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

BEAVERCREEK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Preserving the past for the future

Summer 2024
Volume 33, Issue 3
BeavercreekHistoricalSociety.org

President's Letter

By Mark Wiley

Summer is here officially! What better way to celebrate the warm weather than joining us for our Ice Cream Social on July 23rd. I'll have a special announcement regarding the future of the historical society. In addition, beginning this year we'll host an annual Members ONLY dinner. Please mark your calendars for September 29th from 5-7 p.m. The cost is $15 per person. Please use the enclosed form to indicate your interest in attending.

Hope to see you there!

Mark

Living History

During our Spring Living History program, over 300 third grade students from Fairbrook Elementary, Shaw Elementary, and Parkwood Elementary had the time of their lives as they immersed themselves in hands-on learning and making history come alive in a way that textbooks simply can't replicate. The students participated in spinning wool, making butter, finger knitting, making rag dolls, quilting, and planting potatoes for the fall. They also learned about the early history of Beavercreek schools and experienced what a classroom was like in the 1800's.

Our sincere thanks and appreciation to our wonderful volunteers: Lori Becker, Roxie Bell, Bobbie Carpenter, Jill Cobb, Donna Fitzgerald, Jennifer Harvey, Val Hoyer, Becky Jarvi, Denny Jarvi, Holly Linquist, Shannon Naik, Diane Phillips, Mike Self, Gerry Smalley, Janet Taylor, Jessica Thomes, Sonya Veta, Mark Wiley, and Ruth Wiley. Your support allows us to continue to serve the youth of Beavercreek each year.

We would also like to thank the students from the Educational Leadership Program at Beavercreek High School for volunteering and helping the students complete their chores.

Generous Donations

Fabric donation in memory of Verlon Caudill by his daughter proprietor of Quilts and Crochet by Jonna Burich.

Yarn donation from Ken and Debbie Koontz.

Wool, yarn and corn donation from Denny and Becky Jarvi
Thank you to Doris Mitchell for assembling our rag doll kits.

Volunteer Opportunities

Thanks to those of you who have volunteered for Living History in the past. Without our volunteers, the 3rd grade program would not be possible. Please mark your calendar and plan to help out with the Living History program in the fall. We have at least 17 classes of 3rd Graders who are eager to learn about life in our community in the 1800s.

Fall Schedule:

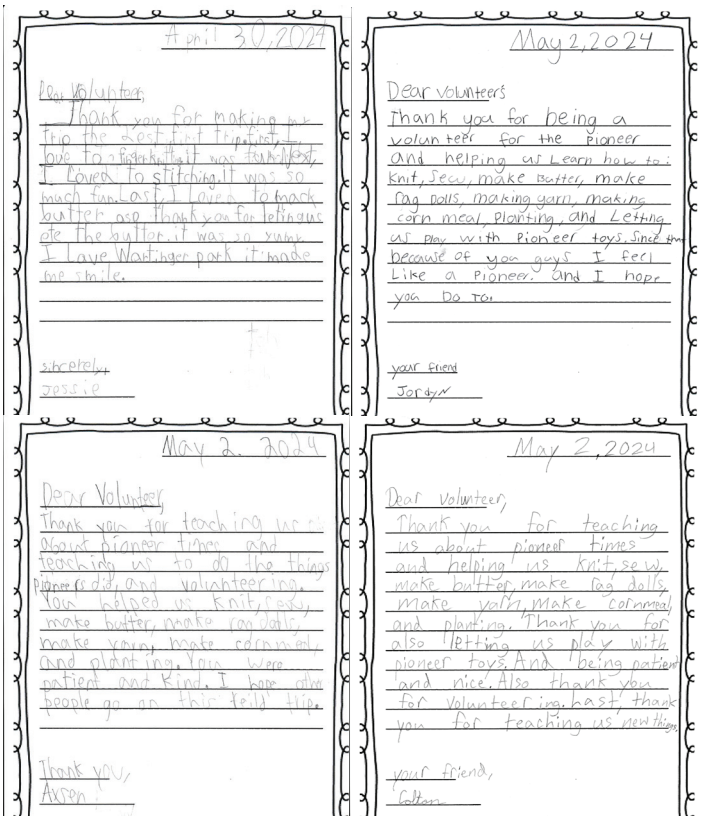
Set Up - Friday, September 6, 9:00 am

Main Elementary	**September 10, 11, 12, 13, 17 and possibly the 16**
Trebein Elementary	**September 18, 23 ,24, 25, 26, 27**
St. Luke Elementary	**September 19 and 20**
Valley Elementary	**October 1, 2, 3, 4**

Clean Up - Monday, October 7, 9:00am (if needed)

We are always looking for cotton fabric with small print and yarn. Please contact Amy Rohrback at 937-477-1007, Marsha DeWeese at 937-307-2259 or email livinghistorybhs@gmail.com if you would like to help with the program or have fabric or yarn to donate.

Here are samples from the many thank you notes we received from Fairbrook students after their Living History visit. We'll have all of them available for viewing at the Ice Cream Social.



April 30, 2024

Dear Volunteer,
Thank you for making our trip the best first trip ever. I love to stitch that was fun. Last I loved to stitching. It was so much fun. Last I loved to mack butter so thank you for letting us ate the butter. it was so yummy. I love Wartinger park it made me smile.

sincerely
Jessie

May 2, 2024

Dear volunteers
Thank you for being a volunteer for the pioneer and helping us Learn how to: knit, sew, make butter, make rag dolls, making yarn, making corn meal, planting, and Letting us play with pioneer toys. Since of because of you guys I feel Like a pioneer. and I hope you do too.

your friend
Jordyn

May 2, 2024

Dear Volunteer,
Thank you for teaching us about pioneer times and teaching us to do the things pioneers did and volunteering. You helped us knit, sew, make butter, make rag dolls, make yarn, make cornmeal and planting. You were patient and kind. I hope other people go on this field trip.

Thank you,
Axson

May 2, 2024

Dear volunteer,
Thank you for teaching us about pioneer times and helping us knit, sew, make butter, make rag dolls, make yarn, make cornmeal and planting. Thank you for also letting us play with pioneer toys. And being patient and nice. Also thank you for volunteering. Last, thank you for teaching us new things.

your friend,
Cotton

Shared History

Helen and Her Frying Pan

Retold by Bobbie Carpenter

Many of us in Beavercreek have enjoyed a Greene County Park on Indian Ripple Road called the Narrows. It has wonderful hiking trails along the Little Miami River and a fine Nature Center. However, if we go back a few years, say around 1928, the Nature Center was a small farm house. The farmer who owned the land had built another larger house, so he was renting the smaller house to a young couple. Her name was Helen and his name was Bill. Helen's younger brother, Robert, was also living there with them.

Robert, being the youngest of 6, had been living with his mother attending high school. When his mother's health began to fail, Robert quit school and got a job at one of the many Dayton factories. Someone showed him a blueprint and he was fascinated. It probably effected his future career choice. Robert, although working fulltime, went back to school at what he always called the "Y". It had been started many years ago by a man named David Sinclair. When Robert's mother passed away, his sister asked if he wanted to join them in Beavercreek.

I know that the house had electricity and I think indoor plumbing but Helen cooked on a cast iron wood-burning stove. The house was in a beautiful spot, overlooking the Little Miami River and the covered bridge that crossed it. The house was closer to "Indian Riffle" Road than it is now. You can still see spots of macadam* on one of the hiking trails.

Helen and Bill had a few chickens and a cow which Bill had to milk every morning before he left for work. According to Robert, sometimes the cow was not in the mood to be milked that early. This made it necessary for Bill to chase it around the house to get it into the barn to be milked. Bill had been in the Navy where he learned some new words … very colorful ones!

One morning after Bill and Robert finished a hearty breakfast which had been cooked on Helen's cast iron stove, they went off to work. Each in their used Model A Ford.

At that time, many people did not lock their doors, especially if they were home. There was a man living in the area whose name was Harry. Harry did odd jobs for people. Bill had hired him on occasion so Helen knew him. Harry added to his income by doing some semi-pro boxing. Harry knew that Helen was alone during the day. He'd seen Bill and Robert leave for work. Harry slipped into the house using the unlocked door and crept up behind Helen. Now, I don't think that Harry was the smartest man in the area. Helen was not very tall. If Harry had grabbed her at the elbows, he would have pinned her arms. Instead he grabbed her at the shoulder. As soon as Helen felt someone she swung around with the HOT frying pan and whopped Harry in the head. Obviously, Harry let go. Helen was very, very angry! She proceeded to pound Harry around the head and shoulders. Harry dashed out of the door. It was a good thing it wasn't locked. He raced down Indian Riffle with Helen and her frying pan in full pursuit. Fortunately for him, he outran her.

Helen stomped back to her house. They may or may not have had a phone. In any case, she did not call the Greene County Sheriff's office. Helen was still angry when Bill and Robert got home. However, Bill thought it was funny and commented, "Hey, what if you had hit him in the nose? He would have bled all over the floor. What a mess that would have made!" Robert kept very quiet.

About a month later they read in the Dayton Newspaper that Harry had done the same thing to a lady in Dayton. He had raped her and stolen some things. She also knew who he was. He was caught, arrested, tried and sent to prison.

Helen and Bill lived in the farmhouse until Bill passed away. Helen moved to Dayton. She kept in touch with her family, Robert and his wife, Jeanette. She also was good friends with a niece, Dottie.

Robert continued school and became a tool processing engineer. He worked for Frigidaire throughout WW II designing machines that made airplane parts. Robert and Jeanette built a house in Knollwood, one of the early plats in Beavercreek. Their two daughters both graduated from Beavercreek HS. Years later Robert and Jeanette's granddaughter and grandson graduated from BHS. Last spring a great-grandson graduated from BHS and next spring another great-grandson will graduate from BHS.

So, what ever happened to Harry? Hmm, well no one really knows for sure. He certainly would have been released from prison. One thing is fairly certain … he would NOT have come back to Beavercreek. Beavercreek women had frying pans and they KNOW HOW TO USE THEM!

*macadam: a method of road construction using compacted layers of small stones. It was pioneered by John Loudon Macadam around 1820.

Board of Trustees

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bhsohio@gmail.com

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bhsohio@gmail.com

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– consider volunteering

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livinghistorybhs@gmail.com

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– consider volunteering

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bhsohio@gmail.com

Beavercreek Parks Liaison,
Zach Wike
wike@beavercreekohio.gov

Archive Director
– consider volunteering

Beavercreek Township Liaison
Ryan Rushing
rrushing@beavercreektownship.org

2024 Bylaws Revision

BHS Bylaws require a review/revision every two years. The last revision was in 2022. An Ad Hoc Committee to oversee the 2024 review was approved by the board on June 4, 2024: Mary Henry and Chrisonna Anderson-Lutz. Proposed revisions will be presented to the general membership via email in advance of the fall Annual Meeting, with a vote taken at the meeting. (If you are not receiving our emails, please send your email address to bhsohio@gmail.com).

The current bylaws are posted on the BHS website. Anyone wishing to submit revisions for the 2024 bylaws may do so through bshohio@gmail.com.

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: Historical Buildings Director and Program Director. Contact bhsohio@gmail.com

New Liasion: Zach Wike

We'd like to welcome Zach Wike. He brings depth of experience and continuity as the new Parks Director as he previously served the city in the role of Assistant Parks Director. His enthusiasm and interest in the historical society and Wartinger Park will be a tremendous asset.

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, Click on the link: Log by Log Archives

Welcome
New Members:

No new members currently.

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 Sept. 9th**
Do you know about Beavercreek history that would interest others? Please reach out to us.
Submit to bhsohio@gmail.com

2024 Quarterly Meeting & Program Dates
July 23, 7:00 p.m.
Wartinger Park
3080 Kemp Rd.

Save the Date:
Members ONLY annual meeting/dinner September 29th

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

BEAVERCREEK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Preserving the past for the future

1368 RESEARCH PARK DRIVE
BEAVERCREEK, OHIO 45432
BeavercreekHistoricalSociety.org

Thank You for Your Support

THE BEAVERCREEK HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S

Quarterly Meeting

Tuesday, July 23, 5:00-7:00 p.m., Tobias-Zimmer Barn, Wartinger Park, 3080 Kemp Rd.

Join Us for the Ice Cream Social

Calling all members to come out and enjoy an evening in the park complete with ice cream and cookies at our next quarterly meeting. President Mark Wiley will provide a brief update on BHS activities and dedicate a new ADA-compliant picnic table being installed in the park. The historic cabins will be open for touring. As with all our quarterly meetings, this event is free and open to the public—please encourage your friends and neighbors to come.

Please reserve your seat no later than Sept. 15th for the first annual Members ONLY Dinner (September 29th from 5:00-7:00 pm) sponsored by the Beavercreek Historical Society. Cost per person is $15.

You may respond via:

PHONE: Call or text 937-470-5079 Leave your name and the number attending and contact information should we need to call you back.

Email: bhsohio@gmail.com Include your name and number attending.

USPS: complete the form below and mail to **Beavercreek Historical Society, 1368 Research Park Dr. Beavercreek, OH 45432**

NAME: _____

Number Attending: _____ x $15 per person _____

Contact Information (email or phone number)

_____