

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 2021  
Volume 30, Issue 4

BeavercreekHistoricalSociety.org

## Disbanded Flower Trail Garden Club Donates Project Reports to the Society's Archives

What would be the connection between a Garden Club and the Beavercreek Historical Society? Well, the BHS helps the city manage the historic buildings in Wartinger Park, and the Flower Trail Garden Club (here-in-after FTGC) researched, planned, and established the historic herb gardens and authentic plantings around those buildings, maintaining them for decades, even before the Historical Society was established in 1986.

The Society recently received for its archives several FTGC project reports and folders, which provide insight into the development of Wartinger Park as well as document an outstanding 57-year Beavercreek civic organization.

Among many other projects, the FTGC helped in Wartinger from the park's establishment in 1975 until 2013, and the Society president Mark Wiley was happy to accept the park project reports from member Judy Haas. (A much more detailed salute to the FTGC can be found in a Winter 2013 Log by Log article, at the time of their disbanding.)

The documents provide details about the original authentic period plantings, including 17 antique roses (unfortunately now gone) and dozens of other period flowers and shrubs. Particularly fascinating is the story of the FTGC's gargantuan efforts to restore the Jarusiewicz Cabin, including valuable pictures and narratives of the reconstruction.



The plantings were a result of a long-range plan developed and begun by the FTGC as a 1976 Bicentennial Community Project, and was completed and documented in 2009.

Today the Greene County Master Gardeners perform maintenance of the Wartinger Park Gardens.

The Flower Train Garden Club project reports will be on display for members and the public at the next quarterly meeting held October 26th, 2021.

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*Photo: Judy Haas holding documents which have been added to the BHS Archives.*



# Membership News

*Photo: Cookies and frozen custard were served to the July 27th quarterly meeting attendees*

## Quarterly Meeting was an Educational and Social Success!

The summer quarterly meeting was held this past July 27th at the Beavercreek Board of Education. That was appropriate, because about 50 members and non-members heard a presentation on the fascinating 221-year history of Beavercreek schools. The formal presentation was by Ruth Wiley, who serves both as our liaison to the schools and as elementary curriculum supervisor in the school system, and her husband Mark Wiley, our Society President.

To supplement the formal presentation, there was plenty of spontaneous additional information by several attendees, including personal historical anecdotes by Bob Zimmer, Roger Coy, and Jill Kincer. This was all capped by a stand-up personal historical review by retired school teacher and local historian (and Society Vice-President) Bobbie Carpenter.

And, if that wasn't enough, the assemblage was invited across the parking lot to historic Wartinger Park, where plates of cookies and Ritter's-donated frozen custard magically appeared. (Coincidentally, Ritter's on Dayton-Xenia is on the site of Beavercreek's first high school.)

**From Coy to Coy:** The first school in the township was on the Jacob Coy farmland on Shakertown Road in 1900, and the newest school is the 2013 Coy Middle School. (*Editor's note:* I hadn't thought of it, but just the idea of kids arriving on horseback or by trap, with stables out behind the schools, was fascinating.)

The subject was interesting and educational, the weather was perfect and, as the saying goes, a great time was had by all. Next quarterly meeting will be held October 26th, as always the public is invited. Mark your calendars!

## Tobias-Zimmer Barn Rebuild Update

*Submitted by Kim Farrell, Beaver Creek Parks Superintendent and Historical Society Liaison*

The contract for the barn reconstruction was signed at the end of August 2021 in the amount of \$466,138. The project was awarded to Jagger Construction LLC of Lima Ohio (*Editor's Note: I looked into Jagger and they're 100% municipal and county construction, seemingly stressing parks; e.g., they recently did the steps and bridge at The Narrows.*)

This fall, Jagger will tear down the remaining wall, tear up existing concrete and re-pour the foundation. Unfortunately, lumber is on a seven month delay. It's scheduled to arrive in April and framing will begin immediately. The whole project is anticipated to be done by the end of June 2022.

The City plans a groundbreaking in March 2022 (*Editor's Note: Hopefully not breaking the new concrete*). The Society will definitely be in attendance.

## Contributions to Tobias-Zimmer Rebuild Project

Plans are moving forward with the construction of the Tobias-Zimmer Barn (see above). However, the Beaver Creek Historical Society, a prime user of the barn, is interested in some unfunded "extras" for which potential adaptation are being explored, such as a kitchen, water supply, restrooms, etc. To this end, the Society has a separate fund accepting donations. Anyone or any organization interested in donating can do so as follows:

- Contact the Society at [bhsohio@gmail.com](mailto:bhsohio@gmail.com)

- Make a donation by check mailed to the **Beaver Creek Historical Society at 1368 Research Park Drive, Beaver Creek OH 45432** (specify Tobias-Zimmer Barn on the check)
- Make an online donation at <https://greenegiving.ejoinme.org/donation> (specify the designation as: Beaver Creek Historical Society Tobias-Zimmer Barn)

We recently received contributions from **Dorothy Mulhauser** in memory of John Rhodehamel, and from six members of the now-disbanded Flower Trail Garden Club (**Judy Haas, Joan Epperson, Dotty Crowley, Christina Addison, Cathy Bodke and Traudl Schrick**).

The fund currently stands at \$5,680.

## Living History Update

*Submitted by Amy Rohrback, Education Chair*

Despite the 2019 Memorial Day tornado destroying the Zimmer-Tobias barn and the 2020 Covid Pandemic, the Living History Program conducted by volunteers for the Beaver Creek Historical Society is back on and in person at Wartinger Park!

Monday, September 13th, 2021 marked the beginning of the educational program for Beaver Creek 3rd grade students from Main, St. Luke, Trebein and Valley Elementaries. Fairbrook, Parkwood and Shaw students will be scheduled to attend in April and May of 2022.

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. Six volunteers are needed each day to instruct the children in these areas.

If you are 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 8, 2021.

## Board of Directors

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**Long-range Planning, Vacant  
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**Log by Log Newsletter**  
**David Shumway, Editor**  
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**Website, Vacant—consider  
volunteering**

## Brianna Johnson Departing as our Log by Log Publisher!

Yes, this is the last issue put together by the talented Brianna Johnson! The Society is researching other options and will be prepared for the Winter 2022 edition.

We couldn't say our thanks to Brianna better than Secretary Mary Jean Henry put it:

"On behalf of the Beavercreek Historical Society, thank you so much for your service. We are very sorry to see you go!! We have grown accustomed to the beautiful newsletter that you create every quarter. Yes, indeed, it is something to be proud of. It will be a hard act to follow! ...Wishing you well in your future endeavors!

Warm regards, Mary Henry and your BHS friends."

## Volunteer Opportunities!

The Society currently has (or will soon have) vacancies in the positions of acquisitions/archives, membership, programs, long-range planning, and website. There's lots of collective experience in most of these areas among the active members, but we need individuals to act as focal points and perform the functions.

If you have interest, or know someone who might be interested even if not currently a member, please contact Secretary **Mary Jean Henry** at 937-244-5958 or email her at [bhsOhio@gmail.com](mailto:bhsOhio@gmail.com).

## Would you like to contribute an article to your Historical Society Newsletter?

As part of its community outreach, the Log by Log is accepting short articles contributed by members and non-members alike on topics of Beavercreek historical interest. It doesn't have to necessarily relate to the early settlers; anything going back even 50-100 years might be of interest and be worthy of documentation. The Log by Log becomes part of the Historical Society archives, so your tales and remembrances can become a permanent part of this valuable community record. Family history, early businesses, shopping experiences, farming, neighborhoods, clubs and organizations, churches and schools, transportation ... these may all be of interest to readers and worthy of documentation.

Pictures are appropriate as well. Send proposed articles to **David Shumway** at [dashumway@gmail.com](mailto:dashumway@gmail.com) or text him at 937-416-2911 with any questions about articles.

# Two Generations Ago: Fall 1971

*A shortened form of a regular column by member David Shumway, submitted to the Beaver Creek News-Current.*

Walt Disney comes to the east coast! Walt Disney World just opened in Florida on October 1st, this year of 1971.

Locally, students will have begun school on September 8th. (This year Beaver Creek started on August 16th.) Two days after school opened, the BHS Battling Beavers lost to Carol 21-0 in their football opener. I saw an interesting long piece in the Beaver Creek News, "For every girl—a guide to football," written by a young woman at BHS. (Bringing that forward, today the young women are on the field.)

Cindy Ann Fischer was just named BHS Homecoming Queen. (Coming forward, just out of curiosity, does anyone know where Ms Fischer is today?)

I can't resist the grocery prices, so please bear with me. Aha! My fave foods: Banquet TV dinners are 29¢, choice of mac'n'beef or chicken'n'noodles. Also for 29¢, a 5 lb bag of flour (not 4 lb like today; remember when they snuck that one in?). Campbell's tomato soup, 9¢. "Lean" ground beef, 59¢/lb. (Today we would call it, like, 80% lean, which of course means 20% fat.)

Thanksgiving approacheth! Mince and pumpkin pies are 49¢. Or, for DIYers, pumpkin is 19¢/can and cranberries are 19¢/lb. Turkeys are 59¢/lb. (Coming forward, turkeys haven't inflated as much as I would have imagined, but everything else ...)

Cub Scout Pack 263 reportedly collected 12,000 pounds of newspaper in the widely popular newspaper drives for recycling and fundraising. Another ecological initiative: Phosphate detergents have just been condemned in Ohio.

Bonnie's Beauty Salon has perms on sale for \$11. (Coming forward, being ignorant I did a bit of research: Perms went out, but just this year are back, with a cost of \$80-\$100.)

News flash: Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 321 has just broken ground for its new building in Richfield Center. (Coming forward: It was great for decades, and wife and I danced and taught dancing there, but it sadly disappeared apparently in 2016.)

Ready for a Hallowe'en movie? The Belmont Auto Theater has a triple feature: "The Corpse Grinders," "Undertaker and his Pals" and "The Embalmers." All in gorgeous color. (I wonder if Jeffrey Dahmer watched that sort of thing; he was 11 in 1971.)

1971 was an exciting and eventful year, but obviously so is 2021.





# Deal's Landscaping: 81 Years and Counting

*Contributed by Jill Kincer*

Chatting with John Deal about Beaver Creek is a grand way to spend a Saturday morning. I recently sat down with John in the company's old rebuilt barn/office to talk about recollections and local history from the viewpoint of an experienced landscaper and public servant.

John has lived in our community for all of his 79 and counting years. His family business, Deal's Landscaping, is the oldest continuous family owned business operating in Beaver Creek, dating back to 1940. It was also the first flower shop in Beaver Creek.

John's father, Bob Deal, arrived in Dayton from Massillon in the late 1920s. There he met Sam Zehrung, a professional landscape architect who put him to work on landscaping projects at the mansions of the wealthy Rike, Kettering and Huffman families. It was a seed that began to grow into a hallmark business in Beaver Creek.

In 1940, John's parents to the then mostly farming community of Beavercreek Township. They purchased the home at 3472 Dayton-Xenia Road which had an existing greenhouse on the property making it just the right spot to begin their own landscaping business. John was born two years later. Initially, the Deals grew and sold vegetable plants and flowers from that greenhouse. In a few years, they opened a fresh flower shop.

John remembers his mother Faith making Easter corsages in the kitchen—a beautiful tradition now lost. Floral work then moved onto the back porch, and then to an addition at the back of the house.

Faith Deal was known throughout the community as “just the person” to create bouquets for weddings, and Bob worked the landscaping end of the business and helped with delivery, set-up, etc. for floral events.

Eventually, the floral business was discontinued after wedding and funeral customs in society changed.

John is one of three children, two of whom followed other paths while John took over the landscape portion of the business in 1969. And that landscaping business continues today as Beavercreek continues to grow with farm fields flipping to housing developments needing plants and trees.

Bob Deal passed away in 1989, with wife Faith passing in 1999. They were honored in 1982 with the Chamber of Commerce E.G. Shaw Award for their outstanding service for the general good and welfare of the citizens of Beavercreek.

John, like his parents, took up an interest in serving his community. He mentioned that when he was 14, his interest in fighting fires was sparked (pun intended) when their refrigerator caught on fire. He watched as his father extinguished it and knew then that he wanted to be a firefighter. So at age 21, the required age to qualify, he signed up with Beavercreek Fire Department as a volunteer. In the lore of Beavercreek fire history, the infamous 1969 Lammers “Barrel Factory” fire ranks at the top. John recalls that he drove the first fire truck into that fire site and the last fire truck out 24 hours later. He served a total of 20 years with the department and loved it all. In 1984 he was appointed Township Trustee to fill a vacancy, a position he held for 21 years. As the Township Trustees were responsible for the Fire Department, including the City after incorporation in 1980, John's strong background in fire protection was a definite advantage.

My chat with John took place in the rebuilt barn that now houses the business end of Deal's Landscaping, witnessed by his friendly cadre of barn cats. John shared that as Beavercreek grew and homes took the place of old farms, the Fire Department was often called upon to burn down old barns. It broke his heart to see huge oak beams still burning after such fires.

So in 1988 when a 150 year-old barn at the Miller Farm on Hanes Road was to be razed, the owner gave John the barn which he moved and renovated at the Dayton-Xenia location, over a poured concrete basement. Each of the beams was tagged prior to being moved on two semi-trucks, and those tags remain today. One beam is 44 feet long with 14-inch square sides. The interior walls of the building today are covered with what original exterior siding could be saved. The original vendor's license for Deal's Landscaping dated January 31, 1940 now hangs on a beam.

So take note as you drive on Dayton-Xenia Road; the barn survives and serves 183 years after being built. Makes one wonder what history those majestic beams hewn in 1838 must've witnessed as living trees. Thanks, John, for saving it. The Beavercreek Historical Society salutes Deal's Landscaping for serving as an environmental steward of our community for over 80 years.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

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

## Monthly Board of Directors Meetings.

First Thursday, 4:00 P.M.

Lofina Plaza Meeting Room

## Quarterly Meeting October 26

Peace Lutheran Church at 7:00 p.m.

Spooky Tales from the Greene County Archives:

Facts and Myths Behind Harold Igo's Ghost Stories,  
presented by Melissa Dalton

## Log by Log Submissions due December 10

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

## 2022 Quarterly Meetings

January 25, April 26, July 26, October 25



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BEAVERCREEK, OHIO 45432  
[BeavercreekHistoricalSociety.org](http://BeavercreekHistoricalSociety.org)

*Thank You*

THE BEAVERCREEK  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S

# Quarterly Meeting

**When:** October 26, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. | **Where:** Peace Lutheran Church, Dayton-Xenia Rd.

Don't miss this very appropriate Fall quarterly meeting! Join us  
**October 26th, 7:00 p.m. at Peace Lutheran Church on Dayton-Xenia Road**, which will be open to the public as usual.

The program, based on real events, is appropriately named  
"Spooky Tales from the Greene County Archives: Facts and Myths  
Behind Harold Igo's Ghost Stories." Presenters from the Greene  
County Archives will explore facts and fiction from county records  
and newspaper archives.

Presenter **Melissa Dalton** serves as Public Outreach Coordinator  
for the Greene County Records Center and Archives in Xenia.  
She has a B.A. in Anthropology, an M.S. in History/Public History,  
and another M.S. in Library and Information Science. She joined  
the Center in 2017, and manages educational programming and  
outreach initiatives.

## Save the Date(s): 2022 Schedule

The four Quarterly meetings are  
scheduled for **January 25th, April  
26th, July 26th, and October 25th,  
2022**. These are all open to the  
public and will include historic  
presentations. We have reserved  
Peace Lutheran Church for all four,  
but hopefully the venue will change  
to a rebuilt Tobias-Zimmer barn (see  
page 3) in Wartinger Park for the  
July and October meetings.