

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 education programs, and operate the History Center for educational outreach and historical research.

A Quarterly
Newsletter from



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BeavercreekHistoricalSociety.org

Historic 1824 Jacob Coy Homestead

Content taken from an original article by Bob Zimmer published in the September 2008 Log by Log, with some information coming from the book The Coy Family written by Jean Coy Bartholomew.

Information also contributed by BHS longtime member, Roger Coy, direct descendant of the Coy family. Roger has lived in Beavercreek his entire life, including in the Coy Homestead, and formerly served as the Assistant Superintendent of Beavercreek Schools.

The fascinating history of Jacob Coy, Jr., in America dates back to 1757 when, at age eighteen, he accompanied his parents and siblings to the United States from Bavaria. Both of his parents died during the voyage and were buried at sea. When the ship docked in port, the children's possessions were confiscated, and all were indentured. Jacob was indentured to a Pennsylvania planter for six years. He gained his freedom in 1763.

Jacob was married to Sussannah (last name unknown) in 1776 at age 37. They first settled in Cumberland County and later moved to Franklin County, Pennsylvania. It is believed that they had twelve children. Eight were known to live to adulthood. The years passed and Jacob and his family journeyed to Cincinnati and then purchased 3,264 acres of land in Greene County on December 31, 1801. They had traveled by wagon from Franklin County to the Ohio River south of Fort Pitt and from there by boat to Cincinnati. Seven children came with them: Catherine, Adam, John, Peter, Henry, Mary, and Jacob III. Some of the older children were already married. They remained in Cincinnati until March of 1802 and then began the eight-day trip to Beavercreek by wagon, following the Miami River. Jacob III was the youngest and many years later, when interviewed about the trip, remembered that Cincinnati consisted only of sixteen log cabins at the time they were there.

Jacob built his first two-story log cabin near present-day Shakertown Rd., and completed it in 1803 [the same year that Ohio became a state]. That was the family home until 1824 when he built the "Homestead," also on Shakertown Rd., which was undoubtedly the largest two-story log house ever built in Beavercreek [it was later covered in clapboard siding, which remains today]. Jacob was a staunch member of the German

Reformed (Dunkard) Church. The first preaching in Beavercreek was held in the two-story cabin and the first sacraments were administered in his barn. He is credited with bringing the German Reformed faith to Beavercreek.



Photo: Jacob Coy Homestead

Ownership of the original two-story log cabin remained in the name of the Coy descendants until 1945—at which time Louise (Mrs. F.H.) Hagenbuch purchased the cabin and moved it piece-by-piece to Hagenbuch Lane off North Fairfield. She wanted the cabin to be perfectly reassembled. Although very difficult to accomplish, the "double pie" staircase was put back exactly as originally installed. [Pie-shaped steps are used to change the direction of a staircase when a smaller footprint is needed than that of a traditional landing.] For many years following the reconstruction, Mrs. Hagenbach, an authority, collector, and dealer in antiques, used the cabin as a personal museum and antique shop. The cabin still stands there today, a silent reminder of life in early Beavercreek.

Having completed the building of the cabin, Jacob, his sons, and grandsons, set about clearing the land to make way for farming in Beavercreek Township. He also made many land transactions in the process of dividing the acreage. Most of these transactions were with his children. The last transaction occurred in 1827. He made out his will on March 10, 1827, five years before his death in 1832 at age 93. Sussannah lived five more years. Both are

buried in the family cemetery located just south of Shakertown Rd. on North Fairfield Rd. The cemetery is now owned by the City of Beavercreek and maintained by the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department.

The 1824 Jacob Coy Homestead served as home for five generations of Coys. The house and remaining acreage were passed down through the generations, from Jacob to Adam, from Adam to Edward, from Edward to Russell, and from Russell to Roger. Russell passed away in 1965 and his wife Martha lived in the house until two weeks prior to her death in 1986.

Russel's son Roger, great-great-grandson of Jacob, was born in the house and lived there until leaving to establish his own home when he married in 1956. He remembers that he did his homework for a while by kerosene lamp light. A new kitchen, family room, and front porch were added in later years. Central heat was installed on the first floor of the house in 1964. Before that, a cookstove furnished the heat for the kitchen, and a wood (or coal) potbellied stove in the living room was the only heat for the rest of the house. Water was pumped to the house by a pitcher pump in the kitchen.

The house was rented out until 1989 at which time the property was sold to Star Development. During the 165 years from 1824 to 1989, each generation managed to keep up with the times in the modernization of the structure. Early on, the woodwork, paneled doors, plastered walls, and exterior walls were covered with walnut lap siding. Much later, closets were added, and clothes were no longer hung by hooks on the wall. The hook boards were not removed. The house was wired for electricity just prior to World War II during the Dayton Power & Light Rural Line Extension Program.

Since the house was located just where Star Development had planned a street in the new development, to be known as Coy Homestead Estates, the question arose, "What to do with the house?" Great-great grandson Roger wished to preserve the house, rich in Beavercreek history, for future generations. Upon inspection by Sandra Shapiro, Regional Coordinator, and Donald Hutslar, Curator of History, both from the Ohio Historical Society, and Ed Dressler, Greene County Parks Director, it was unanimously agreed that the house was stable and indeed worth saving.

Several spots were considered for the new location, and after much consideration, the decision was made to place it on Township property behind the Beaver Cemetery on the north side of Dayton-Xenia Rd. The move took place on Thursday, July 6, 1989. Mitchell Cosler, John Deal, and Richard Little were the Trustees at the time. The original house [minus the kitchen, family room, and front porch additions] was moved by Edwards Moving Company of Shelbyville, Kentucky.

The next known activity in the restoration project occurred in 1996 when the basement area was made ready for occupancy. According to the January 16, 1997 issue of the *Beavercreek News Current*, the Beaver Creek Wetlands Association had just completed their move into the basement offices.

In 2008, in cooperation with Township Trustees Robert Glaser, Carol Graff, and Bob Stone, and Township Maintenance Director, Tim Parks, the Beavercreek Historical Society began a complete renovation of the first floor, creating the first home for the Society. The Society remained there until 2016 when it moved across the road into the Township building at 1999 Dayton-Xenia Rd, establishing the BHS History Center. The Wetlands Association also moved to the Township building in 2019.

Today the Coy Homestead remains at its location behind the Beaver Cemetery as an example of early Beavercreek.

Did you know? The very first school in Beavercreek and Greene County was built of logs on pioneer Jacob Coy's land around 1800 and became known as Old Coy School. (Today, it would be in Tara Estates.) The first teacher was an "Englishman who insisted on being known and addressed as Thomas Marks Davis, the Second." He was paid a salary of \$8-\$10 a month for teaching at the school. In today's dollars, that would be about \$110-\$138 a month! Fast forward to over 200 years later, and the new Jacob Coy Middle School on Dayton-Xenia Rd. opened for the 2013-2014 school year. (*Information provided by Ruth Wiley, Curriculum Supervisor for Beavercreek City Schools.*)

Tobias-Zimmer Barn...Open and Ready for Business

The Society has been busy since the July 19 ribbon-cutting ceremony where speakers applauding the rebuild of the barn included Mayor Bob Stone, Society President Mark Wiley, barn donor Bob Zimmer, and State Representative Brian Lampton who presented a resolution from the House of Representatives.



Volunteers have been reassembling displays of farming equipment and tools, and the barn is again being used for the Living History Program.

Now available for rent:
The Tobias-Zimmer Barn

is available for Beavercreek residents to rent at a cost of \$200 for four hours. Nonresidents may rent the barn for \$240 per hour with a four-hour minimum. Amenities include 10 six-foot tables, 6 eight-foot tables, 80 folding chairs, electrical outlets, and a restroom nearby (at the back of the Fire Station). Please contact Beavercreek Parks, Recreation and Culture Division for more information, at 937-427-5514.



What's ahead: The Society is gathering estimates for the addition of a prep kitchen and restrooms to the barn which would be useful for private and community gatherings and meetings. Watch for more details in the coming months.

Meanwhile, contributions are being accepted by check mailed to the Beaver Creek Historical Society at 1368 Research Park

Dr., Beaver Creek, OH 45432, or by online donation at <https://greenegiving.ejoinme.org/donation> (please specify designation as "Beaver Creek Historical Society Tobias-Zimmer Barn").

Photo 1: Tool Display Area in Barn

Photo 2: Anita O'Neal and Amy Rohrback working on barn displays

Living History Program

Submitted by Amy Rohrback, Living History Director

We have our barn back! It is great to have the barn available once again for the Living History Program. Not only does it provide a space for students to learn about early Beaver Creek farming and experience the gardening chore, but it has been wonderful to have a space for the students and parents to gather for lunch.

September 12 marked the beginning of our four-week adventure



Photo: Living History students learning about early farming from Mark Wiley

with students from Trebein Elementary. St. Luke, Valley and Main elementaries will follow. Fairbrook, Parkwood, and Shaw students will be scheduled to attend in April and May of 2023. In this program, students experience firsthand what life may have been like for the early settlers in Beaver Creek. Students participate in six chores including gardening,

making a rag doll, quilting, spinning yarn, finger knitting, and churning butter.

The fall program runs through October 7, and the spring program is set for April 24 through May 12. Volunteers are always needed for the Living History Program. At least six are needed each day to instruct the children. Perhaps you attended as a student—now you can be the teacher! If you are interested in helping with this educational program, please contact Amy Rohrback at 937 477-1007 or email livinghistorybhs@gmail.com.

BHS Participating in Amazon Smile for Charities

Submitted by Rodger Reedy, Treasurer

Beaver Creek Historical Society is now a registered charity in the Amazon Smile program, which donates 0.5% of the value of your purchases to a charity of your choice. Here's how to direct your Amazon Smile contributions to BHS:

1. Go to smile.amazon.com on an internet browser of your choice.
2. Sign into your Amazon account or sign up for an account if you do not already have one.
3. Select Beaver Creek Historical Society from the list of charities from the menu at the top left of the screen.
4. BHS will receive 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. (The purchase price is the amount paid for the item minus any rebates and excluding shipping & handling, gift-wrapping fees, taxes, or service charges.)

If you use a mobile app for Amazon, simply tap on "AmazonSmile" within the Programs & Features menu, or Settings, and follow the on-screen instructions.

Thank you for helping Beaver Creek Historical Society advance our mission and programs!

Please Remember Beaver Creek Historical Society in Your Charitable Giving

Charitable donations to the Society are critical in allowing us to accomplish our mission of preserving and sharing Beaver Creek history. You may be at a point in your life where you are required to take minimum distributions from your IRA. Did you know that you can forgo realizing that distribution as income by rolling it over as a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) to support approved organizations like the Beaver Creek Historical Society? If you would like more information, please email us at bhsohio@gmail.com. Your inquiry will be treated confidentially.

Log by Log Submissions Due December 9, 2022

As always we are interested in hearing your stories about life in Beaver Creek! *Log by Log* is accepting submissions of historical stories and interviews, little-known facts, and even personal stories about growing up in Beaver Creek. Please submit articles and photos to bhsohio@gmail.com.

Board of Trustees

President, Mark Wiley
bhsOhio@gmail.com

Vice President, Bobbie Carpenter
bhsOhio@gmail.com

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bhsOhio@gmail.com

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rreedy1923@gmail.com

Historical Buildings Director, Vacant
– consider volunteering

**History Center Director,
Brett Williford**
brett@brettwilliford.com

**Living History Directors, Amy
Rohrback & Shawnah Tibbs- Sergeant**
livinghistorybhs@gmail.com

**Membership Director,
Chrisonna Anderson-Lutz**
chrisonna.anderson@greencountyohio.gov

Newsletter Director, Vacant
– consider volunteering

**Program Director and Special
Events Coordinator, Vacant**
– consider volunteering

Publicity Director, Anita O'Neal
akfoneal@gmail.com

**Webmaster and Technology
Director, Greg Asman**
gozman@mac.com

**Beavercreek City Schools Liaison,
Ruth Wiley**
ruth.wiley@gocreek.com

**Beavercreek Parks Liaison,
Kim Farrell**
farrell@beavercreekohio.gov

**Beavercreek Township Liaison,
Carolyn DiGiandomenico**
cdigiandomenico@beavercreektownship.org

Welcome New Board Members



**Carolyn DiGiandomenico,
Beavercreek Township Liaison**

Carolyn DiGiandomenico started with the Township as the administrative professional clerk-I in February of 2022. In her role, she supports the Zoning, Planning and Fire Prevention departments of Beavercreek Township. Duties include scheduling fire prevention inspections, taking meeting minutes of monthly evening Zoning and Board of Appeals sessions, assisting community residents

on permit completion, scheduling public education events, answering calls from residents and businesses on various township-related questions and concerns, maintaining supported groups' information on the Township Website, social media posts, calendar management, and serving as Township Liaison to the Society.



**Greg Asman,
Webmaster and Technical Director**

Greg has been in K-12 and higher education for 32 years as a science teacher, educational technology consultant, instructional designer, professional development coordinator and instructional technology director and is currently employed at the Greene County Career Center. Outside of work he has been active as a soccer coach, adjunct faculty in educational technologies, a board member of

several local organizations as well a webmaster and information systems administrator. He spends his free time tinkering and fixing things, playing soccer and being outdoors camping, hiking, swimming, boating and jet skiing.

He grew up in Greenville Ohio, moved to the local area in 1985 to attend Wright State University and moved to Beavercreek 2002 with his wife and kids, who are all recent graduates of Beavercreek High School. His interests in history include old photographs, schools, maps and anything transportation related. He also is interested in locating where old pictures are taken and then taking or comparing them to modern photos of the same places, as well as using GIS (Geographical Information Systems) in educational and historical applications.

Brett Williford, History Center Director: January's Log x Log will include information about Brett and an update on the History Center.

Welcome New Members

A warm welcome to new members:

Greg and Angela Asman

Sandy Hurley

Shirley Shulz

- Language was added to incorporate staggered election years for the positions of President and Secretary to allow for continuity of leadership.
- The position of Past President was added.
- The position of Beaver Creek Township Liaison was added.
- A section was added to outline position responsibilities.
- Language about Beaver Creek Township and Beaver Creek City Schools was added in appropriate places to reflect ongoing partnerships.

Anyone wishing additional details and/or copies of the 2022 bylaws and/or draft revision may submit a request through bshohio@gmail.com

Volunteer Opportunities

If you have an appreciation for the unique and colorful history of Beaver Creek and a willingness to work with others, you are a prime candidate to join our volunteer team! We need only three more volunteers to make our team complete, and existing board members are ready to provide support. Please consider helping out in the following areas:

- **Historical Buildings Director:** Oversee the maintenance plan for all historical buildings and develop and maintain a long-range plan, including new ideas and concepts for the Society.
- **Newsletter Director:** Oversee the content and publishing of the *Log by Log* quarterly newsletter. The basics are already set up. We use a template and World Digital Imaging in Beaver Creek does the layout and printing. All you need to do is collect articles and information for the quarterly publication.
- **Program Director/Special Events Coordinator:** Schedule programming for the Quarterly Meetings and work with the directors of special events.

2022 Bylaws Revision

BHS Bylaws require a review/revision every two years. The last revision was in 2020. Here is a summary of the 2022 changes proposed by the Ad Hoc Bylaws Review Committee (Chrisonna Anderson-Lutz, Mary Henry), that were approved by the board on May 3, 2022, and will be presented to the membership for vote at the Annual Meeting on October 25:

Winter Welcome at Wartinger Historical Park

Saturday, December 17, 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Visit with Santa and pet a live reindeer. Drink hot cocoa and eat cookies. Listen to holiday music as you stroll through Wartinger Park visiting the decorated log cabins and historical barn with your friends and family.

This program is free of charge and is provided thanks to a partnership between the City of Beaver Creek Parks, Recreation & Culture, Beaver Creek Historical Society, Beaver Creek Community Library, Greene Optimist Club, and Kiwanis Club of Beaver Creek. Each cabin will be decorated by a different organization. Vote for your favorite cabin using your phone and the QR code on the signs at the park! (Decorations will be available for viewing/voting from December 5 through January 1.)

Parking is available next to the park at the Beaver Creek Board of Education, 3040 Kemp Rd.

**A big Thank You to our first
lifetime business sponsor:**

T A O'Neal & Sons, LLC

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monthly Board of Directors Meetings

*First Tuesdays, 4:30 P.M.
Lofino Plaza Meeting Room*

October 25, 7:00 p.m.: Quarterly Program & Annual Meeting

Peace Lutheran Church, 3530 Dayton-Xenia Rd.

December 17, 10:30-1:00: Winter Welcome

Wartinger Park, 3080 Kemp Rd.

Log x Log Submissions due December 9

Submit to bhsohio@gmail.com

2023 Quarterly Program Dates

January 24, April 25, July 25, October 24

Join us on Facebook to keep updated on Society news and activities and to post your Beaver Creek historical items of interest: Beaver Creek Historical Society.



1368 RESEARCH PARK DRIVE
BEAVERCREEK, OHIO 45432
BeavercreekHistoricalSociety.org

Thank You

THE BEAVERCREEK
HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S

Quarterly Program and Annual Meeting

Tuesday, October 25, 7:00 p.m.

Peace Lutheran Church, 3530 Dayton-Xenia Rd.

Beaver Creek Wetlands Association

Presented by Jacki Mayer, Executive Director

Discover hidden local treasures where you can hike, birdwatch, exercise, and enjoy nature year-round

After the brief business of the annual meeting is completed, we will enjoy a presentation about the Beaver Creek Wetlands Association (BCWA), the member-supported nonprofit land trust working to protect and restore wetlands and other natural areas in the Beaver Creek watershed in Greene County. BCWA preserves and restores endangered wetland habitats through conservation, stewardship, education, and public access. Since the formation of the Beaver Creek Wetlands Association in 1988 over 2000 acres of wetlands and surrounding uplands have been protected.

Presenter Jacki Mayer has a successful history of working in both for-profit and nonprofit organizations including managing a disposable healthcare goods company, recruiting for the salon and spa industry, directing business operations and development for a local university, establishing and operating a consulting business, and most recently serving as executive director at the Therapeutic Riding Institute.

Join us for an interesting and informative meeting. Refreshments will be served. This presentation is free and open to the public—bring your friends!