

Log by Log

**Beavercreek
Historical Society**



**Fall 2015
Volume 24
Number 4**

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

BeavercreekHistoricalSociety.org

Where, Oh Where, is the Pinkney Road?

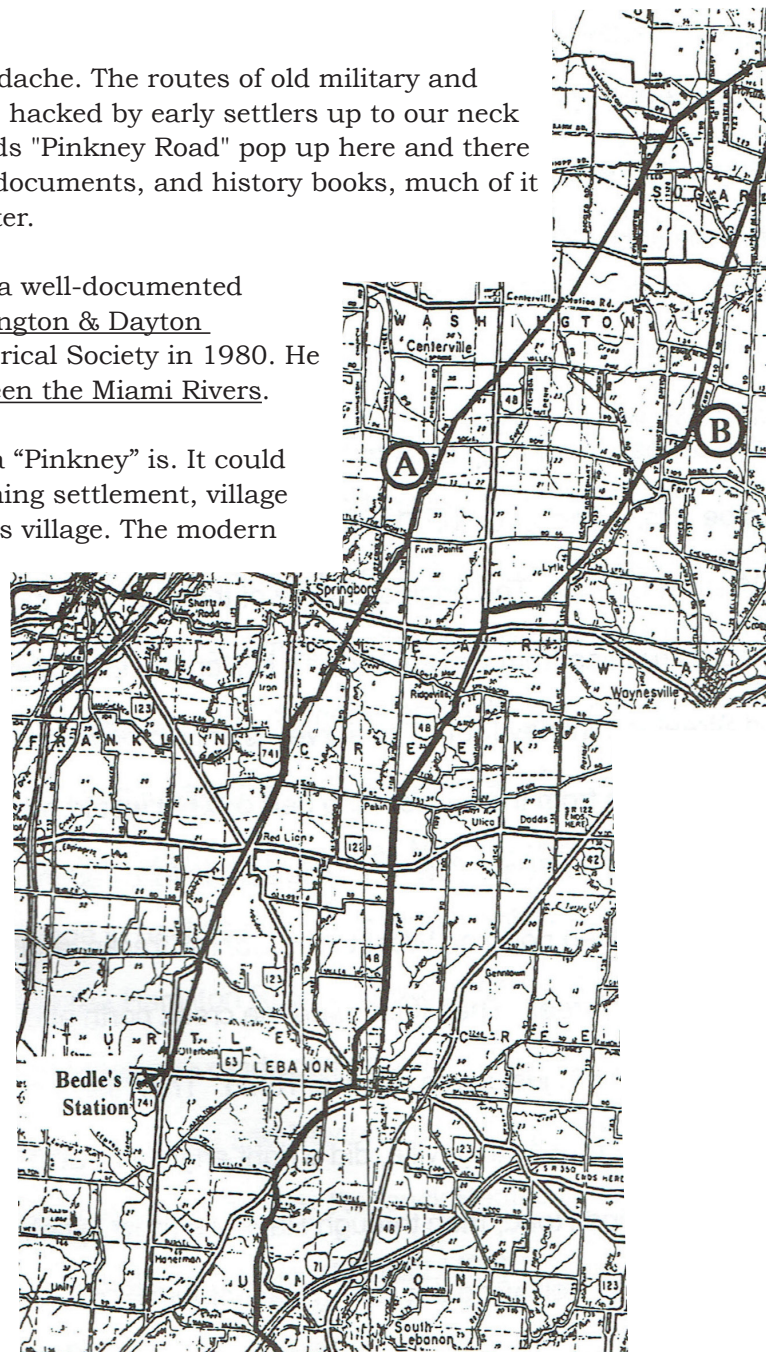
Submitted by Jeanne Wensits

The answer to this burning question gave me a mighty headache. The routes of old military and Indian trails that started in Cincinnati and continued to be hacked by early settlers up to our neck of the woods were a bit of a mystery to historians. The words "Pinkney Road" pop up here and there in interviews with long-time Beavercreek residents, family documents, and history books, much of it conflicting. I'm determined to get the low-down on the matter.

After much study and dosing of Tylenol, I chose to go with a well-documented version presented in Early Roads from Cincinnati to Washington & Dayton Townships by Terrence McConville for the Centerville Historical Society in 1980. He later revised it in Here and There on Old Ohio Roads Between the Miami Rivers.

Before we go any farther perhaps we should discuss what a "Pinkney" is. It could have come from a Germanic personal name "Pincino" meaning settlement, village or town. Thus the surname denotes someone from Pincino's village. The modern surname has two forms: Pinckney and Pinkney. We'll use Pinkney here to follow McConville's account.

The original survey of the Pinkney Road in 1802 was recorded in the Hamilton County Records as running from William Wood's Mill (King's Mill) on the Little Miami River to Second Street in Pinkney (now Trebein). The survey is shown here plotted on a modern map as (B). The road came up from Wood's Mill forming part of what would become the Lebanon-Columbia Road to the "Old Road" (US 42). The survey followed the Old Road as far as West Street in Lebanon, turned north on West Street to the Conrail tracks, and then in the direction of the tracks to Water Street. From there it followed Turtle Creek north about a mile, joining the Deerfield Road (now St. Route 48) just south of Miller Road. Then the survey traced the exact route of St. Route 48 through Ridgeville, did a right-angle turn at Kendricksville on Harland Road, continued through Raysville (now Lytle) and Clio (it was spelled like this because there was already another town of Clio somewhere else). (Clio is now Ferry). *Article continues on page 5.*



Saluting Our Volunteers: *Brianna Johnson*

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.

Our youngest member of the Board of Trustees at age 27, Brianna Johnson shares with a warm smile that she has always been interested in art and that drawing has always been her hobby. As a student at Beavercreek High School, she thoroughly enjoyed her four years of art instruction, particularly those classes with Mrs. Terri Buchanan and Mrs. Jane Early. A guest speaker in one of those classes brought information about the School of Advertising Art located in Kettering, and Brianna felt immediately that it would be a good spot to further her art education and prepare her for a career in a field she loved. She enrolled in 2008 following her graduation from Beavercreek High ('07) and earned an Associate Degree in Applied Business of Advertising Art/Graphic Design.

Upon graduating from the School of Advertising Art in 2010, she took an internship at Baldwin Creative & Company and began helping our former newsletter editor, Steve Baldwin, put together the Log by Log for the Beavercreek Historical Society. That was fortunate indeed for the Beavercreek Historical Society, because when Steve decided his business schedule was overflowing and he needed to step aside as newsletter editor, he recommended that we contact Brianna to see if she might be interested in becoming the new editor. She began in 2013, and we've been very fortunate to have her on the job ever since. Brianna enjoys the role of Newsletter Editor, getting to know and working together with other members to bring stories, memories and histories together.

Brianna's skills as a graphic design artist were welcomed when she contributed ideas and options for possible design, layout and background color to the Society committee planning the new Informational Signage project recently dedicated at Wartinger Park. She's a Harvest Dinner volunteer, taking on the dreaded task of taking home post-dinner dirty dishes to wash since Wartinger Park has no facilities to do it there. She attends Board meetings when her schedule permits, and keeps

track electronically of the many articles and items submitted by members. Her work with the Log by Log requires deadlines, and she has her hands full when many of us submit things very close to those dreaded deadlines. If there is a shortage of news for an issue, she makes sure to find interesting



information; if there is an abundance of news, she manages to squeeze it all in. But in either event, she is always positive and accommodating, and our newsletter is always professional and attractive to the eye in its appearance and layout. We receive many positive comments from other organizations on the quality of our newsletter, and Brianna deserves high praise and credit for that.

Born stateside in Illinois, Brianna has lived in many places as her mother was in the United States Air Force. She remembers as a four-year old seeing banana trees and falling snow which melted immediately upon hitting the ground when she lived in Turkey. Her family eventually moved to Beavercreek, where they still reside. She is a graphic artist employed by the corporate Morris Furniture Company, Inc. with the corporate office located in Fairborn, a role that keeps her very busy.

She strongly encourages members to submit stories and articles to the newsletter, stating that it's a great way to share information and it's always great to get a diverse variety of subjects. We thank her for all her work on behalf of our organization.

Information Signs at Wartinger Park

Submitted by Bob Bader

Celebrating the installation of the information signs at Wartinger Park, a dedication ceremony was held during Heritage Day this year. Information signs have been installed at the five structures and a set of general Information signs was installed in the center lawn area of the park.

The signs at the cabins, houses and barn briefly describe historical facts about the structures, and the general information signs in the center lawn area describe how the Park and its name evolved, the original locations of the structures in Beavercreek and early facts about Beavercreek. Maps illustrate these points. These signs will hopefully assist the casual visitor to the Park in appreciating Beavercreek's early history as well as enhancing the educational experience of the third grade students of Beavercreek Schools who attend the Society's Living History Program. The signage project is a collaborative program between the Beavercreek Historical Society (BHS) and the City of Beavercreek; the Society procured the signs, and the City has installed them.

(And then the rain came!) Opening the ceremony, Jill Kincer, President of the BHS, welcomed the guests and described the purpose of the signs, **Photo 1**. Bob Bader, Signage Committee Chairperson, then acknowledged all of the volunteers, contractors and city employees who worked on the project, also **Photo 1**. Mike Thonnerieux, Director of the Public Administrative Services, City of Beavercreek, described the value of collaborative programs between the City and organizations such as the BHS **Photo 2**. Brian Jarvis, Mayor of the City of Beavercreek, accepted the signs on behalf of the City **Photo 3**.

During the ceremony, Frances Wartinger was recognized for her years of service to the Flower Trail Garden Club and to the BHS. Frances' and Donald's (her late husband) names are inscribed on a bronze plaque which is located with the General Information Signs, **Photo 4**.



1



2



3



4

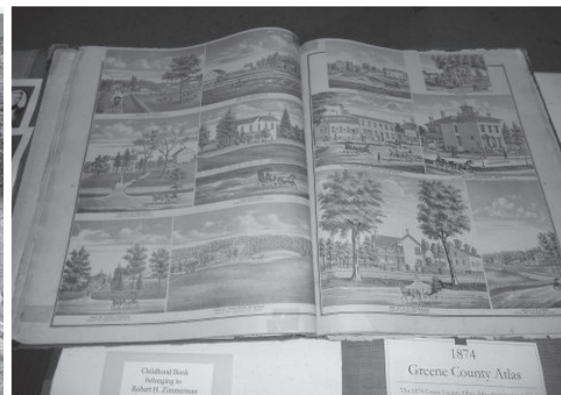
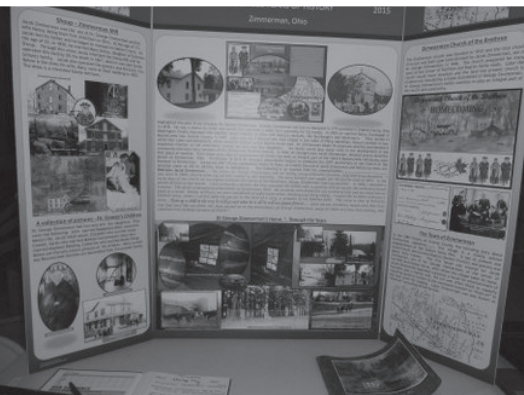
1: BHS President Jill Kincer (left) describes signage, followed by acknowledgements from Bob Bader (right). **2:** Mike Thonnerieux highlights collaborative effort between BHS and the City of Beavercreek. **3:** Mayor Brian Jarvis accepts signage for the City of Beavercreek **4:** Frances Wartinger (right) assisted by Patricia Wartinger (left) after unveiling plaque.

Log by Log



Come Rain or Shine

Pictures from
Heritage Day 2015



Acquisitions

John Fineour has donated fireplace tools and brass andirons which are now located in the Ankeney House. Five Beaver Creek High School yearbooks and a Fairbrook yearbook from the 1960's, donated by Pat Kearney, are now in our Research Room at the Coy House. A 2-harness floor rug loom was donated by Paul and Judy Kuenle and its location is yet to be determined. A large collection of items from John and Patricia Hartzell are now on display in the General Store and the Ankeney House. We thank these people for their generosity in sharing their items with our society. If you wish to donate please call Lorraine Wagley at 426-8325.

Article continued from page 1

This is where the survey particulars end in McConville's books, but according to the text and maps we can conjecture that the Pinkney Road went on to Bellbrook via the Ferry Road and headed north until it intersected Swigart Road. It followed Swigart Road northeast on or in the vicinity of North Bellbrook Road, past the Owen Davis Mill and into Alpha. Following the road east of Alpha one is led to John Trebein's farm. On the farm was a large pond called Pinkney Pond, thus the road was named Pinkney Road. The survey terminated on Second Street in the town of Pinkney (or Pinckney or even Pinckneyville, if you will).

The other 1802 surveyed road traced on the map started at Bedle's Station (the intersection of St. Route 741 and St. Route 63 west of Lebanon) and follows St. Route 741 through Red Lion to Five Points-Red Lion Road. The survey then went along this road and Sheehan Road to just north of Spring Valley Road where it intersected St. Route 48. From there it flowed in a northeasterly direction, catching the corners of Washington and Sugar Creek Townships and into Beavercreek until it converged with the Pinkney Road at Swigart road. (The extension of Sheehan to Swigart Road, the old Beavercreek Road, was vacated in the 1930s.)

One can imagine the difficulty in forging and maintaining these roads, especially realizing that before 1809 there was no road between Cincinnati and Beavercreek that could be open for wagons in the winter. It can be summed up by Roderick Peattie in *Geography of Ohio* with the words, "The early roads were unbelievably bad." Amen.

Heritage Day 2015

← Festivities at Heritage Day

Well, you can't always depend on good weather for this event but over the years we have had some great and some not so great weather. This year it was mixed—we had issues with some strong winds, some nice sun, some horizontal rain, and some drizzle. However we had a nice turnout for most of the day and the weather didn't seem to dampen the spirits of those attending as guests or the artist and craft demonstrators.

One of the highlights was the culmination of the Wartinger Park Sign project. We now have the large sign in the middle of the park and signs for all of the buildings which give the history of the park and its buildings. Another highlight was the fantastic display put together by the descendants of this year's Pioneer Honoree, George Zimmerman, who was the first physician in Beavercreek.

The children this year had all of the usual activities but were pleased to be able to participate in a burlap bag race and jump rope. Of course people young and old always enjoy the music and enjoy being able to indulge themselves with some candy at the General Store.

Some people may have missed the Beavercreek Mapping project in the barn where people indicate where they live by putting a pin on the Beavercreek map. They may also indicate where their ancestors lived by placing a pin in the world map. Can you believe the world map has 138 pins indicating that the ancestors of Beavercreekers were from 26 different countries?

This event would not be possible without the wonderful and friendly volunteers. We thank each and every one of you who make this community event possible. (Editor's note: Our next newsletter will feature further details about the many contributions the Zimmerman Family made to early Beavercreek history.)

Quarterly Meeting Guest Presenter Thomas Routsong

Thomas A. "TR" Routsong, is the owner & operator of Routsong Funeral Home, Inc. in Dayton, OH. His funeral service career began at the age of nine doing chores around the funeral home as a prelude to becoming the third generation to take over the business started by his grandfather in 1918. TR's values, culture, leadership and innovative vision makes Routsong Funeral Home and associates well known for delivering a unique "Celebrations of Life" services approach to personalized family care. Tommy is a Certified Funeral Celebrant and licensed as a Funeral Director & Embalmer, Cemetery/Real Estate Broker, and Health/Life Insurance Agent in Ohio. He holds a degree of Mortuary Science from Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science, a BA from Albion College, and is a graduate of the Dayton Chamber CEO Program. Contact TR at tr@routsong.com or by calling (937) 293-4137.



Pioneer Corner

We would welcome more information on the Pinckney Road route and any remaining relics, sites or artifacts pertaining to the road etc. And, another installment of the, *Nan of Nantucket* limerick:

Then the pair followed Pa to Manhasset,
Where he still held the cash as an asset;
But Nan and the man
Stole the money and ran,---
And the bucket, Pa, luckless Manhasset.
(New York Press)



Membership News – Fall 2015

Long-time BHS member George Hess passed away in early September. We extend our sympathies to his wife Sylvia, family and friends. He and Sylvia played an instrumental part in launching our on-going successful Living History program 22 years ago. George taught Chemistry at Wright State University for 34 years.

We welcome our newest members: Charles & Mara Curran; John Hartzell, Pat Hartzell; Bryan and Lori Lucas; The Thonnerieux Family.

2015 Harvest Dinner Time

Our annual Harvest Dinners will be served fireside at 6 o'clock on Friday and Saturday, October 16 and 17 in the Wartinger Park cabins. Many thanks to Helen Haun and her committee for all the work that goes into this event. As we go to press, we are pleased to announce that both Friday and Saturday nights have sold out! Thanks to all of you who have made your reservations. This is our largest fundraiser of the year.



This year's menu is homemade applesauce appetizer, Harvest salad, a gluten-free entrée of Cottage Pie (either a beef version or a vegan lentil version) with cheddar mashed potatoes, and Abe Lincoln's favorite dessert, almond lemon pound cake topped with fresh whipped cream.

Many of you have stepped up to volunteer for various tasks, and we thank you. However, Marie Reedy and Jill Kincer are still in need of a few more volunteers to work as servers, dishwashers, and folks to assist set up in the cabins pre-event and clean up post-event. Call Marie at 879-4767 or Jill at 429-0291 if you can help.

In Remembrance: *Richard Durig (1925 - 2015)*

We are saddened to report that Richard Durig, a past president of the Beavercreek Historical Society, passed away in July of 2015. A veteran of World War II and an electrical engineer, he worked for many years as a civil servant at Wright-Patterson. He was an involved member of our Society.

Among his contributions, he was part of the committee who put together Part II of the Beavercreek Chronicles book of local history. Laura Bader shares that she and Dick worked together quite a bit over the years. Looking through her files, she found a copy of a paper the two of them put together in December 2002 entitled "A Condensed History of Beavercreek, Greene County, Ohio." It is 20 pages in length total with maps, references, source of information, etc. She also recalls that they worked together relocating a very old cemetery when a land owner was looking to use the property where it was originally located for development. John Rhodehamel recalls that through the years, Richard contributed much to the Beavercreek Historical Society and to him personally. In the video owned by the Society, it is Richard who narrates the action as he filmed the Tobias-Zimmer barn being moved in one piece from its original location to Wartinger Park—quite a feat riding across the fields on an oversized flat bed trailer! Richard worked on the primitive tool display board and the shaving horse used in the woodworking area of the barn at Wartinger Park. In addition he constructed several of the working devices we still use in the Living History program which facilitate the hands-on quality of our program. In the later years, John says, he would appear at various times looking for a hot cup of coffee and offering his perspective on whatever activity was of interest to him irrespective of another's opinion ... always in good humor!

He was faithful in attending our Quarterly Meetings and supporting our organization even after his health no longer made it possible for him to be an active participant on the Board of Trustees. We honor his memory and send our condolences to his family and close friends.

Have an article you want in the Log by Log? Deadline for submissions into the next issue is December 23.

We're always looking for volunteers! To inquire about available opportunities, email BHSOhio@gmail.com.

Request from Greene County Parks & Trails

On the November 3 ballot, you will find Issue 18 for the Greene County Park District requesting a 5-year 0.9 mill levy. Many of us living in Beavercreek may not realize that some of our parks and trails are owned and operated by the Greene County Parks and Trails, including the Creekside Trail which many of us use for biking, running, and walking. This trail runs past many historic areas in our community, including the site of the first water-powered mill, historic Alpha and Trebein. The popular Narrows Reserve at the Little Miami River on Indian Ripple Road and the new Russ Nature Reserve on the eastern end of Kemp Road are also part of that park system. Throughout the county, there are a total of 2600 acres of park land and 62 miles of paved bike trails.

75% of the district's funding comes from local government funds distributed by the State of Ohio, and since 2009 there has been a 50% reduction in those funds. The funds from this levy will be used to help keep parklands, waterways and trails throughout Greene County from deteriorating. Please give it your consideration. For more information, please go to www.gcparkstrails.com

Upcoming Events:

Board Meeting, October 8

Coy House – 6:30 p.m.

Harvest Dinners, October 16 & 17

Quarterly Meeting, October 27

Thomas Routsong presenting The Story of Grave Robbing

Board Meeting, November 12

City Park Office, 1:30 p.m.

Newsletter Article Submission Deadline

December 23 – 5:00 p.m.; E-mail submissions to the editor at b.joh88@gmail.com

Quarterly Meeting, January 26

Brett Williford presenting Beaver Creek Heritage Trail



1368 Research Park Drive
Beaver Creek, 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."

Beaver Creek Historical Society Quarterly Meeting

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

With Halloween festivities just around the corner our next Quarterly Meeting taking place October 27, 2015 is sure to leave you with chills of mystery... and grave robbing?

Join us as Thomas A. "TR" Routsong presents the Story of Grave Robbing. During the latter part of the 1800s medical and embalming professions were expanding rapidly. This created a demand for people with a working knowledge of the human anatomy. The public and the church found the desecration of bodies absolutely abhorrent. Given this awkward situation, those working in the study of medicine and embalming techniques turned to ruffians to secure the much needed anatomical specimens—they turned to people who would rob graves for a fee.

Thomas is a Certified Funeral Celebrant and licensed Funeral Director and Embalmer from the Dayton area with a wealth of knowledge. Learn more about TR on page 6.

