

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 2026

Volume 35, Issue 1

BeavercreekHistoricalSociety.org

A Letter from the President

The end of the year/beginning of a new one is always a good time to reflect and looking back over 2025 brings to mind a lot of things to celebrate. A few highlights include our first quarterly meeting of the year at The Wright State Archives, the addition of the warming kitchen in the Tobias-Zimmer Barn, another fun ice cream social, two great sessions of Living History and the induction of BHS Board Members/Living History Directors Amy Rohrback and Marsha DeWeese into the Greene County Women's Hall of Fame, the pioneer-themed Members Only Dinner, a fantastic open-mic night in October, and a cold but memorable Winter Welcome at Wartinger Park. In addition to all of that we've ensured our on-going future with our relationship with Greene Giving. There's a lot to be thankful for and excited about!

Thanks to you, our members, for showing up and supporting us this year through all of these events. Also, a huge thank you is due to all of our board members and volunteers as these events would not be possible without their continued dedication and passion.

2026 will prove to be just as busy and just as exciting. The team has already been hard at work building out a full schedule for the upcoming year. We will kick off 2026 with our January Quarterly – our speaker will be Ryan Dimisa from the Great Council State Park and he will be discussing Old Chillicothe. This event will be held at Great Council State Park which has been a wonderful addition to Greene County. I'm sure this will be a fantastic presentation and will set a high bar for the rest of the year!

I'd like to take a moment to thank Kathy Bauer who made a \$25,000.00 donation to BHS in honor of her late husband, Art. Kathy and Art moved to

Beavercreek in 1967 and joined BHS in the mind 1990's becoming lifetime members. Kathy and Art were active volunteers for many years both with Heritage Days and Living History. Art would often light fires to warm the cabins up before students arrived for Living History – this was very much appreciated as the cabins can be very cold and drafty. He would then begin his gardening duties where he taught hundreds of Beavercreek children about the importance of corn and potato for the early settlers.

The community's continued support of our efforts is what keeps us going both in our continued commitment and financially. We have been blessed by your donations this year and we remain committed stewards of the physical items we've received and the funding that keeps us going.

May we all have a happy, healthy, and enriching 2026!

Mark Wiley

Pioneer Dinner Reinstated

For you history buffs who have followed BHS for quite some time, you probably remember when there was a pioneer dinner. This year our Vice President, Bobbie Carpenter, made it her mission to reinstate it in all its glory. For those of you who enjoy homemade treats at our quarterly meeting, you can attest to Bobbie's culinary skills. Bobbie planned the menu, scheduled the caterer, organized the music and selected historic replicas to decorate the tables. As if that wasn't enough, she made Schnecken/Schneckenudeln, a Ger-



Bobbie Carpenter, Vice President and organizer of the Pioneer Dinner



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY Schneck

man cinnamon roll named for its spiral shape like a snail's shell, and her delicious gingerbread for dessert. We ended the evening with a sing-a-long which had participants tapping their toes or the table in front of them. A few of the favorites were On a Bicycle Built for Two, Yankee Doodle, Oh Susanna and Beaver-creek High School Alma Mater. We'd be remiss if we didn't mention the crew of Beaver-creek High School students who did an excellent job of helping with set-up and tear-down and washed the dishes!

past. In addition to all of the years they volunteered for Living History, they have made an extremely generous donation to the Historical Society which will be



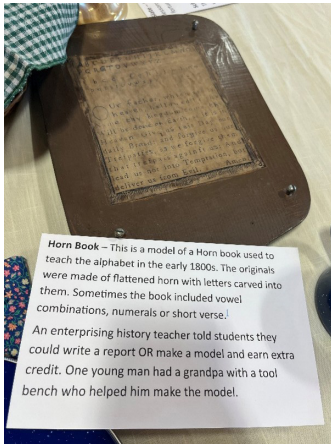
Kathy and Art Bauer

used to enhance and support the longevity of this vital educational program. Below we have reprinted the article from the Log by Log: Spring of 2015, Volume 24, Number 2, which included their bios.

When you sit down to chat with Kathy and Art Bauer, it becomes immediately evident that they each have a deep interest in history. More importantly, it is evident from their many involvements that they care deeply about insuring others have opportunities to learn about and appreciate local history, too. Beaver-creek residents since 1967, they have seen many changes in the community over the years. Art was a civilian employee at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, and Kathy taught at Kirkmont Preschool, later becoming an elementary teacher for Beaver-creek Schools. Both are now retired, but they continue to contribute to our community.

They believe it was around 1995 when they first became members of the Beaver-creek Historical Society. We are grateful that they have a Lifetime membership. Friends Glen and Evelyn Nelson (both now deceased) as well as Bob and Laura Bader played a role in getting them involved. Kathy, Evelyn and Laura were all active 4-H leaders. The Bauers were interested in learning more about the history of the community.

Both have been very involved as longtime volunteers for the Society's third grade Living History program. Kathy has led many of the pioneer activities over the years and continues to volunteer to present the opening remarks with students upon their arrival at the park, sharing the story of the journey of the Harshman family to Ohio and relating the history of the 1803 cabin. It never gets old as the students' eyes light up with each telling. Art often lit the fires in the fireplaces in early mornings in advance of students arrivals to keep everyone warm inside what can often be very chilly cabins (to say the least!). And, prior to the recent development of physical limitations, he also led the gardening activities, helping students with the potato crop and teaching them the importance of corn to our early pioneers. As a docent at Heritage Day 2014, he had the opportunity to hear young students recalling



Horn Book: one of the historical artifacts used as a centerpiece on the tables.



Beaver-creek High School student volunteers who earned service hours by helping with set-up and tear-down.

Generous Donation from Art and Kathy Bauer

It is volunteers like the Bauers who make Beaver-creek the thriving community that it is. Educators who give of their time and talents to inform our youth of our

with enthusiasm their field trips to Living History as well as adults recalling their visits as young students. These comments confirm to him that the program promotes a significant sense of community among those young third graders that doesn't go away, and both say they are happy to be a part of it.

Kathy plays the dulcimer with three groups, the Hithergreen Strummers, Gospel Light and the Mountain Dulcimer Society of Dayton, so she has often been part of the beautiful music wafting through the air at Wartinger Park events. Always involved with Heritage Day, Kathy has often demonstrated quilting, and Art has often worked the Food Tent. Kathy and BHS member Wilma Stafford were among an early group of Master Gardeners to plant native plants in the flower beds at the park. Kathy and Art generated the first compost pile there. Both Bauers have volunteered at Carriage Hill in various tasks since the 1970s and continue now to volunteer there. Art has also volunteered with the Greene County Parks' Sugar Camp at the Narrows for many years, reducing the sap to syrup.

We could not be a successful organization without the willingness of people like Kathy and Art who give of their time and talents. We thank them and all of you who contribute in any way to preserve our past for the future!

Treasurer Retires

Rodger Reedy has performed as the Treasurer of the Historical Society for over five years. During that time, he has organized and handled detailed accounting for all our financial transactions. He has enhanced the process through budget reporting and planning. As a charitable organization it requires public reporting to the IRS in addition to renewals as a 503C tax exempt status which he handled annually. Rodger's volunteer work extended to creating and mounting displays for our historical implements which were torn from the walls of the barn during the Tornado in 2019. At each quarterly



Rodger and his daughter, Meredith, attend Honor Flight Reunion.

meeting, he curated and sold promotional items such as The Chronicles and Wartinger Park coffee mugs. During November, he helped to decorate the cabins for Winter Welcome. Rodger is the kind of volunteer who you can always count on to step up and help! He is transitioning to join the Friends of Beavercreek Historical Society, a board that will manage the endowment fund in conjunction with Greene Giving. Rodger exemplifies a community-minded volunteer who gives of his time and talent with no expectation of a personal reward.

Shared History

Retold by Terry Lewis, Beavercreek High School, Class of 1966

Johnny, I Hardly Knew Ye

When I was twelve years old my family moved to Turnbull Rd. It had a nice yard, a large cotton wood tree that was perfect for making a tree house and was located in a neighborhood that had over a dozen boys my age within a two-block radius.

One of those boys was Johnny McKay. Johnny was a thin, lanky young boy who was always eager to participate in any activity. Since Johnny lived only a few houses from mine, we became good friends. We went to each other's home nearly every day. Every summer day we found a few other boys and played "tag", "hide-and-go seek", played cards in the tree house or grabbed our ball gloves and played "Dollar". For three years I had a great time with my friend Johnny McKay.

When my high school years arrived, I felt the need to become more popular, whatever that meant. To reach a higher popularity level, I felt that I needed to spend more time associating with other boys who I considered popular. I did not believe that Johnny had a high place on the popularity scale. So I began spending less and less time with Johnny.

Johnny and I both loved sports, but he was not blessed with any significant athletic skills. Nevertheless, he was always trying out for football, baseball and basketball. He was often kept on the teams, but seldom received the chance to play. I am sure this disappointed him, but he still kept trying, always trying. He wanted so much to play and be one of the guys.

I often participated with Johnny on football and baseball teams, but seldom associated with him. I just went my separate way. After my freshman year in high

school, I went to Johnny's home on only a few occasions. The card games and backyard baseball were a thing of the past.

Eventually Johnny and I ended up on the same class B summer baseball team during my first year in college. I was the catcher and Johnny was a pitcher, but he was seldom given the opportunity to play in a game.

One day Johnny called me and asked that I come to his house so we could do a little pitch and catch. I really didn't want to and tried to make excuses. Johnny pleaded with me and claimed he had learned to throw a drop ball. More excuses followed. Finally I gave in and very reluctantly went to Johnny's house for what I considered to be a complete waste of time.

We went into his back yard. I kneeled down, and Johnny threw his first pitch. As the ball approached, it fell off the table. This was obviously a mistake or a one-time pitch. Johnny threw it again, and again it dropped at least a foot just before it reached my glove. I had caught some pretty good pitchers, but had never seen anything like Johnny's new pitch. We continued to practice, but I called it off after a few minutes as I did not want to hurt Johnny's arm. I left, not quite sure what had happened.

Within a day, we had a game, the last game of the season. The game was with another team from Dayton, and its best player was Mike Schmidt, he 1995 Baseball Hall of Famer who was already making a name for himself. We were in second place in the league, and Schmidt's team was in first, by two games. Even if we won, we were closed out of winning the league. Although we could not come in first, I wanted to win the final game against Schmidt's team. I really wanted to win.

The odds were against us. Our first-string pitcher had to work overtime and was not present. Our second-string pitcher had over-imbibed the night before, and he was in the dugout throwing up. So we started with our third string pitcher. Johnny took his usual position on the bench.

By some miracle, we were ahead by two runs to nothing with three innings to go. Then our pitcher ran out of gas. He knew it, I knew it, and the coach knew it. We met on the mound.

To my horror, the coach said he was going to let Johnny pitch. I started arguing; anybody but Johnny. I even suggested that the second base man pitch, I would

play second base, and a third player could catch. "No", said the coach. Johnny was going to pitch. Well, there went any chance of winning our last game.

Johnny came in from the dugout, and the coach left the mound. I turned to Johnny and told him that no matter what sign I gave him, he was only to throw his drop ball. Johnny proceeded to tell me that his curve was working, and he had a better fast ball. I repeated my prior instruction and emphasized in no uncertain terms that if he did not obey these instructions, his gluteus maximus would be in harm's way, or words to that effect.

I returned to the plate and flashed the sign for the drop ball. Johnny pitched. The batter swung and missed it a foot. Johnny threw again. Another swing, and the bat was not even close to the ball. I was amazed. This was impossible. This was too good to be true!

The game then became fun. Swing after swing, and a bat never touched Johnny's pitches. I even intentionally let some of the batters see my signals for a fast ball or a curve or told them what was really coming. Johnny just kept throwing his drop ball. For three innings, Johnny threw his drop ball and struck out eight batters, including Mike Schmidt! Finally the last batter came to the plate. He did connect, but only a weak popup to the short stop.

The game was over. We had shut out Schmidt's team! Johnny had struck out Mike Schmidt! We were still only in second in the league, but I felt like a winner! It was a win that came only because of Johnny and his miracle pitch.

I do not recall seeing Johnny again after that game. We left the field and went our separate ways into life. I always hoped we would meet again. I have told this story on many occasions and hoped I could tell him how much that sill game meant to me.

Unfortunately, several months ago, I learned that Johnny had died of a heart attack in 2008. I will never be able to tell him how regretful I am that I did not spend more time with him. How our faded close friendship of our early years was a real loss to me and was entirely my fault. I also could not tell him how much I appreciated catching for him in our last game.

Although he is gone, I know that wherever he is, Johnny is telling those around him how he struck out the

famed Mike Schmidt, and how Schmidt's oak bat never touched his pitches!

Thanks, Johnny. Thanks for that game. Thanks for all of the days we spent together in our youth. More importantly, thanks for being my friend. I miss you.

August 2016

Winter Welcome

Thank you to everyone who joined us at A Winter Welcome at Wartinger Park! Beaver Creek 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, 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, Ava Carroll, Marsha DeWeese, Mary Lou Hopun, Bobbie Carpenter, and Mark & Ruth Wiley with their grandkids; helping children make bird feeders: Amy Rohrback, Ava Carroll; sharing



Chrisonna Lutz-Anderson shared literature and merchandise for the Historical Society.



Ava Carroll assists a child who is making a bird feeder out of a pinecone.



Marie Reedy and Bobbie Carpenter assist children in decorating a cookie.

literature about the historical society: Chrisonna Lutz-Anderson; and baking over 350 gingerbread cookies to be decorated: Bobbie Carpenter with assistance in decorating: Marie Reedy.

Fall Living History Program

During our Fall Living History program, 369 third grade students from Main Elementary, Trebein Elementary, Valley Elementary and St. Luke 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 digging potatoes for the fall. They also learned about the early history of Beaver Creek 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, Rebecca Blaho, Bobbie Carpenter, Jill Cobb, Donna Fitzgerald, Jennifer Harvey, Val Hoyer, Becky Jarvi, Denny Jarvi, Sharon Jernigan, Jill Johannes, Holly Linquist, Anita O'Neal, Diane Phillips, Marie Reedy, Rodger Reedy, Vickie Ritchie, Mike Self, Gerry Smalley, Janet Taylor, Jessica Thomes, Mark Wiley, and Ruth Wiley. A special thank you to Doris Mitchell for preparing doll kits and to Sonya Veta for winding balls of yarn for finger knitting. Your support allows us to continue to serve the youth of Beaver Creek each year.



Finger knitting



Old fashioned lunch



Playing outdoor games

Save the Date!

Volunteer for the Living History Program at Wartinger Park

April 20 – May 8, 2026

Step back in time and help bring history to life!

Wartinger Park's Spring Living History Program is looking for enthusiastic volunteers to share their time, energy, and love of history with 260 students from Shaw, Fairbrook and Parkwood Elementaries.

Volunteers assist with hands-on demonstrations, historic crafts, and daily activities that make the past come alive for visiting school groups. Whether you're a seasoned volunteer or new to the historical program, your participation helps keep our community's heritage vibrant and engaging.

We are accepting donations of yarn and fabric. If you have any questions, please contact Marsha DeWeese at livinghistorybhs@gmail.com

More details and sign-up information are coming soon!

Please Consider Beaver Creek Historical Society for your Year-End Giving

Charitable donations to the Society are critical in allowing us to accomplish our mission of preserving and sharing Beaver Creek's rich history with current and future generations. Gifts can be made in a variety of ways that suit your preferences:

By Check

Beaver Creek Historical Society

1368 Research Park Dr.

Beaver Creek, Ohio 45432

You will receive a receipt from the Beaver Creek Historical Society.

By Credit Card

Credit card donations for the Society are processed through our account with the Greene County Community Foundation by accessing their secure online portal:

<https://greenegiving.ejoinme.org/donation>

Be sure to specify Beaver Creek Historical Society as the recipient. You will receive a receipt from Greene Giving.

Through Required Minimum Distributions:

Are you required to take minimum distributions from your IRA. Did you know that you can forgo realizing that distribution as income by rolling it over as a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) to support approved organizations like the Beaver Creek Historical Society? If you would like more information, please email us at bhsohio.com. Your inquiry will be treated confidentially.

Tobias-Zimmer Barn Fund

The Society is seeking contributions to help fund additional amenities for the Tobias-Zimmer Barn such as audiovisual equipment that would be useful for gatherings and meetings. Donations can be mailed to Beaver Creek Historical Society, 1368 Research Park Dr., Beaver Creek, OH 45432, or made by credit card at <https://greenegiving.ejoinme.org/donation>. *Whether your donation is by check or online, please be sure to specify the designation as "Tobias-Zimmer Barn."*

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wike@beavercreekohio.gov

Archive Director, Vacant
– consider volunteering

**Beavercreek Township Liaison
Ryan Rushing**
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 area: 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

Welcome
New Members:

Keith Cowden

Lisa Koogler

Sheryol Pearce Miller

Kenneth Simon

Debra Swigart

Thank You Lifetime
Business Sponsors:

IH Credit Union

TA O'Neal & Sons, LLC

Wolf Asset Solutions - Tax Preparation

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 Senior Center

Log by Log Submissions Due Mar. 3rd

As always the Log by Log is accepting submissions of history, little-known-facts, interviews, and even stories about growing up in Beavercreek are welcome! Please submit articles and photos to bhsohio@gmail.com

2026 Quarterly Meeting & Program Dates

January 27, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Great Council State Park

1587 US-68

Xenia

Join us on Facebook to keep updated on Society news and activities and to post your Beavercreek historical items of interest: Beavercreek 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 27, 2026, 6:00-7:00 PM Quarterly Meeting
Great Council State Park, 1587 US-68, Xenia 45385

History of Old Chillicothe and Great Council State Park

Explore the pivotal history of Old Chillicothe, delving into three tumultuous years that shaped Shawnee history on the banks of the Little Miami River. Uncover key events like the death of Cornstalk, the capture of Daniel Boone, and Clark's 1780 campaign. Learn how these events and figures influenced the Shawnee community and the broader historical landscape.

Ryan DiMisa is a naturalist at the Great Council State Park and Interpretive Center, where he educates visitors on the history of Old Chillicothe and the culture of the Shawnee people. Ryan was also an educator and interpreter at the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery and Sunwatch Archeological Park. He is passionate about working with Tribal communities to ensure his interpretations are accurate with current community understandings and needs.