

Log by Log

**Beavercreek
Historical Society**



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BeavercreekHistoricalSociety.org

ARCHIVE CRAWL ANYONE?

Ah, you are saying, "What's an archive crawl?" It is an event held during the month of October, 2016, to celebrate National Archives Month. The Beavercreek Historical Society hopes you'll want to take time to come to the new Beavercreek History Center to see our unique collection of interesting pieces of local history, carefully tended by **Carolyn Fourman** and **Donna Lawson**, our top-notch Archive Committee Co-chairs. Come visit on these dates & times:

**Beavercreek Historical Society History Center
1981 Dayton-Xenia Road**

Saturday, October 1 from 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 13 from 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 29 from 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

"Archive Crawlers" may tour various host archives in the Dayton and Cincinnati area gathering stamps in their passports which will be available at their first crawl stop. Participants will have the opportunity to view a variety of treasures preserved in area archival repositories, visit with archivists and go on special behind-the-scene tours, depending on the repository visited. Besides our BHS History Center archives, a sampling of the many repositories include Wright State Library, WYSO Archives, Greene, Clinton, Clark, and Montgomery County Records Centers & Archives, Antioch College, Archdiocese of Cincinnati, and more.

Crawlers who visit at least five participating repositories will win a \$10 gift certificate to Carillon Brewery (can be used only toward food purchases) and will be entered into a drawing for a first prize of a \$100 Gaylord Archival gift certificate. *The event is sponsored by the Miami Valley Archives Roundtable.*

HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE

Acquisitions

article on page 3

The Birth of a City: Beavercreek, OH

article on page 2

A Great Big Thanks to You from Us: Heritage Day 2016

article on page 4

Living History is Underway at Wartinger Park—We Need Your Help!

article on page 3

Proclamation

article on page 5

The Shifting Sands of the Phillips Family Companies

article on page 6-7

Quarterly Meeting Presenter: Tim Gaffney

article on page 4

*See back page for details
about the October 25
Quarterly Meeting!*

THE BIRTH OF A CITY: *Beavercreek, OH* Submitted by Jill Kincer

When the Beavercreek Historical Society held an Open House in April 2016 introducing our new Beavercreek History Center to the community, Beavercreek resident David Shumway paid a visit. David is a contributing writer to the editorial pages of the Dayton Daily News and a man recently on a mission. His lofty goal has been to record for posterity the complete story from start to finish of how Beavercreek changed from a large unincorporated township to reach the incorporated city status we have today. For those of you who lived in Beavercreek during those days, you will remember it was quite an adventure—for lack of a better descriptive word! After lots of time and effort, David has now published the story of the long, twisty-turny tale of events that happened over a sixteen year period which he titled *The Birth of a City*. He subtitled it: *A Somewhat Personalized View of the Incorporation of Beavercreek, OH*.

As he was beginning to gather information, David contacted our Society by email to inquire what we might have regarding his topic. Unhappily, I had to respond that there was not much in our files that we could offer, but it was nice to be able to share that the late Ruth Mitsoff had donated to our organization the full leather-bound set of all of the Beavercreek News issues covering the entire time period the paper was published—which coincidentally covered the time frame of the incorporation effort.

Arrangements were made for him to meet at the Center with Carolyn Coy Fourman, co-chair of our Archives Committee to begin to dig through those very old but very interesting papers. Carolyn was very helpful as she made special trips to open the Center so that David could conduct his investigations into those old newspapers. He also used Wright State Library to comb through Committee of Eleven records, and checked into old Beavercreek City council meeting minutes to get many details for his work.

The Birth of a City is an interesting read and contains lots of curious details that involve lawsuits, committees, public hearings, judges' rulings, more lawsuits, etc. dating from 1962–1980 when Beavercreek officially became a village and soon thereafter a city. After that was accomplished, our community voted to adopt a charter form of government, which then took an additional two years to accomplish. It is the same charter (although revised) that our city operates under today.

David Shumway has lived in Beavercreek since 1963, worked at WPAFB, is now retired and enjoys writing and grandkids. BHS has several copies on our shelf at the History Center as an important part of our twentieth century information on Beavercreek. It is also available at the Beavercreek and Wright State Libraries, the Beavercreek Senior Center as well as in the Greene Room in the Greene County Library in Xenia. If you would be interested in owning a copy, please email us at bhsohio@gmail.com.

In the long process to become a city, according to state law at that time, Beavercreek had to first become a village, which happened on July 3, 1979. The election in November of 1979 resulted in Fred Berta being elected as the first mayor. By state law, the village mayoral position was an administrative one and thus the mayor had no vote on council matters. Six people were elected as council members: Bill Bischoff, Paul Dunnigan, Carol Graff, Ben O'Diam, Ben Pierce and Richard Stewart. The council chose Ben O'Diam as their president, and he presided over meetings. Lucia Ball was elected Village Clerk. Pictured in the photo are those village officials sworn in January 1980. By February 1980, Beavercreek was officially declared a city.



Pictured left to right: Ben Pierce, Ben O'Diam, Bill Bischoff, Fred Berta, Carol Graff, Richard Stewart, Paul Dunnigan, Lucia Ball

LIVING HISTORY IS UNDERWAY AT WARTINGER PARK—*We Need Your Help!*

There are 370 students coming for the Living History field trip this fall.

The 15 class dates are: **St. Luke** September 22-23; **Trebein** September 26-29 plus October 14; **Main** October 3-7; and **Valley** October 11-13.

You can volunteer one morning or several. The time commitment is from 8:45 until noon. We have some period clothing to lend. It is a challenge teaching six classes in a row, switching every 30 minutes to a new group. But the groups are small and these kids are eager to learn. It's fun to challenge them with these hands-on tasks like sewing, corn grinding or butter churning that they've never done before.

A good way to see how to teach any of the activities is to come and observe. Please let me know if you will be coming for that. If you would prefer a demonstration I would be happy to go over any of the activities with you. Hoping to see you at the park.

Becky Jarvi, *Fall Living History Director* | 937-427-1751

ACQUISITIONS



1800s cupboard

Recently the Historical Society received two cupboards that represent 100 years of American furniture making. The first is a walnut corner cupboard, donated by Gerry and Bill Smalley. It is hand made of solid walnut and dates circa 1850. These cupboards were usually found in the dining rooms and held china, silver, pewter, glassware and other items for more formal occasions. This cupboard is now located in the Ankeney House.



1900s cupboard

The second cupboard, donated by Richard and Ginger Moss, is referred to as a "Hoosier Cupboard." These cupboards were manufactured in several dozen different factories all located in Indiana, thus the name "Hoosier." They usually were found in the kitchen and represented one of the earliest design innovations for the modern kitchen. The cupboard had drawers for utensils, wire racks for cookware, shelves for staples, and often flour sifters, sugar containers, bread boxes and some even had meat grinders. They also included a work area saving the women of the early 20th century many steps in her daily food preparation. This cupboard is now located in The History Center.

Others items recently donated include 2 swivel chairs donated by Ginger and Richard Moss, 2 cane bottom chairs and a collection of doll dishes donated by Bob and Lorraine Wagley, 3 pieces of Grindley china donated by Jan Kleinhenz and 6 goblets donated by Wendy and Bob Kirchoff. An apron was donated by Sue Berry, and a 2016 scanner/printer was donated by Wendell Kincer for use in our office area. All of these items are now located in our History Center.

If you would like to donate an item to our collection representing the 19th and 20th century please contact **Lorraine Wagley at 937-426-8325**. We are especially interested in items that have a Beaver Creek connection.

A GREAT BIG THANKS TO YOU FROM US: *Heritage Day 2016*

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.

Our volunteers know how much the community enjoys Heritage Day because we get to hear the laughter and see the joy in those attending, especially the children. It is our reward for choosing to sign up year after year. Thanks!

Our hope is for Heritage Day to continue to improve. Please send **Bob Wagley, roblorwagley@gmail.com**, any suggestions for additions and changes. If you know any craft person whose work is in keeping with the 1800s theme, please send the person's contact information.

The Beavercreek Historical Society appreciates all of your efforts and support.

QUARTERLY MEETING PRESENTER: *Timothy R. Gaffney*



Timothy R. Gaffney, October's Quarterly Meeting speaker, was born in Dayton in 1951 and has lived in the Dayton region most of his life. After earning a bachelor's degree from Ohio State University in Columbus in 1974, he worked for the Piqua Daily Call, the Kettering-Oakwood Times and the Dayton Daily News, where he was the aerospace and defense writer for twenty-one years until his retirement in 2006. He is the author of fifteen books about aviation, space, exploration and science, mainly for children and young adults. He is director of communications for the nonprofit National Aviation Heritage Alliance and a volunteer trustee for the United States Air and Trade Show Inc. and a lifetime member of Wright "B" Flyer Inc. He is a private pilot. He lives in Miamisburg, Ohio with his wife Jean. They have four grown children and two grandchildren.

Join the Beavercreek Historical Society Today!

Help preserve Beavercreek's past for the future. Please make your check payable to Beavercreek Historical Society and mail along with this form to: **1368 Research Park Drive, Beavercreek, OH 45432.**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: (Please print carefully) _____

Choose your membership type and level:

Annual Memberships:(Jan. thru Dec.)

() \$ 15 Individual

() \$ 20 Family

() \$ 50 Group or Organization

Lifetime Memberships:

() \$500 - \$999 Preservationist

() \$1000 and up Historian

PROCLAMATION

Whereas the Anton and Anna Zink Family was exemplary as an early farming family in the area of northwestern corner of Beavercreek Township, which many years later became part of the City of Beavercreek, and who along with their descendants played a role in the heritage of our community by their efforts hereby stated:

Anton Zink was born in Fautenbach, Germany on May 6, 1846; and Anna (nee Ketterer) Zink, daughter of the Burgemeister of Fautenbach, was born on August 10, 1858.

In 1860, Anton, age 14, came to Beavercreek where he lived on a farm located in the northwestern corner of Beavercreek Township owned by his aunt and uncle, Christina and Alois Glaser. This area was the location of the early small settlement known as New Germany. He attended school at the one-room Aley School (Township Schoolhouse #3) which stood on the corner of LaGrange and Grange Hall Road.

At age 18 in 1864, Anton joined the United States Infantry, Company K, 82nd Regiment and was with General Sherman during his march through Georgia in the Civil War. He was wounded in his hip during the war, and discharged in 1868. Following his discharge, he traveled west to Oklahoma to claim land the U.S. Government had set aside for veterans of the Civil war. He soon became disenchanted with that area, and decided according to his descendants that "Beavercreek was the most fantastic place" and he returned to Beavercreek Township to manage his family's homestead.

The family homestead of approximately 400 acres became known as the Zink Homestead. Zink Road, named for the family, now intersects Colonel Glenn Highway near the area of major commercial development and Wright State University.

Anton returned to Germany twice, the second time to bring his future bride, Anna Ketterer, to Beavercreek. They were married on February 13, 1877 at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Dayton, OH. Anton and Anna had nine children: Emma Christina (Tena), Franziscus Alois (Ollie), Karl Fredrick, Joseph Anthony (Andy), Louise Magdelene, Otto Albert (Ott), Augustus Theodore (Ted), Frank Bernard and Max Joannes. Anton died at 82 years, 8 months on January 3, 1929; Anna died 22 months later on November 2, 1930.

In 1932, son Max Zink purchased a home that had at its core a log cabin, originally built by John Nicodemus in 1811. It was located at what was then the corner of Grange Hall and New Germany-Trebein Road prior to major road construction. In 1979, Max donated the home to the Flower Trail Garden Club that had it moved and reconstructed in Wartinger Park where it remains today, the second of five historical Beavercreek structures that were moved to the park

Many descendants of Anton and Anna remained in the Beavercreek community, establishing their family with strong ties to the land as hard-working farmers tilling the rich soil of the area, as did many early settlers, while others, including daughter Louise and son Frank became educators as did several in following generations, like Otto and Ed.

Several athletic facilities within the Beavercreek City Schools are named for son, grandson and great grandson of Anton and Anna in honor of their contributions made to Beavercreek schools and students, including high school football Frank Zink Field, Otto Zink Gymnasium at Ferguson Hall, and Ed Zink Fieldhouse at Beavercreek High School.

Be it therefore declared that this day, **September 17, 2016**, in the City and Township of Beavercreek at the Heritage Day Festival sponsored by the Beavercreek Historical Society shall be proclaimed **ANTON AND ANNA ZINK FAMILY DAY**.

THE SHIFTING SANDS OF THE PHILLIPS FAMILY COMPANIES *Submitted by Jeanne Wensits*

In the late 1800s George Phillips left his home in the Virginia Shenandoah Valley and started walking west. The teenager was not particularly tall but he was blessed with muscular arms, a strong determination and, hopefully, a sturdy pair of shoes. Eventually he settled in the Franklin/Carlisle, Ohio area. He later married and in 1900 his son Frank Phillips was born.

As Frank grew up he joined his Uncle Charlie in hauling stone from a Centerville quarry to the Dayton area. After borrowing money from his dad in 1920 to buy his first dump truck, within a few years Frank owned several trucks, hired truckers and landed promising contracts.

But alas, the 1930s brought a screeching halt to Frank's hauling business. First a paving contractor who engaged Frank's crew to help with the paving of Route 4 near Huffman Dam encountered underground water and springs bubbling up all along the road path. The contractor went bust and couldn't pay Frank and Frank went bust, too. The Depression didn't help matters either. Frank then turned to hauling milk and working second shift at Frigidaire which tided him over until economic conditions improved.

Things were really looking up when he received an opportunity in 1942 to buy a gravel pit on the property of George Swartz, on the west side of what is now Walnut Grove Country Club. Thus Phillips Sand and Gravel was coming to life.

Frank's sons, Don and Dick, worked in the family business from a young age. As younger son Ed Phillips would later attest, the family motto was, "if you're old enough to sit at the table, you're old enough to work." So Don and Dick, apparently being adequate table-sitters, worked every day after school and Saturdays until they enlisted, Don in the Navy Seabees and Dick in the Army Air Corps. After returning they joined their father in the management of the company, with their brother Ed joining the company in the early '60s after graduating from college.

In 1947 their business shifted to a gravel pit near the intersection of Shakertown and Grange Hall Roads. (You may have noted what appears to be a peculiar oil well pump sometimes churning away near the side of Shakertown Road. Although the pump and property is owned by a more recent mulch business, the pump also indicates the area where the gravel pit was located in earlier days.) The pit had 40-50 foot banks that made it difficult to get to the gravel layer and it became Ed's job to stick dynamite in holes in the banks, string wire behind him and run like mad. When asked why he got that risky job, he laughingly replied, "...because I could run the fastest."



It wasn't long before the Phillips got heavily into the excavation business. They had a "monster" bulldozer that liked to fling Dick into nearby fields from time to time, and with the help of a township road grader, they cut their first plat, Ridgedale, as it came to be known. What really "cemented" their reputation in the excavation and grading community was the acquisition of a Huff International Excavator, the first machine in the area that had an interchangeable blade and bucket for digging basements and such. *(continued to page 7)*

About this time it became known that Route 35 was to be built through the Ankeney family's farm that included a gravel pit. Frank leased the farm property that later would become the corporate headquarters for the Phillips Companies.

Here came a dilemma and an opportunity; now they had too much sand and gravel. The Phillips Excavation Company to the rescue! With contracts for both Phillips businesses, off they went cutting septic lines and demolishing old houses and then using their surplus sand and gravel for backfill. This concept led to the development of the Phillips Ready-Mix Company in 1960 which is what we see today while driving along Route 35 on the east side of Beavercreek.

The 1960s were a period of rapid growth for the Phillips Companies, marked by the 1962-1963 purchase of a gravel pit on Haines Road. Additionally, in the early 1960s the Phillips Excavating Company took on its most ambitious project to date, the building of Valley Road.

It was also a time of sadness with the failing health and passing of Frank Phillips in 1967. But his legacy lived on as his sons assumed the reins of the businesses. Over time their sons took on leadership roles in support of the company and the community. As the years went by the family business kept growing. The Phillips Land Improvement Center was formed in 1998 to supply bulk landscaping materials to homeowners and businesses for the enhancement of their properties. In 2010 Phillips purchased the former Miller Brother's gravel pit in Vandalia to help expand their service area.

Often being recognized for their contributions to the building of Beavercreek, Xenia and beyond and for being good stewards of the environment all these years, the Phillips family and their enterprises have flourished. And it all started with that young Virginian putting one foot in front of the other on his way to a better life.

FIXER UPPER

ANKENEY HOUSE PORCH SWING

The Ankeney House porch swing was in need of repair, but the longer that John Hancock looked at it, the more a new swing seemed the better solution. Shown is the result! Thanks so much John for another job accomplished at the Park





Upcoming Events:

**Archive Crawl, October 1 & 29, 1:00-4:00 p.m.;
October 13 2:00-5:00 p.m.**

1981 Dayton-Xenia Rd.

Living History, October 3-7 (Main); October 11-13 (Valley); October 14 (Trebein)

See page 3 for complete details.

Board Meeting, October 13

1981 Dayton-Xenia Rd. – 6:30 p.m.

Quarterly Meeting, October 25

Peace Lutheran Church – 7:00 p.m.

The Dayton Flight Factory: The Wright Brothers and the Birth of Aviation, presented by Tim Gaffney

Board Meeting, November 10

1981 Dayton-Xenia Rd. – 1:00 p.m.

Log by Log Article Submission Deadline

December 19 – 5:00 p.m.; E-mail submissions to the editor at b.joh88@gmail.com

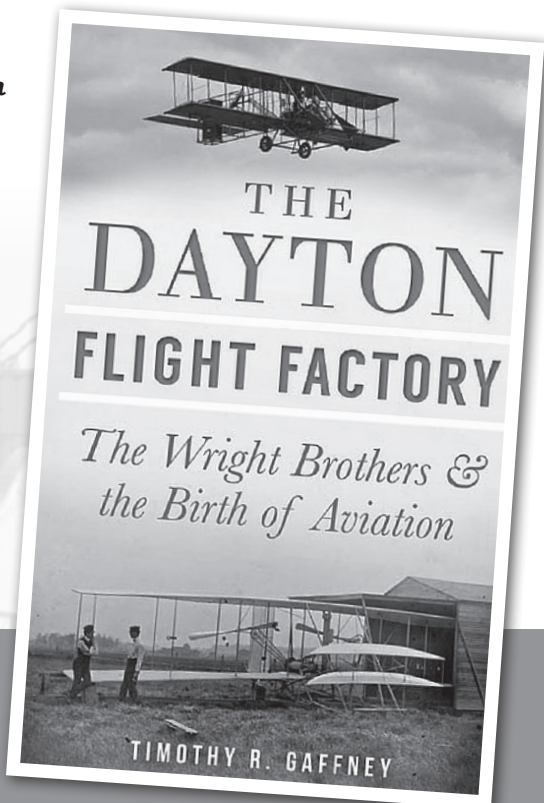
1368 Research Park Drive
Beavercreek, Ohio 45432

"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 25, 2016 | 7:00 p.m. | Peace Lutheran Church | 3530 Dayton-Xenia Rd.

Local journalist, children's author and biographer Timothy R. Gaffney will be speaking at the next BHS meeting regarding his book ***The Dayton Flight Factory: The Wright Brothers & The Birth Of Aviation***. His book extends what was included in David McCullough's book about the Wright Brothers. McCullough's book ends at the point in time where the Wrights were forming their company and a good part of Gaffney's book is about their factory so it serves "as the rest of the story." He will be providing an update on efforts to save the original Wright factory for addition to Dayton's national park. He will also talk about some of the factory's recent distinguished visitors, including actor/director Tom Hanks and author David McCullough. Timothy Gaffney's book will be available for sale at this meeting.



Have an article you want featured in the Log by Log? Deadline for submissions into the next issue is December 19.