

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



Summer 2018  
Volume 27, Issue 3

BeavercreekHistoricalSociety.org

## A Natural with Textiles

Submitted by Becky Jarvi

Visitors to the Quilt Show and Open House on the 9th of June were delighted to find a very talented young man demonstrating the art of spinning on his Ashford spinning wheel in the Ankeney House. Luke Yancey is a student at Valley Elementary School. Following his class's Living History field trip last Fall Luke set out to seriously explore working with fiber. With his parents full support he taught himself how to knit and crochet by watching YouTube videos. By Christmas the only thing he asked for was a spinning wheel. A resourceful Mrs. Claus managed to fill his wish, finding the second hand Ashford. Before long Luke was successfully transforming wool fiber into lovely yarn that he plied and knitted into gifts for his Mother and other family members.

I learned about Luke's accomplishments and interests through a conversation with his Dad who had been a Living History chaperone for both Luke and his older sister. A few phone calls later followed by an

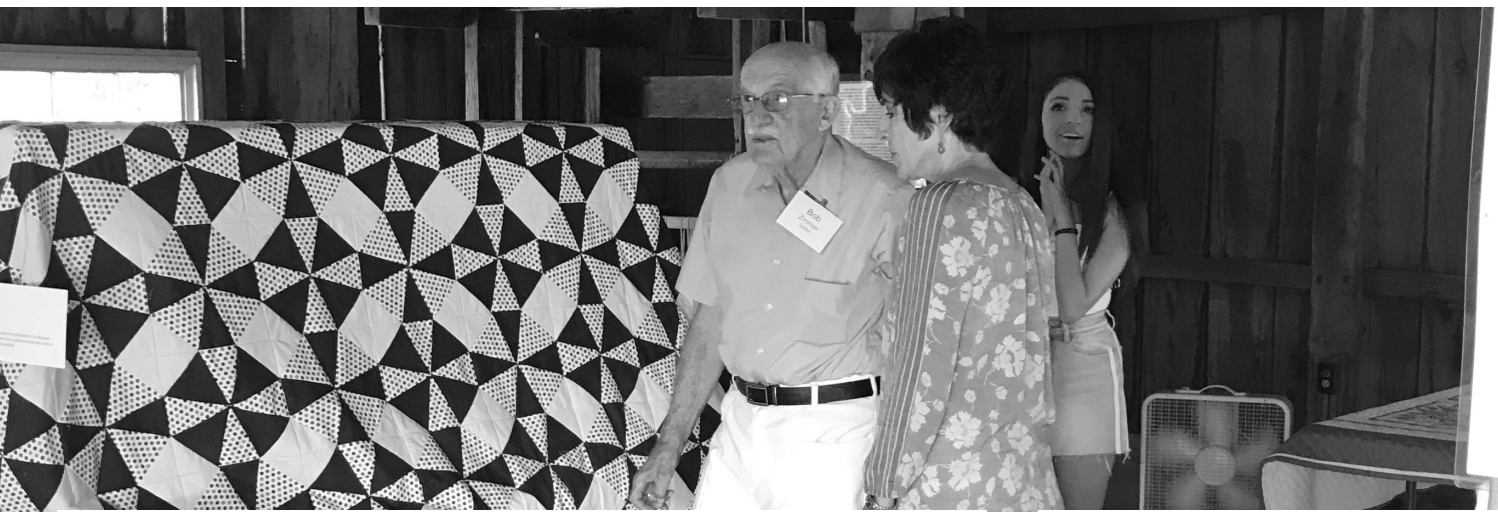


Luke Yancey with his spinning wheel.

article in the Dayton Daily News, Luke joined us on the 9th wearing a jaunty cap and suspenders in honor of the historical setting.

At the Open House I invited Luke to try his hand at spinning with the great wheel. I showed him how I do it and in about four minutes he said, "I think I've got it." Sure enough he was walking backward stretching the wool out with a long draw while turning the wheel and creating yarn. So then I asked if he would like to weave on the Devereux loom. With his dimpled smile and twinkling eyes he enthusiastically nodded yes. As you may already be surmising he took to it like ducks to water. Those of us watching were not only amazed by how quickly he understood the requirements of his hands and feet and the

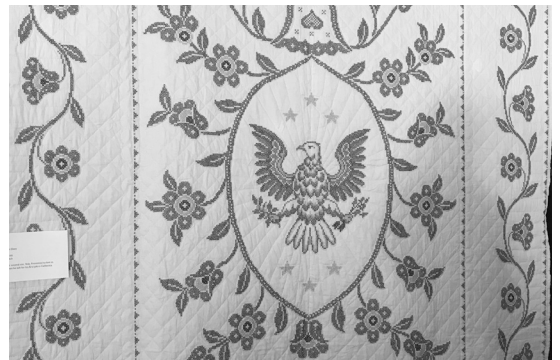
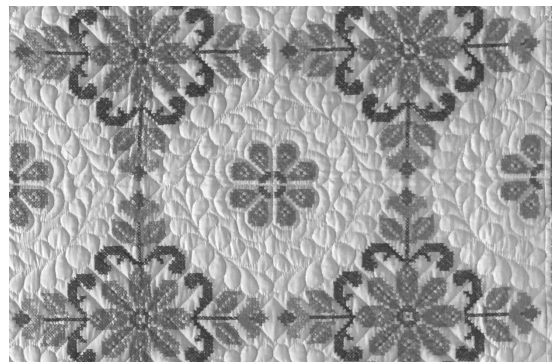
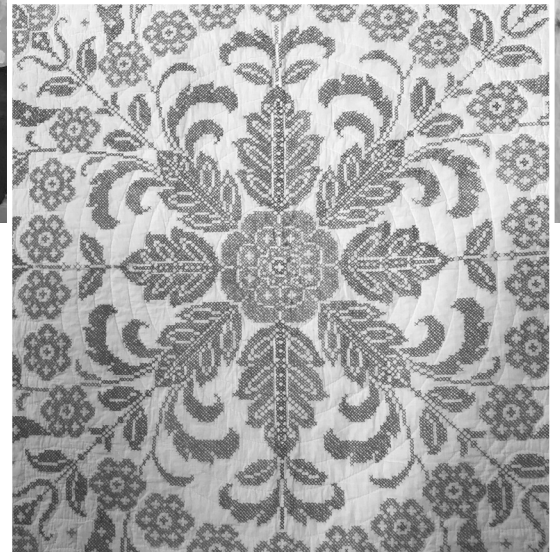
speed of his weaving. Eclipsing that, the weaving tension was lovely and the edges were perfectly straight. He emptied all of the bobbins I'd brought. It was a pleasure for all of us to watch him work and wonder what he will bring to the future. It is pure joy to see how our Living History program can inspire.



## Quite A Special Quilt Show Indeed!

The quilts created by our own Bob Zimmer displayed at Wartinger Park on June 9 surely lived up to the billing as Quite A Special Quilt Show. Approximately 400 people paid admission to the show, which does not include a count of the children who also attended at no charge. What a wonderful turnout on a beautiful day to celebrate Bob's talent as a quilt maker. Bob's daughter, Mary Henry, coordinated the quilt event in the barn while his grandson, Ryan Henry, came up with the plan for hanging and displaying the 26 quilts that allowed visitors to enjoy the colors and patterns and to see the fine details of his work. The park's landscape was alive with colorful neatly tended flower beds and herb garden, and the log homes as always added a connection of the present to the history of our community. And, of course, 9-year old Luke Yancey's presence in the Ankeney House demonstrating his spinning talents was a not-to-be missed part of the day. (See related article on front page.)

The Society is so very grateful to Bob for allowing us to share this event with the public, and for his generosity in donating the proceeds to the organization. His energy at age 93 is an inspiration to us all! We especially thank the entire Zimmer Family and the following folks who donated time and effort to making the day a pleasure for so many: Greene County Master Gardeners, Amber Carlos, Charles Carlos, Jo Ferguson, Helen Haun, Becky Jarvi, Jill Kincer, Wendell Kincer, Wendy Kirchoff, Charlene Montague, Anita O'Neal, Jerry Petrak, Gerry Petrak, Julie Vann, Nancy Wagner, Amanda Yancey, Luke Yancey, and City of Beavercreek Grounds Crew.



# Gremlins Interfere with Expiration Dates

Sometimes the strangest things happen when you least expect them. Such was the case with the disappearance of the expiration dates from mailing labels in the January 2018 Log by Log. Records showing members' names, addresses and expiration dates are kept on an Excel spreadsheet that is sent quarterly to our printing contractor. The company then prints the labels and affixes them to the newsletter. We have never had a problem with this method since we first began using it several years ago.

Well, "never" came to an end with our January issue. That's when the gremlins first appeared. The printer erred and no expiration dates were shown, which was problematic as readers were told in an article inside that edition to "check the mailing label" for their membership expiration. Apologies were received from printer.

Come the April issue, the pesky gremlins were still not to be denied. The printer did include expiration dates but some were incorrect and did not agree with what was sent to the firm. Some of you noted that and reported it to us. The company has again issued sincere apologies, promising to check and double check the matter before the final copies are run for the issue you are reading now. We are hoping that the third time is the charm with this summer issue. If yours is not correct, please let us know. Thanks!

## Wartinger Wakes!

Submitted by Amber Carlos



Our favorite park was quickly roused from its dozy winter slumber this April. Wartinger Park was abuzz, not only with the newly active bees and Robins of spring, but with Beaver Creek's third graders and the many valued volunteers of the Beaver Creek Historical Society. Students from Fairbrook, Parkwood and Shaw Elementary Schools laughed and learned, spun and churned, and giggled their way back to school with their goodies. They left Wartinger Park knowing how to turn cob corn into corn flour, plant potatoes, turn rags into dolls and quilts, spin wool into yarn, and knit such yarn into warm garments. These were all activities considered to be chores by actual pioneer children. Our children of 2018 were so enjoying these

activities that one group even decided to rename the six activities to: "Super Fun!", "Awesome!", "Too Cool!", "Grrreat!", "Totally Amazing!", and "Excellent!!" This joy can only be attributed to our volunteers, who could easily be described by every one of these same adjectives.

Deep gratitude goes out to all our volunteers, without whom this program could not exist: Bob Bader; Bobbie Carpenter; Amy Dommett; Amanda Garrett; Bill Hunt; Becky and Denny Jarvi; Sharon Jernigan; Edie Keast; Jill and Wendell Kincer; Don Kocarek; Holly Linquist; Doris Mitchell; Mary Lou Mohlman; Shannon Naik; Diane Phillips; John Rhodehamel; Amy Rohrback; Mike Self; Lisa Shearer; Wilma Stafford; Gerry Smalley; Janet Taylor; and Toni White.

Our gratitude is also extended to Wal-Mart of Beaver Creek for their donation of the vials for butter churning, the City of Beaver Creek for its continued improvements at Wartinger Park and the Master Gardeners for their hard work on the grounds.

### **Please save the dates and volunteer with us this Fall:**

Living History Set-Up Day - September 14, 9:00 a.m.  
Trebein Elementary - September 17, 18, 19, 20, 21  
Valley Elementary - September 24, 25, 26  
St. Luke Elementary - September 27, 28  
Main Elementary - October 3, 5, 9, 10  
Living History Clean Up Day - October 11, 9:00 a.m.

# This Place We Call Beavercreek

Submitted by Jeanne Wensits

It's probably not too surprising that Beavercreek has been known by several names before it officially became "Beavercreek." What is surprising is that there was a period of time when some folks referred to it by the puzzling name of "Push-On." Let's follow the long and winding road to see how various names came and went before this plot of ground was designated "Beavercreek".

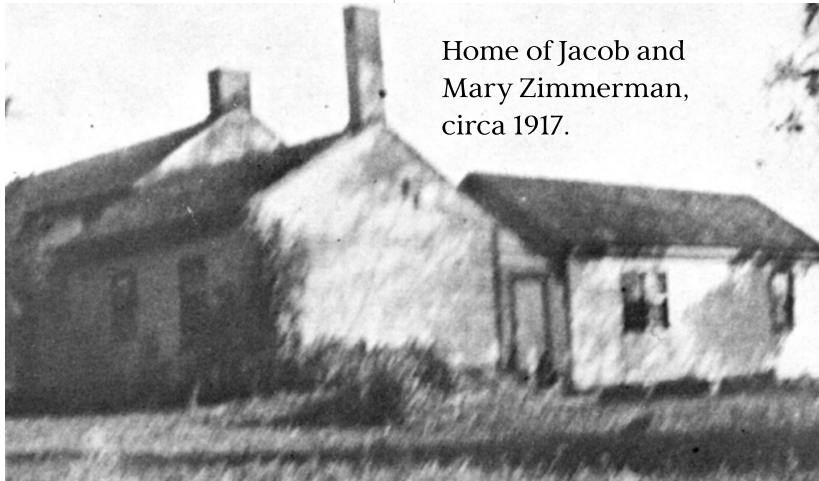
In the early 1800s Dayton-Xenia Road and Bellbrook-Fairfield Road (now called North Fairfield Road) were two of the major roads in the area. Where they intersected, a small hub of businesses and houses sprang up and the area was known as Zimmermanville after early settlers Jacob and Mary Zimmerman. Jacob ran a grocery and tavern in their house on the southeast corner of this intersection. Across Dayton-Xenia Road Samuel Tobias built a house on the northeast corner. By 1843 the Church of the Brethren was built on land donated by Jacob Zimmerman on the northwest corner. School #12, Zimmerman School, was also erected at this intersection. Sometime during this developmental process the tongue-twisting name, Zimmermanville, became just plain old Zimmerman.

The first railroad uniting the communities of Dayton and Xenia, the Dayton, Xenia & Belpre, was completed in 1853. Having a railroad chugging through the center of Zimmerman brought faster mail delivery and a need for a post office. Due to his house's proximity to the railroad Jacob Zimmerman became a Postmaster in addition to running the grocery and tavern. Taverns in those days were

strictly licensed by territorial law. Even before a public house could be established, the keeper needed to be recommended by twelve "respectable" freeholders of the county. Provisions for lodgers and horses were also included.

Now here's where the drama begins, as told by Harry Ferguson to Miss Helen Ankeney!

Late one evening a stranger stopped at the post office/grocery/tavern asking for lodging for the night? Zimmerman was busy. As a newly-made officer of the United States, he made short shift of the matter. "Push on! Push on, stranger. You can't get lodging here", he said, and went on with his mail distributing.



Home of Jacob and Mary Zimmerman, circa 1917.

His gruffness had its proper reward. The stranger did push on, and, at the next lodging place, he talked so loudly and so long about "that Push-on man" that the name stuck for years. Even to this day some of the old-timers, with a kind of chuckling relish, call Zimmerman "Push-on."

Originally the name "Beavercreek" referred to the broader Beavercreek Township, one of the first of four townships in this part of Ohio. With the Beaver Creek flowing along nearby, "Beavercreek" was a handy name to designate the new township. After a long legal struggle, in February 1980 a part of the township was incorporated and became the city of Beavercreek, thus eliminating the unfortunate possibility of ever having to tell people you were from some place called "Push-On, Ohio."

# 2018-2019 Officer Election Presents a Dilemma

Our Historical Society will be holding the election of officers for 2018-2019 at the July 24 Ice Cream Social/Annual Meeting. The slate of officers at our press deadline includes Roger Coy as Vice President; Karen Wolf as Secretary; and Wendy Kirchoff as Treasurer.

Our dilemma is that we currently have no candidate for President. The primary responsibility of the President is to prepare an agenda for and conduct the meetings of the Board of Trustees. This ensures that Board members have time to sit together as a team to communicate and share ideas and plans that promote the purpose of the organization. Each person who has held this office over the years has taken his/her own lead as to how heavily to be involved in various activities. There is no specific expectation for that person to chair or participate in any event, do public speaking, write newsletter articles, etc. The Board generally meets March through November, but if travel plans interfere, the

Vice President can conduct the meetings.

What's on the agenda for the coming year? Planning is already underway for our Living History program for Beaver Creek's third graders under the capable leadership of our Living History Directors, Amber Carlos and Amy Rohrback. We do not anticipate any large events or fundraising activities.

On-going major societal changes in how people socialize, work, spend family time and participate in their local communities have resulted in fewer people actively participating in long-established organizations. Our organization is not alone in experiencing this change. But we must recognize that the BHS proudly possesses many treasures of Beaver Creek's history. To ensure that we have an effective organization, we need a person to take on this role. Please give it serious consideration. Call Jill Kincer at 429-0291 if you need more information.

## Member News

We welcome new member Robert Hamilton! Thanks for joining, Robert.

Belated condolences to Brenda Durnbaugh on the passing of her husband, John, in January. The Durnbaugh family has deep roots in our community dating from the early 1800s, and we extend our sympathies to his entire family.

Congratulations to Amber Carlos on being honored with the 2018 Culture Award presented by the Beaver Creek Parks, Recreation & Culture Board at a recent Volunteer Recognition Program held at the Beaver Creek Golf Club. Amber's involvements in the Historical Society include her service as Co-Chair of the Education Committee/Spring Living History

Director, her work in chairing the highly successful Barn Sale last fall, and her efforts to revitalize our Society's Facebook page to promote appreciation and pride in our community's history to a broader audience. Well deserved, Amber!

Special thanks go out to members Jeanne Wensits and David Shumway who write local history-based special interest articles for our Log by Log. We continue to hear from our members about how much they enjoy reading our newsletter. Each article Jeanne and David submit takes time to research, sift through the information, and create a final draft to submit. They each do it so well. Thank you!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Board Meeting Jul. 12, Aug. 9, Sept. 13, Oct. 11  
1981 Dayton-Xenia Rd. at 6:30 p.m.

Annual Ice Cream Social, July 24  
Wartinger Park, Zimmer Barn 6:15 p.m.

Log by Log Submission Deadline, September 14  
Send to Editor no later than 9:00 p.m.

Living History Program  
Trebein Elementary September 17-21  
Valley Elementary September 24-26  
St. Luke Elementary September 27-28  
Main Elementary October 3, 5, 9-10

Quarterly Meeting, Oct. 23  
Peace Lutheran Church 7:00 p.m.  
Karl Colon presenting the history of the  
Beavercreek and Greene County Libraries



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BEAVERCREEK, OHIO 45432  
BeavercreekHistoricalSociety.org

*Thank You* for your continued support!

THE BEAVERCREEK  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S

# Quarterly Meeting

When: July 24, 2018 at 6:15 p.m. | Where: Tobias-Zimmer Barn



## Hear Ye Hear Ye!

All Members are welcome to attend the Annual Ice Cream Social and Quarterly Meeting of the Beavercreek Historical Society, chaired by Carolyn Fourman and assisted by Wendy Kirchoff.

Slate of Officers will be announced. Nominations from the floor are always welcome. Come enjoy ice cream sundaes and socialize with fellow members you haven't seen in months. Our newly improved tool case filled with our antique tools will be on display.

The event will take place July 24, 2018 at 6:15 p.m. at the Tobias-Zimmer Barn in Wartinger Park.