

Log by Log

**Beavercreek
Historical Society**



**Summer 2015
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BeavercreekHistoricalSociety.org

Open House Planned at Wartinger Park

June 27, 2015 | 11 a.m.-3 p.m. | Celebrating Greene County History Week | Submitted by Jill Kincer

Our Beavercreek Historical Society will be participating in Greene County History Week by opening the log houses and barn at Wartinger Park for tours on Saturday, June 27, 2015 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. There will be docents available in each of the structures as well as in the herb garden, and John Rhodehamel will be demonstrating pioneer farming tools in the barn. Photography bugs are welcome to bring cameras for indoor photos of the furnished log structures and barn, plus outdoor photos amidst the gardens maintained by the Master Gardeners. Bob Wagley is chairing the event, and we thank him and others of you who have stepped up to help serve as greeters, docents or demonstrators.

Greene County History Week is a new venture this year, a brainchild coming from the Greene County Historical Society. It will feature free events throughout the county running from June 20 through June 27. Visit one or all of the events to celebrate our Greene County heritage. In addition to our Beavercreek program, other organizations that promote the preservations of our county's history will be participating in the week's events including the Greene County Historical Society based in Xenia, historical societies from Jamestown, Bellbrook, the Cedarville Opera House, as well as the Greene County Library's Greene Room and the Greene County Records Center and Archives. Scheduled events include:

Date & Location	Sponsor & Event Details
Mon. June 22 Xenia	Greene County Historical Society program at Xenia Bike Hub, corner of 68 South & Miami Ave; 10 a.m. and repeated at 2 p.m.; Meet Me at the Station (video); Underground Railroad (short program); Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Caboose (open for tours)
Tue. June 23, Jamestown	Jamestown Historical Society program at Jamestown Opera House, corner of N. Limestone and E. Xenia Street, 3-5 p.m.; Tours of Jamestown Opera House built in 1889.
Wed. June 24 Bellbrook	Bellbrook Historical Society program, 42. N. Main Street, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Experience a one-room schoolhouse, circa 1880.
Thurs. June 25 Cedarville	Cedarville Opera House at 54 E. Main Street, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Ongoing programs about famous Cedarville people.
Sat. June 27 Beavercreek	Beavercreek Historical Society Open House at Wartinger Park, Kemp Road next to Fire Station, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.; Guided tours of early 1800s buildings, barn and herb garden; Demonstrations of pioneer woodworking.
Xenia	Greene County Historical Society at 74 W. Church Street, 10 a.m. Blacksmith demonstration begins; noon-3 p.m. Wright B. Flyer simulator, care and cleaning of muzzle-loading rifles, rope-making demonstration, hand-quilting demonstration.

Saluting Our Volunteers: *Denny Jarvi*

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.

At our upcoming July 28 Annual Meeting and Ice Cream Social, the name Denny Jarvi will appear on the ballot for the position of Secretary. Many of you know Denny, but for those of you who do not, this seems a good opportunity to share just a bit about him. Unfortunately, this space may not allow room for full details of his many interests that benefit our community of Beavercreek and Greene County. Born and raised in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, he is of Finnish descent and has a hearty appreciation for all things connected to nature and the history of how things came to be. He and his wife Becky eventually retired here after his career in the USAF which included 15 years as a fighter pilot and later R&D involvement in the early Stealth programs.

When wife Becky became involved with making bread for BHS Harvest Dinners, Denny was drafted to start and tend the all-day fires in the cabins to warm the spaces for the evenings' diners. From there he became an active volunteer in the Living History program, first shadowing John Rhodehamel, and then becoming a leader of the Gardening sessions with the third graders. He loves to share with the children the history of how corn was first grown by the early people of North America 10,000 years ago and how it changed from a single small stub to the crops of corn grown today. Denny calls his involvement with the children a "real hoot" and states emphatically to those who haven't tried it: "You will get far more out of it than what you put into it." This spring season he even found himself teaching the butter-making session when an unexpected cancellation arose in the volunteer ranks. His photo here shows him in his pioneer garb and holding the churn.

Denny has also become a valued repairman for many of our fiber-related antiques—repairing and in some cases rebuilding spinning wheels, loom, and clock reels (which were used to accurately measure yarn). A home-sized counter-balance loom had been sitting forlornly in the second story of the Ankeney House and had fallen into disrepair. As it was similar to the

ones his relatives in Finland had, he used photos of those looms to get this one working properly. Visitors to Wartinger Park now have an opportunity to see these early machines happily at work again when both Becky and Denny demonstrate during events.



A lover of the outdoors, he served as President of the Beaver Creek Wetlands Association from 1999 through 2007, and continues on that Board today. Denny considers the late BCWA founder Bill Hagenbuch his mentor and states that he has learned so much from other volunteers in that organization. He is also a volunteer with the Greene County Parks & Trails, leading hikes and other activities. He particularly enjoys an early February/March maple sugaring adventure taking children and adults into the woods to collect the sap out of the maple trees which gets made into maple syrup. In addition, Denny is an active member of Peace Lutheran Church and the Beavercreek Rotary Club.

Denny Jarvi has a high energy level and a can-do spirit! We are pleased to have him as a volunteer and value his many talents. 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.

Excerpts of Diary of Benjamin Franklin Darst - 1862

Loaned by Esther Darst McKay, Copied by Marjorie and Jane Skinner, Courtesy of Elizabeth Shoup Belden

Note from the editor: This is an excerpt from the *Beavercreek Chronicles*. The diary of Benjamin Franklin Darst will be present at the Annual Meeting/Ice Cream Social July 28, 2015. For more information on the Ice Cream Social, see the back page of this Log by Log.

Random Selections from the Ben Darst Diary:

April 18, 1861 - News that Harper's Ferry in possession of the south and Ohio River blockaded

August 6, 1861 - Comet is visible but very dim

September 10, 1861 - State Fair commences today

September 12, 1861 - I went to State Fair at Dayton

Tuesday, October 8, 1861 - Went to the election and voted a Union Ticket

Tuesday, November 8, 1861 - A rainy morning went to market had a good market
afternoon went to the election voted for Abraham Lincoln

Sunday, August 20, 1865 - A clear warm day Lovey and I went to Yellow Springs had a
good time took dinner at the Yellow Springs House

Monday, February 20, 1865 - A pleasant day we opened the sugar camp had a good run

Tuesday, February 21, 1865 - A pleasant day I went to market had a good market
afternoon gathered sugar water and boiled

March 3, 1860 - A cloudy day some rain I went to Dayton done up my shopping and
started out to Shoups got there about three o'clock spent the evening with Anne had the happiest time I ever
had Anne and I sealed our destiny

March 4, 1860 - A clear pleasant day I talked awhile with Mr. and Mrs. Shoup spent a short time with My
Dear and started home at 9:00 got home at four stopped a few minutes at Whitmores the girls were at home

March 29, 1860 - A clear pleasant day I fixed up and started to Greene Co. got to Dayton at two o'clock got to
Shoups at half past married quarter til eight and went to Dayton and staid all night at Phenix



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☐ \$1000 (and above) Historian

☐ \$20 Family

Additional donation appreciated \$ _____

☐ \$50 Club/Organization

Send check (payable to Beavercreek Historical Society) and this completed form to address below:
1368 Research Park Drive, Beavercreek, OH 45432

Pioneer Corner

"Nan, of Nantucket"

Father followed the pair to Pawtucket---
The man and the girl, and the bucket;
And he said to the man
He was welcome to Nan,
But as for the bucket, Pawtucket.
(Chicago Tribune)



Village of Clifton Hosts Chautauqua

June 30 - July 4, 2015 (from a Greene County News Report)

The village of Clifton, tucked away on the border of northern Greene County and southern Clark County, will be the site for one of four stops on the 2015 Ohio Chautauqua tour. According to a press release provided by the village, this series of events is set to combine living history, music and entertainment, education, theater and audience interaction in a cultural event for all ages. The main program each evening during the tour will feature a musical performance followed by a theatrical portrayal of a historic figure by an actor. The musicians and historic personalities featured in the Main Stage Tent in the center of the village during the celebration are:

Tuesday, June 30

6:45 p.m. Springfield Pianist Clara Blackwell
7:30 p.m. Martin Luther King, Jr. story performed by Marvin Jefferson

Wednesday, July 1

6:45 p.m. Leslie Stratton, Principal Harpist for the Dayton Philharmonic
7:30 p.m. Titanic Survivor Edith Russell story performed by Debra Conner

Thursday, July 2

6:45 p.m. Bud Eagle Wolf, Native American wind flute instrumentalist
7:30 p.m. Indian Captive Olive Ann Oatman story performed by Dianne Moran

Friday, July 3

6:45 p.m. The Springfield Cardinal Squares, square dance performance
7:30 p.m. Gold Rush '49er J.G. Bruff story performed by Hank Fincken

Saturday, July 4

6:45 p.m. Glen Helen-inspired duo Scott Lindberg and Amy Blue
7:30 p.m. Henry David Thoreau story performed by Kevin Radaker

There will also be workshop presentations each day which will explore various topics—one geared for children and another for adults. These will be held at various venues outside of Clifton in order to share the experiences with surrounding communities. All events are free and open to the public. Food vendors and concessions will be part of the evening programs near the big top tent.

According to the news report, the Mayor of Clifton Alex Bieri states that the event is “a rare opportunity to connect and share something special with surrounding communities, and Clifton hasn’t done much of that since the days of the stagecoach road along the Little Miami.” For the complete schedule and more information on Ohio Chautauqua, visit villageofclifton.com or ohiohumanities.org.

Nominating Committee Sets Slate of Officers for 2015-2016

Becky Jarvi chaired the nominating committee joined by Eddie Keast. They are pleased to report the slate of Officers willing to serve our Society for the coming organizational year: President, Jill Kincer; Internal Vice President, Bob Wagley; External Vice President, Nancy Wagner; Secretary, Denny Jarvi; Treasurer, Wendy Kirchoff. The vote for these positions will occur at the Ice Cream Social/Annual Meeting on July 28.

Fall Living History 2015

The dates are already set for the fall sessions of Living History. Many thanks to everyone who helps make this a meaningful and fun field trip for Beaver Creek 3rd graders.

If you haven't participated before but like the idea of spending a fast paced morning with enthusiastic youngsters eager for hands-on history lessons please contact me **Becky Jarvi at 427-1751**.

2015 Schedule

Thursday	Sept. 10	Set Up
Friday	Sept. 11	Main
Monday	Sept. 14	Main
Tuesday	Sept. 15	Main
Wednesday	Sept. 16	Main
Tuesday	Sept. 22	Trebein
Wednesday	Sept. 23	Trebein
Thursday	Sept. 24	Trebein
Friday	Sept. 25	Trebein
Monday	Sept. 28	St. Luke
Wednesday	Sept. 30	Valley
Thursday	Oct. 1	Valley
Friday	Oct. 2	Valley
Monday	Oct. 5	St. Luke
Tuesday	Oct. 6	Put Away/Clean Up

Harbine Industrial Complex: A Guided Tour

The Society has offered tours of the remnants of the Harbine Industrial Complex just south of US Route 35 in the vicinity of Alpha. Pictured left to right are tour guide Bob Bader, Lorraine and Bob Wagley and Wendy and Bob Kirchoff on a recent hike. Tours have been suspended for awhile because of the high weeds that make the hike somewhat difficult.



Heritage Day: September 19, 2015 | 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

The Beaver Creek Historical Society is blessed with eager volunteers without whom we would not be able to offer our community with programs designed to preserve the past for the future.

The planners of Heritage Day are always on the lookout for new vendors and/or demonstrators who would reflect the 1800s theme for the event. If any of you see or know of any craft person please send us the contact information. We will make sure we add the individual to our list of people to contact.

Heritage Day has always been a family event. As such, children's activities are always a priority so we are always looking for pioneer games or activities to add. If you have any ideas, please let us know.

It is too early to include a list of volunteers needed but we always need people to be docents in the houses and cabins, at the welcome table, and to help with the children's activities. We will not need people for the food tent because last year's food vendor will be returning.

Please feel free to contact **Bob Wagley, roblorwagley@gmail.com or 426-8325** with any ideas, recommendations or concerns, and of course to volunteer!

Walking Back Through Beavercreek's History

Submitted by Jeanne Wensits

Ah, it couldn't have been more peaceful strolling along the water's edge. Sheltered by tall whispering trees, the Beaver Creek flowed serenely through the valley. The afternoon sun created dappled patterns on the lush spring-green grass. Dazzling yellow wildflowers were strewn like jewels everywhere. Here and there the sun's rays glinted brightly off mangled aluminum cans, a half-buried plastic chair, the top portion of what might have been a kitchen stove.

How things change.



This is the area recognized as Beavercreek's industrial birth place, the area now known as the Harbine Industrial Complex. This is where Bob Bader recently conducted a tour to survey some remnants of our city's past. I had heard so much about the importance of this juncture near US Route 35 and Factory Road and the beehive of activity that long ago must have hummed here. It became a lively manufacturing center with all manners of mills: flour, cotton, woolen, grist, and saw, plus a distillery, a corn press for producing oil, and several dwellings for workers. All around, the sounds of axes and the clamor of construction projects surely must have reverberated throughout the valley as Beavercreek was coming to life.

When I had stood on the creek bank overlooking this area, I was waiting for the echoes of the past to come filtering down through the ages. But there were none. Only gentle reminders of our forefathers' hopes and perseverance lingered—reminders such as the big granite boulder that languished halfway down a ravine alongside the remains of what was at one time Alpha Road. It's been said that this rock had once stood on the site of Beavercreek's first courthouse across the street.

That site, too, had humble beginnings. It was here in May of 1803 that Peter Borders' simple log cabin home morphed into the county's original courthouse. A mixed bag of business, legislative and peace-keeping transactions were conducted here under the disinterested eyes of a pet bear tethered nearby.

Long about 1827 prosperous John Harbine, who was heavily involved with getting the industrial ball rolling in the vicinity, started construction of the grand white-brick manor house on the property. The house remained in the Harbine family until 1944, at which time it became home to the A.Z. Heller family. It still stands there today, although it, too, has seen much morphing.

In 1987 Greene County bought the house and seven acres to use as a girls' home and then a boys' home under the supervision of the Greene County Children's Services. But alas, more change came with local, state, and federal funding cutbacks, not to mention the uncertainty of how the reconfiguration of nearby US Route 35 would impact the property. Now the house, having lost its distinctive front porch, sits empty and forlorn, awaiting its destiny.

Car dealerships, modern-day model homes, and the ever-growing needs of the traveling public seem to be swallowing up the heritage and industrial importance of this pivotal place in Beavercreek's history. But no doubt the boulder will remain imbedded in the creek bank and the idyllic creek will continue to gurgle happily by and bear witness to whatever changes that are certain to come.

The Almost Absolutely Perfect Spring!

Submitted by Amber Carlos, Living History Co-Director

WOW! Or, how about Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious! I was completely astonished by the Spring we were given for Living History! It was so unbelievably beautiful! Each morning, I would wind my way through the hectic North Fairfield Rd. detour to arrive at Wartinger Park and land in such cool and peaceful surroundings. Not one single day had any measurable rain! Okay, okay ... every season has a "fire drill", right? Well, to be honest, we did. A tiny Piney Squirrel had set up a cozy little winter nest inside the shutters of the Harshman House. Wee little baby squirrels included. I felt, somehow, the house itself actually enjoyed harboring such delicate lives in the absence of a human family. "Mama Squirrel" moved her wee tots quietly on her own as humanity increased—thankfully.

The Harshman House wasn't absent of humanity for very long. Half of Beavercreek's third grade students found their way inside the houses this spring. Only because our Historical Society has such incredible volunteers! I find I'm a student myself each season. Our volunteers add bits of themselves to each session with the children. I learn from everyone each year and am proud to be associated with such wonderful people.

Please join me in welcoming several new faces to our ranks: Jack Ackerson, Charles Carlos, Joan Epperson, Judy Haas, Wendell Kincer and Judy Lamp all shared their time and knowledge with the children this Spring!

Our program wouldn't exist without those volunteers that can be counted upon year after year! It is wonderful to be able to watch and learn from repeat volunteers like: Grace Axer, Bob Bader, Kathy Bauer, Jeri Hausman, Bill Hunt, Becky and Denny Jarvi, Eddie Keast, Jill Kincer, Don Kocarek, Monica MacFarland, Shirley McCourt, Diane Phillips, John Rhodehamel, Gerry Smalley, Silvie Schrumph, Bob Wagley and Toni White. I hear students have stopped them in the store with comments like, "Hey! Aren't you the Butter Lady?!?"

I am grateful to you all for taking time out of your busy lives to enrich the world for the young ones of Beavercreek. To all our volunteers, in appreciation for your participation, please accept our invitation, as a guest of the Beavercreek Historical Society, to our Annual Ice Cream Social. It's held on **July 28th** this year, and serving begins at 6:15 p.m. I look forward to seeing you all again in the Fall as well, when Becky Jarvi directs the Autumn session of Living History (see the schedule on page 5)!

Special Thanks Go To ...

Kay Cohen for her generous monetary donation which enabled us to purchase lockable metal cabinets for the Lean-To at Wartinger Park's barn. This will help keep our valued supplies and other items safe from critters great and small.

Mauvourneen Harshman for her annual generous monetary gift to our organization.

Donna Lawson for her valued service as the Secretary of the Board of Trustees for the past few years. She has done an excellent job in this position, but has chosen for personal reasons to step down at this time.

Mike Thonnerieux, City of Beavercreek, formerly Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture, who has been promoted to the position of Public Administrative Services Director. Mike has been a highly valued liaison to the Society, has faithfully attended our board meetings and offered wise insight and counsel. We wish him well in his new position, where his responsibilities will include oversight of Parks & Rec as well as the Engineering and Public Services departments of our City. We look forward to working with Kim Farrell who has been named to the position formerly held by Mike.

Brett Williford for establishing our Society's Facebook page and for his willingness to monitor the site. Check it out and be sure to like us on Facebook!

And we welcome new member **Billie Overholser Stewart**, a 1954 graduate of Beavercreek High School and long-time Beavercreek resident. We're pleased to have you as a member, Billie.

Upcoming Events:

Greene County History Week, June 21-27

Ohio Chautauqua, June 30 - July 4
Clifton, OH

Monthly Board Meetings:

July 9, August 13, September 10
Coy House – 6:30 p.m.

Ice Cream Social/Annual Meeting, July 28
Wartinger Park - 6:15 p.m.

Newsletter Article Submission Deadline
September 18 – 5:00 p.m.; E-mail submissions
to the editor at b.joh88@gmail.com

Heritage Day, September 19

Harvest Dinners, October 16 & 17



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

July 28, 2015 | 6:15 P.M. | Wartinger Park, Tobias-Zimmer Barn

Getting the Scoop

It'll soon be time for the Beavercreek Historical Society's Ice Cream Social and Annual Meeting including election of officers. It is free, and there will be ice cream scoops and lots of toppings available for you and your family to make your own sundae. Our program this year will directly reflect our Society's purpose: preserving the past for the future.

Several of our board members will be sharing how items from the past have been acquired, catalogued and preserved for the future. Acquisitions Chair Lorraine Wagley will share the process she uses to carefully track donations of items. Our sister team of Archivists, Donna Lawson and Carolyn Fourman, will share how they catalogue and preserve acquired documents. They will bring with them the carefully preserved diary of Benjamin Franklin Darst which dates back to the early 1860s and will relate the process used to preserve these and other valued items in our collection of documents. (See random selections from the Ben Darst Diary on page 3 of this issue.)

Finally, there will be a short business meeting to conduct the election of officers for the 2015-2016 year (details on page 4). See you at the park!

