

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 2025

Volume 34, Issue 1

BeavercreekHistoricalSociety.org

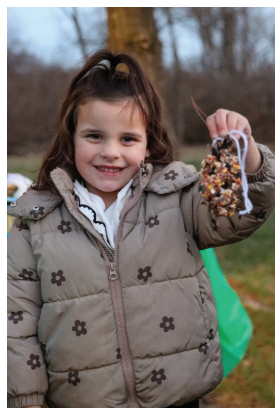
Winter Welcome



Thank you to everyone who joined us at A Winter Welcome at Wartinger Park! Beavercreek Parks, Recreation & Culture and the Greene County Public Library

sponsored this event. From making bird feeders and decorating cookies to sipping on festive holiday drinks, listening to carolers, exploring the beautifully decorated cabins, and, of course, visiting with Santa - what a magical evening!

We'd like to thank our volunteers for decorating the Ankeney Cabin: Amy Rohrback, Marsha DeWeese, Rodger Reedy, Mary Lou Hopun, and Mark & Ruth Wiley; helping children make bird feeders: Amy Rohrback, Val Hoyer, Donna Fitzgerald, and Ava Carroll; sharing literature about the historical society: Chrisonna Lutz-Anderson; and baking over 350 gingerbread cookies to be decorated: Bobbie Carpenter with assistance in decorating: Mary Lou Hopun and Roxie Bell.



Gingerbread

Submitted by Bobbie Carpenter



Because wild ginger grows so abundantly all over our area, it was commonly used as flavoring by our pioneers. The wild plant is small, grows close to the ground with heart-shaped leaves and in the spring under the leaves is a small bell-shaped maroon flower. Children were sent to dig up the roots to be

boiled and used in gingerbread and many other recipes. The gingerbread served at the park gathering in October came from a recipe probably 75 or so years old. Sue Roysden, a long-time resident and former elementary school teacher, remembers getting this recipe in grade school when she lived in Michigan.

Gingerbread

1½ cups sifted flour
1 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. ginger
½ tsp. cinnamon
½ tsp. salt

Add to the above ingredients ½ cup of molasses and 2/3 cup boiling water and stir well.

Add 1 beaten egg and ½ cup shortening to above mixture and beat until blended.

Pour into greased 8 x 8 pan. Bake at 375° for 25-30 minutes.



Volunteers Always Welcome

The schedule for Spring Living History has been shared with the elementary schools: Fairbrook, Parkwood and Shaw. The dates available to volunteer are April 21st through May 9th. We provide costumes and information to share with students. We have 13 classes of excited 3rd Graders waiting and wanting to learn about what life was like over 220 years ago in our community. The students enjoy this opportunity for hands-on learning, and we welcome your participation. Please check your calendars now to help with the Living History program and reach out to us at bhsohio@gmail.com for more information.

Bob Zimmer

Looking Back While Always Looking Forward – 100 Years

Submitted by Jill Kincer

Sitting down for a chat with centenarian Bob Zimmer was certainly the best way ever to spend a recent crisp November 2024 afternoon. As we chatted, he shared memories of life long ago and observed how time and events changed the Beavercreek area over the past 100 years.

He entered this world on October 6, 1924. Born in a farmhouse that predated the Civil War (no longer standing) on Kemp Road, Bob was the youngest of four and what later grew to be six siblings. In 1919, the Zimmer family had moved to the 160-acre farm in Beavercreek from the ancestral farm in the Delco area of Kettering. Bob became knowledgeable about farming from an early age. At age 5 he could



identify individual chickens by their appearance and soon did the same with the dairy cows on the farm. His father did not have that skill, so it made Bob a valued farmhand at what eventually became the Zimmer Turkey Farm.

At that time, the landscape in Beaver Creek consisted mainly of farms, one after the other, usually 160 acres or less, each including about 8 acres of woods. Farmers would use that wood for fuel or maybe even lumber to repair or build needed structures—perhaps

a chicken house. Bob shared that as an adult, he used the wood right out of his woods for the first remodel of his farm home. At that time there were a few small settlements with small clusters of residential homes and several mills that were built in the earlier days of Beaver Creek Township (Zimmerman, Alpha and Trebein.) A few residential homes began to appear pre-WWII in the Knollwood area whose occupants were connected by occupation with Wright Patterson. In general, if you had a bird's eye view of Beaver Creek, you saw primarily farm homes scattered across open farm fields dotted with woods. The Great Depression came, and growth was slow.

As a child Bob walked one mile to the Sunnyside one-room schoolhouse on the northwest corner of Kemp and now Fairfield Roads (current Walgreen's location). Grades 1 – 8 were all taught there. In 1930, Bob was one of just two first graders his starting year. At one time there were 13 one-room schoolhouses in Beaver Creek. Pressure was eventually brought by the State of Ohio to eliminate one-room schoolhouses, and in 1932, the entire school system was moved into a two-story centralized school (now Main Elementary). The upper floors were for grades 7-12, while 1-6 were on the main floor. Bob shared that all the kids were so excited that they were in a stupor! They had never seen a school bus before, and having so many students in one place was just an amazing thing. He graduated from Beaver Creek High School in 1942 as the valedictorian of his class of 29 graduates.

At the time of his graduation, the world was ablaze in war, and in Greene County, farmers were exempt. Bob was called up by the draft board and passed the physical exam just shortly before the war ended but was not called for duty. After graduation, he managed the family's Zimmer Turkey Farm operations. In 1950, he had found his love and was ready to be married but felt it was important to be independent before marriage. So, he bought the nearby 103-acre Batdorf Farm. He worked to modernize the 1858 farmhouse, which included tasks such as digging a hole for the septic tank and providing running water for conveniences including a bathroom. In August of 1951, he married Agnes Hemmelgarn, and they moved into their home. Bob worked hard and established his farm for dairy herd and swine operations. He and Agnes raised five children. In 1955, Bob had a terrible accident, falling off a roof and breaking his neck and causing internal injuries. Nine weeks in the hospital and six months in a body brace brought recovery but his farming days were over. He started a new career at Dayton Power & Light that lasted for 26 years, retiring in 1982.

Through the years, he spent many hours restoring and adding to the

1858 house. The acreage was sold in 1995 and is now known as Stone Falls. The house was sold in 2011. The 1858 Tobias-Zimmer barn, named for its first and last owners, was donated to the Beaver Creek Historical Society in 1996 and moved intact across two fields to nearby Wartinger Park.

After Agnes' passing in 1999, Bob became an active member of the Beaver Creek Historical Society and was involved in many important projects for the organization. An article in the October 2011 issue of the Log by Log newsletter outlines his many contributions, including donating his 1858 barn to the park. Bob's most recent contribution was his very generous \$40,000 match commitment to add a restroom and a warming kitchen to the reproduction of the original Tobias-Zimmer Barn lost in the 2019 tornado. This addition makes the barn an excellent location where many community and family activities can take place.

Our conversation that November afternoon drifted into making observations about the many changes and challenges that have occurred to our community over those 100 years of his life. Obviously, the landscape changed dramatically particularly after WWII. Returning servicemen and their families needed housing, and soon the Knollwood area began to grow. After the Zimmer Turkey Farm operation ceased, Zimmer Estates was christened as a new plat on that land. Other housing plats began to fill farm fields, and more families came to live in Beaver Creek. Today they are still building, and the families are

still coming. Roads built to carry farm wagons now need upgrading to more lanes for two+ car families. When asked what he thought was the major force behind the growth, he stated there were two: WPAFB and I-675, and then quickly added regarding I-675: "It opened up a whole new world." Wright Pat's large population of workers use our roads, buy homes and families shop at our businesses.

We talked about changes in society: women moving into the workforce during WWII and continuing as time moved forward, changing family roles and structures from early 1900s. He expressed frustration that fewer and fewer people are willing to be what he called "joiners" these days, bypassing opportunities to work with others through organizations or places of worship to enrich the spirit and camaraderie of the community.

When it was time to wrap up our conversation, I asked him how he keeps his positive attitude with all the changes. Without hesitation, he responded, "I am a progressive." Webster's suggests that progressives are characterized by continuous improvement or advancement; using, involving and interested in new or modern ideas—advancing, moving forward or onward. Bob Zimmer has been a true gift to our community not only as an impressive role model and an involved citizen, but as a worker, a joiner and a giver. We cannot thank him enough for his leadership and contributions to the entire Beaver Creek community.

And, oh my! What an enjoyable and unforgettable way for me to spend a crisp Fall afternoon!!

(Editor's Note: To read the Log by Log article about Bob's many contributions to the organization, go online to beavercreekhistoricalsociety.org and click on newsletters on the right-hand drop-down menu. Scroll down to open the Fall 2011 copy. The story is on Page 5.)

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– consider volunteering

**Beavercreek Township Liaison
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rrushing@beavercreektownship.org

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

Call for Board Nominations - Beavercreek Historical Society

Dear Members and Supporters,

Are you passionate about preserving the rich history of Beavercreek? Do you want to make a lasting impact on the community? We invite YOU to step up and help guide the future of the Beavercreek Historical Society by joining our Board of Directors!

This is a unique opportunity to take an active role in shaping the direction of our programs, events, and initiatives. As a board member, you'll collaborate with like-minded individuals to celebrate and preserve Beavercreek's historical treasures while engaging the community in meaningful ways. Whether your passion lies in education, preservation, or public outreach, your expertise and enthusiasm can help us achieve our mission.

We are seeking nominations for dynamic individuals who are dedicated to community service, creative thinking, and leadership. Board members will have the opportunity to contribute to strategic planning, fundraising efforts, and the continued development of our historical archives and programs.

Don't miss this chance to be part of an organization that honors our past while building an exciting future. Submit your nomination today and help us continue to bring Beavercreek's history to life for future generations.

Nomination Deadline: January 28, 2025

Historically appreciative,
Brett Williford

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:

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, 5:30 P.M.

Lofino Plaza Meeting Room

Log by Log Submissions Due February 7th

As always

Submit to bhsohio@gmail.com



2025 Quarterly Meeting & Program Dates

January 28, 5:30 - 6:00 pm Meeting/Elections

6:00 - 7:00 pm Public Program

Wright State Univeristy

3640 Colonel Glenn Hwy.

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

*Tuesday, January 28, 2025 5:30-6:00 pm Member Quarterly Meeting
and Elections 6:00-7:00pm Public Program.*

Wright State University, 3640 Colonel Glenn Hwy. Dunbar Library Rm. 441

Have you ever wondered how Beaver creek became a city? Above is a bumper sticker that you or your parents/grandparents might have had on your bumpers back in 1979! To find out more about this and other interesting facts about early Beaver creek, please join us at our January program.

BHS and Wright State are pleased to host "An Evening in the Archives"

The Beaver creek collection is just a small part of the vast archival holdings of Wright State University's Special Collections and Archives inventory. This two-part program will include a presentation about the Special Collections and Archives and the historical material it holds, as well as a tour featuring items from the collections that highlight Beaver creek history.

Special Collection and Archives collects, preserves, and provides access to primary sources that document the history of aviation, the legacy of the Wright brothers (for whom the university is named) and the local and regional history of the Miami Valley, including Beaver creek. Please join us for a behind the scenes look at interesting items from Beaver creek's history.

The program is free and open to the public. Tell your friends, or better yet, bring them!

Note: Directions and parking pass are included in this newsletter and will also be emailed to members. Guests and visitors needing a pass can obtain one by emailing bhsohio@gmail.com. Parking passes will also be available at the door.