

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 WARTINGER PARK IS LOOKING GOOD

Visit Wartinger Park at 3080 Kemp Rd.



Wartinger Park is getting a lot of attention these days! The Tobias-Zimmer Barn rebuild was just completed last July and most recently new cedar shake shingle roofs and fascia were installed on all four log cabins. Many thanks to the Beavercreek Parks, Recreation and Culture Division for spearheading the roof replacement, funded partially through a grant from the Greater Dayton Disaster Relief Fund which was established in

partnership with the Dayton Foundation to help jurisdictions that were impacted by the 2019 Memorial Day tornado.

History of Wartinger Park

The park was named in remembrance of John Wartinger (1949-1975), oldest son of Ken and Marie Wartinger of Beavercreek. John had worked for the Greene County Parks and Recreation Department during his college years and later at the Greene County YMCA. In addition to teaching at Prass Elementary School, he worked as a Safety Director for the City of Kettering and developed the Safety Patrol Program. He had dedicated most of his young life to the development of children before he suffered a fatal heart attack in 1975. At the request of Greene County Commissioners, the park was named and dedicated as John H. Wartinger Park on December 6, 1975. The park came under the jurisdiction of the City of Beavercreek in 1983.

Over the years, the park grew to contain four early Beavercreek log cabins and one barn, all of which had originally been slated for demolition but were relocated and preserved by interested residents of Beavercreek in partnership with the Beavercreek Historical Society, the (former) Flower Trail Garden Club, and the City of Beavercreek. The unique park serves as the "home"

of our Society and has become one of the jewels of Beavercreek, providing a welcome gathering site for citizens along with promoting and preserving the history of the area.

This article features a short history of each of the four cabins (excerpts taken from the Beavercreek Chronicles, a 244-page publication documenting historical facts, stories, and family history about early life in Beavercreek; available for purchase at quarterly meetings and through bhsohio@gmail.com).

Note: The cabins will be open to the public on Sunday, July 23, 5:00-7:00, during the Community Ice Cream Social (details on page 3).

Jarusiewicz Cabin (circa 1805)



The modern aluminum-sided building on North Fairfield Rd. appeared to be nothing special until the siding was stripped in 1972 to reveal an old log cabin. This prompted owner George Jarusiewicz to preserve the structure and take meticulous care in

dismantling the old logs to be reassembled after it was donated to the Greene County Recreation and Parks Department. Later, permission was granted by the Beavercreek Park Board to allow the rebuilding of the cabin in 1976 at the newly designated Wartinger Park on Kemp Rd.

Jarusiewicz spent much time researching the original owner of the house and was able to document records back to 1850, however, he determined it could be as old as 1805 if it was in fact part of the "forty cabins, one church, and one grocery store in the new Beavercreek Township."

The 16x24 ft cabin was crudely constructed of large logs, one weighing 800-900 lbs, with only six logs needed to build the cabin to a 12-foot height. The four main beams were 24 ft long and two others were 16 ft each. Local Scout Pack No. 71 helped Jarusiewicz with the authentic restoration along with other community volunteers. A stone fireplace was built with stones from a log cabin on Sperling Lane. It took George half a day to haul ten

tons of stone! Additional donations funded the cedar-split roof shingles and an oak floor to replace the original sand floor.

Succumbing to insect infestation in 1997, the community again rallied, this time to construct a replica under the guidance of the Flower Trail Garden Club.

Nicodemus House (circa 1811)



This early 1800 log cabin was originally located at the southeast corner of Grange Hall and New Germany-Trebein roads. It was discovered under the modern façade of a rental property when it was slated for demolition. Research by

Dr. William Zink revealed that it had been built in 1811 by John Nicodemus who had acquired 900 acres of land deeded by the US government, by signature of President James Madison. After having several owners over the years, the Zink family took possession in 1932, and Max Zink donated the structure to the park in 1979.

The Flower Trail Garden Club headed up the two-year log-by-log reconstruction of the cabin including sorting out and replacing the bad logs, scraping logs with wire brushes to remove rotted areas, and then applying several coats of preservatives. A new wood floor was added, along with a stone chimney and fireplace. Stone removed from the cabin's original foundation was brought to the site and used around the cabin base, and the structure was finished in 1982 with a new roof of authentic shake shingles.

Philip Harshman House (circa 1804)



Research reveals that this two-story log house, discovered in 1986 underneath a battered frame home on the east side of North Fairfield Rd. just to the south of St. Luke Catholic Church, has a rich history. The Harshmans were among some

of the earliest pioneer settlers in Beavercreek. Philip Harshman was born in 1777 in Frederick County Maryland, and came to Ohio with his brother, Jonathan, in 1803. Philip, an apprentice blacksmith, cut the timber for the log house and let it season while he returned to Maryland for his bride, Frances "Fannie" Durnbaugh. Coming to Greene County, the newlyweds lived in their covered wagon in Beavercreek until the log house was completed. Philip became a farmer and reportedly did not return to the blacksmith trade.

When the old log house was discovered by workmen demolishing the structure, an effort was quickly begun by interested citizens to save and restore the historic cabin. It was restored under the guidance of the Beavercreek Historical

Society and now occupies a prominent spot in Wartinger Park surrounded by flower beds and a vegetable garden, all enclosed by rail fencing. The house is furnished with period pieces and is a popular destination for park visitors.

The stone pathways for both the Harshman House kitchen garden as well as paths leading to the Ankeney House were constructed with limestone rocks saved from the foundation of the old Lantz barn on Kemp Rd.

Ankeney House (circa 1828)



In 1830, David Ankeney and wife Elizabeth traveled from western Maryland to settle in the area, purchasing a log cabin and 210 acres on what is now known as Ankeney Rd. at a cost of \$946.66. According to a descendant, Albert Ankeney, there was a small barn behind the

cabin at the time and one or two acres of land had already been cleared. Builders of the cabin are speculative but may have been the Morningstar brothers—John, George, and Phillip—who built many cabins in the early 1800s.

The large Ankeney family of ten children thrived in this cabin despite cramped conditions. There were five rooms originally and later a kitchen was added by David's son, Samuel, the oldest child. David had died in 1830 soon after the family's arrival from Maryland, making Samuel the head of the family.

Donated to the Beavercreek Historical Society by the Philip Ankeney family, the cabin was relocated to Wartinger Park in 1993. The original fireplace brick was found to be quite soft and deteriorating, and it was rebuilt in 1997 using bricks from the old Beavercreek High School, which had burned in 1996.

Living History Coming Soon!



Photo: Gerry Smalley with students.

Amy Rohrback, Program Director

The Spring Living History Program will be here soon. Fairbrook, Parkwood and Shaw third-graders will be visiting Wartinger Park between April 24 and May 12. Volunteers are preparing materials and planning pioneer chores for the students on the day of their visit. A special feature this spring will be Gerry Smalley discussing the purpose of having a bell to communicate with during the early 1800s in Beavercreek.

Thank you to Leona and Sam Slagle for donating fabric for the rag doll and quilting activities. We are always looking for cotton fabric with small print and yarn. Please contact Amy at 937 477-1007 or email livinghistorybhs@gmail.com if you would like to help with the program or have fabric or yarn to donate.

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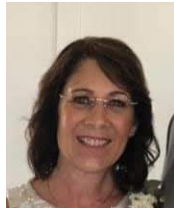
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Welcome New Spring Coordinator



My name is Marsha DeWeese and I'm the new Living History Spring Coordinator. I will be working along with program director Amy Rohrback. I've been a resident of Beavercreek for 36 years and retired from Beavercreek City Schools as an Intervention Specialist. I look forward to working with the Beavercreek Historical Society, students, teachers, and volunteers.

Beavercreek Township 220th Year Celebration Event

Saturday, May 13, 2023, 11:00 am - 2:00 pm
Beavercreek Township Government Center, 851 Orchard Lane

On May 10, 1803, in a little log house occupied by Peter Borders on the banks of the Beaver Creek a short distance from what is now known as the old Harbine homestead at Alpha, the first meeting of the associate judges of this county took place. In this meeting, the official existence of Beavercreek Township was erected by order of the court. This was done by laying out Beavercreek, Sugarcreek, Caesarscreek, and Mad River townships and designating the boundaries to be Beavercreek Township.

Join us in celebration and learn about some of the Township's history, watch historical reenactments, and pick up your Scavenger Hunt Packet to win a 220th-year Township commemorative challenge coin at the 2023 Popcorn Festival. Also, enjoy some great food from the several food trucks that will be on site.

In addition, Beavercreek Historical Society members will be demonstrating early settler activities such as candle making, washtub laundry, and spinning.

Save the Date for our Community Ice Cream Social and Barn Dedication

Sunday, July 23, 2023, 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm, Wartinger Park

Think back to the early days of the Tobias-Zimmer Barn (circa 1858) when farmers and their families would gather to help each other with chores and to celebrate life's events. Fast forward to 2023 and the barn will again be the site of a community celebration! A barn dedication is planned to officially welcome the newly rebuilt barn to the park and present it to the community. Visitors will enjoy a short program followed by an ice cream social—free and open to the public. Plus, the cabins will be open for touring! This event is the Society's way of thanking the community for their support and launching the campaign to install park restrooms in the barn.

Come out and enjoy an evening in the park!

**Welcome
New Members:**

*Greene Optimist Club
Vickie & Roger Ritchie*

**Thank You Lifetime
Business Sponsors:**

*IH Credit Union
TA O'Neal & Sons, LLC*

We Need You!

If you have an appreciation for the unique and colorful history of Beavercreek and a willingness to work with others, you are a prime candidate to join our team! We need volunteers in several areas to make our team complete and share the workload. You will not work alone—existing board members are ready to provide support. Please consider helping in the following areas: Newsletter Director, Program Director, and Publicity Director. Contact bhsohio@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monthly Board of Directors Meetings

First Tuesdays, 4:30 P.M.

Lofino Plaza Meeting Room

Log by Log Submissions Due June 9

Submit to bhsohio@gmail.com

2023 Quarterly Meeting and Program Dates

April 25, 7:00 p.m.

Peace Lutheran Church

3530 Dayton-Xenia Rd.

July 23, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Community Ice Cream Social and Barn Dedication

Tobias-Zimmer Barn at Wartinger Park

3080 Kemp Rd.

October 24, 7:00 p.m.

Peace Lutheran Church

3530 Dayton-Xenia Rd.

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.



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BEAVERCREEK, OHIO 45432

BeavercreekHistoricalSociety.org

Thank You for Your Support

THE BEAVERCREEK
HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S

Quarterly Meeting

Join Us on a Walk Down Beavercreek's Memory Lane
Tuesday April 25, 7:00 pm, Peace Lutheran Church, 3530 Dayton Xenia Rd

Join us at the April quarterly meeting to enjoy a walk down memory lane with stories of the people, places, and things that built our community—from Civil War panic to Prohibitionary tales to The Liar's Table!



This unique program will be presented by our new History Center director Brett Williford. A near lifelong resident of the Miami Valley, Brett moved to Beavercreek in the late 1990s and it quickly became "home." As a local Realtor® he grew to know and love our community, its people and its history. During the market recession years of 2008-2014, he built an interactive tour of Beavercreek in his "ample spare time," The Beavercreek Heritage Trail. Brett now proudly serves as director of the History Center for the Beavercreek Historical Society.

A reading of *The Beavercreek Chronicles* with his son led him on a path of discovery to dive deeper into the structures, remnants, and families that made our community what it is today! His passion for the area is fueled by the stories and legends that echo within our borders—from fertile Native American hunting grounds to a hub of the early industry to the modern STEM municipality we enjoy today—Beavercreek offers something for everyone!

This program is free and open to the public. Come join us for a fun evening of tall tales and short stories!

Not getting our emails?

BHS sends out periodic, time-sensitive email announcements. Send your address to bhsohio@gmail.com to make sure you are on the list. (We do not share emails.)