

Log by Log

**Beavercreek
Historical Society**



**Winter 2015
Volume 24
Number 1**

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

BeavercreekHistoricalSociety.org

Take a Virtual Tour along the Beavercreek Heritage Trail

Submitted by Jill Kincer

Feeling a bit home-bound by the winter weather in Ohio? Are the television offerings the same thing over and over? Looking for something more interesting? Beavercreek Historical Society member Brett Williford has created the perfect cure for those winter doldrums. Come take a trip along the Beavercreek Heritage Trail! All you will need is access to any electronic device that connects to the internet. If you don't own one, then surely a relative or good friend who does can offer you a spot, and you can ride along with them on the tour.

The Beavercreek Heritage Trail is a web-based tour, free to all who care to travel electronically. Log onto the homepage at **BeavercreeksFinest.com**, check out the menu on the left-hand side of the screen, and scroll down to the Beavercreek Heritage Trail. You're on your way!



Brett Williford

Brett, a true lover of history, first came up with the idea of an historical e-tour after reading from cover to cover the print version of our Beavercreek Historical Society's Beavercreek Chronicles, covering the story of our community's history through the early 1900's. He tried to interest his son, another history buff, into reading the book, but found it difficult to entice him; his son, like many young people these days, prefers to gather information from computers and other electronic devices. Brett believes he still has a sticky note in his copy of the Chronicles with the words *HISTORY TOUR* written on it, from when that idea first entered his head following that ride through the community. He feels that most of us who live here currently, especially the young people, want to know "what used to be where my house is now."

Brett notes that the major roads we drive today are for the most part roads that were driven hundreds of years ago. Thus, the tour follows those roads and is arranged in geographical order rather than chronological order. Featuring 143 historical sites, it begins at the Beavercreek Golf Course on New Germany-Trebein Road, winds through the entire Beavercreek community (city and township), and ends at historical Wartinger Park on Kemp Road. You can start at the beginning, or if you prefer, just flip through the various indexed listings and view the ones that peak your interest.

The e-tour has been a work-in-progress for Brett, a realtor by profession, for some time. He has interviewed many long-time Beavercreek residents to gather background information and photos. He gives special credit to 1954 Beavercreek graduate Billie Overholser-Stewart for her amazing help. He's used Beavercreek Historical resources and has also had access to ALPHA (Alpha Landmark Preservation and Homeowners Association) and Greene County Historical Society's resources. There are spaces for visitors' comments at each site along the Trail, which may be submitted following the directions provided.

Saluting Our Volunteers: *Helen Haun*

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.

Helen Haun says she is always cooking simply because it is what she loves to do. And the Beavercreek Historical Society members love her cooking, too! Helen and Jerry Haun first joined about 15 years ago, introduced to the organization by many of their Peace Lutheran Church friends who were also BHS members. One of her first areas of involvement was helping at Heritage Day—baking and cutting pies, setting up early, and working a shift or two at the food tent. She attended her first fireside dinner at Wartinger Park on a cold winter night, when the dinners were first held as a December celebration. The dinners were eventually moved to October and renamed Harvest Dinners. When Bob Zimmer announced 2010 that he had chaired his final Harvest Dinner, the Society was faced with a challenge: who would step up to chair this enjoyable event and valued fundraiser? It was Helen Haun who said yes, and she recently completed her fourth year of chairing this event.

Helen shares that selecting a main entrée is the most difficult part of pulling the event together. Because of the physical limitations of two log houses built in the early 1800's and modernized only with electricity, a one-pot entrée is a necessity. It has been important to Helen to serve an entrée that is period-appropriate to the setting. Helen and food-prep helpers begin to cook in early fall, bit by bit, freezing as they go, in order to be prepared to feed just short of 100 people over two nights in mid-October.

In addition to preparing the food, there are many other challenges to pulling off a successful event. It takes a lot of organization and coordination. The houses, of course, have to be carefully cleaned, table linens laundered, and the tables and chairs set and readied. The Master Gardeners assist by decorating the houses in a harvest-time theme. Next, on the day of the event, all food and items needed for the actual meal need to be brought in and kept at proper temperatures to serve safely, both hot and cold. Volunteers dressed in period clothing serve the meals, while others take home the dishes to wash

**Helen is a busy
lady who always
has a smile.**

each of the two evenings, as there are no facilities at the park to accomplish this necessary task. There are, in fact, about 40 volunteer slots that need to be filled for Harvest Dinners, and we are grateful that many people are willing to step up to help in more than one of those slots. Without that support, the dinners simply would not happen.

Helen is a busy lady who always has a smile. Her organizational skills and attention to detail are evident. She works as a medical technician for Compunet Clinical Labs at Miami Valley Hospital South, and has been an active volunteer serving at her church as the co-chair of funeral dinners since 2006. She is a member of the Miami Valley Watergarden Society and Greene County Master Gardeners—the group that tends the gardens at Wartinger Park.

We are most thankful to Helen for her four years of efforts for this fundraiser. And, as always, 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.

BHS Board Planning Ahead for 2015

Submitted by Jill Kincer, President

Every now and then, we get the question: "What goes on at a BHS board meeting?" One can never answer that question quite completely because in truth, every meeting is different. There are always good things to celebrate, concerns that challenge us, and from time to time, different ideas as to how to respond to those concerns. It is healthy for an organization to have divergent opinions and open discussions. But one thing I can assure our membership of which I am positive every member of the board would quickly agree: each individual who serves on the board gives generously of time and talents and cares deeply about the Beaver Creek Historical Society.

Another active and valued participant at our board meetings is Mike Thonnerieux (Beaver Creek City's Interim Public Services Director who also serves as the Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture) who is the liaison for the City to our Society. Mike is an enthusiastic supporter of our organization and brings many strengths in his role as liaison.

Any member is always welcome to attend and observe a board meeting. Check the Upcoming Events section on the back of the *Log by Log* for dates, time and place. (Suggestion: If winter weather is iffy, better make a call before heading out.)

Our November board meeting was devoted to planning ahead for 2015. We normally hold our board meetings at the Coy House, but for our marathon planning meeting, we settled in at the City's Park Office for a change of venue. (See photo—a few members had left before the picture was taken or were unable to attend, and one is taking the photo.) There was much discussion and brainstorming, including looking at the up-sides and down-sides of lofty ideas we could do if money and people-power were no object. It never hurts to dream. But we also have to be realistic into 2015 as to what our membership and our treasury can support. Some of our more important plans at this point in time include:

FACILITY (Wartinger Park):

- Completion of installation of glass windows in the Nicodemus cabin, as there previously were none, and restage that cabin as a General Store.
- Removal of aging split-rail fencing and replacement as needed in selected areas.
- Resetting and refreshing of outdoor gardening storage area and compost bins, working with Master Gardeners.

PROGRAMMING:

- Continuation of the long-treasured Living History program for Beaver Creek's 3rd graders.
- Continuation of the Heritage Day Festival on the second Saturday after Labor Day, with efforts to increase the number of pioneer-life demonstrators.
- Continuation of the Harvest Dinners in October, a valued fundraiser.
- Quarterly Meetings with speakers on topics of historical interest; already planned for 2015, but seeking a Program Chair to organize quarterly meeting programs for 2016.



Board Members at the November Meeting

PROJECTS:

- Completion, installation and dedication of long-awaited new informational park signage, which will provide park visitors a self-guided walking tour with valued information about the park structures as well as the history of early Beaver Creek.
- Continuation of efforts to identify our community's significant structures and/or sites.

Watching Things Grow *Submitted by Jeanne Wensits*

This is a story about Knollwood Garden Center. At the same time it's a story about John Scott and his family. The two stories are inseparably intertwined and were fondly told to me by their twin sons, Dave and Bob. John Scott and his future wife, Ruth, met in school in Indianapolis. Her family was in the greenhouse business there and John must have had a green thumb, too, for when it came time to head to college, off he went to Purdue University and graduated in 1928 with a degree in Horticulture. As luck would have it, Dr. J.D. Smith, a physician practicing in Dayton and the owner of Knollwood Florists in the now Beavercreek area, needed a manager for the greenhouse part of his business. Through Purdue University Dr. Smith was put in touch with John. In 1930 John and Ruth were married and spent their honeymoon here when John assumed his job as manager of the greenhouse. By 1936 they had become stockholders when the business was incorporated. Soon after the death of Dr. Smith in 1947 the Scotts became the owners.

But that was not John Scott's only early involvement in the community. He was instrumental in starting the first fire department in 1946. Whenever a fire broke out in a field or building in the area everyone knew to call the greenhouse, whereby John would set off the fire alarm there by the greenhouse and the farmers and whoever was around would come running. "Dad would take his truck, some fire extinguishers, a few hoses and ladders and a couple barrels of water" (big chuckles here) "and head out. The first fire trucks were from Battle Creek, Michigan. The first ambulance was a '47 Chevy panel truck with a cot in back for the patient and chairs for watchers to make sure people didn't fall out. Next they used a station wagon and then a Cadillac hearse."

Until 1968 Knollwood Florists was an entirely wholesale business supplying cut flowers to the Dayton area. During this period over 25 million carnations were sold as well as chrysanthemums and snapdragons. But World War II had begun to cause the Scotts to rethink the focus of the business. Victory Gardens became increasingly important to enable families in the community to feed themselves and to support the war effort. That meant the need for vegetables and plants. Then, in 1965, as part of its foreign aid effort to help countries rebuild, the government started sending flower seeds along with instructions for growing them to South America and other places and allowed them to send cut flowers back here with free shipping. "We could see the writing on the wall and gradually shifted to a retail business."

What about the Scott family during this time? First a daughter, Susan, became part of the family, and then those twin boys arrived and soon became holy terrors amongst the plants. "I imagine the other workers weren't too happy to see us coming. We ran through the greenhouse, jumped on benches, climbed on pipes...you know, we were kids." When they were in high school they both worked there every Saturday morning. Later they chose Ohio State University, with Dave majoring in horticulture and Bob concentrating on business management. Since Colorado was the agricultural center of the country at that time they went there for work. Did they always know they were going to be part of their dad's business? "Heck, we didn't know we were



John and Ruth Scott

coming back.” (More chuckles). But eventually back they came.

John Scott was always community-minded. Besides heading up the local fire department and school board, he was President of the State Board of Education, the American Carnation Society, the National Horticulture Society and other such organizations. When Beavercreek decided to incorporate as a city to avoid having parts annexed by Dayton, he hand-delivered the petition for incorporation to Columbus. “He never wanted to be in politics but he was asked to fill in for Herman Ankeney as State Representative when Herman passed away.” Soon that led to pressures for John to run for State Representative in his own right, which he did for two terms, but he realized he couldn’t take that on and run his own business, too.

This is where Dave and Bob came in. In 1962 Bob returned, with Dave following in 1968, to eventually take over the management and ownership of the business when sales were about half retail and half wholesale. The retail entity on Dayton-Xenia Road became Knollwood Garden Center. The offerings continued to increase and diversify as the business thrived.

When asked to describe their father as they remember him, the twins became thoughtful. “He led by example. He was not boisterous, very conservative. He didn’t talk a lot but if he talked, you listened—he had something important to say. He was the type of guy who could work across the aisle.” Bob’s sons, Rob and John, “who had had much early (horticultural) experience, too,” have since taken over the business. Dave’s daughter, Caryn, is a manager for them. This makes it a three-generational enterprise as both the business and the family have blossomed together.

January 27, *Upcoming Quarterly Meeting*

Our Quarterly Meeting speaker wrote the book "The History of Dayton, Ohio Toy Makers." He reports that the idea that Dayton, Ohio would become the toy manufacturing center of the United States was more than a dream in the early part of the 20th Century. Dayton's inventive culture and the 1897 local invention of what would become America's first patent for a wheeled friction toy, spawned a thriving toy industry in the Dayton area. The friction toys, originally known as "Hill Climbers" are what most collectors refer to as Dayton toys. The similarity of these friction toys and the frequent lack of markings make them difficult to identify by maker. This is the first book published that documents and identifies which company made which toys and supports the information with old catalog illustrations and by highlighting different construction techniques. Not only is this book the most comprehensive study made of the friction toy makers in Dayton but also contains historical information on all 38 known toy companies that operated in the local area. By 1918, there was a growing feeling that Dayton had or would become the toy manufacturing capital in the United States. This movement was cut short by the Depression, but the creativity and innovation of the individuals involved was amazing.. Among the large number of Dayton Patents, the authors have identified more than 200 relating to toys, including one by Orville Wright, and have listed findings in the book.

If you like toys or history, take a trip back in time and meet the people (maybe an ancestor) behind these companies. Learn who started which companies, their invention, their successes, their legal battles and see their wonderful toys pictured by company. This 304 page book with an index is the result of years of research and contains nearly 900 images of toys, patent drawings and advertising. This definitive reference book will serve as THE collector's guide and historical overview of Dayton's once great toy industry. Be sure not to miss this presentation at the Peace Lutheran Church, 7 p.m. on Tuesday, January 27, 2015!

Officers & Board of Trustees 2015

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

Long-range Planning	John Rhodehamel
Membership	Zelma Robinson
Newsletter	Brianna Johnson
Programs	(open)
Publicity	Gerry Petrak

Spring Quarterly Meeting

Tuesday, April 28, 2015, 7:00 p.m.

Program: Magnificent Monsters of the Ice Age.
Presented by Bob Glotzhober

During the last Ice Age many wonderful large mammals roamed what is now Ohio. His illustrated talk explores what these animals were, what they looked like and how they lived. He will show us some of the fossils collected from around the state. Finally, he will explain why these magnificent mammals disappeared.

New Member and ... Have You Renewed?

The Beavercreek Historical Society would like to welcome Beavercreek resident Kirk Dunker!

And it's that time ... All membership renewals are due in December. Please check the address on the front of this newsletter. If it reads "Exp 12/31/2014", it means you've forgotten to renew. Please take a moment soon to send in your renewal for 2015. (If you've just recently sent it in and our date still reads 12/31/2014, then our paperwork may possibly just not have caught up with your check yet.) Your membership and support are important to continuing the Society's efforts to preserve Beavercreek's past for the future. Thank you!

It's Not Too Late to get your 2015 BHS Calendar!

Did you forget to deck your walls for the new year? Perhaps consider buying a Beavercreek Historical Society 2015 Calendar for just \$10 each! 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.

The Calendars are available at the Beavercreek Public Library, or by emailing or calling our Vice President, Bob Wagley. His email is: roblorwagley@gmail.com and his phone is **937-426-8325**.

Pioneer Corner



This column is an addition to the Log by Log (LxL) newsletter of the Beavercreek Historical Society (BHS). 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 BHS and entered into the historic record of the newsletter. Use the mailing address 1368 Research Park Drive, Beavercreek, OH 45432 or our email address: **BHSOhio@gmail.com**.*

Coming up in future issues:

Pioneers You Probably Never Knew
The Covered Bridge the Disappeared
A Museum or Warehouse?
Your Story and Pictures Here?

We need **READER HELP** in extensive memory search: Where were the following roads in Beavercreek?

Tate

McClung

Pinckey

Annie, the red-headed neighbor's daughter, repeated the following poetic piece by r.l.s.:

**"It's an overcome sooth for age an' youth,
And it brooks wi' nae denial,
That the dearest friends are the auldest friends,
And the young are just on trial."**

Article Submissions

Do you have an article you would like to submit for the Log by Log Newsletter? Submissions are welcome to be sent to the editor, Brianna Johnson, at **b.joh88@gmail.com**. Your submissions are a vital part of the LxL and are necessary to inform, enrich and delight readers each quarter! The submission deadline can be found on the back of each issue under upcoming events. Everything from current and past events to local history are welcome for consideration.

The current submission period closes on March 20, 2015.

Upcoming Events:

Board Meeting, January 9

Coy House – 6:30 p.m.

Quarterly Meeting, January 27

Dayton, Ohio's Forgotten Industry; The Story of the City's Role as the Toy Center of the U.S.
Presented by William C. Gallagher

Board Meeting, February 12

Coy House – 6:30 p.m.

Board Meeting, March 12

Coy House – 6:30 p.m.

Newsletter Article Submission Deadline

March 20 – 5:00 p.m.; E-mail submissions to the editor at b.joh88@gmail.com

Quarterly Meeting, April 28

Magnificent Monsters of the Ice Age
Presented by Bob Glotzhofer



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 27, 2015 | 7:00 P.M. | Peace Lutheran Church | 3530 Dayton-Xenia Rd.

At the next Beavercreek Historical Society Quarterly Meeting, the speaker will be William C. Gallagher. His topic will be Dayton's Forgotten Industry: The Story of the City's Role as the "Toy Center Of the United States." His presentation will increase the awareness of the important role toys played in the manufacturing history of the Miami Valley. Attendees will see examples of many of the Dayton manufactured toys of the late 1800's and early 1900's. The meeting will be Tuesday, January 27, 2015 at 7 p.m. at Peace Lutheran Church, 3530 Dayton-Xenia Rd. in Beavercreek. Call **Bob Wagley** at **426-8325** for more information.

