

Log by Log

**Beavercreek
Historical Society**



**Winter 2017
Volume 26
Number 1**

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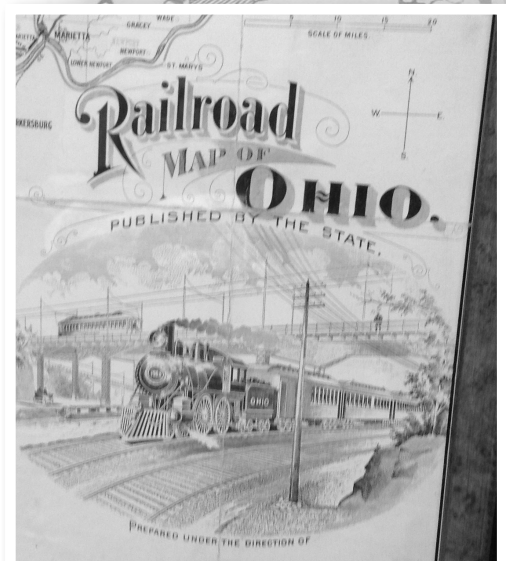
BeavercreekHistoricalSociety.org

1908 OHIO RAILWAY MAP

Beavercreek resident Charlene Montague has graciously donated to the Society a large beautifully custom framed 1908 Ohio Railway Map. It will be hung in the Beavercreek History Center's conference room shared by both the BHS and the Beavercreek Township Park District. The linen-lined map was originally attached to a 8 inch by 4 inch linen book. Thus when the map was folded into the book, it conveniently fit into an early twentieth century traveler's bag for safekeeping. The book portion of the map is framed separately to be exhibited alongside the large map.

When one looks closely the Greene County portion of the map, it is noticeable that the word Beavercreek is shown only in a watermark type font, barely legible, denoting just the township. In 1908, our area is still identified only by the names of the early settlements—Zimmerman, Alpha and Trebein. Shoups is also a designated site; this would've been the mill at the Little Beaver Creek now known as Daytona Mills. The details on the map are varied and intriguing. In addition to railway lines, the map also shows cities, towns, coal lands, tunnels, shipping routes on Lake Erie, notable physical features and locations of various state institutions.

This interesting and valuable piece of history was passed down to Charlene through her family, and she is pleased that it will now be on display for Center visitors to enjoy for years to come. We are grateful and extend a large thank you to her for this very generous gift.





NEW MEMBERS

We welcome new members Harry Hahn, Margaret Kruckemeyer, Amy Rohrback and David Shumway. Thanks for joining and welcome; we're glad to have you aboard!

TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Zelma Robinson, Membership Chairperson, reminds everyone that it is time to renew your membership and send in your dues for 2017. How do you know if you need to renew? Look on the address label of this newsletter and check the date. If it says Exp 12-31-2017, you're good to go. If it says Exp 12-31-2016, you haven't yet renewed. Inside this newsletter you will find a colorful form to fill out and return

with your check as soon as possible. We value your membership and ask for your continued support. It is vital to the success of our Society.

NEW DUES STRUCTURE

Looking at our financial outlook for the year, the Board of Trustees voted at the November board meeting to increase the dues for individuals and families by \$5, as of January 1, 2017. Individual membership will now be \$20 per year, and family memberships \$25. Anyone who renewed at the previous rate before that date got in under the wire and owes no additional dues.

As many of you may know, 2016 was the first year in quite a while that we did not host the Harvest Dinners fundraiser. There were several different obstacles that arose which led to discontinuing this event in its customary format. The Board made the difficult decision to raise the dues after much discussion and felt that keeping the increase to a low amount was a responsible course of action that would help make up for some of the monies we had been receiving from our Harvest Dinners. If you have ideas for future fundraisers, we would certainly welcome them.

NEW SIGN IDENTIFIES NEW HEADQUARTERS

How do you like it? If you've driven out eastern Dayton-Xenia Road recently, hopefully you've noted the attractive new sign that identifies our new History Center. The project was a jointly-funded effort between our Historical Society and the Beavercreek Township Park District, with whom we share the building at 1981 Dayton-Xenia Road. Many thanks to the people who worked on the sign committee: Park District Commissioner Ernie Muller, BHS members Bob Bader, Bob Wagley, and Roger Panton. We also thank Township Zoning Administrator Ed Amrhein, as well as Tim Parks and his Beavercreek Township staff who did the installation.



QUARTERLY MEETING

PRESENTER: *Dave Schmidt*

Dave Schmidt, our speaker at our January 24 Quarterly Meeting, is a life-long resident of the south Dayton area. He completed his BS and MS in Geology at Wright State and his Ph.D. in Geology at Ohio State. He serves on the board of the Oakwood Historical Society. He visited the local history room at the Xenia library with John Rhodehamel to find details that are more specific to Greene County and will include them in his presentation to make it centered on Beavercreek as much as possible. This program will be interesting.

SO, YOU SAY YOUR LIFE IS TOUGH...

Submitted by Jeanne Wensits

It has long been said that Beavercreek was a community of farms. Consider the following assessment of the life of a typical farmer's wife in late-nineteenth-century Ohio. In 1891, Mrs. Hannah Longbon of Columbia Center, Ohio, offered her thoughts on "What a Farmer's Wife Should Know." Here are some excerpts.

There is more demanded of the farmer's wife than of any other woman that [sic] must earn her own living. She must have brain, heart and muscle. The successful farmer's wife should be independent and trustful of her own ability. Self-reliance comes from a cultivated intellect, a well-disciplined heart and a sound constitution. With these she is the happiest woman on earth.

The properties of food and the best method of preparing it is a knowledge every woman should have. She should know that a person working in the open air, as a farmer, can not [sic] exist and work on the diet of a brain worker, but he needs food of a nitrogenous or muscle-making element—such as vegetables, grain and lean meat. Good light-bread is the most essential food on the farm. But many a farmer's wife deals out stones instead of bread for her family.

She should be health inspector, if her husband is too busily engaged, or is not capable. She should understand the chemical analysis of water so as to be able to ascertain if it is pure or if the barnyard or other refuges are leached into the contents of "the old oaken bucket," which often overflows with poisonous germs.

She must be a general seamstress and dress-maker; do the tailoring for the small boy, and surely know how to patch or mend; ought to know how to trim a hat for a girl, or possibly for herself; know how to raise poultry and calves once in a while, to be sure; know how to harness a horse, and care for one if necessary. I don't know if she should be concerned about the milking or not; if she does, it should only be in case of emergency, for the house must go at the expense of the milking. She should know that "cleanliness is next to Godliness" in buttermaking [sic]; and at what temperature cream rises best, how long it should stand before churning, and at what temperature to churn, and it will save her a great amount of labor. She ought to know what crops are planted and reaped, and the amount of labor required in the operation. Should know the income and expenditure of the farm, and what taxes are paid, that she may not ignorantly waste her husband's product, which means his labor. The policy that she is only his heir is getting threadbare, for woman has proved that she is just as capable of carrying on business as a man only, he won't give her half a chance. Not that she should rule the farm, but, that she should be capable and understand their affairs.

As a class the farmers come nearer to eating bread in the sweat of their face than any other people. To provide for others and our own comfort and independence is honorable and greatly commended; but that a farmer and his wife should work and slave in all sorts of weather, all their lives, even toward declining years, allowing themselves no pleasure or comfort, shows that they are narrow-souled and miserly. Money is power with a farmer after a sort; but intelligence, free heartedness and moral virtue are nobler powers.



Source: *The Documentary Heritage of Ohio*, Edited by Phillip R. Shriver and Clarence E. Wunderlin, Jr., Ohio University Press, Athens, Ohio, 2000.

EXTENDING THANKS FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

It is with regret that we accept resignations of ...

Donna Coy Lawson, who has moved out of state to be nearer to her family and thus resigned as co-chair of the Archives Committee. In addition to Archival duties, Donna also served as Secretary to the Board for several years and was always ready to step up to help wherever necessary with an abundance of energy.

Becky Jarvi, who has resigned as Fall Living History Director. Becky has been a well organized planner for that program with a wealth of talent for working with children and authentically sharing history. She plans to remain a volunteer in that program and other park events, but felt she wanted more freedom to travel and spend time with her extended family in the fall season.

Sarah Haller, who has resigned as the Office Manager at the History Center to have more time for travel with her now-retired husband Fred. Sarah assures us she will continue to volunteer for various activities at the Park. She has a long history of service to the Society, including serving as President for numerous years.

We heartily thank these members for their service. All of them will be greatly missed in these positions, as each contributed so much to the leadership of the organization.

It is with great pleasure that we welcome ...

Cathy Coy Robinett, who has joined the Board of Trustees as co-chair of the Archives Committee with her sister, Carolyn Coy Fourman. We welcome her. The archives are a integral part of our History Center and the leadership of the Coy sisters is very valued and appreciated.

Amy Rohrbach, who has graciously accepted the position of Fall Living History Director beginning in Fall 2017. Amy has just recently joined our Society; she is a Beavercreek native, the daughter of Gerry Jetter Smalley, long time active BHS member. We are so very pleased that she has accepted this important position as it regards teaching our next generation about their Beavercreek heritage.

Thanks to Cathy and Amy for stepping forward. Your willingness to serve in these important leadership positions is appreciated.

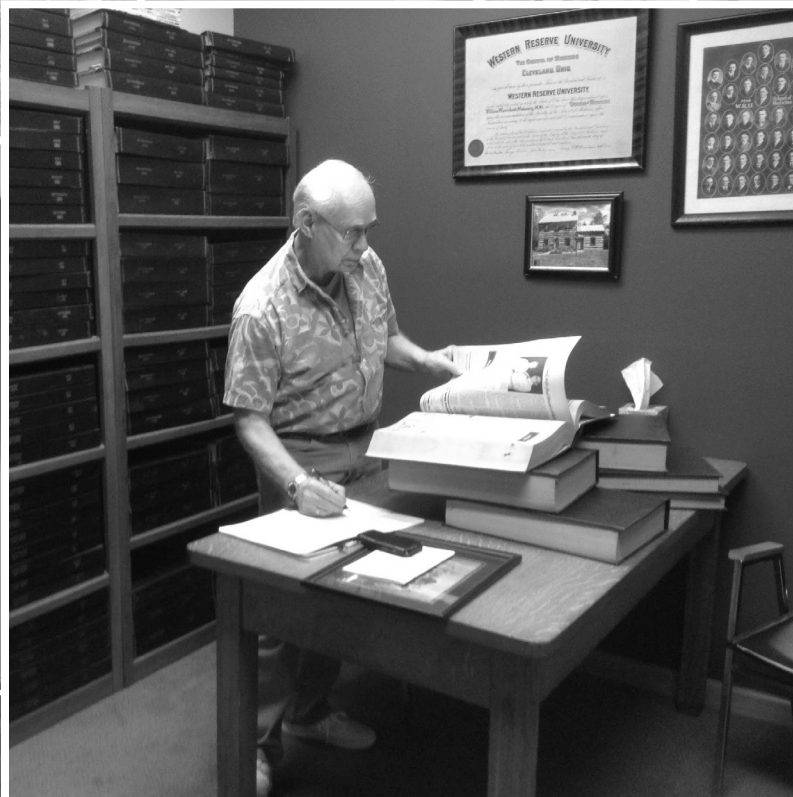
ACQUISITIONS

Recent donations to our Historical Society include the following: A seeder was donated by Alexis and Lou Shurte and can be seen in the Zimmer barn. A swing was made and donated by John Hancock and can be seen (in nice weather) on the Ankeney porch. Four mixing bowls were donated by Jan Kleinhenz. Three bowls are in the Ankeney kitchen and one is in the History Center. Five paintings by Catherine Ankeney of early Beavercreek schools, an early farm scene and the old Indian Ripple Bridge were donated by Carolyn Slager and Ann Hopkins. Bricks and slate from the old 1888 Beavercreek High School were donated by Diane and Ed Phillips. A milk bottle from the Alpha Dairy and a glass bowl were donated by Bob and Wendy Kirchoff. A Beavercreek coverlet (a fundraising project of the Historical Society a few years ago) was donated by Margie Perenic. All of these items can be seen in the History Center. A large map of early Ohio train routes was donated by Charlene Montague, featured in an article on the cover of this issue of the Log by Log.

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

SO LONG, FAREWELL—HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2016

Many exciting things have happened during the 2016 calendar year, with participation in annual events, BHS challenges and projects coming to fruition, and even moving to new places! It is all made possible by our many wonderful volunteers and support. We hope for continued momentum heading into 2017 and look forward to enriching the Beavercreek community.



Upcoming Events:

Quarterly Meeting, January 24

Peace Lutheran Church – 7:00 p.m.

Boulders, Bedrock and Brewing Water And Its Influence on the History of the Area, presented by Dave Schmidt

Board Meeting, February 9

1981 Dayton-Xenia Rd. – 6:30 p.m.

Board Meeting, March 9

1981 Dayton-Xenia Rd. – 6:30 p.m.

Log by Log Article Submission Deadline

March 17 – 5:00 p.m.

Quarterly Meeting, April 25

Peace Lutheran Church – 7:00 p.m.

The History of Wright Field, presented by Ken Keisel



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."

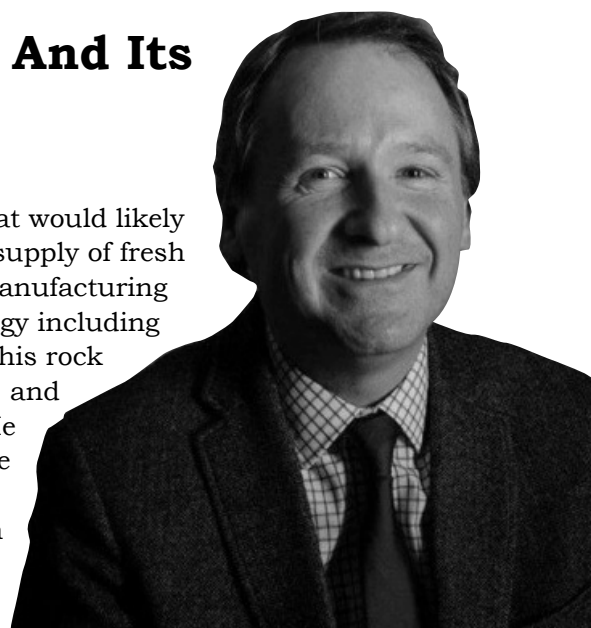
Beavercreek Historical Society Quarterly Meeting

January 24, 2017 | 7:00 p.m. | Peace Lutheran Church | 3530 Dayton-Xenia Rd.

Boulders, Bedrock and Brewing Water And Its Influence on the History of the Area

Dave Schmidt, Wright University Department of Environmental Studies

Because the Dayton region sits over enormous underground canyons that would likely be national parks if they were on the surface, the region has a plentiful supply of fresh clean water. This has contributed to the success of Dayton as a major manufacturing center in the 20th Century. Dave Schmidt will discuss the bedrock geology including quarrying history of the area, Oakes Quarry in Fairborn and the use of this rock for early local homes. He will also address glaciation during the "Ice Age" and its effect on local resources and the development of an aquifer system. He will include information on the surface and ground water in the area, the 1913 flood, the mills created and used in the area and the historic and potential future use of local ground water. He presented this information to the Oakwood Historical Society to a standing-room only audience. Read more about Dave on page 2.



Do you have an article, photo(s) or item(s) of interest you want featured in the Log by Log? Deadline for submissions into the next issue is March 17. Email submissions to the editor at b.joh88@gmail.com.