

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



Fall 2019  
Volume 28, Issue 4

[BeavercreekHistoricalSociety.org](http://BeavercreekHistoricalSociety.org)

## Honoring Robert J. Bader

Robert (Bob) Bader passed away July 31, 2019. He made countless contributions to the Beavercreek Historical Society. He was a member of the Board of Trustees for many years, serving eighteen years as Treasurer. He served as Statutory Agent, and at the time of his passing was the Site Manager at Wartinger Park. He chaired and guided the Sign Committee that in recent years created and erected self-guided tour signs with details about the buildings, early history of Beavercreek and Wartinger Park. He was a true jack-of-all trades volunteer. His love of history, attention to detail, his gentle manner, his approach to working with many types of people and tireless efforts to make things work well, made him a highly valued and trusted member. Our condolences to his wife, Laura, daughters Anne and Karen, and their families on their loss. We too shall miss him.

**Personal Note from the Editor:** Bob's contributions to the Log by Log were deeply appreciated. He was passionate about his writings and always was an absolute pleasure to work with, sharing his energy and enthusiasm.



## New Members

We are happy to welcome two new members, Patrick Bittner representing Greene County United Way and Gerald Coy. We look forward to having you become involved as part of our organization.

## Log by Log Submissions Due December 13, 2019

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](mailto:b.joh88@gmail.com)

# Welcome New Secretary Mary Henry!

Welcome to our new Board Secretary, **Mary (Zimmer) Henry**. Mary recently became a lifetime member of the Beaver Creek Historical Society and volunteered her services as Board Secretary in July.

Mary is a good fit with the Society—she has a fondness for “old” things and loves American history. She is proud to belong to one of the early families of Beaver Creek and is the daughter of Agnes and J. Robert “Bob” Zimmer. Bob is a familiar face in Beaver Creek and a longtime active member of the Society.

Growing up in Beaver Creek, Mary attended St. Luke’s Elementary School and Carroll High School, where she met her wonderful husband, Patrick Henry from Xenia. They married in 1976 and have two wonderful children who live locally with their wonderful spouses. The wonderful grandchildren arrived a few years ago and Mary spends free time playing with three-year-old Nora and one-year-old Evan.

After marriage and children, Mary earned degrees from Sinclair Community College and Wright State University, as she believes that education is key to a fulfilling life. She has been employed at Wright State for the past 20 years, currently working in the Office of Advancement, securing gift funding from foundations and corporations. (Upon arriving at Wright State, she also discovered their Special Collections and Archives Center and loves to hang out there.)

Mary has always been active in the community, with previous employment at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and the former Mary Help of Christians School in Fairborn. Volunteer service has included the Association of Fundraising Professionals, the Dayton Defense Educational Foundation, and the Fairborn Art Association.

Residing in Springfield, Mary enjoys working out, reading historical fiction and nonfiction, traveling, and spending time with family and friends.

## Get to Know the Presenters: Cassie Barlow

Dr. Cassie B. Barlow is the President of the Southwestern Ohio Council for Higher Education. Through SOCHE’s multiple programs, Dr. Barlow is focused on collaboration among SOCHE’s 23 College and University members as well as professional development of faculty and staff and workforce needs of the almost 200,000 students at the regional institutions.

Dr. Barlow is familiar with leading multiple activities. She was the 88th Air Base Wing and Installation Commander, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (WPAFB), OH. In that role, she commanded one of the largest air base wings in the Air Force with more than 5,000 Air Force military, civilian, and contractor employees. Dr. Barlow retired from active duty with the US Air Force as colonel in 2014.

Dr. Barlow was commissioned in 1988 as a distinguished graduate of Georgetown University, Washington, DC. Following graduation, she was assigned to her first of 13 assignments spanning the world.

Dr. Barlow earned a Bachelor of Psychology degree from Georgetown University, Washington, DC; Master of Clinical Psychology degree from Chapman University, Orange County, CA; and Ph.D. from Rice University, Houston, TX. She also earned masters degrees in Military Operational Art and Science, Air Command and Staff College, AL, and in National Security, Industrial College of the Armed Forces, Washington, DC.

# Annual Meeting & 2019-2020 Officers!

*Submitted by David Shumway*

The Society held its annual meeting on July 25th 2019, but with several changes from previous years. Due to the demise of the Tobias-Zimmer barn in Wartinger Park, the members visited the City's new large meeting room in Lofino Plaza. No, there was not an ice cream social, but lots of fattening goods (and bottled water) were available to the approximately 40 members and several guests.

The primary business was the election of officers for the 2019-2020 year. Three of the current officers were willing to be placed in nomination; one nomination was received for Secretary (Karen Wolf was not running again). With no further nominations, the slate was elected by acclamation: President Mark Wiley; Vice-President Roger Coy; Treasurer Wendy Kirchoff; and Secretary Mary Jane Henry.



A report on Wartinger Park was presented by Beaver Creek Assistant Parks Superintendent Zach Wike. The park is now open to the public! All tree debris has been removed and there is little damage to the other buildings; landscaping needs work. (Editor's Note: Further progress reports have been made since the annual meeting.) That means the fall sessions of Living History will proceed in October with minimal

modification; obviously the barn can't be used.

Apparently discussions are underway about whether to rebuild the barn in some form, or merely to build a covered pavilion on the site's foundation. Of course, the barn was owned by the City and is the City's responsibility. Any reconstruction or other use of the area is up to the City, with consideration of the insurance and the Park's budget. Stay tuned.

Speaking of the barn, the featured program for the evening was a fascinating and sometimes suspenseful video of the 1996 moving of the barn to the park from the Zimmer farm (previously the Tobias farm; hence the hyphenated "Tobias-Zimmer" barn).

The video featured narration by participants, including historical insights by owner Bob Zimmer, accompanied by his dog and even his granddaughter. AND, Bob himself was present at the meeting, watching his somewhat younger self.



So in the space of two months we have seen the barn on its original property and 1996 condition, to its restored condition at Wartinger Park, to its catastrophic demolition by the Memorial Day tornado. With optimism we hope that the barn may rise again. Ah, history!

## Fall Living History is on!

Despite the Memorial Day tornado destroying the Tobias-Zimmer barn, the Living History Program conducted by volunteers for the Beaver Creek Historical Society will go on as planned. Monday, September 16th, 2019 marked the beginning of the educational program for Beaver Creek third graders from Main, St. Luke, Trebein and Valley Elementary schools. Students will experience what life may have been like for the early settlers of Beaver Creek. The students will participate in six chores including gardening, making a rag doll, quilting, spinning yarn, finger knitting and making butter. Volunteers are needed to instruct the children in these areas. If you would be interested in helping with this educational program, please contact **Amy Rohrback at 937-477-1007 or email [livinghistorybhs@gmail.com](mailto:livinghistorybhs@gmail.com)**. The Fall program runs through October 11, 2019.

# Two Generations Ago: Fall 1969

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

Breaking news! The barrel reclamation facility (later to go down in history as the “barrel factory”) went up in an explosive blaze September 30th. (Coming forward: I watched it from my hillside front-yard, and the pollution from it is still being monitored.)

In national sports news, “Broadway Joe” Namath just retired, but his “retirement” lasted only until the season’s practice.

Locally, after beating Carroll 22-14 in their first game, the Beavercreek footballers went 3-0 before losing to nemesis Wayne, then shut out Fairmont East at Homecoming. All hail Homecoming queen Holly Ashworth!

Getting towards fall harvest, and the old standby Jonathan apples are 49¢ for a three pound bag. (Bringing that forward, many new varieties now, all costing a bit more than that. Trader Joe’s has varieties called piñata, jazz, pink lady, and envy.)

Dunnigan Hardware is having moving sales both before and after their October 18th move to their new store. Probably will have lots of Christmas ideas.

Ah, two of my old faves: Frosty root beer or Orange Crush, a six-pack (of glass bottles of course), 49¢.

Incorporation is stagnant, tied up in courts over the proposed incorporation of Valleywood. But my Jaycees are selling “Merchant Books” to raise funds. (Bringing that forward: Legal fees were the greatest expense of our lengthy litigious incorporation.)

A grocery ad titled “Your Trick or Treat Center” is touting ground beef at 69¢ a pound. I know we didn’t always give out candy, but ...

Out at the new WSU, three buildings are planned to add to Allyn Hall: A creative arts center, a learning center with library and (wow!) computers, and a “teaching gymnasium/natatorium.” I guess we had to make it “teaching” to sound academic.

The new Ankeney “Junior High School” was dedicated on November 2 in this year of 1969. (Bringing that forward, it was renamed a middle school in 1999, along with its partner, Ferguson Junior High School. Now Ferguson houses high-school frosh, and we have the new Jacob Coy Middle School.)

Fall also means November elections, and an issue on this 1969 ballot to lower Ohio’s voting age from 21 to 19 has just failed. (Oh well, eventually ... )

## JOIN THE BEAVERCREEK HISTORICAL SOCIETY TODAY!

Annual memberships begin January 1 and expire December 31 each year. We value your membership as it helps support the many activities of the organization. **Contributions are tax deductible.** Please send your check & this form to: **Beavercreek Historical Society, 789 Orchard Lane, Beavercreek, OH 45434.**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Tax-Deductible Amount:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** (Please print plainly) \_\_\_\_\_



For more info call 937-427-5514.

**Annual Memberships:** ☐ \$20 Individual ☐ \$25 Family

☐ \$50 Group/Organization **OR Lifetime Membership** ☐ \$500 & above

**Please check one:**

☐ New Membership ☐ Renewal

# Will and Testament of Jacob Darst

A handwritten will signed by Jacob Darst confirmed in 1852 was found in the files of Jack (John) Darst—the last of the Darst family—by wife Betty Darst. Betty had been doing research prior to donating an original chair from the schoolhouse on Grange Hall Road and Indian Ripple Road when she found the will. Fascinated by the beautiful handwriting and subject, Betty went on to transcribe the document as best as she could make of the writing. With no punctuation and lengthy repetitive paragraphs, parts of the document were hard to decipher.

Jacob Darst came to the Beavercreek area in 1804 after serving in the American Revolution. He and wife Mary Darst had owned extensive land in the area of Darst Road east of Indian Ripple. After Mary's death, Jacob married Ruhannah Darst who is listed as his widow on the will. The will details how his property and wealth will be distributed between his wife Ruhannah and their 12 children.

Proceedings were held in the Probate Court before Judge James W. Harper on June 16, 1852. The last will and testament was witnessed by Frederick Hawker and Charles Long. It is established that Ruhannah is of sound mind and memory in agreeance with the will of her husband.

In the will, son-in-law David Huston and son Abraham Darst have been appointed as executors. It is established that all debts and funeral expenses will be paid by the executor(s).

Wife Ruhannah is to receive one hundred dollars out of the first money collected after death, as well as one horse including a buggy and harness. She will also receive the following: a cooking stove; kitchen furniture and kitchen ware; sitting room furniture; 4 beds; a desk; and other unnamed articles.

It is mentioned that she will have the pick of the first six books in Darst's collection, with the remaining books divided amongst their 12 children. She will receive one clock, with the other clock to be sold.

It is established that Ruhannah will be supported by son Henry C. Darst. Henry is given access to use the property she is given as he wishes when she is not using it, including the horse and buggy and house she will be living in, under the stipulation that he supports her through widowhood or maternal life.

Additionally the will lists property that is to be sold to pay for debts as far as they can be, and if any money is leftover from foregoing demands it would go to the remainder of the Darst children (and their heirs) in money upwards to five hundred dollars each.

In addition to the will, Betty also found a donation of land document granted by Jacob and Ruhannah Darst on April 6th, 1849 (pictured to the right). The donation was in reference to the Mt. Zion UCC Church that the Darst family was active in. Again, Ruhannah has approved this document and was of sound mind and agreement at the time of the signing.

Betty has donated the documents to the Wright State Archives for preservation. Thanks goes to her for sharing a personal piece of her family's history.

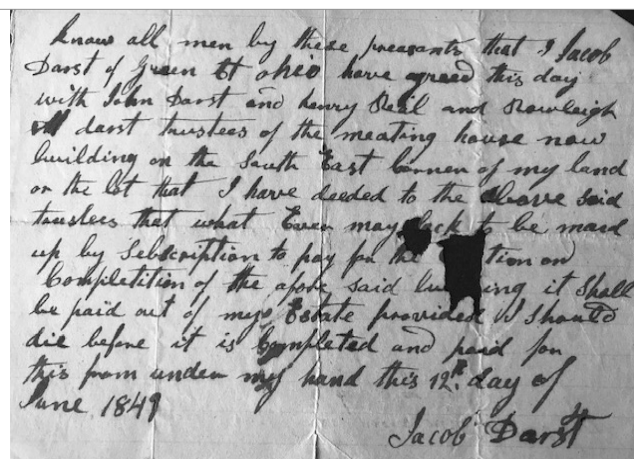


Photo of land donation document.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Fall Living History

Main Elementary – Oct. 1, 2, 3

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

## Board Meeting October 10 at 6:30 p.m.

Beavercreek Board of Education

3040 Kemp Road

## Quarterly Meeting, October 22

Peace Lutheran Church at 7:00 p.m.

Cassie Barlow, presenting *Saluting our Grandmas*

## Board Meeting November 14 at 1:30 p.m.

City Parks Office

789 Orchard Lane, Alpha

## Log by Log Submission Deadline, December 13

Send to Editor, at [b.joh88@gmail.com](mailto:b.joh88@gmail.com), no later than 9:00 p.m.

## Quarterly Meeting, January 28, 2020

Peace Lutheran Church at 7:00 p.m.

*Celebrating the Scenic Little Miami River*

Presented by Little Miami Watershed Network



1368 RESEARCH PARK DRIVE

BEAVERCREEK, OHIO 45432

[BeavercreekHistoricalSociety.org](http://BeavercreekHistoricalSociety.org)

*Thank You*

THE BEAVERCREEK  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S

# Quarterly Meeting

When: October 22, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. | Where: Peace Lutheran, 3530 Dayton-Xenia Rd.

## Saluting Our Grandmas

Cassie Barlow, co-author of the book "Saluting our Grandmas: Women of WWII," will be presenting the program Saluting Our Grandmas at the October 22, 2019 Quarterly Meeting of the Beavercreek Historical Society. Dr. Cassie Barlow is the President of the Southwestern Ohio Council for Higher Education. She also served as the 88th Air Base Wing and Installation Commander at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. The book will be available for purchase at the presentation.

At this program you will learn about the specific roles women played in serving America in a time of great need. In doing so, they carved a path that other women for many generations have since benefitted from. The book documents specific women and their individual stories in how they served our country during WWII.

The meeting will be held at the Peace Lutheran Church, 3530 Dayton-Xenia Rd., in Beavercreek and begins at 7:00 p.m. The meeting is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. If you are interested in joining the Historical Society memberships will be available at that time. For further information or questions send an email to [bhsohio@gmail.com](mailto:bhsohio@gmail.com).

