

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 2020
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BeavercreekHistoricalSociety.org

In the Beginning: The Story of Living History

Submitted by Jill Kincer

When asked how the third grade Living History program began, Sylvia Hess—charter member and the first Vice President of the Beavercreek Historical Society—shared that it all started with this basic question: What children's programming could the Historical Society offer in the then unfurnished log structures at Wartinger Park? And so began the planning of the adventure that became Living History.

In 1993, the Education Committee of the Beavercreek Historical Society set to work to create a program that would share local history for our community's children. At that time, three log structures had been reassembled at Wartinger Park: the Jarusewic cabin, the Nicodemus cabin and the Harshman House. All were sitting empty. Some tours were offered to Scouts and home-schoolers on request. But members of the committee were hoping to provide a more in-depth educationally-based activity.

Thus the committee chaired by Sylvia, which included Lorraine Wagley, Dorothy Boatman and Bonnie Gunderson, sent a letter to each third grade teacher within the Beavercreek School system asking for input. Valley Elementary teachers responded. The Education Committee met various times with those teachers to devise and organize a program that worked for both parties.

Article continues on page 2.

Sylvia Hess, first Vice President of the Beavercreek Historical Society, pictured to the right.



Article continued from page 1.

Sylvia Hess took on the busy role as the first Living History Director, scheduling field trip dates with teachers, logistic planning for the many necessary supplies, coordinating schedules and telephoning the many volunteers needed for various activities in those pre-email days, then finally taking inventory and storing supplies at the end of the season. The job was a big one and has continued in that respect to this day.

The program was built around having the school children participate in hands-on pioneer chores in what were then mainly empty houses. Sylvia was insistent that the activities not be “show and tell” but “student active” ones. With rich and interesting information gained from reading the history of the Harshman Family (see footnote for information about that book) they planned the program that still exists today. It basically has the same format with very few changes from the original one offered in spring of 1993 to Valley School third graders.

Each teacher brings a class to the Park on a separate day to allow for small groups and more personal interaction with the students. An opening welcome with the entire class begins the day, with a volunteer sharing a brief early history in Ohio and the Beavercreek area, plus fun facts about the 1803 cabin and the Harshman family that built it. The class is then divided into six groups, each named after one of the six Harshman children.

Over the years, the six morning chores have changed a bit but most have stood the test of time: spinning, knitting, quilting/sewing, farm/gardening (with spring attendees planting potatoes and fall attendees harvesting them), butter-making, and ragdolls. Others have had to be discontinued due to safety concerns (candle making) or due to lack of volunteers to sustain a full afternoon schedule. Most recently, after a lunch break the students visit the Jarusewic cabin currently staged as an early 1800's school house and then make a stop at the lovely herb garden planted so many years ago by the Flower Trail Garden Club.

By 1998, all local elementary schools (Main, Parkwood, Fairbrook, Shaw, Valley and St. Luke)

attended either spring or fall sessions. In recent years, the students from the new Trebein Elementary have been added. Each year the student count continues to grow as our community grows.

One of Sylvia's fondest memories of her days as Director was the first time a disabled student in a wheelchair came to spend the day at Living History. It was the early nineties when disabled children just first began to be served in public schools. Sylvia remembers the joy she felt and how impressed she was with the child's fellow students who cheerfully helped insure a successful day for all.

Elaine Mercurio stepped up to take on the role of Director when Sylvia determined it was time to pass the leadership torch. She shares that Sylvia had things marvelously organized and thus, it was easy to follow in her footsteps. Elaine's time however came to an unfortunate end when she was stung by a yellow jacket and ended up at the nearby Fire Station for emergency help. As it turned out she was very allergic to stinging insects and needed to step away from the park setting.

Sarah Haller took up the challenge as the next Living History Director and served for what she remembers as “five or six years.” She enjoyed the students so much and shares that one day she went to get her mail at her home, several young boys went by quickly on their bikes. One boy screeched on his brakes and curiously asked, “Are you that old lady from the parks?” She laughs, remarking that some of the third graders evidently think all volunteers just live there!

Gerry Jetter Smalley began volunteering in 1999 while Sarah was Director, and took over that position in 2005. She served for the next 8 years. Her favorite recollection is seeing all the various pioneer costumes that the children love to wear for their special third grade field trip. The kids often share that the outfit may be a hand-me-down from an older sibling or cousin. She also enjoyed all the post-visit decorative and meaningful thank you notes written by individual students.

Becky Jarvi had been an active volunteer at Living History so in spring 2013 after Gerry Smalley stepped down, Becky stepped up. She greatly appreciated the many textile tools available in the Society's

collection, but especially the Great Wheel, donated by the Hagenbuch Family. It was important for its historic value and authenticity, but additionally it is a personal joy for her to demonstrate the 150-year old wheel to students and chaperones alike.

Amber Carlos was a gift to our organization, discovered by long-time member John Rhodehamel. When Becky Jarvi requested to go to half-time Director, serving only in the fall of 2014, the Society was searching for someone to take on that role for spring 2014. Amber's mother lives next door to the Rhodehamels and when visiting, Amber often stopped at John's house to buy eggs. He talked to Amber about the spring position and fortunately for the organization, she said yes! She and Becky shared the job by season for several years, and Amber learned to love not just Living History but the beautiful Wartinger Park gardens lovingly tended by the Master Gardeners.

Amy Rohrback is the newest person to serve, taking on the Fall Director position in the fall of 2017 sharing the duties with the Spring Director. Amy is the daughter of Gerry Jetter Smalley and thus is a second generation serving in the position. Amy shares how great it makes her feel when the school teachers express to her their appreciation, saluting not only the great effort but also the content of the program, which aligns directly with the schools' Social Studies curriculum. One teacher stated on her last visit

before retirement that over the years she learned something new every time she came.

In closing, this article is a salute to Sylvia Hess and those who continued the leadership over the years. There is not space enough to list all the names of so many others who served in various other roles be it volunteering by leading the children's chores, preparing the many materials needed for the program or providing labor for making certain the gardens and the buildings were ready. But thanks to so many of you who fit into those categories. You have made a difference, too!

Most probably know that Spring Living History 2020 was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We do not know the status of Living History for fall 2020 as we prepare this article. What we do hope is that the Beavercreek Historical Society can keep the program alive in the future. Because that's what we are all about—preserving the past for the future.

Footnote: *The two-volume set of "The Harshman Family, A History and Genealogy" by Charles W. Harshman, 1976, is available at the Beavercreek Community Library for in-library use only. Information specifically on Philip Harshman and family is in Volume 1, pages. 256-258 and 416-417. The Beavercreek Historical Society also has the two volume set available for purchase. If interested, email bhsohio@gmail.com.*

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: _____

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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

Dr. Thomas W. Treharne *Excerpt from the Beavercreek Chronicles Vol. 2*

Editor's Note: It felt relevant to feature an excerpt about an early Beavercreek doctor who himself had lived during the 1918 Flu epidemic, which mirrors our current reality. And, with such parallels, is a perfect opportunity to reflect and pay respects to those who continue to serve and innovate in the medical field.

At his death in 1936, Dr. Thomas W. Treharne had served the Beavercreek Township area for more than 40 years. During these years, an era in the lifestyle of rural America ended and a new era began. In the 19th century the pace and nature of rural life was based on the speed at which a horse could draw a vehicle. With the 20th century came the automobile which vastly increased the range of rural activity and largely eliminated the distinction between city and country life. In doing so, it created a new entity, the suburb. During these years a great change also occurred in the practice of medicine. When Dr. Treharne came to Zimmerman, the country doctor was relied on for the solution of every health problem from toothache to providing kitchen table surgery when necessary.

At the beginning of his practice, Dr. Treharne kept two horses for his buggy or sleigh so that there would be a fresh horse for an extraordinarily long day of house calls. For less serious problems, patients drove to his office where he maintained early morning, early afternoon and evening office hours. In the early 1900s, two separate telephone systems served Zimmerman, the Bell and the Home, and the doctor had both at his residence.

He had one of the first automobiles in the county, a 1902 one cylinder Oldsmobile. Although on level stretches of the gravel roads it could attain a speed of 20 miles per hour, its progress was slowed by having to stop and shut off the engine's unmuffled explosions whenever a horse-drawn vehicle was



Seated: Dr. Thomas W. Treharne, Mrs. Lily Treharne; Standing: Louise Treharne Coy (l.) Margaret Treharne

encountered. The doctor would then descend from behind the tiller with which the Olds was steered to show the terrified horse that the monster was part human and would wait until the farmer led his animal and equipage safely by. With a few tries at the crank on the side, the Olds would again roar into action, while the doctor paid due attention to possible livestock along the side of the road. No matter on which side of the road chickens of the early 20th century happened to be, with the appearance of an automobile they always had an urgent need to get to the other side.

With the Olds, the doctor still needed one horse. The Olds was subject to mechanical ills. On freshly gravelled roads, it tended to slither treacherously, and, at night, the feeble light from its kerosene head lamps could not disperse the gloom sufficiently for safe progress. The doctor could carry a lantern in the buggy to help him see to tie his horse to a fence and light his way up an impassable lane to a farmhouse. It also discouraged threatening dogs.

Before X-rays became available, a thorough knowledge of anatomy and a sense of "feel" were a doctor's only aids in setting broken bones. Automobiles brought added fracture problems. Before electric starters were introduced, engines had to be hand cranked at the front of the engine. If the spark lever was not properly set, the engine would backfire so violently that the cranker's arm could be broken before he let go of the crank. A plaster cast on the arm became a badge of automobile ownership.

There were, of course, lighter sides to the practice of medicine. On a house call at a farmhouse on a cold day, Dr. Treharne found the patient in bed with a high fever and bed covers piled high upon her. Noticing a curious lump or mound under the bedclothes beside her he inquired about it. "Oh, that, doctor, that's just the bread that I had my husband put there so it will rise."

One Christmas eve a man appeared at the door with an announcement that, as he and his wife were trimming a Christmas tree, their pet dog had jumped up and had bitten off his wife's nose. Hastily, with supplies in his black bag, he accompanied the man to

his home. He succeeded in suturing the nose back in place, and later took great pride that when it healed only the faintest line was visible.

Prior to the flu epidemic of 1918, there was considerable objection in the medical profession to a seemingly radical change in technique, the injection by needle. The doctor became a successful pioneer in it and pursued it as long as he practiced.

He would have been thrilled had he lived to see the changes and innovations of modern medicine and to realize the part he had played in its progress.

—Louise Treharne Coy

Depression Glass: Beautiful Pieces of History in Our Area

Submitted by David Shumway

I was doing some storage area cleaning during our enforced stay-at-home and came across our collected pieces of "American Sweetheart," my favorite depression glass (picture shows some sample pieces).

Thought it might make an interesting historical article, so I researched a bit. Depression glass is "clear or colored translucent glassware" that was free or inexpensive in the USA and Canada. It's called "depression" because of its manufacture and popularity around the time of the Great Depression. Food and soap powder companies often put a piece of glassware in boxes as an incentive, and movie theaters even handed out pieces to patrons.

Most of the glass companies producing depression glass were in this area, the Ohio Valley, because of the availability of raw materials and power.

My online source lists 129 patterns by 19 manufacturers. I noticed samples of two patterns at the Society's office: "Sharon" by Federal Glass Company (often called Cabbage Rose), and "Miss America" by Hocking Glass. My American Sweetheart was produced by McBeth-Evans Glass from 1930-36.

Common depression glass colors are clear (crystal), pink, pale blue, green, and amber. Less common are canary, ultramarine, jadeite, delphite (pale blue), cobalt blue, ruby and royal ruby, black, amethyst, monax (as in most of my American Sweetheart), and white (milk glass).



Despite its so called low quality, depression glass has been highly collectible since the 1960s. Rare pieces may sell for hundreds of dollars. But beware, popular and expensive patterns and pieces have been reproduced, and reproductions are still being made.

Probably many of our BHS members have pieces of some patterns. I wonder how many representations we could come up with if we were to have a "depression glass show" during one of our open houses, or in conjunction with an appropriate quarterly meeting. Just a fun thought.

A Bit About Your Newsletter and its Editor, Brianna Johnson

Submitted by David Shumway

Ever wonder how your Log by Log newsletter gets to your mailbox? Well, I'll tell you anyway.

Every issue has a deadline date for submissions into the next issue, and all members are invited to submit articles of historical interest, or about current activities of the Society. Space never seems to be a problem. Articles are sent, usually piecemeal, to member Brianna Johnson, who works her magic and skill in putting the thing together.

Composing a newspaper in the "old days" was a fascinating, very hands-on labor intensive process, especially for daily newspapers that had to get composed, printed, and delivered overnight, every night! Today, as with many tasks, desktop publishing programs share the burden. But the computer only assists; it can't screen or edit; or decide importance, placement, type sizes, appropriate photos, special effects, etc. That's where Brianna's expertise and experience comes in.

Brianna works in the advertising department for Morris Furniture Company. She graduated from Beavercreek High School in 2007. Loving art instruction, she earned an Associate Degree in Advertising Art from the formerly known School of Advertising Art (now called the Modern College of Design) in Kettering in 2010. She interned at Baldwin Creative & Company, with former editor Steve Baldwin, replacing Steve as editor in 2013.

According to Brianna, "After I receive and save all material for the newsletter, I begin transferring the content into my publishing program (InDesign from Adobe Creative Cloud). I have a basic template for each issue so it's easy to add content and adjust page counts according to the amount received."

She then copies and pastes, skillfully determining placement, organization and fit, and updating the usual information on meetings and such. Then the laborious process of reading over, correcting, and editing begins. First by Brianna herself, then the draft goes to three BHS board people for review.

After usually two iterations, she exports the file with detailed instructions to World Digital Imaging (WDI), a local Beavercreek firm. WDI prints, collates, folds and tabs about 180 copies. Mailing labels, based on a database of members and courtesy copies maintained and provided by membership chair Sonya Veta, are then affixed to a number of issues.

When I get a call from WDI I pick the order up and buy the appropriate number of stamps. If the issue is large I'll have the USPS tell me the necessary postage. Then all I have to do is affix stamps (thank goodness we don't have to lick them anymore), take 150 or so (minus my own) to the post office, and distribute a few to the senior center, library, and city hall. There are always have a few extra. Now you know.

Submissions Due: September 11, 2020



The Log by Log is accepting submissions of history, little-known-facts or interviews. And, in preparing for our fall season, we're looking for spooky legends or lore surrounding the Beavercreek area. First or second-hand stories are welcome! Submit articles and photos to the editor: b.joh88@gmail.com

Two Generations Ago: Summer 1970

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

Again I have to appreciate my major source, the archives of the old Beaver Creek News held by the Society.

In this year of 1970 little Beaver Creek Township is having growing pains. The results of a Jaycees' community attitude survey are being analyzed, and are expected to have impact on our way of life: quiet residential suburbia or major city.

Home Federal Savings and Loan, where I have my mortgage, is offering Certificates of Deposit for 6%. Coming forward, both Home Federal and my mortgage are long gone. So are 6% CD rates.

Belmont Auto Theater is showing "Take the Money and Run" with Woody Allen. Speaking of celebrities, Eastgate Ford is using Tennessee Ernie Ford in its newspaper ads saying things like "Discounts higher than a miniskirt on a windy corner" and "Save enough to send your mother-in-law to camp." (Wow! No wonder Eastgate is gone. Guess he didn't know women make car-buying decisions.)

T-Ball has just been introduced in Beaver Creek, under the leadership of local businessman Harley Coon. Harley reports 300 sign-ups this inaugural year. (Coming forward, Harley went on to be a force in Beaver Creek politics, and my Jaycees took over the program, now run by the City through Skyhawks Sports. Both Harley and the Jaycees are gone.)

Yes, yes, the grocery prices: Frozen orange juice, three cans for \$1; bread 19¢; a four pack of TP 29¢. (Coming forward, that last would have been great a couple months ago, lol.)

From newspaper pictures it appears ladies' hairstyles are changing from up to down, with bobs and straight hair replacing poofs (my words; I haven't a clue what they're actually called).

Flash! Bellbrook in Sugar Creek Township is now officially a city, having reached a population of 5000. Beaver Creek is still a township, but just you wait!

2020 Programs

July 28 Meeting Cancelled

October 27, 2020

Quarterly Meeting

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

Fall Living History 2020

Submitted by Amy Rohrbach

Like most things these days, the uncertainty of if, when or how Living History for Beaver Creek 3rd graders will look this Fall is unclear. The original scheduled dates for the program are September 14–October 9. At this time, the schools are not sure what their day will look like and I don't think anyone could make a prediction with great certainty. Beaver Creek Historical Society has received a CARES Grant from Ohio Humanities Council which will be used to video record The Living History Program. We are in the very early stages of preparing for the recordings. Many thanks for your help in the past and we hope to see you as normal as life can be in the Fall!

Standing Officers

of the Beaver Creek Historical Society

President: Mark Wiley

Vice President: Roger Coy

Secretary: Mary Jean Henry

Treasurer: Wendy Kirchoff

Need to contact us?

Email at bhsohio@gmail.com or leave a phone message at 937-427-5514 and someone will return your call.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Note: Future activities are tentative,
pending the COVID-19 pandemic.

Board Meeting, July 7 &
Annual Meeting, July 28: *Cancelled*

Board Meetings, August 6, September 10,
October 8 at 5:30 p.m.
*At the Beavercreek Board of Education
3040 Kemp Rd.*

Log by Log Submission Deadline, September 11
*Send to Editor, at b.joh88@gmail.com, no later than
9:00 p.m.*

Fall Living History: *Tentative dates of
September 14 - October 9 (see page 7)*

Annual Meeting, October 27
*Peace Lutheran Church at 7:00 p.m.
Fort Ancient Earthworks/Nature Preserve Prehistoric
Indian Mounds; Presented by Jack Blosser*



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BeavercreekHistoricalSociety.org

Thank You

THE BEAVERCREEK
HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S

Annual Meeting

HAS MOVED FROM JULY 28 TO OCTOBER 27, 2020

Breaking!—Membership News

We were informed that the City of Beavercreek has approved the rebuilding of the Tobias-Zimmer barn. Both the City and the BHS thank all those who participated in the recent survey!

With sadness we note the passing of **John Wensits**, husband of Society member and frequent Log by Log contributor Jeanne Wensits. John was also active until his health declined and Jeanne took a hiatus from her writing. We hope to enjoy her articles again in the near future.

Three of our Board of Directors members will be leaving their posts at the end of the current year: our **Vice President Roger Coy, Treasurer Wendy Kirchoff, and Program Chair Jill Kincer.**

Roger was elected Vice President in 2018 and had

done a great job during the transition to our new president Mark Wiley. Wendy was elected treasurer in 2010 and has handled the books outstandingly for a decade. Super-active member and Program Chair Jill Kincer previously served as secretary, interim president, and president (2012-2019). She has served as program chair since 2016.

Thanks to all three for their willingness to serve, to accept these responsibilities and put in the time and effort necessary to keep the Society a thriving vital organization. We'll no doubt see them involved and volunteering in the future.

Unfortunately, both the annual meeting and its elections are postponed. There will be another newsletter in early October and the annual meeting later that month. Stay tuned.