

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



Winter 2024

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BeavercreekHistoricalSociety.org

President's Letter

By Mark Wiley

It's hard to believe it's been five years! Jill Kincer, former BHS president, reached out looking for her replacement. My wife who was the Education Liaison at the time knew of my interest in American History and "recruited" me for the job. Here I am entering my sixth year as the Beavercreek Historical Society President and I'm writing my first letter to all of you. Our mission statement, "Preserve the Past for the Future", is evidenced by the number of programs that have indeed stood the test of time. Below are some highlights of the programs we provide and initiatives that are current priorities.

The Beavercreek Historical Society is completely dependent on several key constituents without which none of our programs would be possible. Our all-volunteer executive board – Bobbie Carpenter (Vice President), Mary Jean Henry (Secretary), Rebecca Blaho (Secretary Elect), and Rodger Reedy (Treasurer) continue to provide leadership and skills to conduct our activities. The Beavercreek Schools and the education liaison, Sharma Nachlinger, help shape and enhance the Living History program. The City of Beavercreek and the Parks Department, represented by Kim Farrell, are the backbone of maintaining and upgrading the park as we see increasing interest in the park itself. These key elements have come together to provide a successful 2023.

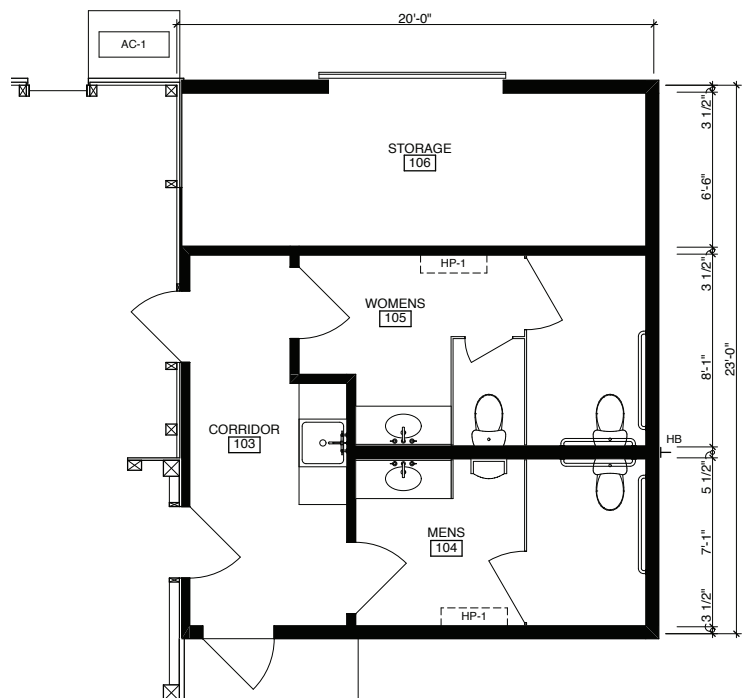
Our Living History program hosts the Beavercreek and St. Luke third grade students at Wartinger Park during the Fall and Spring. Thanks to our incredible volunteers who consistently give their time and talents this educational program is a valuable component of the student's local history requirement. The directors of this program – Amy Rohrback and Marsha DeWeese – conduct this well organized and detailed program with the highest degree of professionalism by recruiting volunteers, organizing materials and providing onsite support. The students, parent escorts and teachers are all engaged and excited to participate. I can tell you through my experience (if you'd like to join the volunteers) that everything that you need to be successful is provided. Interacting with the students in this setting is gratifying, please consider joining our team.

This month the city hosted the Winter Welcome program at Wartinger and it was a blockbuster. The activities included Santa in the Barn, Cookie Decorating (BHS Volunteer: Bobbie

Carpenter), Outdoor Tree Decoration (BHS Volunteer: Amy Rohrback), Food Trucks, a cabin decorating competition, live reindeer and much more. The unofficial count was over 1,400 attendees enjoyed this evening at the park. These events and programs enrich our community and provide opportunities for family togetherness during the holidays.

For events of this magnitude at Wartinger as an activity hub, there is a key component missing. Currently the participants must walk to the adjacent fire house to find a restroom. One of the ways that we hope to improve and develop the functionality of the park is to add restroom facilities to the barn. This would accomplish two things, provide nearby restroom facilities and enhance the desirability of the barn for event rentals. We are currently raising funds for the restroom addition and hope to construct them during 2024. We have engaged an architect, Matt Fisher, NCARB certified, to develop a master plan for the park with even more enhancements in the future.

The Beavercreek Historical Society hopes to continue to play a vital role in the continued success of our Beavercreek community. I want to personally thank everyone involved who either volunteered or participated with us. Wishing you a Happy and Healthy 2024!
Mark Wiley



Stone House on Kemp Road Receives Historical Designation

Diane Phillipps presented a historical site award for the stonehouse at 2399 Kemp Road at the barn dedication ceremony. Originally, Joe Koogler along with his two sons, Ben and Joe (nicknamed Junior) collected stones and stacked them

behind their home until they had enough to start the building on Kemp Rd. If you're interested and would like to read more about it ... Dayton Daily News Archive: No Stone Unturned, September 2, 1989.



Dormer is covered with slate to match the roof

'At times it was no fun, but every day of my life I've got to take my hat off to my dad, because that's where I picked up everything I know.'

— Joe Koogler Jr.



Joe Koogler, right, son Ben work on basement of house

No stone unturned

Man spent 20 years collecting materials for his dream home

By Katherine Ullmer
STAFF FEATURE WRITER

A small, two-story stone house with a slate roof on Kemp Road in Beavercreek has become a curiosity.

"There isn't a week that goes by that someone doesn't stop in and ask to see the house," says Mark Shannon, the home's owner.

Most say they saw the house being built over the years or knew Joe Koogler, the home's builder. "They all have stories to tell," he says. "Everybody says what a nice guy and what a hard worker he was."

A man in his late 70s when he died in 1979, Koogler began collecting materials in the 1920s for his stone house at 3299 Kemp Road, about a mile down the road from where he grew up, according to his brother Jonas, 81, of Beavercreek. Of the 11 children, Jonas is one of three still living.

Joe spent more than 20 years collecting stones from fields all over Ohio. Along with his sons, Ben and Joe (nicknamed Junior), he stacked the stones in a pile behind his small frame home until they had more than enough to begin building.

"I rolled stones to the truck before I was this big," says Koogler's son, Joe, indicating a toddler's height with his hand. Like his father, he built the brick ranch-style house in Fairborn he shares with his wife, Muriel.

Besides hauling livestock in Greene County, his father also bred Belgian horses for local farmers in the '30s, custom-combined for area farmers (was paid to help them combine) and helped his uncle, Joe Haverstick, do carpentry work on houses. "He built the (frame) house we lived in, too," Joe Jr. says.

He remembers his father was often hard to work for. "He would show you something once and you were supposed to know it the next time," he says. "At times it was no fun, but every day of my life I've got to take my hat off to my dad, because that's where I picked up everything I know."

He now does engineering maintenance work for the Veterans Administration in Chillicothe, while his brother Ben, who's suffered several strokes in recent years, farms in Beavercreek.

Koogler started building his stone house around 1945, digging the basement with a team of horses, and then, after he could afford it, a tractor. Because he had no way of pouring a foundation, he built the foundation by pouring cement into 12-inch cement blocks and putting pipes down the middle.

"He said he would never go in debt for (the house)," Joe Jr. says.

For that reason, Koogler salvaged materials wherever he could find them.

"When they dug up the old brick streets in Dayton View, we went over there and got the bricks," Joe Jr. says. "My brother and I spent our Saturdays and Sundays knocking off the mortar."

The bricks were used to support a septic tank behind the house.

The 8-by-8-inch timbers used as floor joists in the house came from the Old Simms River Bridge over the Mad River north of Fairborn. The bridge was destroyed by fire in the '30s. The rafters are 4-by-6-inch oak from the bridge.

Much of the material came from buildings torn down when the town of Osborn was moved to the east of Fairfield in the early 1920s as part of the Miami Conservancy District's flood-control project. Jonas Koogler says, (Osborn and Fairfield merged to become Fairborn in 1950.) The front stone steps were salvaged from a mill there.

Slate for the roof came from a large barn the Talbott family once owned south of town, Koogler says. Rather than introduce new materials to the roof, his brother completed the sides of the back dormer in slate.

Jim Donley, a local stone mason, helped Koogler put up the stone.

"Jim Donley was a good stone mason," says Koogler's long-time neighbor Adam Klump, 87. Klump sometimes helped the two break up stones with a sledge hammer. "They were real pretty once they were busted open," he says. "The color would show up."

The prettiest stones, "the sparkly ones," were saved for the main fireplace in the house, Klump says. A second fireplace was built in the basement.

SEE STONE/2D



Jonas Koogler stands in front of the Beavercreek house built by his brother Joe

EDDIE ROBERTS
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Photo: Stone House Article

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

Beavercreek Township Liaison, Vacant
– consider volunteering

Winter Welcome at Wartinger Park

The Winter Welcome at Wartinger Park boasts record attendance!



Photo: Bobbie Carpenter assisting children as they decorate cookies



Photo: Amy Rohrbach, outside the Ankeney House, creating bird seed outdoor decorations

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 area: Program Director. Contact bhsohio@gmail.com

New Volunteer: Rebecca Blaho (Secretary Elect)

Our new Secretary is Rebecca Blaho, of Waynesville. Rebecca's ties to Beavercreek go back many generations as she is the 5x great granddaughter of Jacob Coy Sr. As a child she spent a lot of time in Beavercreek visiting her grandparents, Norman and Evelyn Coy, in the home they built in the 1930s on Dayton-Xenia Road. Rebecca enjoys history, genealogical research, knitting, and beekeeping. She currently works in educational publishing for K-12 textbooks and is looking forward to helping support the Beavercreek Historical Society and its mission.

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.)

Curious About Past Newsletter Editions?

Please check out our website: beavercreekhistoricalsociety.org

Welcome
New Members:

Larry Huttshell

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 February 9

Do you know about Beaver Creek history that would interest others? Please reach out to us.

Submit to bhsohio@gmail.com

2024 Quarterly Meeting & Program Dates

January 23, 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.



1368 RESEARCH PARK DRIVE

BEAVERCREEK, OHIO 45432

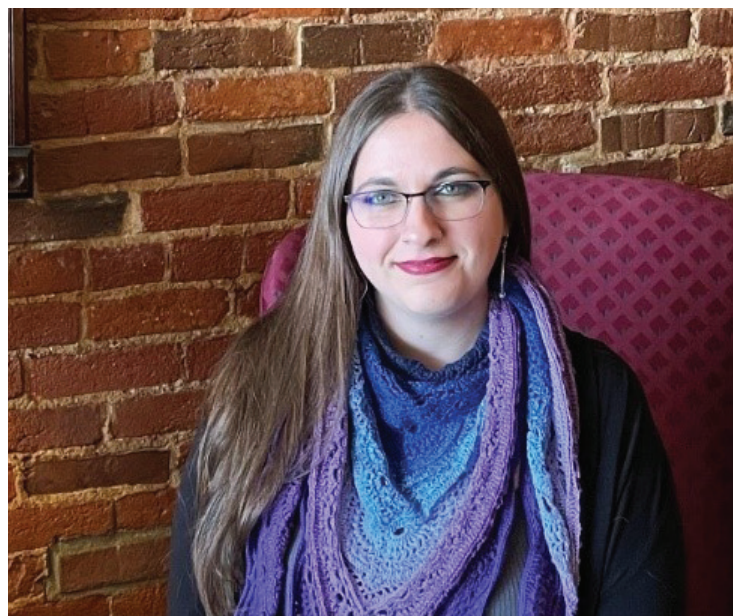
BeavercreekHistoricalSociety.org

Thank You for Your Support

THE BEAVERCREEK
HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S

Quarterly Meeting

Join Us for Elections and the Living History Experience
Tuesday, January 23, 7:00 pm, Peace Lutheran Church, 3530 Dayton-Xenia Rd.



The Greene County Records Center and Archives holds the records of long-term and historic value for Greene County offices—but what does that mean in practice for the community? Join the Beaver Creek Historical Society and Archives staff member Mary McKinley to hear about the Archives' mission and operations, their plans for America's 250th anniversary in 2026, and the secrets and surprises Archives records can hold for the Beaver Creek Community.

Mary McKinley is the Public Outreach Coordinator for the Greene County Records and Archives, responsible for the Archives' Volunteer and Educational Outreach programs. Mary attained a Bachelor's degree in History and Classical Languages from the College of Wooster, and a Master of Library and Information Science degree from the University of Maryland at College Park. In addition to her academic credentials, she has worked in libraries and archives of many sizes and kinds throughout the years—including working in local history and genealogy at two Carnegie libraries!