

Log by Log



**Beavercreek
Historical Society**

**Summer 2010
Volume 20
Number 3**

A Publication of the Beavercreek Historical Society. Affiliated with the City of Beavercreek.

BeavercreekHistoricalSociety.org

Mark Your Calendar Now And Be Sure To Join Us!

ICE CREAM SOCIAL
And Annual Meeting
Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Come and join together for an Ice Cream Social at the Barn (rain or shine) at Wartinger Park. The Historical Society will provide everything you need for a summer's evening dessert--ice cream, toppings, and beverages. The treats will be served at 6:30 p.m.; the program will start at 7:00 p.m. Hank Arbaugh from the Ohio Humanities Council will entertain us with a program entitled "Gene Autry - Role Model for the 1940's and Today."

We'll wrap up the evening with our general membership's annual business meeting, including election of officers and a proposed revision to the bylaws.

We hope you can join us!

Proposed Changes to the Society Bylaws

At the ice cream social at Wartinger Park, July 27, 2010, during the business meeting the membership will be requested to vote to approve changes to the Society's Bylaws.

Most of the recommended changes in the Bylaws are for clarification and amplification purposes. However, three important recommended changes are as follows:

1. Increased emphasis is placed on Beavercreek landmarks documentation by including it as a topic under the Archives Standing Committee. Hopefully, the Society can continue to formally document those sites and structures of historic significance.

2. At their request, the Greene County Master Gardeners who plant and maintain the flower gardens around the Ankeney House and the Harshman House will no longer be a formal liaison organization with the Society. They will continue their gardening but will no longer be represented on the Board of Trustees.

3. The Hospitality function would now be accomplished by the Program Standing Committee, and the current Hospitality Standing Committee would be terminated. Currently both the Hospitality and Program Committees work to plan and provide for the quarterly/annual meetings and it is hoped that combining these responsibilities in one committee will simplify the tasks.

The Board of Trustees has approved the changes to the Bylaws and recommends that the general membership approve the changes.

The proposed Bylaws and the current Bylaws will be available at the City of Beavercreek's Parks Recreation and Culture Department Office - entrance off of Alpha Road in Alpha, Ohio, for your review after June 24. Questions may be directed to the Ad Hoc Committee for Bylaws Changes: Bob Bader, Chair, 426-4871, Jill Kincer, 429-0291, Lorraine Wagley, 426-8325 or Nancy Wagner, 426-1272.

Moler Family

by Ruth A. Tobias

Two Moler brothers came to Beaver Creek from Jefferson County, Virginia (now West Virginia), in the 1820's. Vandiver Banks Moler is listed in the 1820 Beaver Creek Township census with his wife and young son. Vandiver's older brother, John Banks Moler, Sr. arrived in Greene County just a few years later. They were the sons of George Adam Moler (1759-1830) and his wife Mary Banks. George Adam's father, Adam Moler, originally from Holland, had moved from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, to Virginia in 1750. At some point the original family name "Mohler" was changed to "Moler."

John Banks Moler, Sr. was born in 1790 in Jefferson County, Virginia, and died in Beaver Creek in 1882 at age 92, while living with his son John Jr. He's buried in Woodland Cemetery in Dayton; Rev. David Winters conducted his funeral. John Sr. was a well-known and prosperous farmer. In the 1860 census his worth was valued at \$4,500 in real estate with \$2,000 in personal property. In 1870, as a retired farmer, his real estate was valued at \$14,000 and personal property at \$5,000. He was married to Susannah Grooms (1800-1887) and they had nine children. Three daughters and one son (Raleigh) died before age two. The following five were their remaining children:

Ruhamah Moler was born in April 1822. She was married to John Darst and these were their children: Henry C. (1830), Oliver Perry (1839), Harrison H. (1841), Leo (1843), James P. (1845), and Henry R. (1847).

Littleton Moler (1826-1912) is buried in Hawker Cemetery. He was married in 1849 to Elizabeth Aley (1829-1887), whose parents were John Aley and Susan Hawker. Flora, Julia (1855-1929) and Willie were their children. Littleton was a farmer with acreage in Montgomery County valued at \$10,000 in 1870 and personal property at \$2,500. He was the guardian of Hetti and Eliza Echman, and John Irwin Moler, his nephew.

John Banks Moler, Jr., was born in 1828 in Beaver Creek and was married to Rebecca Hawker. Their children were Albert (who married Emma Leshner), George W. (1856-1875)-married Catherine Shilt-, Olive J. (1867-1950), John H., Susan, Warren (married to Matilda), Nelly Jane (1858-1867), and Mary. There is some confusion about Olive J. In the 1870 census she is listed as being 11 years old. In the 1880 census Ollive (yes, two Ls), is listed as age 13. This brings us to an interesting set of articles in *The Xenia Gazette*.

In January 1898 "Ollie" Moler brought a paternity suit against Charles Blaine. She said that in February 1897 they had pledged to marry (she was 30 at the time) and he had brought about her "ruin." (Her daughter, Glenna

Blaine, was born in November 1897.) She sued him for \$10,000 in damages when he refused to marry her "causing her great humiliation and disgrace." She attested that Charles said he would marry her if she gave him \$12. She gave him the money, and he fled. On February 1, 1898, he pleaded guilty to the paternity charge and was directed to pay \$200 for maintenance of the child, to be paid quarterly, and court costs, but he failed to do so and was jailed. He was acquitted of the charge of fraudulently obtaining the \$12 from Olive. The Judge said he would give them a marriage license for free, but Olive declined the offer. Olive's father, John Jr., was at this time a reasonably wealthy man. His real estate in 1870 was valued at \$19,110 and his personal property at \$3,600.

As an interesting side note: In October 1897 Charles Blaine noticed three men digging and loading potatoes into ten bushel baskets in Albert Moler's field. He captured two of them and took them to John Moler's house, where the authorities came and took them to jail in Montgomery County. (Do you suppose that Charles talked to Ollie at this time about the coming birth of their child?)

In the 1910 census for Beaver Creek, John Jr.'s wife, Rebecca Moler, is listed as a 75-year-old widow, Olive is age 42, and Glenna Blaine is age 12. Olive never married, died in 1950, and is buried in Woodland Cemetery in Dayton.

Living History News

The Spring 2010 Living History Program went very well. We had 3 classes from Parkwood El., 4 classes from Fairbrook El., and 7 classes from Main El., a total of 357 Students. The days were beautiful except for one, (a little rain). Before our sessions started we had a training session for new presenter on April 13. We had about 24 in attendance and we gained 10 new presenters. Those who joined our volunteer group were Rhonda Kunkel, Gina Kahn, Gerry Petrak, Pat Riley, Keri Haldeman, Ronna Spahr, Diana Haldeman, Don Kocarek, Dotty Kammerer, Stephanie and Grace Lindley, and Ed Stafford. These new volunteers made our program run smoothly and gave our regular volunteers a little rest. Thanks so much to all of you who joined the volunteer group. I hope to see you all this fall! Of course we couldn't run this program without all of the 'old volunteers.'

Fire builders/window openers:

Bob Bader, Art Bauer, Bob Zimmer, James Langham, Bob Wagley.

Candles: Charlotte Panton, Grace Axer, Paralee Hendricksen, Julie Sanderson, Gerry Smalley, Gina Kahn, and Kathy Bauer

Quilting: Betty Biser, Sarah Haller, Julie Sanderson, Gina Kahn, Paralee Hendricksen, Martha Rothman, and Rhonda Kunkel

Butter Making: Rhonda Kunkel, Diana Haldeman, Charlotte Hopkins, Ronna Spahr, and Gerry Smalley,

Spinning: Sharon Jernigan, Pat Shama, Jenny Harvey, Shirley McCourt, Ronna Spahr, and Becky Jarvi

Knitting: Paralee Hendrickson, Martha Rothman, Charlotte Panton, Gerry Smalley, and Becky Jarvi

Laundry: Lorraine Wagley, Dawn Hester, Jill Kincer, Nancy Michaels, Lori Lucas, Ann Brooks, Gerry Petrak, and Susan Saddler

Herb Garden: Traudl Schrick, Dottie Kammerer, Stephanie and Grace Lindley, and Mary Bayman

Gardening: John Rhodehamel, Don Magaw, Ed Stafford, Don Kocarek, and Stephanie & Grace Lindley

Ragdolls: Laura Konnert, Diana Halderman, Sarah Haller, Gerry Petrak, Diane Phillips, Paralee Hendricksen, Gerry Smalley, Nancy Wagner, Susan Saddler, and Gina Kahn

As you can see many of our volunteers are multi-talented. This is a great help as many times we need to move them around to make the day work.

Our Spring session was completed with a **"Thank You Luncheon"** on May 7. Only 18 people attended but we had a wonderful time and plenty of good food to eat. Hope to see you all in the fall.

Thanks Again!

Gerry Smalley
Living History Coordinator

Beavercreek Heritage Days and Herb Days

Beavercreek Heritage Days and Herb Days 2010 will be held Saturday, September 18 from 10 AM-6 PM, and Sunday, September 19 from 11 AM-5 PM.

Beavercreek Heritage Days and Herb Days is a free event for the entire family. Children's activity tickets may be purchased for

\$2.00 per ticket. This event brings our local history to the present with delicious pioneer foods and children's games, local artisans, a penny candy store and good old-fashioned fun and music.

Take a tour of Wartinger Park and its rustic historic log homes and enjoy the spirit of Beavercreek

at its roots. Bring your friends, neighbors and family to this wonderful trip back in time sponsored by the Beavercreek Historical Society and the Flower Trail Garden Club.

If you'd like to volunteer, please call Jennifer Harvey at 431-8909.

WHITEY'S MUSEUM

by Laura Bader

The small building was known as "Whitey's" museum and was located behind his residence on Beaver Valley Road. Many of the items stored there had been on display at the old Beaver Grill Restaurant which Marshall owned and managed for many years at the corner of Dayton Xenia and Factory Roads. Many of the items stored in the museum included sports memorabilia which Marshall, a lifetime sports fan, had accumulated over the years. His collection also included over 1,000 books which he had salvaged from the old Beavercreek High School located at the south west corner of Dayton Xenia and Factory Roads.



The museum itself had quite a history and had not always been used for its current purpose. When daughter Jeanette had a horse, Whitey built this structure as a horse barn in their backyard. In later years both the horse

and daughter were gone and the little barn became a museum where Whitey could store all his memorabilia and also have a small office area for himself.

His sports collection included team pictures of BHS basketball and baseball teams, going back to the class of 1904 at the old Alpha High School. Also included was a team picture of the 1951 Beavercreek High School state championship baseball team. Some articles on display included items from the Cincinnati Reds organization. Favorites in the collection included ball bats, hats and caps worn by ushers at the old Crosley Field and three actual seats from the old ball park. Whitey took pride in the many BHS items he salvaged including a class photo from his 21 member graduating class in 1931.

We are indeed thankful that Ronald "Whitey" Marshall was interested in saving so many of these historical items. Although the little museum still stands, it is with much appreciation we give special thanks to Phil Marshall, Whitey's son, who has continued with this important collection and is currently sharing it with the Beavercreek Historical Society.

*Taken in part from the Beavercreek News, September 20, 1985.

IZZY CARO RECEIVES CITY'S CULTURE AWARD

At the City of Beavercreek's annual Volunteer Recognition Program held on April 29th, Izzy Caro, long-time editor of the Society's newsletter received the City's Culture Award. Izzy was honored for his service to the community in publishing the Log by Log.

During his ten years of service as editor – from 2000 through 2009 – Izzy was working full time at a demanding job which often took him out of town, but he always managed to get out the newsletters.

In addition to his work as newsletter editor, he also volunteers at Heritage Days at Wartinger Park. A resolution was also passed at the Beavercreek Historical Society's November 2009 meeting commending him for his lengthy and invaluable service.



DATES SET FOR HARVEST DINNERS

By Bob Zimmer

Harvest dinners will be served in the Ankeney and Harshman cabins the last weekend in October on Friday the 29th, at 6:00 p.m., Saturday the 30th, at 6:00 p.m. and Sunday the 31st at 4:00 p.m.

Limited seating is available by reservation only.

Reservations can be made by calling 426-7959 beginning September 1st. A donation of \$20.00 per person is requested.

ACQUISITIONS

Recently several people have made donations to the historical society. Roger Coy donated a hay rake which is now hanging in the barn. Chuck Allport donated a Hired Man's Bed which is now located on the second floor of the Harshman House and a selection of tools which are on display in the barn.

If you are interested in donating items, please call Lorraine Wagley at 426-8325.

Board of Trustees 2009 - 2010

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VP, Internal Operations
426-8325

Nancy Wagner
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429-0291

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Archives

Wendy Kirchoff
Publicity

Steve Baldwin
Editor
912-0230
sbaldwin@baldwincreates.com

Do you have something to submit?

The next issue of Log By Log will mail on October 1st, 2010. If you have something to include, please send it to the editor by the September 21st deadline. Submissions can be sent to:

sbaldwin@baldwincreates.com

Loyalty of a Revolutionary Soldier

By Jarrod Zimmerman

There is a thread that runs throughout American history. Time and time again this thread has pulled Americans together under a common cause to perpetuate both the memory and existence of the American people. Often, we are bombarded with stories not of this thread but of the result of its interweaving. This thread is loyalty. When exploring the events of the American Revolutionary War we think of independence, freedom, and liberty. But without loyalty and the devoted allegiance our ancestors gave to America, we would never have been able to attain the freedoms we so readily enjoy today.

This is a story of a loyal soldier. It has been passed down generation after generation, nine levels deep, in the Zimmerman family. John Parsons was a Revolutionary War soldier.

His war record can be found in his Pension File. Number S3643, and from the State and Navy Land Warrants, numbered 2W8810,

as filed in the National Archive Records in Washington, D.C. He was aide-de-camp to James Monroe, and a close companion of General George Washington. He was not a decorated soldier, but a soldier with grave devotion to his cause, his superiors, and his family.

Night was approaching. John Parson propped his back against a tree at the top of a hill, illegibly writing a letter to his wife. He sank comfortably down between the protruding roots of the old oak, arching his back to fit its curve and positioning his knees to hold the paper at chest level. Using his knee as a desk, he rapidly scratched his thoughts on the parchment with a quill, savoring the last dwindling minutes of daylight.

A brisk breeze rolled in from the west. With it came the spirited chanting from soldiers below, just beginning their nighttime activities, as the melody of “Yankee Doodle,” rolled up the hill. The spirited efforts of the soldiers ran with pride through the air. The melody was soothing, almost lulling John to sleep, but an occasional shrill note from an untrained voice would jolt him back to consciousness with a smile and a silent laugh at their heart-filled endeavors.

John’s attention then turned to a tall figure climbing the hill. He emerged out of the mass of soldiers, who paused to salute in

his honor, then continuing their activities. The man walked with pride. The vivid light of purple horizon formed at the distant treetops, radiated behind him, making him only a shadowy silhouette and temporarily disguising his identity. Yet when John squinted, he recognized his friend and stood to salute as the other soldiers had. “General Washington, so good to see you.” George Washington returned to John an affectionate smile and waved his hand, signaling John to relax. As Washington began to speak, he focused his eyes on the distant shades of purple. “John Parsons, I have known you for quite some time now, and you have been a loyal friend of mine during these times of war.”

But as I have learned from various officers, your loyalty does not stop here, at our relationship. You have loyally fought under the command of Colonel David Forman, Captain John Conrad, and Colonel Israel Shreves, just to name a few. Also, you have been so loyal as to gain the trust of Captain James Monroe, serving him as aide-de-camp. This honor should not go unnoticed and should be one you are proud to hold. Because of these reasons, you have also gained my trust. As I was sitting in camp, I began to consider a way to reward you. Then it came to me. Do you know the salt and pepper glass from my mess kit that we use together?” John nodded. “I want you to have it as a reminder



of our friendship. But more importantly, a reminder of your loyalty." And with that, he handed John the salt and pepper glass.

John said nothing. He was speechless for he had so many things he wanted to say, but couldn't. He didn't need to say anything though; the expression on his face explained very well what he was thinking. As he held the glass up to admire its beauty, the distant violet light caught the crystal with its rays. The glass, this purple award, shimmered in the eyes of a proud and loyal soldier.

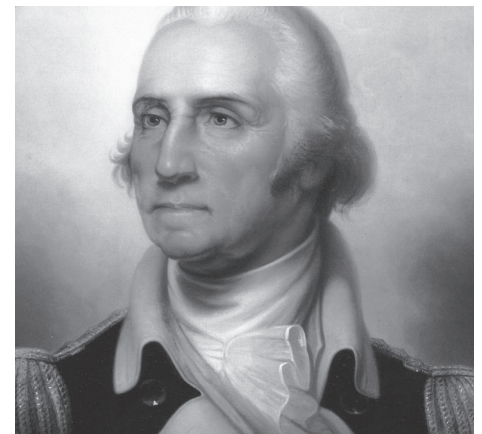
John Parsons was a war hero. He was but a common soldier caught in the interweaving of

America's fight for independence. But, what made him different was the admirable loyalty he gave to his superiors. In recognition of this loyalty, he was not given an actual award or medal, but something that meant so much more and was so treasured by Washington. It was the loyalty that truly achieved the independence of the American people and provided many generations of Americans with the freedoms they rightfully hold today.

Author's Note: At the Smithsonian Institute, the mess kit of George Washington sits on display. Yet, a space within the mess kit remains absent for a missing item; the salt and pepper glass.

Note 1: Jarrod wrote this article for an Eagle Scout project a few years ago. Jarrod is currently a sophomore attending Northwestern University.

Note 2: John Parsons was the GGG grandfather of Susan Wolfe Zimmerman.



Yes, I'm interested.

I'd like to join!

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Annual Memberships (check one):

- \$5 Student (age 18 and below)
- \$15 Individual
- \$20 Family
- \$50 Club/Organization
- \$100 - \$499 Patriot

Or Lifetime Memberships (check one):

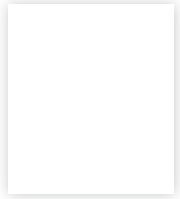
- \$500 - \$999 Preservationist
- \$1000 (and above) Historian

How can I help?

Volunteers are needed in the following areas:

- Developing oral history of Beaver Creek
- Writing or editing for monthly newsletter
- Tours and historical programs at the park
- Craft demonstrations
- Acquisitions committee
- Publicity committee
- Working on barn or house preservation
- Creative fundraising opportunities
- Membership committee
- Educational committee
- Hospitality committee

Send checks (payable to Beaver Creek Historical Society) and this form to:
1368 Research Park Drive, Beaver Creek, Ohio 45432



Upcoming Events:

Board Meeting July 10

Coy House

Ice Cream Social/Annual Meeting July 27

Wartinger Park

Board Meeting August 12

Coy House

Board Meeting September 9

Coy House

Heritage Days and Herb Days September 18, 19

Wartinger Park

Newsletter Submission Deadline

September 21

Harvest Dinners October 29, 30, 31

Wartinger Park

1368 Research Park Drive
Beavercreek, Ohio 45432

"The objectives of the organization are to preserve structures of historical significance, to develop and present community education programs, and to create a learning center for historic education."

Beavercreek Historical Society Annual Meeting

July 27, 2010
6:30 PM

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Beavercreek Historical Society Annual Business Meeting and Ice Cream Social will be held on **Tuesday, July 27, 2010 at 6:30 PM**. The ice cream, toppings, beverages and table service will be provided by the Historical Society.



At **7 PM** Hank Arbaugh folklorist and historian from The Ohio Humanities Council, will entertain us with a program entitled "Gene Autry – Role Model for the 1940's and Today."

Our Annual Business Meeting will begin at approximately **7:45**. At our business meeting the membership will consider the bylaws revision, election of officers, and any other business brought to the membership. ***Please plan to attend and enjoy!***

2011 Elective Slate of Officers

In accordance with Article IV, Section 2 of the Bylaws of the Beavercreek Historical Society, the Society's nominating committee proposes the following individuals for the respective offices:

President - Lynn Hickman-Long
Internal Vice President - Robert (Bob) Wagley
External Vice President - Nancy Wagner
Secretary - Jill Kincer
Treasurer - Wendy Kirchoff

This slate will be voted on at the annual meeting on July 27, 2010. Additional nominations may be made from the floor with the consent of the nominee.