

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



Fall 2023

Volume 32, Issue 4

BeavercreekHistoricalSociety.org

Donor Pledges \$40,000 Match for Tobias-Zimmer Barn Project

The Beavercreek Historical Society recently hosted a celebration on Sunday July 23 at Wartinger Historical Park to rededicate the Tobias-Zimmer Barn to the Beavercreek community. The original 1858 barn was destroyed in the 2019 tornadoes and a historically accurate rebuild was completed in 2022.

Festivities included free ice cream and historical cabin tours, and an interesting presentation highlighting Beavercreek's colorful history.

The event kicked off a fundraising campaign to add restrooms and a warming kitchen to the barn with the announcement of a **\$40,000 matching gift commitment from barn donor Bob Zimmer**. Mr. Zimmer will match donations dollar-for-dollar up to \$40,000. For example, a \$100 gift will be matched with a \$100 gift, doubling the value of the original gift.

The addition of restrooms and a warming kitchen will increase the usability of the barn, making it a more attractive rental venue, with proceeds directly supporting the maintenance and operations of Wartinger Park. The restrooms will also be accessible to park visitors during park hours. The park currently does not have restrooms. The project will begin in August with the installation of the water/sewer line.

Donated to the park in 1996 by long-time Beavercreek residents Bob and Agnes Zimmer, the barn joined four early Beavercreek family historic cabins representing first settlers in the area: Philip Harshman, Samuel Ankeney, John Nicodemus, and George Jarusiewicz. The Tobias-Zimmer Barn was added in 1996 to complete the representation of early life in Beavercreek.

The barn and cabins are open for touring during special park events, including the City's annual Winter Welcome set for December 15.

Tobias-Zimmer Barn serves as a site for community and private gatherings, as well as an educational interpretive center for the Society's annual Living History Program which fulfills a state curriculum requirement by teaching local third-graders about Ohio life in the early 1800s. Launched in 1993, the program has served over 15,500 Beavercreek schoolchildren.

Contributions to the Tobias-Zimmer Barn Fund can be made by check to Beavercreek Historical Society, 1368 Research Park Dr., Beavercreek, OH 45432, or by donating online at greenegiving.org. Please specify "Beavercreek Historical Society Tobias-Zimmer Barn."

Visit beavercreekhistoricalsociety.org to learn more, join, or volunteer. (The Society is always looking for descendants of early Beavercreek settlers.) Contact bhsohio@gmail.com for additional information. Visit beavercreekohio.gov for barn rental information.



Photo: Just like our founders, who bartered in trade and supported community members, we shared the bounty of our potato harvest with neighboring firefighters.

Fall Living History Is Underway

Program directors Amy Rohrback and Marsha De Weese are in full swing with a fantastic fall Living History Program! Main, Trebein, St. Luke, and Valley third-graders have or will visit Wartinger Park during the weeks of September 11-October, 2023. The mission of the Living History Program is to provide valuable early Ohio education for the students and even their parents and grandparents who chaperone for the day.

Ohio's Learning Standards for Social Studies outline what students should know and be able to do in social studies to succeed in college, careers, and for their role as engaged citizens.

Topics included are:

- Historical thinking begins with a clear sense of time, past, present and future, and becomes more precise as students progress. Historical thinking includes skills such as locating, researching, analyzing and interpreting primary and secondary sources so that students can begin to understand the relationships among events and draw conclusions.
- Heritage Ideas and events from the past have shaped the world as it is today. The actions of individuals and groups have made a difference in the lives of others.



For Grade 3, their theme is Communities Past and Present, Near and Far. The local community serves as the focal point for third grade as students begin to understand how their communities have changed over time and to make comparisons with communities in other places. The study of local history comes alive through the use of artifacts and documents.

We are always looking for volunteers to help with the program. Volunteers present one of six chores to the students and do not need prior knowledge of the subject matter to help with the program—just the desire to have fun while giving back to our community. Training will be available in person or by video. If you are interested in helping with the program, contact Amy Rohrback at (937) 477-1007 or email livinghistorybhs@gmail.com.



Photos: Third grade students experiencing homemade games typical of the 1800s.

The Potato Garden has Expanded

The Living History Program has expanded its purpose! Thanks to program director, Amy Rohrback, the three sisters have been added. The information below from <https://www.almanac.com/content/three-sisters-corn-bean-and-squash> explains the importance of this type of planting for the early settlers. Did you know that corn, beans, and squash are called the “Three Sisters”? A number of Native American tribes interplanted this trio because they thrive together, much like three inseparable sisters. The Three Sisters method is companion planting at its best, with three plants growing symbiotically to deter weeds and pests, enrich the soil, and support each other.

Instead of today’s single rows of a single vegetable, this method of interplanting introduced biodiversity, which does many things—from attracting pollinators to making the land richer instead of stripping it of nutrients. In a sense, we take no more from nature than what we give back.



Photo: Three Sisters: Corn, Beans, Squash

By the time European settlers arrived in America in the early 1600s, the Iroquois had been growing the “three sisters” for over three centuries. The vegetable trio sustained the Native Americans both physically and spiritually. In legend, the plants were a gift from the gods, always to be grown together, eaten together, and celebrated together.

Each of the sisters contributes something to the planting. Together, the sisters provide a balanced diet from a single planting.

- As older sisters often do, the corn offers the beans necessary support.
- The pole beans, the giving sister, pull nitrogen from the air and bring it to the soil for the benefit of all three.
- As the beans grow through the tangle of squash vines and wind their way up the cornstalks into the sunlight, they hold the sisters close together.
- The large leaves of the sprawling squash protect the threesome by creating living mulch that shades the soil, keeping it cool and moist and preventing weeds.
- The prickly squash leaves also keep away raccoons and other pests, which don’t like to step on them.

Together, the three sisters provide both sustainable soil fertility as well as a healthy diet. Perfection!

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**Beavercreek Township Liaison,
Vacant**
– consider volunteering

THANKS to our Volunteers for Living History

Without our volunteers, the Living History program would not exist. We appreciate the dedication, donation of time and skill set that each person brings to the program. Lori Becker, Roxie Bell, Bobbie Carpenter, Jill Cobb, Donna Fitzgerald, Becki Jarvi, Denny Jarvi, Sharon Jernigan, Holly Linquist, Doris Mitchell, Shannon Naik, Anita O'Neil, Diane Phillips, Vicki Ritchie, Gerry Smalley, Janet Taylor, Sonya Veta, Mark Wiley and Ruth Wiley

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! Volunteers are the backbone of our organization! We need help 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: Board Secretary, Program Director, and Publicity Director. Contact bhsohio@gmail.com

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.)

Help grow our membership!

Our members are the key to our success and membership income is critical in helping us preserve and share Beavercreek history through the History Center and annual educational programs and events. In addition to keeping your own membership current, please encourage friends and family to join our group. Membership forms are available on our website: <https://beavercreekhistoricalsociety.org>

Winter Welcome at Wartinger Park

Friday, December 15, 5 – 8 p.m.

Winter Welcome at Wartinger Park is moving to Friday evening! Enjoy the lights and decorations as you visit each cabin to see Santa and his reindeer, create crafts, enjoy the singing of carolers, and warm up with hot cocoa. Special thanks to the Beavercreek Community Library for their partnership on this event.

Welcome New Members:

*Mary Lou Hopun
Ken & Debby Koontz
Joe & Sharma Nachlinger
Wolf Asset Solutions
– Tax Preparation
(corporate membership)*

Thank You Lifetime Business Sponsors:

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

Contact bhsohio@gmail.com to
learn more about becoming a
business sponsor

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monthly Board of Directors Meetings

First Tuesdays, 4:30 P.M.

Lofino Plaza Meeting Room

Log by Log Submissions Due December 8

Submit to bhsohio@gmail.com

2023 Quarterly Meeting & Program Dates

October 24, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Election of Officers/Living History Demonstration

Wartinger Park

3080 Kemp Rd.

December 15, 5 – 8 p.m.

Winter Welcome

Wartinger Park

3080 Kemp Rd.

January (Date TBD)

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 for Your Support

THE BEAVERCREEK
HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S

Quarterly Meeting

Join Us for Elections and the Living History Experience
Tuesday, October 24, 6:00 - 8:00 pm, Wartinger Park, 3080 Kemp Rd

Join us at the October quarterly meeting! Elections will take place at 6 pm followed by the Living History experience! See what life in the 1800s was like for our founders. Cabins will be open with live demonstrations.

Per BHS Bylaws, officers shall hold office for a term of two years and until their successors are elected. Each officer may be re-elected to serve in the same position for additional two-year terms, with a limit of three consecutive terms (six years), after which a two-year break is required prior to serving again in the same position.

The 2022 updated Bylaws changed the election process as follows:

Officers shall be elected using a staggered term process allowing for continuity on the Board of Trustees. The president and secretary shall be elected during odd years and take office January 1 of the following year. The vice president and treasurer shall be elected during even years and take office January 1 of the following year. The past president will automatically serve a one-year term following the expiration of their presidency term.

President:	Mark Wiley (if there are no nominees, the Bylaws provide for Mark to continue his term through 2024)
Secretary:	Rebecca Blaho

Note: Vice President Bobbie Carpenter and Treasurer Rodger Reedy will fulfill their terms through 2024.