

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 2019
Volume 28, Issue 3

BeavercreekHistoricalSociety.org

Tornado Takes the Barn Down

Submitted by Jill Kincer

The devil winds of the Memorial Day tornado that blew through north Beavercreek on Monday, May 29, 2019, were sadly just too strong for the circa 1858 Tobias-Zimmer Barn to withstand. It came crashing down into a pile of roofing, beams, siding, electrical lights and historic treasures. Fortunately, most of the old tools and farm items on display in the barn were able to be salvaged. Amazingly, the refurbished display case full of antique hand tools featured in a recent newsletter survived intact under it all with just one pane of broken glass. The four log houses initially appeared to be intact, but the City will be inspecting them to insure stability and safety. As most of you know, the buildings at Wartinger are property of the City of Beavercreek; it is only the contents of those buildings that are property of the Society.



We thank all those who worked to pull valued old pieces of our collection from the rubble, including Park employees and a quickly assembled group of Historical Society members that included Mark & Ruth Wiley, Amber Carlos, David Shumway, Cathy & Rob Robinett, Wendell & Jill Kincer, Amy Rohrbach, and Jeanne Wensits. Special thanks to volunteers organized through Be Hope Church who showed up with chain saws and

energized people of all ages to make an initial attempt to begin clearing the massive tangle of torn and fallen trees amongst building rubble from who knows where.

Bob Zimmer has shared that he “cherishes the good memories we’ve had in that barn that stood a remarkable 161 years.”



Additional comparison photos of the Zimmer Barn on the next page.

New Members

Submitted by Sonya Veta,
Membership Chair

A warm welcome to new members **John Kronenberger, Rand Parker, and Heather Wiggins!** We look forward to getting acquainted with you at upcoming events.

Aftermath of the May 29 tornado.



Election of Officers Set for Annual Meeting

Candidates for 2019-20

President: Mark Wiley
Vice President: Roger Coy
Secretary: Mary Jean Henry
Treasurer: (Seeking a candidate)

The Annual Meeting to hold our officer election is approaching, now scheduled for **Thursday, July 25, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.** in the **Community Meeting Room at the new Lofino Plaza at 3868 Dayton-Xenia Road.** This meeting was originally planned as our traditional Ice Cream Social at the Zimmer Barn at Wartinger Park; but the Memorial Day Beaver Creek tornado certainly impacted and changed those plans, when the winds took the lovely old barn down to the ground!

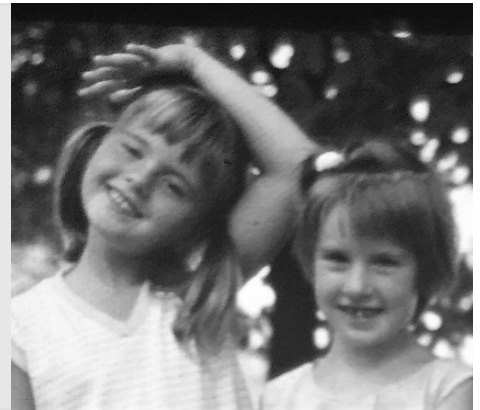
We are pleased that Mark Wiley, Roger Coy and Mary Jean Henry have agreed to have their names placed on the ballot. However, as we go to press for this newsletter, we are still seeking a candidate for the office of Treasurer. Wendy Kirchoff, our outgoing Treasurer, has been a tireless and dedicated leader in this position since 2010. She feels it is now time for her to step aside. We certainly thank Wendy for her years of faithful service! If you are interested in serving the organization in this role, know of someone else who would be willing to serve, or want further information about what the job entails, please contact either Wendy personally at 937-429-1520 or President Mark Wiley at 937-608-4498. As always, nominations will be taken from the floor for all positions.

Please place this event on your calendar. It is vital to the success of the organization that we have our membership strongly involved to share input and ideas with Board Members. Please plan to attend!

The Traffic Safety Committee and the Origin of the Beavercreek Women's League: Part Two

Submitted by Bob Bader

***Editor's Note:** Part One was previously published in the Spring 2019 Issue of the Log by Log. Author Bob Bader began by sharing the story of a young Beavercreek child named Patti Sue Johnson who when riding her bike on a neighborhood street ended up wrecking into a ditch when a speeding car barely missed hitting her. Patti Sue was a friend and neighbor of Bob's young daughter Anne; both of whom are pictured here. (Patti Sue on the left and Anne on the right). It was that incident that triggered many events to follow. In case you missed Part One, please go online to www.BeavercreekHistoricalSociety.com, click on Spring 2019 Newsletter.*



While the newly formed Traffic Safety Committee was active the summer of 1969 and as more women became interested in becoming active in community affairs, conversations were being held about forming a community action group. With the encouragement of Gene Bryant, who lived on Fudge Drive around the corner from the Baders, Bob Bennet, and Gene Wilson, the idea of a women's group evolved as there were already men's service groups in Beavercreek. These three men became the advisors to the group. Additional meetings and discussions were held that led to an organizing meeting on October 1, 1969 at Laura Bader's home with 13 women in attendance. Temporary officers were elected and a constitution and bylaws were discussed.

A community call for interested women was held October 22, 1969 at the Beavercreek Church of the Brethren on Dayton-Xenia Road with 20 women in attendance where the purpose of the new organization was explained by Pat Johnson, the acting President. Chris Mitsoff, the editor of the Beavercreek News, is credited with the origin of the name Beavercreek Women's League. At the next meeting held on November 5, 1969, again at the Beavercreek Church of the Brethren, the constitution and bylaws were presented and approved, and the nominating committee's proposed officers

were accepted. The officers elected appear in the photo. Front row: President Pat Johnson, Recording Secretary Mary Brown; Back Row: Corresponding Secretary Nancy Sievers, 2nd Vice President Claudia Birkeland, 1st Vice President Laura Bader, and Treasurer Alice Klentzman.



Alice Klentzman drafted the Application for Incorporation with the incorporators being Laura Bader, Claudia Birkeland and Alice Klentzman. Alice was also designated as the Statutory Agent. This formal paperwork was filed with the State of Ohio. ***Continue reading on page 4.***

Incorporation of the Beavercreek Women's League, or BWL as it came to be called, was granted effective in May 12, 1970. The purpose of the organization today has remained the same as stated in the original application. The Traffic Safety Committee continued its efforts as a committee in the BWL; and as a result of studies and surveys conducted to address the needs and desires of the community, new committees with other goals were eventually formed. Other than the community meetings held at the Beavercreek Church of the Brethren, most organizational discussions and meetings and eventually the BWL monthly meetings for the next few years were held at Laura's home on Penny Drive. The author referred to their residence as the Penny Drive Community Center.

As their activities continued, the Traffic Safety Committee became aware of the problem caused by drunk drivers, and in 1970, that committee declared war. During the early 1970s about half of the 55,000 traffic fatalities per year in the United States were attributed to drunk drivers. This was not only a national problem, it was also a local problem. Of all the Ohio State Highway Patrol Posts in Ohio, the Xenia Post recorded the largest number of arrests for drunk driving in the state of Ohio. The problem was that convictions were a small percentage of those arrested. One missing link was the lack of visual evidence of the driver's impairment when the driver was stopped as being suspected of driving under the influence. Those arrested would appear in court neat, clean, well dressed, orderly and in command of their senses, much different in most cases when compared to their appearance when arrested. The solution was video-taping the arrest.

The committee met with police, judges and government officials to determine how they could impact that issue locally. Thus was born the BWL's Video Tape Recording Project: purchasing equipment to record the actions of a driver suspected to be under the influence. Working with the Highway Patrol, video tape recording equipment specifications were established and a fund raising effort was initiated.

The approval of a federal grant for \$3,750 was announced by Governor Gilligan and added to the locally raised funds of \$1,250 to achieve the goal of \$5,000. The equipment was then purchased and used by the Xenia Post of the Ohio Highway Patrol and available to other law enforcement agencies.

The equipment shown in the photo is being

demonstrated to Laura and to Lt. Yingling, Commander of the Xenia Highway Patrol. During that period the State passed legislation lowering the blood alcohol content and legalizing the use of video tape recording equipment as a law enforcement tool. The BWL's Traffic Safety Committee was at the vanguard of this State of Ohio initiative!



While this article focuses on the Traffic Safety Committee (TSC), it is not intended to minimize the efforts of other activities of the BWL during those early months. Traffic Safety was of such intense interest that it was a magnet for these women to focus their actions. In addition, some early information about the TSC resurfaced after all these years and is added to the story.

References:

1. Beavercreek Women's League archives, Wright State University
2. Personal files and recollections of Laura and Bob Bader
3. Ohio State Highway Patrol History, 1933-1993, page 58

Legislation passed at this time would also have a significant impact on operations. In December 1971, passage of Senate Bill 14 tightened OMVI (Operating a Motor Vehicle while Intoxicated) laws, lowering the presumptive allowable blood-alcohol level from .15 to .10. This legislation came as the division was completing its first year of a renewed effort to rid the highways of impaired drivers. The drive began in earnest in early 1971, and resulted in a 46.5 percent increase in OMVI arrests for that year. Shortly after, the division began placing videotape recording equipment in posts to record the actions of OMVI suspects.



Happy 50th Birthday Wishes to the Beavercreek Women's League, from the Beavercreek Historical Society

Submitted by Jill Kincer

The Beavercreek Historical Society, founded in 1985, is proud to share the detailed information which was researched, assembled and written by Bob Bader about the Beavercreek Women's League's early days as a community organization. Part One of that story previously appeared in the Spring 2019 Log by Log newsletter, and Part Two appears in this issue. Bob is the husband of Laura Bader, one of the original founders of the BWL, and we thank him for the wonderful work to bring all this valued information to us to share with our readers.

The Women's League (or BWL as it is known) for many years monetarily aided our organization with funds used for providing supplies for the Living History Program which serves all Beavercreek third graders, teaching them the history of their community in the historic log homes at Wartinger Park. In 2015, a generous donation of \$500 was received from the BWL to assist with costs of the informational signage that was erected at the park to easily share information about Beavercreek's past with park visitors. The League provided total funding for an interpretive public performance of Rusty Cottrel as Black Hoof, Shawnee Chief in the barn at Wartinger Park in 2016, allowing free entrance for all attendees.

We salute the BWL organization for their contributions to our organization and the Beavercreek community as a whole through their endeavors and wish it continued success as it heads into the future.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Call for Submissions

The Log by Log wants your submissions for future issues! The quarterly newsletter relies on these submissions to make up each issue to provide readers with interesting historical tidbits as well as upcoming/past events. History, little-known-facts, interviews, and even stories about growing up in Beavercreek are welcome! Please submit articles and photos to the editor: b.joh88@gmail.com

*Log by Log
Submissions
Deadline:*

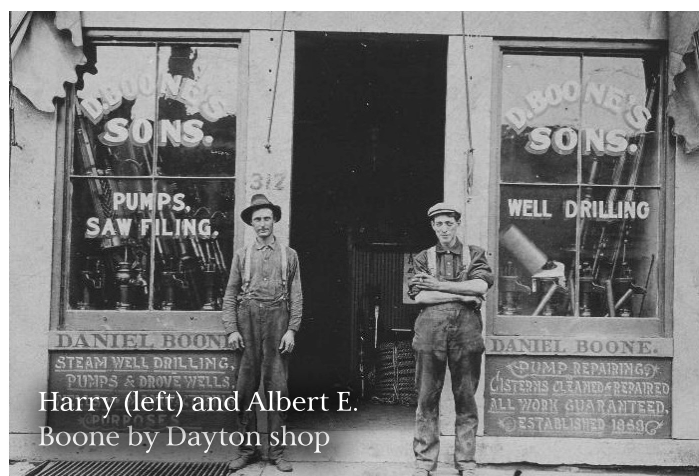
September 13, 2019

The Boones' Well-Drilling Company:

A Journey

Submitted by Jeanne Wensits

Their story starts in 1817 in Front Royal, Virginia, the birth place of Daniel Boone (no, not the frontiersman). He became a pump maker by trade and moved to the Dayton area around 1840. His son, Daniel Boone, Jr., born in Dayton in 1847, later enlisted in the Army and served in the Civil War until the war ended. In the spring of 1868 he returned to Dayton and founded what is now Boone Water Systems. His oldest son, Albert E. Boone, later took over the business from his father. Albert was joined subsequently by his younger brother Harry Boone and they both worked at their shop aptly named D. Boone's Sons. The shop stood at 312 S. Wayne Ave. where these days we would hear traffic on nearby Route 35 noisily crossing overhead.



Harry (left) and Albert E. Boone by Dayton shop

But the moving saga doesn't end there. Around the early 1920s it became apparent to Albert Boone, Sr. that much of their business came from the Beavercreek area, where the population was expanding and the wells there needed to be updated. He bought property on the south side of Dayton Pike in the area referred to as Knollwood. On that plot of ground he built his shop in 1928 and his house in 1929. Albert E. Boone, Jr. was born there in 1930.

The house must have been spectacular for the times.

If one were to look closely at the brick walls, they'd be surprised to see rough rocks displaying seashell fossils dispersed among the bricks. Al, Sr. brought the ancient rocks back from Clifton Gorge. And looking upward to the stucco areas, they'd spy real seashells imbedded there that he'd collected from the beaches near Punta Gorda, Florida.

Behind the house stood the shop where the Albert E. Boone Well Drilling Contractors business operated. The 1931 picture of the newly-built shop shows Al, Jr. as a baby sitting precariously on a big rig supported by his mother Wilma. Another picture features 5-year-old Al, Jr. on a bench between his parents in the front yard. Note the stylish rocks-and-shells-



Al, Jr., and his mother in front of Beavercreek shop - 1931

enhanced house behind them. Today if we were standing where the person taking that picture had stood, instead of the narrow Dayton Pike and open fields in the distance we'd see Knollwood Garden Center sitting near busy Dayton-Xenia Road.

The business was going strong when the house was built but along came the Great Depression and as Al, Jr. says today, "The business dried up." People had less money to spend and did whatever they could to get by. That included the Boone family.



Wilma, Al, Jr., and Al, Sr., in
their front yard - 1935

After Prohibition was repealed in 1933 Al, Sr. opened Boone's Garden in the back yard between the house and the shop. A five-piece band played on the concrete dance floor and a kitchenette was added to the back of the house for beer and refreshments.

When the Depression finally ended in 1939, the company once more grew in prosperity by adapting to the residential and commercial water system needs in the area. By the 1940s, respect for the company was such that it was contracted by NCR's Colonel Edward Deeds to bore soil core samples to see if the proposed site could hold the weight of the Carillon Tower in Dayton.

Al, Sr. passed away in 1950 leaving the business to Al, Jr. who was only 19 years old and in the Air Force at the time. For the next several years hard decisions had to be made. This is where a move of an entirely different sort comes into play.

The front portion of the property was sold to Sohio, the earliest component of the Standard Oil Company,

with the stipulation that the house be moved to a different location. In 1964 the large house, minus the kitchenette and sun room, was loaded on a flat-deck trailer and driven slowly over a mile up N. Longview St. and around to Knollwood Dr. Some excitement ensued when the trailer skidded on the road and nearly off-loaded the house prematurely. None of the Boone family has lived in the building since the move. The house was purchased in 1993 by Rod and Barb Tinch who modernized and lovingly restored it to its former glory.

Back on Dayton-Xenia Rd. a Sohio gas station arose where the house had stood. Then it became Tom Rice's auto repair shop. Now you'll find Murphy's Auto Care there.

Behind Murphy's Auto Care you'll still see the 4-bay building where the Boones had run their operations into the 2000s. What you don't see is the large sign on it proclaiming ALBERT E. BOONE WELL DRILLING CONTRACTORS. Now vinyl siding covers the sign as well as the shop.



Al, Jr. retired in 1995 with the shop bulging at its seams. Al Boone III moved the business, now officially called Boone Water Systems, to ten acres on Van Eaton Rd. just outside Beavercreek in Spring Valley Township. Their service area and capabilities have since been greatly expanded. His two sons, Albert E. Boone IV and Travis W. Boone, are officers in the business that has traveled a long and winding road to where it is still thriving today.



Two Generations Ago: Spring 1969

A shortened form of a regular column by member David Shumway, published in the Beavercreek News-Current.

Ah, spring, when a young man's fancy turns to thoughts of ... basketball. Yes, UCLA beat Purdue for the national championship to culminate 1969's "March Madness." (Yes, it was already called that.)

Intriguing Oscars this year. A tie for best actress among two of the best ever: Katherine Hepburn for "The Lion in Winter" and Barbra Streisand for "Funny Girl." Oh yeah, and "Oliver" won best pic.

A couple grocery prices as usual: Eggs are 49¢/dozen, and the go-with bacon is 59¢/lb. Bringing that forward, eggs are still about that today on sale, but bringing home the bacon will cost over \$6.00. Alternatively, we could have Wheaties for breakfast for 25¢ (now a box will cost you \$3.89; something's definitely wrong there).

My Beavercreek Jaycees are extremely active this spring, sponsoring and running a fishing derby, an Easter egg hunt (at Fairbrook School on Bellbrook-Fairfield Road), and an advanced shooter education program for 340 boys & girls, unfortunately now stressing competition rather than safety. I especially remember the Easter egg hunt, coloring over 1000 eggs in splashy washtubs of colorful dyes.

Jaycees also are hosting 10-mile canoe races on the Little Miami River, partially to promote the newly-

protected river and partially for fun. Among the events are "women's races on shortened course." (Ha! Not today!)

A 5% Certificate of Deposit is typical in this year of 1969, but strangely passbook savings are nearly that, 4.75%. Bringing that forward, well, if you want a laugh just ask your bank for either of those rates.

Beavercreek's growing pains continue. Rezoning is requested for the SW corner of County Line and Indian Ripple (years later to be The Greene), and arguments abound about the new bisecting Interstate highway. And a court case is pending on the incorporation of "Valleywood," made up of the Apple Valley and Woodhaven neighborhoods. (That suit by a resident was just one roadblock in Beavercreek's 18-year incorporation saga, artfully documented in "Birth of a City" by a not-at-all-famous author.)

Breaking news! A tornado just ripped through the area; no fatalities, but it leveled many homes. Bringing that forward, I had totally forgotten about that, as it was overshadowed by the much-worse Xenia tornado five years later.

To Each Our Own Favorite Take-Aways

Submitted by Amber Carlos

Another spring session of Living History is now, well ... history. The children come each spring, and take in fascinating bits of pioneer know-how. They then love going home with their pioneer projects. They adore the ragdolls, which they hand-tied themselves. They talk of gifting the quilt squares they hand-stitched. Even the simple corn meal they shelled and ground themselves is a cherished memento. They proudly compare their hand-spun wool threads. Devouring the butter they hand-churned, on a slice of fresh, fragrant bread is always a hit! And, after their picnic lunch, some actually forego recess altogether to pull out their knitting and continue their work.

My own favorite take-aways from the program are the little tidbits of knowledge I glean from all the incredible volunteers. I tuck little things I hear from each of them into memory and incorporate them into different parts of the day. You can see it in the faces of the children when something truly engages them. It could be what a certain tool does, like the antique potato cutter, used to whack each whole spud into small portions to be planted. Or, the little cotton ball that gets tucked into the ragdoll for a head. One volunteer called it "the brains" and the kids thought that was so funny! We are truly grateful to have so many creative, good natured and dedicated volunteers.

Our deep gratitude goes out to all our volunteers, without whom this program could not exist:

Bobbie Carpenter	Cheryl Keggan	Traudl Schrick
Jill Cobb	Jill & Wendell Kincer	Mike Self
Amy Dommett	Don Kocarek	Lisa Shearer
Sarah Gregga	Holly Linqvist	Wilma Stafford
Helen Haun	Doris Mitchell	Gerry & Bill Smalley
Jeri Hausman	Mary Lou Mohlman	Janet Taylor
Bill Hunt	Diane Phillips	Toni White
Becky & Denny Jarvi	John Rhodehamel	Sarah Wrona
Sharon Jernigan	Shirley Richardson-McCort	
Edie Keast	Amy Rohrback	

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

Save the Date: Fall Living History

We hope that Fall Living History will proceed at Wartinger Park. However, that is totally dependent upon the City's ability to safely and officially reopen the park. Barring any unexpected circumstances, we hope to be able to host our community's third graders at the park this Fall.

Volunteer with us this Fall!

Valley Elementary – Sept. 16, 17, 18, 19
St. Luke Elementary – Sept. 26, 27
Main Elementary – Sept. 30, Oct. 1, 2, 3
Trebein Elementary – Oct. 7, 8, 9, 10, 11

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Board Meeting July 11, August 8, September 9,
October 10**

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

Annual Meeting, July 25

Lofino Plaza, 3868 Dayton-Xenia Rd. at 7:00 p.m.

*Program: Wartinger Park Update/1996 Video of
Zimmer Barn*

Fall Living History

Valley Elementary – Sept. 16, 17, 18, 19

St. Luke Elementary – Sept. 26, 27

Main Elementary – Sept. 30, Oct. 1, 2, 3

Trebein Elementary – Oct. 7, 8, 9, 10, 11

Log by Log Submission Deadline, September 13

*Send to Editor, at bjoh88@gmail.com, no later
than 9:00 p.m.*

Quarterly Meeting, October 22

Peace Lutheran Church at 6:30 p.m.

Cassie Barlow, presenting Saluting our Grandmas



1368 RESEARCH PARK DRIVE
BEAVERCREEK, OHIO 45432
BeavercreekHistoricalSociety.org

Thank You

THE BEAVERCREEK
HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S

Quarterly Meeting

When: July 25, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. | **Where:** Lofino Plaza Community Meeting Room

Video of 1996 Barn Relocation Feature



Calling all members! We need you! It is time again to gather together to elect officers for the coming year, and we will reminisce about the Tobias-Zimmer Barn that was lost in the recent tornado. We will be showing the 1996 video taken of the barn being moved from its original location to Wartinger Park. You will want to see how it was moved and hear the dialogue as the old barn rolled along in one piece over the fields of Beaver Creek!

Parks Director Kim Farrell will be present to discuss the current status of the site. The Annual Meeting, traditionally held at the barn at Wartinger, will instead be held this year at the Community Meeting Room at **Lofino Plaza, 3868 Dayton-Xenia Road in Beaver Creek, Thursday July 25, beginning at 7 p.m.** The door of the building located nearest to Dayton-Xenia Road is the one you want to use; NOT the canopied entrance to the Senior Center. Information on candidates for office is available elsewhere in this issue. Hope to see you there!