

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 2020  
Volume 29, Issue 1

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

## Fall Living History

*Submitted by Amy Rohrback, Fall Living History Director*

What a great Fall Living History Program we had! A total of 363 3rd graders from Main, St. Luke, Trebein and Valley Elementary attended the program at Warnter Park on one of 16 days over a 4-week period of time.

We made do without our beautiful barn ... Despite the destruction of the Memorial Day Tornado, the potatoes still grew in the garden. The weather was extremely hot for many of the days, but thankfully cooled off some by the fourth week. We only needed to get warm by the fire in the Harshman cabin on 2 or 3 mornings.

Twenty-four wonderful volunteers covered 128 time slots to provide the students with learning from the 6 daily chores of butter churning, spinning, knitting, gardening, quilting and making a rag doll.

A big "Thank You" goes out to Gloria Blank, Amber Carlos, Bobbie Carpenter, Jill Cobb, Sarah Haller, Helen Haun, Becky Jarvi, Denny Jarvi, Edie Keast, Cheryl Keggan, Jill Kincer, Wendell Kincer, Holly Linquist, Shirley Richardson-McCourt, Shannon Naik, Diane Phillips, John Rhodehamel, Traudl Schrick, Mike Self, Lisa Shearer, Gerry Smalley, Janet Taylor, Nancy Wilda and Sarah Wrona for making each day possible.

Yes, the students were surprised that they would be doing work! It turned out that they thought the work was a lot of fun. Another big thank you goes out to the teaching staff and parent volunteers who helped with the students.



## Membership News

We are happy to welcome new member **Rik Warren**, who joined during the last Quarterly Meeting! Current members, please see the flyer inside your newsletter reminding you to renew your membership for 2020. Have a safe & happy holidays and see you next year!

# Saluting Our Volunteers: Anita O'Neal

*This continues a series of articles that focus personally on the many volunteers that together make the Beavercreek Historical Society a vital part of our Beavercreek community. We thank and salute ALL who in any way contribute to the Society's mission of preserving the past for the future.*

Anita O'Neal and husband Timothy read in the paper some time back that the Beavercreek Historical Society was hosting a Spring Open House at the Society's History Center and decided it sounded interesting. After attending, they went home thinking they really needed to become members and decided to join. Later, she was contacted by one of the organizing volunteers for the 2018 Quite a Special Quilt Show featuring Bob Zimmer's beautiful quilts. Docents were needed in each cabin to welcome guests, and Anita agreed she would be happy to do that. And aren't we glad she did! She has a twinkle in her eye and a smile for everyone.

Gerry Petrak had been serving as Publicity Chair for quite some time and in 2018 was relocating to Colorado. Again, when asked, Anita readily agreed to move into that Board position and has done just a great job, moving right along with Publicity without a hitch. It is her job to get information about upcoming events and meetings into various area news outlets and into the Log by Log. She brings a cheerful attitude and new perspectives to the Board.

She was raised in Fairborn and still has ties there, but considers Beavercreek the spot where she wants to be. "It feels good to be in Beavercreek," she says. Her father's side of the family tree shows Beavercreek as home back to 1810. She has many long-time Beavercreek family names in her family tree: Harshman, Ankeney, Aley, etc. A long ago grandfather was Jonathan Snyder who in 1841 built the original distillery in the settlement of Trebein, as mentioned in the Beavercreek Chronicles.

She and Timothy have three adult sons who all graduated from Beavercreek High Schools and the



*Anita O'Neal*

University of Dayton. Anita works at UD as Cafeteria Supervisor and is just about ready to retire. In fact, by the time this article hits the print, that may have already happened.

Anita's hobbies include cooking and baking. And we are happy for that! If you've seen some lovely decorated tasty treats at Quarterly Meetings or an Open House, she most likely made the contribution. Other hobbies are quilting, sewing, gardening and landscaping.

She remembers being a room mother chaperone to Living History at Wartinger Park when her sons were in elementary school. In fact, she still has the rag dolls that each of them made saved in a basket where they are on display in her home—proving once again that students' wonderful memories from Living History are a hallmark of our program.

We are so pleased to have Anita as an active volunteer in the organization, and as always thank each and every one of you who makes time in your schedule to be a volunteer.

*Thank you, Anita!*

# Get to Know the Presenters: Hope Taft

**Hope Taft**, former First Lady of Ohio from 1999-2007, transformed the Governor's Residence into a Living Museum to preserve the property's rich heritage, creating a showcase of artistic, industrial, political, geological and horticultural histories of Ohio for educational purposes. This project included the Ohio Heritage Garden, Ohio's botanical garden of native plants, designed to replicate the major ecosystems of the state. She still oversees the garden's development and maintenance as chair of the Heritage Garden Committee of the Friends of the Ohio Governor's Residence and Heritage Garden, a non-partisan, nonprofit organization and organizes over 100 volunteers to help maintain it on a yearly basis.

She is an honorary Master Gardener and an Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist. She is a trained instructor for the Landscape for Life program developed by the Lady Bird Johnson Wildlife Center, the US Botanical Garden, and the American Society of Landscape Architects.

She joined neighbors to form Little Miami River Kleeners and the Little Miami Watershed Network to help preserve and protect the Little Miami River. A former board member of the Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm, she is a member of the Garden Club of Dayton.

Hope married Bob Taft in 1967. They live in the Dayton, Ohio area. The Tafts have one daughter, Anna, who started the Tandana Foundation in 2006, recruiting her mother to be president of the board. The Tandana Foundation weaves friendships and empowers communities in Ecuador and Mali, West Africa, through scholarships and volunteer vacations focused on health care, gardening and community infrastructure.

## 2020 Programs

Beavercreek Historical Society  
Quarterly Meetings

Save the dates! You won't want to miss these.

### January 28, 2020

Presenter Hope Taft

50 Years of the Scenic Little Miami River

### April 28, 2020

Presenters Dianne Herman and  
Jessica Hunter

from the Dayton League of Women Voters  
Let the Women Vote: The Long Quest  
for Suffrage

### July 28, 2020

Presenters Jana Bass and Ruth Wiley

Beavercreek Schools – 1800 to 2020:

Locations, How They Got Their Names

### October 27, 2020

Presenter Jack Blosser, Site Manager  
Fort Ancient Earthworks/Nature Preserve  
Prehistoric Indian Mounds

All meetings will be held at Peace Lutheran  
Church Fellowship Hall at 7:00 p.m.,  
3530 Dayton-Xenia Rd., Beavercreek, OH.

## Log by Log Submissions Due March 13, 2020

As we go into 2020 with fresh faces, as always the Log by Log is accepting submissions of 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)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Quarterly Meeting, January 28**

*Peace Lutheran Church at 7:00 p.m.*

*Celebrating the Scenic Little Miami River*

*Presented by Little Miami Watershed Network*

### **Board Meeting February 6 at 5:30 p.m.**

*1981 Dayton-Xenia Rd.*

### **Board Meeting March 5 at 5:30 p.m.**

*1981 Dayton-Xenia Rd.*

### **Log by Log Submission Deadline, March 13**

*Send to Editor, at [bjoh88@gmail.com](mailto:bjoh88@gmail.com), no later than 9:00 p.m.*

### **Board Meeting April 2 at 5:30 p.m.**

*1981 Dayton-Xenia Rd.*

### **Quarterly Meeting, April 28**

*Peace Lutheran Church at 7:00 p.m.*

*Let the Women Vote: The Long Quest for Suffrage;*

*Presented by Dayton League of Women Voters*

*Speakers Bureau/Dianne Herman & Jessica Hunter*



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*Thank You*

# THE BEAVERCREEK HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S *Quarterly Meeting*

**When:** January 28, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. | **Where:** Peace Lutheran, 3530 Dayton-Xenia Rd.



## 50 Years of the Scenic Little Miami River

*Presented by Hope Taft/The Little Miami  
Watershed Network*

Hope Taft from the Little Miami Watershed Network will be giving a presentation on the Little Miami River at the January 2020 quarterly meeting. You can read more about Hope on page 3.

Her presentation will focus on how the Little Miami River became a state and national Scenic River. She will discuss the state and federal requirements to become a Scenic River, the first river in Ohio to obtain both, and what the challenges are to keep the river an asset to the area. The history of the corridor will be highlighted.

The meeting will be held **January 28 at 7 p.m.**, at the Peace Lutheran Church in Beavercreek. This free presentation is open to the public, with light refreshments being served. For those interested in joining, Beavercreek 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).