

Log by Log

**Beavercreek
Historical Society**



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Decades in the Making *Submitted by Jeanne Wensits*

It's a humble house, more like an English cottage minus the flower beds. There it sits all by itself as cars race by on busy Kemp Road just west of Fairfield Road. Some people call it, almost affectionately, The Koogler Stone House. The story of its creation is as fascinating as its appearance. It started back in the 1920s when Joe Koogler began collecting stones, stones and more stones. For about 20 years Joe collected stones. His sons, Ben and Joe, Jr., were pressed into helping as soon as they could roll stones around.

The building of the house was an exceedingly s-l-o-w process. Joe didn't believe in doing anything until he could afford it outright. All the materials were scrounged up locally from here and there. Joe Jr. and Joe's brother, Jonas, had related in a 1998 Dayton Daily News article about Joe's salvaging adventures. When the Old Simms River Bridge over the Mad River north of Fairborn came down, Joe acquired timbers for floor joists and rafters. Slate for the roof came from a large barn the Talbott family had owned south of town. Many usable things were plucked up as buildings were torn down when the town of Osborn was moved to the east of Fairfield in the early 1920s during the Miami Conservancy District's flood-control project. (Interesting fact: Fairfield and Osborn merged to become "Fairborn" in 1950.)

In the mid-40s Joe began digging the basement, walking behind an old-fashion scoop and a team of horses. Later, when money became available, he used a tractor. He worked on the house off and on for many years. For long periods of time the house just sat. Joe's grandson, Tom, tells the story of how his grandmother, living in a "3-room shack" behind the house while the construction was progressing, used to do the laundry in the unfinished basement that had only cold running water.

Meanwhile Joe certainly was not idle. He was busy accruing income by breeding Belgian horses, hauling livestock, combining fields, and using his building and carpentry skills to help others in the community. When he wasn't doing these tasks he was out at the future Wright State University woods chopping down and sawing wild cherry and walnut trees for his home's stairs and wood finishings and other trees for framing, plus stockpiling and fashioning available materials from wherever they could be found. Ah yes, and all those stones? Joe and local stone mason, Jim Dooley, took a sledge hammer to them, revealing the pretty stuff inside. The stones were used for the house exterior, two fireplaces and, ultimately, two columns at the end of the driveway. **Read the rest of the article on pg. 7.**



Saluting Our Volunteers: Gerry Petrak

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 was at a meeting of the Wright State University Retirees Association several years ago that Gerry Petrak was approached by fellow WSU retiree, Bob Wagley, with an inquiry that went something like this: "I'm going to offer you an opportunity to become involved on Beavercreek Historical Society's Board—would you like Publicity or Programs?" And thus she accepted the position of Publicity Chair for our organization!

The Petraks had been members of the Society and had attended various quarterly meetings over the years, and Gerry had become more interested in history. She began volunteering for Living History after retirement, enjoying leading the activities of laundry, making rag dolls and finger knitting. Her favorite was teaching the third graders how early pioneers did their laundry, and letting them try out the wringer invented in 1850, a wonder of technology in the 19th century! She also enjoyed sharing the details about the 1811 Nicodemus Cabin—especially about the loft, which greatly interested the curious students. She and her husband volunteer at various events, helping set-up, take-down, etc., and lending a hand wherever needed.

Gerry shares that the job as Publicity Chair has worked out well for her, as much of it can be handled electronically these days. With two children living in Colorado with four of her five grandchildren, she and husband often travel to visit them. They also enjoy trips abroad. Local papers now require submissions to be made electronically, so it just doesn't matter your location and that fits the bill for her.

The job does have its challenges, she admits. Knowing exactly the right person or the right time to submit articles is not a simple task, as change is the one thing we can all count on to happen, especially in the media world. She gets articles to the Dayton and Greene County newspapers as well as to WYSO and to the local city cable channel. She sends it in and from that point on, it is out of her hands. She is surely getting it all figured out, as we were all thrilled



when our June History Blooms event at Wartinger Park made the Dayton Daily News five times!

Gerry is not the only person with that name at her house, so if you call and inquire, "Is Gerry there?", you may be asked "Do you need G-Gerry or J-Jerry?" Both of these folks are known in the Beavercreek community, with husband Jerry active as an elected member of Beavercreek City Council. A native of Pittsburgh, Gerry graduated from Mount Mercy College in Pennsylvania, taught elementary school for five years, then earned a masters degree in Counseling. She went to work for Wright State University in the Student Development Office where she handled matters like student orientation, served as an advisor to various student groups and headed up the leadership program. She retired in 1999, with a goal of traveling—a lot! And she and Jerry are doing what they can to fulfill that goal.

We thank Gerry for all her continuing efforts to publicize our many events to a wide audience. She's doing a great job. 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.

Are You Smarter (*About Local History*) Than a Third Grader?

Upcoming October 28, 2014 Quarterly Meeting

The Society is very pleased that our program for the October 28 Quarterly Meeting will feature a unique presentation about a locally produced resource created by Beavercreek educators, now being used as a teaching tool focused on Beavercreek history within our Beavercreek City Schools' third grade classrooms. It is always special to have programs that focus entirely on our community, and we encourage our membership to come and learn more about this interesting educational tool now available to our local students.

Beavercreek Schools' third grade social studies curriculum calls for the study of the history of the community where the students live; but the teachers had limited material specific to Beavercreek to use for that purpose. The teachers put out a request to Jana Bass, then the Technology Specialist (now retired), and Ruth Wiley, District Literacy Coach, to create an 18-site Google Map tour of Beavercreek. After their first trip around our community to take pictures for this challenge, they realized it needed a wider scope than first planned. The project tripled in size and kept growing over the 2½ year span it took to reach completion. Jana and Ruth used many community resources for the project, including our own Coy Homestead Research Room assisted by our Archivist co-chairs Carolyn Fourman and Donna Lawson, as well as Coy House managers, Sarah Haller and Bob Zimmer. The end result is a marvelous collection of stories about our community that our young students find interesting, engaging and memorable; and we feel certain our members will agree. It is interesting to note that our Society's long running Living History program fills another important part of this third grade curriculum, giving the students lots of hands-on activities and time in the pioneer homes related to history in Beavercreek when they visit the park.

Some personal information about our presenters:

Jana Bass was with Beavercreek City Schools from 1983 until her retirement in 2013 after more than 36 years of teaching in Ohio. She was a math teacher at (then) Ferguson Junior High and Beavercreek High School until becoming the Technology Specialist for all the elementary schools in 1994. She is a Master Teacher, holding a Bachelor's degree in Secondary Education with emphasis on math and history from the University of Cincinnati and a Master's degree in Educational Technology from Pepperdine University.

Ruth Wiley has been with Beavercreek City Schools since 1996. She has been an Individual Small Group Instructor, Title One/Proficiency Intervention teacher, First Grade teacher, and Cross Country Assistant Coach. She became the district's Literacy Coach in 2000. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and a Master's degree in Education from Wright State University.

Mark your Calendars: October 28, 2014 | 7:00 PM | Peace Lutheran Church – Fellowship Hall, Lower Level | 3530 Dayton-Xenia Road (Across from the Post Office)

2015 Beavercreek Historical Calendar for only \$10!

Each month features an exterior or interior picture of one of the buildings at Wartinger Historical Park or of the Coy House at Phillips Park. The Beavercreek Historical Society carefully prepared the calendar and is proud of its quality. What a great idea for a "gift from home" present to family or friends who may have moved away and will enjoy looking at each month's piece of home. It is also a great gift for all those who love history or Beavercreek no matter where they are living.

The calendars will be available at our Harvest Dinners at Wartinger Park on October 17 & 18 and at our quarterly meeting at Peace Lutheran Church on October 28. Information on where calendars are available can be found on our website at beavercreekhistoricalsociety.org or email us at bhsohio@gmail.com.

Harvest Dinner **Time is Coming!**

The smell of wood smoke is in the air. The crops have all been harvested, and it is time to celebrate another year of blessings with Harvest Dinners on October 17 and 18. We are happy to report that Friday, October 17 dinners have sold out, but we are still welcoming diners for the Saturday, October 18 event.

The cabins will be festive with decorations provided by the Greene County Master Gardeners and the firelight's glow gives a cozy feel to the rooms. This year's meal is a true harvest meal using all the vegetables that would have just been harvested mixed together in a dish called gumbis from an 1842 recipe. It also uses sausage that would have been made from the fall butchering along with bacon and ham hocks. We will serve it with mashed potatoes, harvest salad, soda bread, applesauce and pumpkin pie with fresh whipped cream. The main meal is gluten free and if requested we can provide a pumpkin custard instead of the pie. The meal is served at 6 o'clock in the Harshman and Ankeney Houses.

Our cooks this year are Helen Haun, Gerry Smalley, Lorraine Wagley with Bob Zimmer providing the applesauce and Becky Jarvi the crackers. We will need many volunteers to serve, set out lanterns, make fires and take home dishes to wash. Plus we could use a few pie bakers to help us with the pies. You can volunteer by calling Helen Haun (937-427-0741) or Jill Kincer (937-429-0291). If you are called to help, we hope you will be able to join us in this major fundraiser.

If you don't have your ticket yet, you can call Carolyn Coy Fourman to inquire if seats are still available at (937) 433-5710. Reservations are necessary and require a \$25 donation per person to reserve your seat. Don't delay and miss out on an opportunity to enjoy dining with your friends at Wartinger Park.

Heritage Day 2014

What was the day like?

- The weather was a little too cool in the morning but almost perfect in the afternoon.
- Over 150 children's tickets were sold and the children seemed to love the activities planned for them.
- The houses were decorated nicely and the visitors were impressed with the knowledge of the docents.
- The General Store was busy all day and very little candy went unsold.
- We had a bigger crowd than normal.

So what made the day so great? A dedicated group of volunteers: volunteers that planned what was going to happen; volunteers who cleaned and decorated the buildings; volunteers who worked as docents or oversaw children's activities; and volunteers who helped out at the school house and the general store.

We do need to give special thanks to Sean Hurley, director of the Jacob Coy Middle School Guys and Dolls and the choir itself for a terrific performance. We are thankful for the support of the city and township for declaring the day the Jacob Coy Day and for Brian Jarvis and Carol Graff for reading the declarations. We had a good turnout of Coy decedents, more than 15. Donna Lawson and Carolyn Fourman had prepared a wonderful exhibit for our visitors.

Some of you may have been surprised when you saw that a caterer was responsible for the food this year. While we knew the public liked us to do all of the food preparation, serving it was getting difficult for us to continue to do everything in-house due to a lack of volunteers. The Little Miami River Caterers agreed to

have a menu similar to what we have had in the past and contributed a generous portion of their proceeds to us. We also wish to thank the Knollwood Garden Center for loaning us the bales of straw and the Beavercreek City Schools for allowing us to use its parking lot.

As you can see from the pictures, the day was a success. Thanks to everyone from the planners, John Rhodehamel, Wilma Stafford, Ed Stafford and Bob Wagley.

5A Weaving on the Ankeney porch

5B Doing school work in the Jarusiewicz cabin

5C Buying candy at the Nicodemus cabin

5D Children searching for pennies

5E Wood working in the Zimmer barn

5F Buying food at the Little Miami River tent

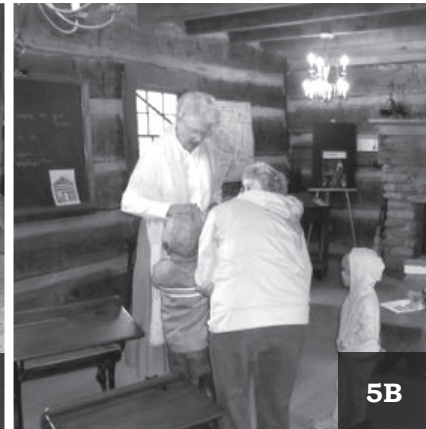
5G Enjoying the day

5H Reading the Jacob Coy Day proclamation

5I People enjoying the some of the day's music



5A



5B



5C



5D



5G



5E



5F



5H



5I

Harbine Industrial Complex Part 3

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 and summer 2014 issues of the Log by Log for more details 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.

Figure 7A, an 1874 map of the Alpha area and Figure 7B, an 1896 map from Riddell's Atlas, were printed in the Summer 2014 issue of the Log by Log and are repeated in this issue for reference. In Figure 7A, note the location of the saw mill which was most likely located on the east mill race. In Figure 7B, note that the west mill race, where the flowering or grist mill and the distillery were located, is still shown, but the east mill race was apparently no longer in use.

Remnants of the east mill head race still exist. Figure 7D shows a depression in the topography of the area which is just west of the portion of Alpha Road south of Route 35. Figure 7C shows where the east mill race went under the old road bed of Alpha-Bellbrook Road, just north of the Yellow Brick Road. It is not known when the metal culvert pipe was installed. The east mill race continued on and intercepted Beaver Creek south of the Yellow Brick Road.

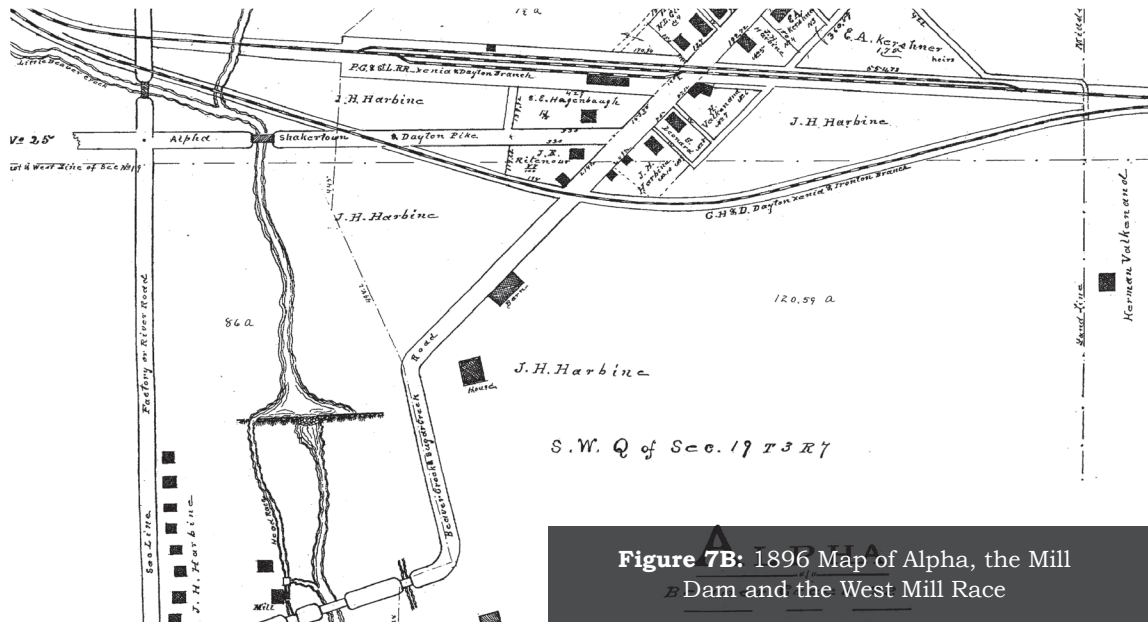


Figure 7B: 1896 Map of Alpha, the Mill Dam and the West Mill Race

AMEC Environmental and Infrastructure, Inc. of Louisville, KY was hired by ODOT to conduct explorations of potential sites for archaeological data recovery in the HIC. They have recently issued a report of their findings, "Geophysical Survey of the Harbine Industrial Complex, US 35 Corridor Reconstruction (GRE-US 35-4.26; PID 80468) Beaver Creek, Greene County, OH, dated June 16, 2014". Magnetometer and electrical resistance remote sensing techniques were used to identify potential sites. Emphasis was placed on locating the grist/flowering and saw/lumber mills, the Harbine worker housing along Factory Road and their ancillaries, additional industrial buildings and any prehistoric occupations along the floodplain of Beaver Creek.

The locations of the grist/flowering mill and the saw/lumber mill have been roughly defined along the west and east mill races respectively. The grist/flowering mill location is in the northeast corner of the intersection of Factory Road and the Yellow Brick Road. The saw/lumber mill is mostly between the east mill race and the remnants of the Alpha-Bellbrook Road just north of the Yellow Brick Road. Ancillary storage buildings locations have also been identified. Three worker house locations are thought to have been located along with

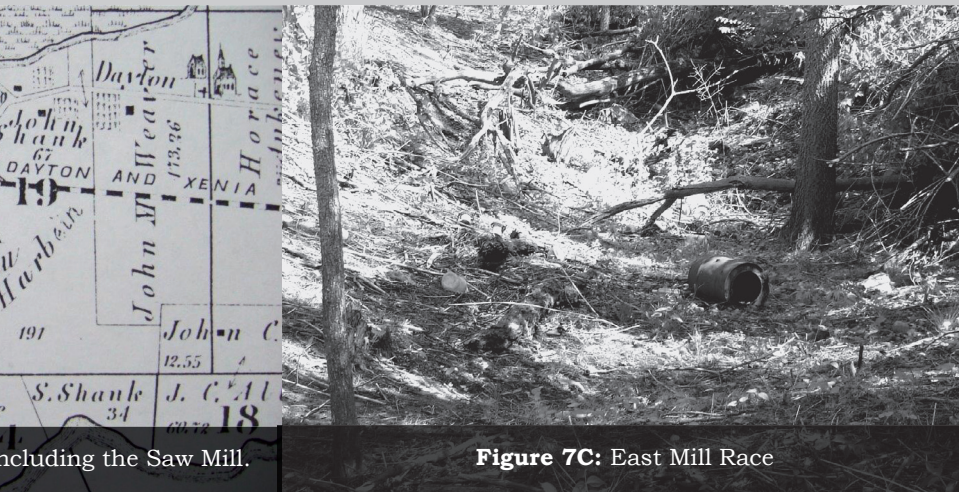


Figure 7C: East Mill Race

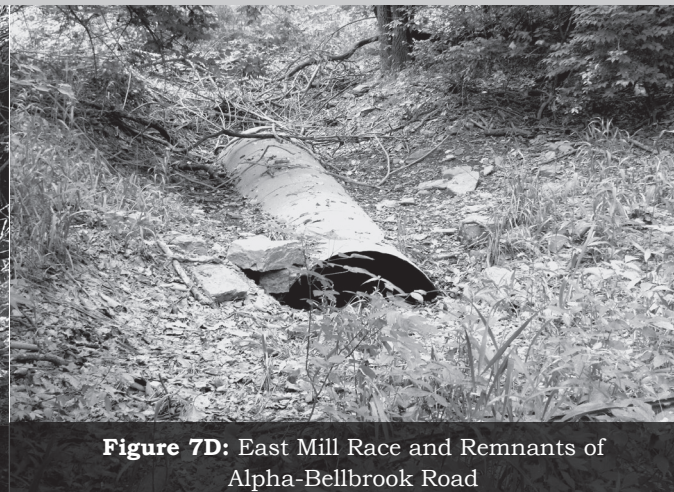


Figure 7D: East Mill Race and Remnants of Alpha-Bellbrook Road

some indications of related structures. Prehistoric features were not able to be reliably identified because of the extensive debris field in the flood plain. Other potential locations were identified that might be of historic archaeology interest related to the HIC but were beyond the scope of this particular investigative activity.

This investigation will provide input to the Data Recovery Plan which is currently being prepared. See future issues of the Log by Log for continued coverage as events unfold.

Koogler Stone article continued from pg. 1

Joe passed away in 1979 with the house exterior essentially completed but not the interior. His family had the interior fixed up enough for Joe's wife, Becky, to move in. Later the house was purchased by Mark Shannon who continued with the improvements while living there. In 2002 the Beavercreek Chamber of Commerce owned the property and sold it in 2013 when they needed more space. Currently the house hosts a skin care and spa business.

Joe's house still sits there sparkling in the sunshine. Hardly a week goes by that someone doesn't ask the spa employees how this distinctive house came to be there. The employees don't have an answer but the long-term locals would probably just smile, shake their heads and remember.

Welcome!

We want to welcome Scott and Kathy Fullerton of Fairborn as new members to the Society. Scott and Kathy joined while attending the Heritage Day Festival in September.

It is with great pleasure that we announce that Amber Carlos and Becky Jarvi have officially joined our Board of Trustees as co-chairs of Education. These two energetic women have been serving as our Fall and Spring Living History Directors respectively and their knowledge of that program, their backgrounds and their interest in sharing our local community's history makes them especially valued as new Board members.

Officers & Board of Trustees 2014-15

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)

Acquisitions Chair	Lorraine Wagley
Archive Co-chairs	Carolyn Fourman Donna Lawson

Education Co-chairs	Amber Carlos Becky Jarvi
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Long-range Planning	John Rhodehamel
Membership	Zelma Robinson
Newsletter	Brianna Johnson
Programs	(open)
Publicity	Gerry Petrak

A Great Big Thanks to You from Us

Heritage Day 2014 was a huge success. The weather cooperated, we had a great turnout and as the old saying goes, A Good Time was had by All!

In order for us to have Heritage Day we need approximately 45 volunteers. Without you, we could not carry out one of our society's missions—the mission of Preserving the Past for the Future. When you realize that we sold over 150 Children's Activity tickets and we had very few candy items left in the General Store we are doing just that by catering our event to the family.

It was so rewarding to hear the laughter and see the joy in those attending our Heritage Day. The only reason there was laughter and joy was because of you, the volunteers.

Our hope is for Heritage Day to improve each year. Please send Bob Wagley, roblorwagley@gmail.com, any suggestions for next year.

One main concern this year was the lack of crafts booths. We were disappointed in that 3 craft people who said they would participate were no-shows. If you know any craft person whose work is in keeping with the 1800s theme, please send Bob the person's contact information. If you attend any festivals during the year I attached a promotional sheet for you to hand out so we can get the word out about our event.

Bob Wagley on behalf of the planners, Wilma and Ed Stafford and John Rhodehamel, we thank you.

Upcoming Events 2014:

Quarterly Meeting - October 28 (pg. 6 for info)

Living History - Oct. 1, 2, 6

Harvest Dinners - Oct. 17 & 18 (pg. 4 for info)

2015 Quarterly Meetings

January 27

April 28

July 28

October 27

Beavercreek Historical Society Sponsored Activity Goes International

Submitted by Bob Wagley


I have been leading a writing group, "My Life, One Story at a Time" for over 10 years. For the last 3 years it has been sponsored by BHS. Before that I led the groups for Wright State University's Institute for Learning in Retirement and at One Lincoln Park, a retirement community.

In July we did a home exchange for a month in Wales. Besides having a wonderful time living in a very small Welsh village we became friends with Geoff and Gill, the owners of the home where we were staying. The house we stayed in was their summer home which was a converted chapel filled with antiques.

Geoff became interested in leading a "My Life" group for the people in their winter home in Stafford, England. I gave him the details and then emailed him more information when we returned home. He submitted his idea to the "University of the Third Age," a program for retired people in Europe. After an interview his idea was accepted and he will be leading the group beginning in September.

Our group will begin meeting again in the second week of September and will meet every other week through June. Very briefly, the group meets for 90 minutes a session and each person reads a story they have written since the last session. This usually leads to a lively discussion and serves to stimulate ideas for future stories. Stories might be about their childhood, school, family and anything they wish. You might think your life hasn't been that interesting or that you are not a writer. You are wrong. Everyone's life is unique. Don't you ever wish you had asked your parents or your grandparents more about their lives? Things like how they met, what they did before television or the computer? Well your children or grandchildren will thank you for giving them insight into your life.

For more information, call or email **Bob Wagley** at **426-8325** or roblorwagley@gmail.com. The group is limited so please let me know as soon as possible.



Pioneer Corner

This column is an addition to the Log by Log (LxL) newsletter of the Beavercreek Historical Society (B/CHS). It will, hopefully, feature short stories, appropriate humor, poetry, puzzles, undisclosed secrets, meaningful tidbits and other miscellaneous information of local historical interest to the Beavercreek community.

You, the reader, are urged to contribute (anonymously if desired) to the content of this column for the enjoyment and wonderment of others. All accepted contributions will become the property of the B/CHS and entered into the historic record of the newsletter. Use the mailing address on this LxL or our email address: **BHSOhio@gmail.com**.

The following Puzzle was provided by one of our more creative and observant members as she surveyed the contents of one of the historic structures at our Wartinger Park site: The challenge is to guess the name or nature of the object and its current abbreviated location at the park.

***"A fire I will stoke,
When it dies down to smolder,
Just give me a 'pump',
And the fire will grow bolder!"***

The answer is hidden somewhere in this LxL.

Miscellaneous Information: Did you know that many of the primitive wells in most early pioneer settlements were either community systems or shallow individual wells or cisterns. Sometimes, however, it was difficult to find a shallow water source (25 ft. or less) and some of the hand-dug *bellows systems* reached frightening depths. At least one such extraordinary well was dug on a farm here in Beavercreek which is still in use today. It has been altered slightly, but it was situated near the foundation of a log house (no longer there) and is today within the foundation of the next house (HH) on the site. The dug well as originally dug measured about 5-6 ft. in diameter and was close to 60 ft. deep. It was then lined with random-sized local field stone. Other than setting the stone, there was no other reinforcement to support the resulting 3-foot stone-lined opening. An ever-flowing seep provides water to within about 30 ft. of the surface. The water is cold (about 55°), clear and drinkable!

Imagine being the man at the bottom with shovel in hand loading the last bucket of rock and gravel. He probably rode up too breathing a heavy sigh. Back down someone went to complete the well wall lining with creek stone. Unfortunately, no record has been found of the well's construction and date, nor evidence of any supporting structures or tipple (sweep).

A Tidbit: Men who are in love with themselves usually have no rivals.

In Memory of ...

We are saddened to announce the death of member Winfred D. Jones, April 30, 2014. Winfred and his wife Louise Kendig Jones have been long time members of the Beavercreek Historical Society. He was affiliated with innumerable Beavercreek, Xenia, Greene County and State of Ohio organizations. He also served in the US Army Air Corp. in World War II in the China-Burma-India theatre as a pilot and flew 101 missions across the HUMP (Himalayas).

Acquisitions

Mavourneen Harshman has donated a tool chest and an assortment of old tools that had been owned by her father. Some of the items were once owned by Timothy Griffin who was the custodian of the Indiana state capitol building from 1885 to 1897. Paul and Judith Kuenle have donated a large collection of reproduction early men's clothing. We thank these members for their donations. If you are interested in donating items please call **Lorraine Wagley**, *Acquisitions Chairman*, at 426-8325. **pg. 9**

Upcoming Events:

Living History, October 1-2, & 6

Board Meeting, October 9

Coy House – 6:30 PM

Harvest Dinners, October 17 & 18

Quarterly Meeting, October 28

Are You Smarter (about Local History) Than a Third Grader? Presented by Jana Bass and Ruth Wiley

Board Meeting, November 13

Coy House – 6:30 PM

Board Meeting, December 11

Coy House – 6:30 PM

Newsletter Submission Deadline

December 19 – 5:00 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 Quarterly Meeting

October 28, 2014 | 7:00 PM | Peace Lutheran Church | 3530 Dayton-Xenia Rd.

If you enjoy learning more about Beavercreek—both of yesteryear and today—you will enjoy our October 28, 2014 quarterly meeting. Co-presenters and educators Jana Bass and Ruth Wiley will share how they blended Beavercreek history and 21st century technology to create a very special resource specifically for our local third grade teachers to use in their classrooms. Come hear about their adventures of discovering Beavercreek history for young students and for themselves, and get a peek into the final product. You'll wish you were a kid again.

The example shown in photos here is fairly illustrative of some of the presentation's examples, these showing Harshman Farm before 1860 and the same Harshman Farm structure as it appears today.

Our quarterly meetings, held at Peace Lutheran Church, Lower Level Fellowship Hall, 3530 Dayton-Xenia Road in Beavercreek, are always free and open to the public. Bring a friend, bring a neighbor. See you there! ***Read a more detailed story about the upcoming October Quarterly Meeting program on pg. 3.***

Harshman Farm before 1860



Harshman Farm Today

