

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

## Notable Beavercreek Women

Submitted by Rebecca Blaho



**Alison Marie Bales** is an American former professional basketball player of the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA). She is a 2002 graduate of BHS where she played high school basketball. Bales was named a Women's Basketball Coaches Association All-American. After her senior year, she committed to Duke University to play for the Duke Blue Devils women's basketball team where she became the all-time shot block leader at Duke and 3rd all-time in NCAA history. After college Bales played for several teams in the WNBA until she retired to attend medical school. In 2019 Bales was inducted into the Ohio Basketball Hall of Fame.

**Marjorie Diane Blasius Corcoran** was an American particle physicist and professor at Rice University. She grew up in Beavercreek graduating from BHS as co-valedictorian in 1968. In 1972 she completed her bachelor's degree at the the University of Dayton graduating summa cum laude. As a graduate student at Indiana University Bloomington, she began doing high-energy physics research at Fermilab. After earning her Ph.D. in 1977, Corcoran continued studies for 2 years at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She joined the Rice University faculty in 1980, where she would continue to teach for 37 years. At Rice, she was the first speaker of the Rice Faculty Senate upon its formation in 2005.

**Taylor Ewert**, a 2020 BHS graduate, is an American long-distance runner and college track and field athlete for the University of Arkansas and Michigan

State University. In high school, she set numerous records and was the cross-country Ohio High School Athletic Association Division 1 individual state champion in 2019, representing BHS. Ewert committed to the University of Arkansas later that year, and in 2020, she was named the Gatorade National Girls Track and Field Athlete of the Year.

**Jill Paice** is an American actress best known for her musical theatre roles. Paice attended BHS graduating in 1998. She originated the roles of Laura Fairlie in the musical *The Woman in White* in the West End (2004) and on Broadway (2005); Niki in *Curtains* on Broadway (2006); Scarlett in London's *Gone with the Wind* (2008); Grazia Off-Broadway in *Death Takes a Holiday* (2011); and Milo in *An American in Paris* (2015).

**Shauna S. Roberts** is an American science fiction author, science writer, and medical writer. She is a 1974 graduate of BHS. She received her B.A. in Anthropology from the University of Pennsylvania in 1977, and her Ph.D. in Anthropology from Northwestern University in 1984. She has won several awards for her writing including the 2014 National Readers Choice Award for *Claimed by the Enemy*, the 2015 Romancing the Novel Published Author Contest in the "Ancient/Medieval/Renaissance" category for *Claimed by the Enemy* and the Speculative Literature Foundation's Older Writers Grant in 2011.

**LaVerne Sci** is an educator and resident of Beavercreek for 45 years, LaVerne functioned as the Historic Site manager and Steward of the Paul Laurence Dunbar Historical Site in Dayton, Ohio for 20 years. Employed by the Ohio Historical Society, she became a researcher and scholar of Dunbar's life and legacy. In 1994, frequently speaking to site visitors, she decided to capture her audiences by interpreting Dunbar through the memories of Miss Hallie Quinn Brown. Born in Jacksonville, FL, LaVerne came to Beavercreek in 1972 as a military wife. LaVerne was honored as one of Dayton's Top Ten Outstanding Women and has been inducted into the Greene County Women's Hall of Fame.

**General Janet C. Wolfenbarger** is the first woman to attain the rank of four-star general in the US. Air Force. A 1976 graduate of BHS, the campus was renamed for her in 2013. She was a member of the first class of female cadets to graduate in 1980 from the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Wolfenbarger spent most of her career at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, culminating with becoming AFMC commander in June 2012.

## **Native Foods and Gardening**

*Submitted by Rebecca Blaho*

While many think of the late winter months as a time for rest, for the gardener it's a time for planning and preparation for the work of spring. With knowledge gained through trial and error and a little luck the work of early spring will give way to bountiful harvests of vegetables as the weather grows warmer and fall eventually arrives. For those that trekked through the dense wilderness in the 1800s to establish what we now know as Beavercreek, spring gardening wasn't an enjoyable hobby – it was a must for survival.

In the early 1800s Dayton would have been the closest large settlement to Beavercreek. The hub of social interaction in Dayton was Newcom Tavern. Built in 1796 as an inn, it served a multitude of purposes including the local jail, courthouse and church before becoming a dedicated general store in 1836. (Side note: This building still stands at Carillon Historical Park.) Newcom Tavern was built on the southwest corner of Main and Water (now Monument) Streets in downtown Dayton, approximately 8 miles from Waringer Park. At best it would take at least an hour to travel that distance with a horse and wagon and most likely longer.

In 1825, the Ohio legislature authorized building the Miami and Erie Canal to connect Lake Erie at Toledo with the Ohio River at Cincinnati. Construction of the 248.8-mile canal was done in sections with the Cincinnati to Dayton leg completed in 1829.

Present day Cincinnati was the last large settlement that most settlers would pass through on their way to Greene County and it was a several days ride away at best. It boasted only 16 cabins in 1800.

The railway wouldn't come to the area until the mid-1800s.

All of this meant Beavercreek's early settlers had to come prepared be self-sufficient. Being ill-prepared could have meant death. Thankfully the early settlers of Beavercreek were prepared and although they surely faced many hardships in those first years they supported each other and built the foundation of the community we all benefit from today.

The Ohio area has many native plants that would have helped sustain the early settlers.

Native trees would have provided fruit to add to the settler's diet. The Paw-Paw fruit begins to ripen in late summer and peaks in September and October. The flavor is compared to bananas, but with hints of mango, vanilla, and citrus. Native Americans were known to use the paw-paw fruit to create sauces or mix into cornbread. The Sugar Maple tree would have provided sap that would be boiled down to make maple syrup. This was a very labor-intensive process however as it takes approximately 40 gallons of sap to make one gallon of syrup. This would have made it a delicacy for sure! The Black Cherry tree would have provided berries that could have been used for jams and jellies. Unfortunately, on its own the fruit is very bitter.

But what did they plant in their gardens?

Planting a garden would have been one of the first priorities once the settlers arrived. Not only did they need the garden to provide food in the present they also needed to gather seeds so they could plant again the next year. If needed these items could be used to barter for other goods with neighbors or the local Native Americans.

They would have carried with them seeds for planting sunflowers, beans, gourds, pumpkins, barley, oats, corn and wheat. They would have also brought potatoes as those would have provided sustenance on their journey. Once the potatoes sprouted buds they would have saved them to plant. One potato, if large enough, would have been cut into multiple sections, each containing a bud, and planted. If it wasn't large enough to cut into sections the potato would have been planted whole. One potato plant would produce 5 or six large potatoes and potentially many smaller ones.

A popular native trio was known as the three sisters – corn, beans, and 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, they provide a balanced diet from a single planting. As older sisters often do, the corn offers the beans needed support. The 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 help keep away raccoons which don't like to step on them. Together, the three sisters provide both sustainable soil

fertility as well as a healthy diet.

The tomato, despite its abundance and popularity in gardens today would not have been a part of the early settlers' gardens although it might have sat on their mantels as a decoration. Many believed it was poisonous. Early tomatoes were known to be small, hard, and sour. In 1870, Reynoldsburg, Ohio resident Alexander Livingston developed the first commercial tomato which was a larger and sweeter variety.

Today many people continue to plant gardens although less from necessity and more for the enjoyment of the beauty they provide to the landscape and for the joy of eating food grown from their own work. What will you be planting in your garden this year?

## Shared History

### Grandma and the Outhouse

*Retold by Bobbie Carpenter*

Outhouses have been part of civilization for thousands of years. So it was natural for them to follow the early settlers west. Outhouses were certainly brought to the territory North and West of the River Ohio. The first state formed from that territory was Ohio and the outhouses were there. They also were brought to the first 17 counties, one of them Greene. Beaver creek, with outhouses, was one of the four original townships in Greene County. Outhouses were used in Beaver creek into the late 1950s. Alumni of BHS who graduated in the 1950s have memories, not fond ones, of their outhouses. Of course they were the ones that lived in the far corners of Beaver creek.

However, our story takes place around 1900. The Wagner family didn't exactly live in Beaver creek, more right next to it. They were not farmers. Mr. Wagner was a stone cutter. They had four living children as young Martin had died of the measles a few years before. According to a sibling he was 'laid out in the parlor'. The Wagners probably had a few chickens but most food was purchased at the general store. On a warm September Saturday the parents needed to go shopping.

They didn't have a horse and buggy so they walked. They left the children under the care of the



oldest, Rose, often called Rosy. She was probably about twelve. Katherine was a few years younger, then Carl and last, little Fritz who was just starting school. Fritz was small. In fact, no one in the family was very tall. The girls as adults were probably five foot two or three. The boys as adults were about five foot six or seven.

At that period of time, middle class families only bought their children one pair of shoes each year. If they were too worn or too small by spring, they finished the school year barefoot. The shoes were usually purchased in early fall. If the children didn't have their new shoes by start of school, they started school barefoot. It was common and no one thought anything of it.

New shoes had just been purchased for the Wagner children. Of course they were not to wear them to play on a Saturday. Fritz was very proud of his new shoes and just had to try them on to admire them. He had one shoe on and one off when he felt the need to go potty. So off he went toward the outhouse, carrying one shoe.

A few minutes later he came flying out of the outhouse crying and screaming, "It's gone, Rosy!" "AAAAAAAH" "It's gone!"

"For goodness sake, Fritz, what's gone?" "Stop crying, I can't understand you!"

"My shoe, my shoe, it's gone!"

"Well, where is it?"

Pointing to the outhouse, Fritz cried again, "Down there!"

Rosy ran over to look and sure enough; there it was resting on top of, well, we know what. Most outhouses have water that has seeped in. It looked like the shoe was on top of a small island.

Rosy knew two things. Fritz was going to get the worst licking of his life and he was not going to get another pair of shoes! He would have to wear Carl's from last year and they were very worn and much too big. She was afraid to try to capture the shoe with a stick because if it fell into the water; it was gone forever.

What to do? She sent Carl into the house for vanilla and a scarf. She hoped that her mother would not notice that there was less vanilla the next time she baked. She smeared vanilla around Fritz's nose and mouth and onto the scarf.

She grabbed one leg and Carl took the other and down the hole went Fritz! He soon yelled, "I got it, I got it! Pull me out!"

The shoe didn't look too bad considering where it had been. Rosy washed it off with water from the outside pump. When it was as dry as possible, she sent Carl into the house to hide it. She would have liked for it to finish drying in the sun, but she didn't want their parents to see it and ask questions.

Fritz, for the first time in his life, wanted a bath. Rosy sent Katherine out front to watch for their parents and Fritz got his bath outside in a tub of cold water.

Rosy then pulled the three children together and poking each one in the chest said, "You will tell NO ONE!" "Katherine, do you understand?" "NO ONE!"

Well, they didn't. Not for a long time anyway. Many years later one of Rosy's adult granddaughters did hear the story.

So what happened to the Wagner children? They grew up and married. Rosy married Fred and they had a son and two daughters. The older daughter married Robert and they built a house in a new plat in Beavercreek called Knollwood. They had two daughters, Rosy's granddaughters. Both graduated from Beavercreek High School. The older daughter married, moved to Beavercreek and they had a daughter and son, Rosy's great-grandchildren. The son married, moved to Beavercreek and had two sons. One great-great-grandson graduated from BHS in 2023 and the other will graduate this spring.

None of Rosy's children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren or great-great-grandchildren ever had to deal with an outhouse, except of course when they went to camp. But then it was called a latrine!

## Living History Coming Soon!

The Spring Living History Program will open at Wartinger Park, April 22 - May 9. Over 290 students from Shaw, Parkwood and Fairbrook will be attending. Students will learn from Beavercreek Historical Society volunteers what life was like over 200 years ago in our community. We are excited to announce the students and volunteers will be able to use the new restrooms attached to the barn versus crossing the busy parking lot to the back of the fire station.

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

## We're Celebrating Greene County History Month!!

**Wartinger Park Open House**  
**Sunday, April 6, 1-4 pm.**  
**3080 Kemp Rd. Beavercreek**

Beavercreek Historical Society will be hosting an Open House at Wartinger Historical Park in conjunction with the April Greene County History Month. The first settlers in Beavercreek arrived in the late 1700's. By 1800 Congress had granted settlers the right



to purchase land in the area, and Ohio became a state in 1803. The Wartinger Park Open House will provide a glimpse of what life was like for those early settlers. The Park contains four authentic log cabins from 1803-1828 and an 1859 barn. All structures will be open and hosted by docents for touring during the event. The cabins and barn are furnished with period-appropriate artifacts to help visitors visualize and gain a deeper understanding of the past and the history of the settlement of America in our region.

Preserving the Past for the Future is the mission of the Beavercreek Historical Society, which was created to protect structures of historical significance, to develop and present community educational programs, and to provide a learning center for historic education about early pioneer life for the Beavercreek community and the State of Ohio.

Please bring your family and friends to enjoy this free event. (For information about additional Greene County activities planned for Greene County History Month, visit <https://greenelibrary.info/gchistorymonth/>)



## Board of Trustees

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## 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

## 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](http://beavercreekhistoricalsociety.org)

### Welcome New Members:

*Margaret Aschenbrenner-*

*Lifetime Member*

*Emily Carroll*

*Gail Simpson*

*William and Gerry Smalley*

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*Thomas Sterrett*

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learn more about becoming a  
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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Monthly Board of Directors Meetings

*First Tuesdays, 5:30 P.M.*

*Peace Lutheran Church*

### Log by Log Submissions Due June 7th

*As always the Log by Log is accepting submissions of history, little-known-facts, interviews, and even stories about growing up in Beaver creek are welcome! Please submit articles and photos to [bhsohio@gmail.com](mailto:bhsohio@gmail.com)*

### 2025 Quarterly Meeting & Program Dates

*April 22, 6:00 pm*

*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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[BeaverCreekHistoricalSociety.org](http://BeaverCreekHistoricalSociety.org)

*Thank You for Your Support*

THE BEAVERCREEK  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S

# Quarterly Meeting

*Tuesday, April 22, 2025 6:00 pm Member Quarterly Meeting  
Peace Lutheran Church, 3530 Dayton-Xenia Rd.*

## He's Back!!!

We're fortunate to have one of our own, Brett Williford, who has volunteered to share his time and vast knowledge about Beaver creek history with us. Expect to see pictures and hear anecdotes about the past!

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







