

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



Spring 2022
Volume 31, Issue 2

BeavercreekHistoricalSociety.org

Tobias-Zimmer Barn Groundbreaking

Barn raising today looks a little different than it did in 1858 when the Tobias-Zimmer Barn was first constructed by Peter Tobias, most likely with the assistance of local barn builders and many neighboring farmers.

Fast forward 164 years later, this barn raising is spearheaded by Kim Farrell, Superintendent of Beavercreek Parks, Recreation and Culture Department, and architects McGill, Smith, Punshon, Inc.



On Wednesday, March 16, an enthusiastic group gathered at Wartinger Park to commemorate the beginning of the rebuild, which will result in an historically accurate structure to replace the original barn which was lost in the May 2019 tornadoes that hit Beavercreek. Beavercreek Mayor Bob Stone and Society President Mark Wiley talked about the strong city and community support behind the project and were joined by City Manager Pete Landrum and several City Council members.



Guest speaker Bob Zimmer, who donated the barn to the park in 1996 with his wife Agnes, spoke about the importance of the barn as a reflection of early life in Beavercreek, as well as its importance

in present-day Beavercreek for its use to educate schoolchildren through the Living History Program, and serve as a gathering place for the community. In

attendance were three of the five Zimmer children (Elizabeth, Mary, and Julie) and their families. Also in attendance were several descendants of the Tobias family: Gary Koogler, Sandy Hurley, Jim Hawker, and Jessica Thomes.



The barn project is expected to be completed this summer. Stay tuned for information on a community wide ribbon cutting in the near future!



Tobias-Zimmer Barn Fund

The Society is seeking contributions to help fund additional amenities for the Tobias-Zimmer Barn that are not presently included in the

City rebuild contract, such as a potential prep-kitchen and restrooms that would be useful for gatherings and meetings. Anyone interested in contributing can contact the Society at bhsohio@gmail.com, mail a check to Beavercreek Historical Society (1368 Research Park Dr., Beavercreek, OH 45432), or donate online at <https://greenegiving.ejoinme.org/donation> (specify designation as "Beavercreek Historical Society Tobias-Zimmer Barn").

Photos: Groundbreaking Event (left), left to right, Mayor Bob Stone, Bob Zimmer, BHS President Mark Wiley (bottom). Bob Zimmer at Barn Destroyed by May 2019 Tornado, and Barn Rendering (above).

Special Thank You to David Shumway, former *Log by Log* Editor

Submitted by Jill Kincer

It was early in April 2016 that the Society received an email message from an individual named David Shumway. He was seeking records and information regarding incorporation of the City of Beavercreek. I replied sharing two things: (1) the History Center houses the leather-bound copies of all past Beavercreek News newspapers which he would be welcome to use for his research, and (2) I invited him to attend an upcoming Open House at the Center.

Thus began an interesting process that had multiple positive outcomes. David was at that time in the midst of writing about the history of the long and involved effort to incorporate the City of Beavercreek—a true challenge to document the many twists and turns over an 18-year period. He had originally intended to write a 500-word article on Beavercreek’s incorporation to be submitted to the Dayton Daily News where he submits frequent opinion pieces. But he had figured out fairly quickly this would not be a 500-word article!

We agreed to meet that year on April 17 at the Beavercreek History Center on Dayton-Xenia Road to determine what other items we might have that would be worthwhile in his research. We were joined by Carol Graff, who was active in the incorporation battle, and she directed him to the Wright State University Archives. Much later, David brought an early draft, full of detailed information he had gathered from various sources. Carol and I, both lovers of history and our community, were enthused with what we saw and read, and we both agreed to offer any assistance possible toward the final product which David titled “Birth of a City.”

David finalized his work and was a presenter at one of our quarterly meetings sharing that interesting

story. That work, in itself, is a valuable community contribution as it documents every detail about the incorporation—a vital piece of our Beavercreek history. So, we thank him mightily for that. But he also contributed in other ways.

He soon became a member of the Society and, using the old Beavercreek News collection, wrote various *Log by Log* articles including a quarterly article entitled “Two Generations Ago” which compared differences in grocery prices, local businesses and activities. The Greene County Dailies including *Beavercreek News Current* also ran those same articles. David soon joined the BHS Board of Directors and became the editor of *Log by Log*.

David, as I learned early on, had lots of personal history connected to Beavercreek, where he resided for 58 years. Space doesn’t allow for all the details. He was an active member of the Beavercreek Jaycees from its inception and active years in the 1960s and 70s. He enjoyed designing the then famous Jaycees Halloween Monster Manor in various locations, served as officer and editing the newsletter. He has served on Beavercreek’s long-range planning committee and campaign committees and volunteered with the Beaver Creek Wetlands Association. His Beavercreek home, where he and wife Sharon resided prior to their recent move to West Carrollton, abutted Mount St. John, and he was actively volunteering with the Marianist Environmental Education Center there until the move.

David, your community including the Beavercreek Historical Society thanks you for your willingness to step up, share your time, your talents, and your energy to make our Beavercreek community a better place to live. You will be missed. Thank you!

The Living History Spring Program

Submitted by Shawnah Tibbs-Sergent

The Living History Program will open at Wartinger Park for our spring program April 25 – May 13, 2022. Fairbrook, Parkwood and Shaw schools will attend during this timeframe. Students will have hands-on experience of the early history and way of life in Beavercreek including completing six chores (gardening, rag dolls, quilting, butter making, spinning and finger knitting) led by volunteers.



I would like to take a moment to introduce myself. My name is Shawnah Tibbs-Sergent and I'm the new Living History Spring Program Coordinator and will be working alongside longtime program director Amy Rohrback. I have 15+ years of experience teaching and coordinating classes

and programs. I also work for Beavercreek Parks, Recreation and Culture as the Recreation Coordinator. I am looking forward to this wonderful opportunity with the Beavercreek Historical Society, students, teachers, volunteers and our community.

If you are interested in helping with this educational program (gardening, rag dolls, quilting, butter making, spinning and finger knitting), please text/call Shawnah at (937) 581-3269, or **email** livinghistorybhs@gmail.com.

We are all looking forward to getting together in the park for this wonderful program!

Note: The Living History program is the most significant educational programming offered by BHS, and has served thousands of third graders since its inception in 1994, teaching them about early pioneer life in Ohio. It operates in conjunction with Beavercreek City Schools and St. Luke School, fulfilling a State of Ohio curriculum requirement.



Photos: Shawnah Tibbs-Sergent (left), Debbie Nelson, Living History Volunteer (above)

New Members

A warm welcome to new members:

*Pat Barton
Laura Drager
Ryan Henry
Jan Leonard
Dale & Martha Shields
Brett Williford (lifetime member)*



Board of Trustees

President, Mark Wiley
bhsOhio@gmail.com

Vice President, Bobbie Carpenter
bhsOhio@gmail.com

Secretary, Mary Henry
bhsOhio@gmail.com

Treasurer, Rodger Reedy
rreedy1923@gmail.com

Acquisitions/Archives, Vacant
– consider volunteering

Membership,
Chrisonna Anderson-Lutz
clutz@beavercreektownship.org

Education, Amy Rohrback & Shawnah Tibbs-Sergent
livinghistorybhs@gmail.com

Programs, Vacant
– consider volunteering

Facilities Coordinator, Vacant
– consider volunteering

Website, Vacant
– consider volunteering

Liaison with Beavercreek Schools,
Ruth Wiley
ruth.wiley@gocreek.org

Liaison with Beavercreek Parks,
Kim Farrell
Farrell@beavercreekohio.gov

Liaison with Beavercreek Township,
Chrisonna Anderson-Lutz
clutz@beavercreektownship.org

Newsletter, Vacant
– consider volunteering

Revisiting the Past: “Fried” Fish Anyone? Trebein Distillery Blaze Spectacular

*By Ray Higgins, Excerpt reprinted from The Xenia Daily Gazette,
May 25, 1968*

Before his retirement from Miami Fertilizer at Trebein, Glenn Noggle used to be bugged by tourists stopping to inquire about the distillery fire at that location in 1904.

They seemed to be principally fascinated by the report that fish in the Little Miami River imbibed the escaping spirits and were easily caught in an intoxicated state. It was the first case on record of fish being “fried” before they hit the pan.

But the fire that hit the Colonial Distillery Co. August 8, 1904 was no laughter. It started about 2 a.m. from a chimney in the dry house blower and flames enveloped the two-story 40 by 60 foot building and spread to the three-story brick house that housed the still house proper.

The distillery had its own water system, but flames put the pumps out of action and by the time fire units from Dayton and Xenia arrived, summoned by Lester Croy, night telegrapher for the CH&D Railroad at Trebein, the blaze was out of control.

Xenia firemen were handicapped because they did not have a pumper, but they helped the Dayton firefighters save the three big warehouses and the grain elevator across the highway. Not so fortunate was the J.W. Mullin grocery, which was partially consumed with a resultant loss of \$1,000 to grocery stock besides damage to the building it tenanted.

Besides the owners, there were many mourners of the \$40,000 worth of “spirits” that were destroyed. The distillery had been in operation two or three years at the scene where one of many like businesses that dotted county streams had preceded it in producing liquor.

The machinery, including much copper coiling, had been installed at considerable expense. Xenia insurance agencies had written

\$160,000 worth of fire protection on the building and contents, not considered sufficient for coverage, although Fred Weiss, secretary of the company, was quick to say it would be rebuilt.* The other officers were M.S. Greenbaum of New York (president), B. Mihalovistvh of Cincinnati (vice president), and C. Kinhead (treasurer).

Dayton Fire Co. 13 which had done yeoman service in fighting the fire, which attracted hundreds of spectators from Xenia and other parts of the area, suffered an embarrassing experience the next day. Attempting to leave the scene, the pumper, pulled by a horse and with a fireman guiding the tongue, was dumped into a dry mill race when it faltered out of control on a small bridge. The chief of the engine company was in the driver's seat!

Note: The distillery was never rebuilt.

Note: This story was also printed in the Beaver Creek Chronicles (pg. 167) and is only one of the hundreds of unique and interesting stories about Beaver Creek's early days. You can purchase a copy of the Beaver Creek Chronicles for only \$20 at the Beaver Creek Community Library, or by emailing bhsohio@gmail.com, or at our quarterly meetings.

Volunteer Opportunities

If you have an appreciation for the history of Beaver Creek and a willingness to work with other interested volunteers you are a candidate! We have many exciting projects coming up and need your support. The Society currently has the following volunteer positions open:

Archives/Acquisitions: Maintain archives and landmark documentation for the Society, as well as oversee the acquisition and inventory of furnishings and materials of historic significance.

Facilities Coordinator & Long-Range Planning: Develop and monitor a plan of oversight for facilities maintenance in coordination with the Beaver Creek Parks, Recreation, and Culture Department, including plans for long-range future maintenance.

Newsletter: Oversee the content and publishing of the *Log by Log* quarterly newsletter.

Programs: Schedule presenters and programs for the Quarterly Meetings and other special events.

Website: Maintain the Beaver Creek Historical Society website.

Looking Ahead

Annual Elections for Board of Directors Officers

We are planning ahead for the upcoming vacancies for the positions of President and Secretary when their second terms expire at the end of 2022. Although the incumbents are eligible for re-election to a third term (2023-24), if you have an interest, or know someone who might be interested, please contact the Society at bhsohio@gmail.com or Anita O'Neal at 937-313-3376.

Elections will be held at our annual meeting in October, and the slate of nominations will be announced in advance of the meeting.

Bylaws Review/Revision

BHS Bylaws call for a review on a two-year rotation, so we are due in 2020. The Board of Trustees is working on some recommended changes and the membership will be informed in advance of the October Annual Meeting at which time the membership will vote. Stay tuned for more information.

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

T A O'Neal & Sons, LLC

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monthly Board of Directors Meetings

First Thursdays, 4:30 P.M.

Lofino Plaza Meeting Room

Quarterly Meeting April 26

7:00 P.M., Peace Lutheran Church

Future 2022 Quarterly Meetings

Fourth Tuesdays, 7:00 P.M.

July 26, October 25 (Annual Meeting)

Log by Log Submissions due June 10

Submit to bhsohio@gmail.com

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



1368 RESEARCH PARK DRIVE
BEAVERCREEK, OHIO 45432
BeavercreekHistoricalSociety.org

Thank You

THE BEAVERCREEK
HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S

Quarterly Meeting

April 26, 2022, 7:00 P.M.

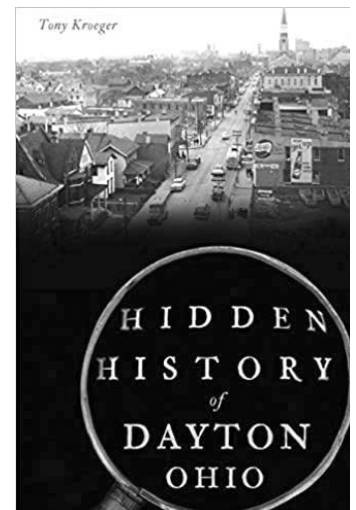
Peace Lutheran Church, 3530 Dayton-Xenia Road, Beavercreek

Hidden History of Dayton Ohio

Presented by Tony Kroeger, Author of *Hidden History of Dayton Ohio*

Tony Kroeger is the planning division manager for the City of Dayton, where he has worked since 2006. A graduate of Miami University (bachelor's degree) and Clemson University (master's) in city and regional planning, he grew up in Cincinnati and came to Dayton from Greenville, South Carolina. He and his family live in the St. Anne's Hill Historic district in Dayton.

Tony enjoys sharing his sense of wonder and excitement about cities. His presentation will cover how the *Hidden History of Dayton Ohio* developed, highlights and images from the book, and interesting behind-the-scenes anecdotes. The book explores the history of Dayton and goes well beyond those stories that are familiar to us. Did you know that there once was an obscure door located on a hillside that led to National Cash Register's secret underground tunnel system?? (Published February 22, 2021, the book will be available for purchase.)



This free presentation is open to the public, with light refreshments being served. Please plan to attend and bring a friend.

Log by Log Page 6

(For those interested in joining, Historical Society membership forms will be available.)