruth Tobias have donated a *rocking chair* and a *school desk* that was in the old BHS building (no longer in existence) on Dayton-Xenia Road. These are also now in the schoolroom. Roger and Marie Reedy have donated a large floor style *butter churn*. Janice and Ralph Speelman have donated a *Chestnut table*, a *child's early tricycle*, a *goat cart*, 3 oil lamps and a *large wooden wash tub*. Most of these items can be seen in the Nicodemus Cabin. We thank these members for their donations. **If you are interested in donating an item please call Lorraine Wagley at 426-8325.**

History Blooms 2014: *A Beautiful Day at the Park*

Submitted by Wendy Kirchoff and Jill Kincer, Event Co-chairs

We'd like to thank everyone who contributed time and talents to our 2014 History Blooms event, which featured tours of the historic log homes and the lovely gardens at Wartinger Park. It was a sunny early June day with perfect weather! Many thanks go to:

- Beaver Creek Historical Society members who volunteered time to serve in various capacities as demonstrators, docents, greeters, publicity and other valued services: Laura Bader, Richard Durig, Jo Ferguson, Carolyn Fourman, Becky Jarvi, Edie Keast, Bob Kirchoff, Laura Konnert, Donna Lawson, Gerry Petrak, Marie Reedy, Zelma Robinson, John Rhodehamel, Traudl Schrick, Bob Wagley and Nancy Wagner. In addition, recent Beaver Creek graduate, Kathleen Menchaca, (granddaughter of Becky Jarvi) and Living History volunteer Monica McFarland joined the fun by exhibiting their skills at the spinning wheels.
- Master Gardener Cathy Plum for her presentation on planting a butterfly garden and to all the other Greene County Master Gardeners who worked to prepare the gardens and provide information to our visitors about the beautiful gardens at the park.
- Beaver Creek Wetlands Association for providing a representative to share information about the work that organization does to provide for the preservation of the natural heritage of our area.
- Hithergreen Strummers for the lilting music provided by their dulcimers and pipes that streamed across the park from the vantage point of the Ankeney House front porch.
- City of Beaver Creek staffers who go above and beyond to work in partnership with our organization to keep Wartinger Park such a welcoming place.

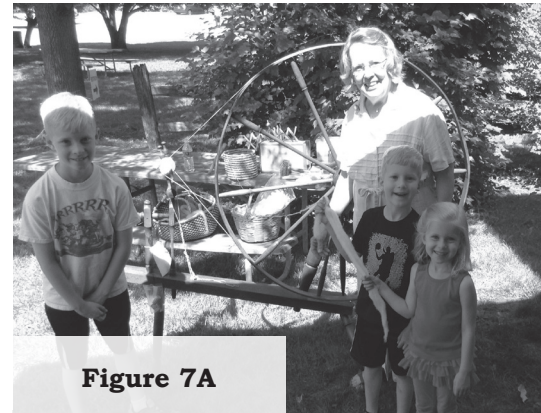


Figure 7A



Figure 7B



Figure 7C

Figure 7A: Left to right Mitchell, Elliott and Claire Thonnerieux learning about spinning on the Great Wheel with BHS members Becky Jarvi.

Figure 7B: Several Master Gardeners sharing information with visitors in the garden behind the Harshman House.

Figure 7C: Hithergreen Strummers performing on the porch of the Ankeney House.

Heritage Day 2014

Heritage Day will be held Saturday, September 13, 2014 from 11am-5pm, at Wartinger Historical Park, 3080 Kemp Rd., east of Fairfield Road, in Beavercreek, OH. The event is sponsored by the Beavercreek Historical Society and partially sponsored by **Soin Medical Center**.

The event features folk artisans who demonstrate and sell their homemade items. The children get to engage in old fashioned children's activities (\$2 per child) and see what life was like in the early 1800s. All visitors may tour the pioneer village, eat pioneer "vittles," and tour our herb garden.

Featuring:

- Old-Fashioned Activities for Children (\$2 per child)
- General Store Selling Candy for all Ages
- Tour 2 Log Houses, 2 Cabins and Barn
- Presentation on a Beavercreek Founding Family, Jacob Coy
- Local Artisan Demonstrations and Items for Sale
- Old-Fashioned Food, Pies & Cookies
- Live Music all Day

For further information call Bob at 937-426-8325 or visit our website beavercreekhistoricalsociety.org.



Photo taken from Heritage Day 2013.

Thanks to John & Andrea!

Volunteers John Hancock, and his friend Andrea, have finished reconstructing the steps and the door threshold area at the rear of the Ankeney House seen in **Figure 8A**—also, see the Fall 2013 issue of the Log by Log—as well as repairing the bell in front of the Ankeney House, see **Figure 8B**. John and Andrea are now fixing the sticking windows in the Ankeney House and the Harshman House and have also repaired some of the windows and the front door latch of the Harshman House. After completing this endeavor they have volunteered to tackle the job of constructing a better composting bin arrangement. Many thanks John and Andrea!

Figure 8A: Reconstructed Ankeney House Rear Steps



Figure 8B: Repaired Bell in Front of Ankeney House



Neither Snow, Nor Rain...

Submitted by Amber Carlos

Sunshine!? I thought we needed sunshine to have a fantastic Spring Living History program. I was quite wrong. We didn't need sunshine to make Living History special at all. Why? Because we have the most amazing volunteers in "history"! We had snow, we had rain, AND we had sunshine! Through it all our volunteers brought smiles and awe to the faces of Beaver Creek's children.

Bob Bader, Denny Jarvi, and Bob Wagley readied the houses each morning and built the most gorgeous fires to warm little toes ... and big toes, too! Becky Jarvi, Jill Kincer, Kathy Bauer and Sarah Haller each drew EVERYONE into the experience with the most enticing historic tale of the Harshman family's journey to Beaver Creek. (I ALMOST wanted to be a part of that journey myself.) Ummya Chaudhary, Becky Jarvi, Sharon Jernigan, and Monica McFarland "spun" their way through the Ankeney House on rolags of beautiful wool. Who knew some children were going to turn their beautiful, newly spun yarn into mustaches? (Mustaches are all the rage right now, I am told!) Jeri Hausman, Diane Phillips and Martha Rothman were able to convince even the staunchest anti-knitters of the sense of wonder and accomplishment that comes from a simple finger knitted cord. Ummya C., Becky J., Jill K., and Tony White were able to instill that same sense of "WOW! I DID THAT?!", while quilting in the Harshman House. Grace Axer, Charlotte Hopkins, Becky J., Edie Keast, Shirley Richardson McCourt, and Gerry Smalley made butter churning an event to remember! "Cooooo!, Mmmmm, that's reeeeeeally good butter!", and "Can I have some more?!", were all heard wafting from the kitchen of the Ankeney House. Sarah Haller and Traudl Schrick amazed 3rd graders, chaperones and teachers alike with the versatility, beauty and importance of the humble herb. I know a few houses in Beaver Creek will soon be overrun with waves of Peppermint leaves, newly planted. "Hey Dad, can we plant some of this mint when we get home?!?" And speaking of humble ... how about those potatoes planted with the caring guidance of Bob Gustin, Denny J., Don Kocarek, and John Rhodehamel? The children also delighted in showing me their bags of freshly ground corn flour as well!

I would also like to convey my gratitude to those behind the scenes. There is a great deal of time and energy that goes into the Living History Program, and much of it is unseen. Thank you, Wilma Stafford, and to all those who prepared/donated multitudes of supplies like pre-cut quilting squares, yarn balls, and rag doll kits. The City of Beaver Creek and its Parks Department were a great help as well when we needed assistance with "minor" hiccups like frozen pipes to our water supply and failing light switches. Thank you! Wal-Mart, near the Fairfield Mall, also receives our gratitude for contributing hundreds of vials, making the individual butter churning possible for each child. What a combined effort! That's what it takes to make this program as highly regarded as it is today.

Thank you all for giving your time and expanding the minds of Beaver Creek's children! I am certain it will be an experience they won't soon forget. You and your families are invited to attend the Ice Cream Social, as guests of the Beaver Creek Historical Society. It will be held on Tuesday, July 22nd, at Wartinger Park and begins at 6:15 PM. We look forward to seeing you!

Many thanks to our community supporters ...

Beaver Creek Women's League has generously contributed \$500 to our Wartinger Park Signage Project now under development which will enable park visitors to read the history of the structures and general information about the history of our community whenever they visit. The League, a local independent community service organization, has been very supportive of the Beaver Creek Historical Society over the years, and this most recent donation is greatly appreciated.

Indu and Raj Soin Medical Center, a member of the Kettering Health Network, has donated \$300 to provide musical entertainment at the upcoming Heritage Day Festival to be held at Wartinger Park on Saturday, September 13, 2014. This will be the second year that the Soin Medical Center has sponsored the music, and we certainly appreciate their outreach and support for this popular community event.

Upcoming Events:

Board Meeting, July 10

Coy House – 6:30 PM

Ice Cream Social/Annual Meeting, July 22

Wartinger Park – 6:15 PM

Board Meeting, August 14

Coy House – 6:30 PM

Board Meeting, September 11

Coy House – 6:30 PM

Heritage Day, Saturday, September 13

Newsletter Submission Deadline

September 19 – 5:00 PM

Harvest Dinners, October 17 & 18

Quarterly Meeting, October 28

Discovering Beaver Creek's Past - Who Knew?

Presented by Jana Bass and Ruth Wiley



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 Ice Cream Social/Annual Meeting

July 22, 2014 | 6:15 PM | Wartinger Park | 3080 Kemp Rd.

Here's the Scoop!!

Summer is upon us, and you know what that means. It'll soon be time for the Beavercreek Historical Society's Ice Cream Social and Annual Meeting! The event is free, and there will be ice cream and lots of toppings available for you to make your own sundae. Hope to see you there!

When? Tuesday, July 22, 2014

Where? Wartinger Park in the Tobias-Zimmer Barn

Time? 6:15 PM

What to bring? Yourself and your family!

Kathy Biser Armstrong will be discussing and demonstrating her weaving skills on that wonderful old large floor loom that is kept in the barn. We'll have a short business meeting for the purpose of electing officers. A big thank-you goes to Carolyn Coy Fourman for chairing this year's event.

Election of Officers at Annual Meeting

The election of officers will be held at the Annual Meeting planned in conjunction with the Ice Cream Social on Tuesday, July 22, 2014. The following people have agreed to allow their names to appear on the slate of officers to lead the organization for the 2014-15 year. Nominations will also be taken from the floor. We look forward to a good turnout from our membership.

Jill Kincer

President

Robert Wagley

Vice President –
Internal Operations

Nancy Wagner

Vice President –
External Operations

Wendy Kirchoff

Treasurer

Donna Coy Lawson

Secretary