

Affiliated with the City of Beavercreek

THE BEAVERCREEK HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S

# Log by Log

Our objectives as an organization are to preserve structures of historical significance, develop and present community educational programs, and to create a learning center for historic education.

A Quarterly  
Newsletter from



Winter 2018  
Volume 27, Issue 1

BeavercreekHistoricalSociety.org

## Crumbling Gate Posts from the Past Most Likely to Disappear

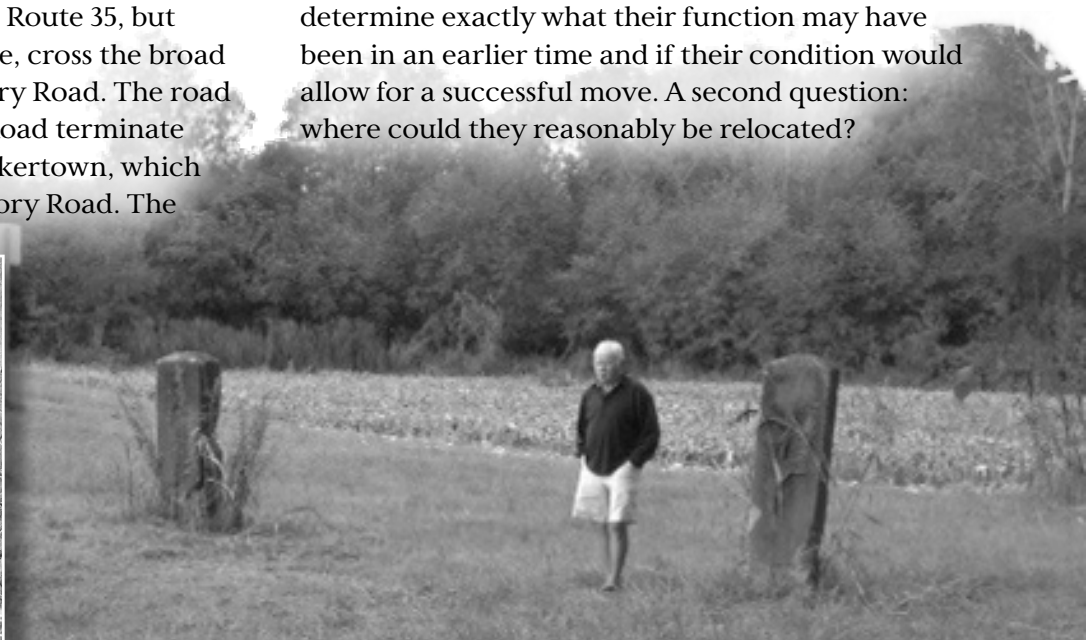
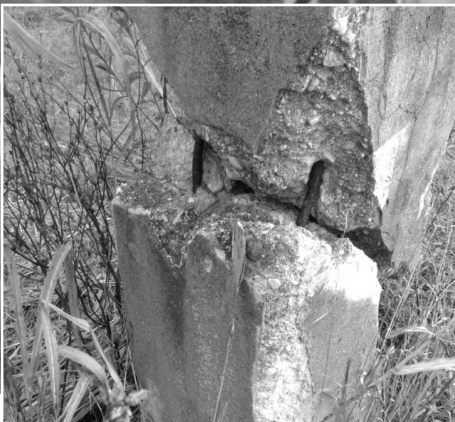
Submitted by Jill Kincer

Many of us who travel Alpha Bellbrook Road in the eastern section of our Beavercreek community often notice the three forlorn old concrete posts that stand aside the road at the curve, just prior to where it dead-ends into Factory Road. Our Log by Log contributor, Jeanne Wensits, even wrote an article in our Summer 2014 issue about those very posts. She did some digging into the history records, talked to long time locals and reported that those posts were most likely related in some way to the Shoemake Dairy that once stood on that property.

Fast forward to today. The City of Beavercreek has major plans to realign Shakertown Road in 2019 so that it will no longer intersect with Route 35, but instead take a slight southern curve, cross the broad floodplain then head toward Factory Road. The road design will have Alpha Bellbrook Road terminate in a "T" into the new section of Shakertown, which will then continue on to meet Factory Road. The

entire plan will eliminate the awkward zig and zag confluence of current Alpha Bellbrook and Yellow Brick Road.

Mike Thonnerieux, our City's Public Administrative Services Director and former liaison to the Beavercreek Historical Society's Board of Trustees when he was Superintendent of Parks, called to let us know that those old posts would need to be removed when the road improvements start. He wondered if the Historical Society might have any interest in preserving them. The BHS Board decided the first line of action toward making a decision was to inspect the posts more closely to see if we could determine exactly what their function may have been in an earlier time and if their condition would allow for a successful move. A second question: where could they reasonably be relocated?



Wendell Kincer getting an up-close look at the crumbling gate posts, pictured above.

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# LaVerne Kenon Sci

LaVerne Sci will be our featured presenter at the January Quarterly Meeting. (See article on back page.) An educator and resident of Beavercreek for 45 years, LaVerne functioned as the Historic Site manager and Steward of the Paul Laurence Dunbar Historical Site in Dayton, Ohio for 20 years. Employed by the Ohio Historical Society, she became a researcher and scholar of Dunbar's life and legacy. In 1994, frequently speaking to site visitors, she decided to capture her audiences by interpreting Dunbar through the memories of Miss Hallie Quinn Brown. Born in Jacksonville, FL, LaVerne came to Beavercreek in 1972 as a military wife. She traveled and worked in Japan and Okinawa, and has taught at various public schools as well as Fayetteville State University. LaVerne was honored as one of Dayton's Top Ten Outstanding Women and has been inducted into the Greene County Women's Hall of Fame. She and her husband, now retired Lt. Col Frank Sci, have three adult children - two daughters: LaFrae and LaTania, and a son, Kenon Travis.

## New Member

We welcome new member Karen Wolf. Thanks for joining, Karen; 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 2018. 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 12-31-2018**, thanks for renewing already! If it says **Exp 12-31-2017**, 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.



*Continued from page 1.* So the Kincer Duo (Jill and Wendell) set off early one morning to take a closer look and snap a few pictures. We had to park at the intersection of Alpha-Bell with Factory as the location of the posts along the curve allowed no safe spot to park. We hiked back up the road as cars whizzed by with drivers wondering what in the world those two folks were doing walking alongside that busy road at that time of day. Our close-up look revealed two things: (1) the nearly six foot tall posts almost certainly had been gate posts, not hitching posts as some had speculated. It was obvious that two of the posts had held hinges and the other had held a latch, and (2) the concrete was crumbling badly and what little remained of hinges and latches had severely rusted and was dangling dangerously. (See front page for closer photo details.)

Thus when the matter was discussed at the November BHS Board of Trustees meeting, it was sadly decided

that we would not undertake an effort to move and preserve these old landmarks. The time period represented by Wartinger Park is 1800-1855; these posts are most likely circa 1930 or 1940—not a period fit. Their size made the Board question where we could place them if they were able to be successfully moved, but there seemed to be no public site that would be appropriate. Their deteriorating condition made us seriously question if they could even survive a move and made us leery for safety issues if they were. Time, Ohio weather and a high-impact hit most likely made by an automobile had taken their toll. So with these facts, we sadly report that preserving the old gate posts from the Shoemaker Dairy will not become a project undertaken by our organization. Time rolls along, changes come; but many old timers might still recall when an active dairy farm occupied that land, even when the old gates who welcomed them are gone.

# Saluting Our Volunteers

Amy Rohrback

Four generations of the family at Living History (pictured left to right): Gerry, Emily, Amy, and Ava (foreground).



We're pleased to introduce you to Amy Rohrback, a fairly new member to the Historical Society and the woman who this fall successfully completed her first go-round as our Fall Living History Director. She also serves as co-Education Director on the Board of Trustees. We are surely pleased that she found her way to our organization, as she seems to be quite the right fit for that challenging position. She happens to be the second generation to take the reins of leading Living History, as her mother Gerry served in that position for 8 years.

She's a born and bred Beavercreek gal, whose family tree on her Mother's side goes way back into the mid-1800s with the Johannes Family who made their home on farmland situated off Trebein Road. Amy was raised by her father, the late Frank Jetter, and mother, Gerry Johannes Jetter Smalley, in a farm-like setting on the eastern end of Lantz Road. She reports her dad bought her a cow when she was young, and they had various other farm animals around. She remembers the family having an old style tractor and working to pick up potatoes that were ready for harvest. So sharing tales about farming life and harvesting potatoes with Beavercreek's third graders who come to Wartinger Park for Living History is a natural fit for Amy! (Although the timeline for Amy's growing up years and the Harshman children's growing up years that we focus on at Living History are quite distant, we must admit!)

Another aspect of pioneer life that is a focus of Living History is sewing - which is something she enjoys. Amy says that currently she is taking herself on a

"sewing adventure" trying some new approaches particularly as it relates to quilting. Informed about a apparatus called a long-arm quilter by one of the experienced Living History volunteers, Amy checked it out and has begun learning how to use it to quilt. She says with a smile that she has "quite a ways to go" before she is proficient.

Amy is a graduate of Beavercreek High School and Wright State University. She, like her mother before her, had a career in public education and taught for 31 years, retiring from Xenia City Schools in May of 2017. She and husband, Fred, have a son and a daughter, and two grandchildren who now attend Main Elementary School. In fact, those grandchildren are now the fifth generation of the family to attend Main. That's quite a legacy! The family enjoys traveling. A retirement gift to herself was a trip to Alaska. And for a special treat this past summer, they traveled to Tennessee to witness the full eclipse of the sun, accompanied by their two grandchildren. It was something Fred had been looking forward to since he first learned not quite 50 years ago in third grade that it was coming in 2017. The family is already looking ahead to 2024 when our Beavercreek area and the Rohrback backyard will be the primo spot to view another full eclipse.

We welcome Amy and thank her so very much for all the work she did to make the Fall program run so smoothly, as we thank all of you who volunteer with our organization in any way to help us preserve our past for the future!

# Two Generations Ago

# 1967

*The Beavercreek Historical Society sends monthly columns to the Beavercreek News-Current about things of interest fifty years, or two generations, ago in Beavercreek and tries to "bring them forward" for relevance today. This is a shortened summary of the columns covering October, November, and December of 1967 by Society member D. Shumway.*

Couldn't help but notice the girls' hairdos in 1967. Guys too! Yes, lots of hair, and those sideburns!

The Beavercreek Jaycees and "Jaycettes" were very prominent in Beavercreek in 1967. (Sorry for the sexist word, but that's what the women were called then. Later the Jaycees had both men and women and the diminutive was relegated to, well, history.) In Fall 1967 the Jaycees conducted a project to gather petitions for the establishment of a Beavercreek Township Park Board. By December the process had reached the point where they were soliciting nominees for the Board.

They also conducted the newly-organized Punt, Pass & Kick football challenge for kids, sponsored locally by a local Ford dealer.

Autumn prices at Lofino's grocery: Cider is 79¢ a gallon, go-with donuts are 19¢ a dozen, and candy apples are 10¢ each. For the family I probably bought a gallon, a dozen, and four, respectively, for \$1.38. Beavercreek IGA opened next to Beaver-Vu Bowl in November 1967, offering Miracle Whip for 38¢ and margarine for 10¢. Looks like Lofino's got some competition.

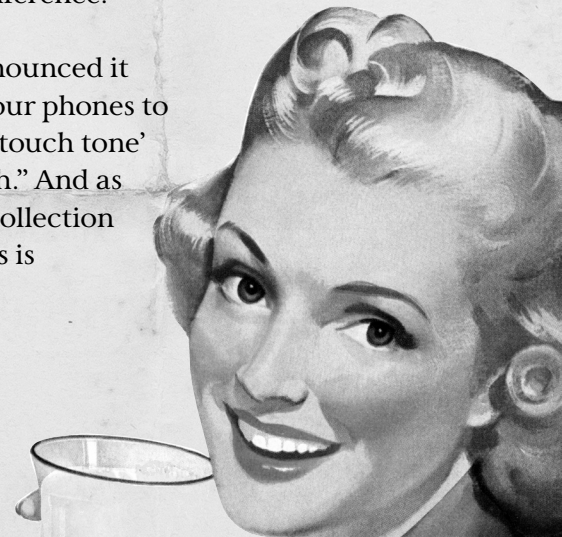
But Lofino's lasted a lot longer. Bringing it forward, Lofino's grew in 1970 to where the senior center and BCT is now, and later to the Beaver Valley shopping center. Charlie died in 2008 and Seajay Drive, for you newcomers, is named for Charles J. Lofino.

And new Zimmer Estates, billed as "total electric gold medallion homes" opened a model home. Bringing it forward, Zimmer now has about 2800 residents.

Remember the Belmont Drive-In? Remember ANY drive-ins? The Belmont is featuring "Blow Up" with Vanessa Redgrave "in color!" Of course, most passion pits like the Belmont are now long gone.

In sports, Beavercreek was excelling in the fledgling Western Ohio League (founded in 1964). In Fall 1967 the Beavers ended their football season 8-2, sharing the league title for the first time. Beavercreek guys have always been good at wrestling, and hosted the seventh Beavercreek Invitational. Of course they took the trophy ... for the fifth consecutive year. Bringing it forward, the WOL combined with the Greater Miami Valley Conference in 2011 to form the massive Greater Western Ohio Conference.

Hey! Ohio Bell announced it will "convert all your phones to something called 'touch tone' for \$1.50 per month." And as a special treat "A collection of decorator colors is available."





Two Generations Ago,  
continued from previous page.

The painful Beavercreek incorporation saga moved to the next phase as the separatist Valleywood incorporation petitions were challenged in court. (Note: The fascinating 18-year incorporation saga will be presented by guest speaker at the April Beavercreek Historical Society quarterly meeting.)

Unlike today, there was not a lot of commercial Christmas stuff going on months before December. However, in November 1967 both the Valleywood Boosters and the newly-established Beavercreek Chamber of Commerce announced Christmas decorating contests (the Boosters for homes and the Chamber for businesses).

What ever happened to the Carnegi's (I remember Izzy) who won the home decorating contest? Or to Phyllis Terrell, Beavercreek High School's Homecoming Queen of 1967?

AND, near the end of November the Beavercreek Jaycettes hosted their famous "Santa's Mini-Shop" where kids could buy inexpensive gifts for their parents with the help of elves. And Bernie the Clown was there! ... the iconic and charitable Bernie Miller who helped out with many local causes and childrens' events.

In the spirit of Christmas the Chamber of Commerce put up a 31-foot community Christmas tree on Dayton-Xenia. Standing around the tree in a picture are prominent Beavercreekers: Paul Dunnigan, Wilbur & Johnny Shoup, Bob Deal, and Dr. David Virgallito.

Also in Christmas spirit Paul Dunnigan of the iconic Dunnigan's Hardware is claiming "a gift for everyone on your list." That's good news if your list includes a power saw (\$29.99), or an automatic percolator or bun warmer (\$9.95). Not sure what a bun warmer is, but it conjures up images.

Not to be outdone, Knollwood Pharmacy advertised such gifts as "For men: Hi Karati, \$4." Remember Hi Karati? I thought it was really cool at the time. And, sexist as it may seem today, they advertised "Give your favorite blonde a bath: bubbles, powders, crystals ..." It's no wonder that pharmacy is long gone.

## ***Quite a Special Quilt Show Coming in June!***



We are delighted to announce that our wonderful long-time supporter and active 93-year old member Mr. Bob Zimmer and his family are working in cooperation with the Beavercreek Historical Society to bring Quite a Special Quilt Show to the Tobias-Zimmer Barn for a public display on June 9, 2018. On display will be Bob's personal handmade collection which as many of you who have seen his work in the past recognize as top quality. This will be the very first and final time for a showing of his quilts all in one place. When the public show closes at 4 p.m., Bob will be presenting the quilts individually to his family members in a private family gathering at the site. The BHS will have the cabins open for tours at the same time. Proceeds will help support Beavercreek Historical Society projects. So mark your calendars now. You won't want to miss this!

### **Save the Date**

Saturday, June 9, 2018 | 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
\$5.00 admission | Ages 12 and under free  
Wartinger Park in the Tobias-Zimmer Barn

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Quarterly Meeting, Jan. 23

Peace Lutheran Church 7:00 p.m.

Laverne Kenon Sci presents her portrayal of  
Hallie Quinn Brown.

### Board Meeting Mar. 8 & Apr. 12

1981 Dayton-Xenia Rd. at 6:30 p.m.

### Log by Log Submission Deadline, Mar. 16

Send to Editor no later than 9:00 p.m.

### Quarterly Meeting, Apr. 24

Peace Lutheran Church 7:00 p.m.

David Shumway presents *The Birth of a  
City—The History of how Beavercreek  
Became a City*

— Thank You —  
for your continued support!



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THE BEAVERCREEK  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S

# Quarterly Meeting

**When:** January 23, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. | **Where:** Peace Lutheran Church



## Hallie Quinn Brown Visits Our January Meeting

We will welcome LaVerne Sci portraying Hallie Quinn Brown at our January Quarterly Meeting on Tuesday, January 23. (See page 2 for our presenter's biography.) Hallie Quinn Brown (1854-1949) is perhaps among the least recognized but quite outstanding citizens of early Ohio and Greene County life. She was an abolitionist, speaker, educator, writer, political activist and a social reformer. Born to former slaves, Hallie graduated from Wilberforce in 1873. She taught in schools in the south as well as in Dayton Public Schools, and eventually was at Tuskegee Institute where she worked with Booker T. Washington. She traveled and lectured extensively in Europe and was twice presented to Queen Victoria. The library at Central State is named in her honor, and she was inducted into the Greene County Women's Hall of Fame posthumously in 2017. Be sure to come learn more about this fascinating and accomplished Greene County woman, so vividly portrayed by LaVerne Sci.