



Log by Log



**Beavercreek
Historical Society**

**Spring 2011
Volume 20
Number 2**

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BeavercreekHistoricalSociety.org

What's Happening at Wartinger Park?

by Nancy Wagner

May 21st 11:00 A.M. till 5:00 P.M.

You are invited to a special one-day show of beautiful handmade quilts, colorful hooked rugs, 1800's woven coverlets, and new and antique needlework samplers all displayed inside the Tobias-Zimmer barn. This is a wonderful opportunity to see private collections and also people doing demonstrations.

The log houses will be open for tours, and visitors will see appropriate antique furnishings. The herb garden is another point of interest maintained by the Flower Trail gardeners.

All of these items are included in the \$5.00 admission charge, with no charge for children under three years of age. There is handicap accessible parking at the barn.

Sorry but pets and food are not permitted inside the buildings. Plan now to attend for fun and door prizes! For further information call 426-1272 or 426-2850.



Nominations Sought

It is time to seek nominations for the officers of the Board of Trustees. The officer positions on the board are: President, Internal Vice-President, External Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. The slate of officers will be published in the July issue of Log-by-Log.

Please contact the current board of trustees at bhsohio@gmail.com to nominate yourself or someone you know.

Quarterly Meeting Slated for April 26

Don't forget to attend our upcoming quarterly meeting. Dr. Brenda Ellis will be giving a presentation on the development of music and worship within the African American church. There will also be a performance from the Wright State University Chior, that you won't want to miss!

The meeting will be held on April 26, 2011 at 7:00 P.M. in the Beavercreek Community Theatre. The Theatre is located at the Lofino Center at 3868 Dayton-Xenia Road. We hope to see you there.

THE FIRST HIGH SCHOOL

By Laura Bader

In 1887 the need for a Beavercreek high school was readily apparent and in 1888 a large new brick school was completed on the southwest corner of Factory Road and Dayton-Xenia Road. It was recognized as being only the second high school in the state. See photo and note the horse and buggy in the background.

While the new high school was being built, classes were held in an upstairs room of the old Stage Coach Inn located just to the east near the corner of Beaver Valley Road and Dayton-Xenia Road. The enrollment was about 20 pupils and was to be only a temporary arrangement.

In the latter part of the year 1888 the pupils at the old Stage Coach Inn picked up their books, chairs and tables, and proudly marched up the road to the south room of the new brick building. Tables were spread out and each one accommodated four students. The following year desks were placed in the north room to accommodate the increasing enrollment. The south room was used for freshmen and sophomores; the north room was for juniors and seniors. A small room upstairs was known as the laboratory and was used for smaller classes. In 1914 two more rooms were added to the west end of the building.

In later years the growing population and increasing demands from the State Board of Education made this building inadequate in both size and equipment. In 1932 the entire school system was moved into a new centralized school located at the corner of Dayton-Xenia Road and Hanes Road. This particular building later became Main Elementary school when a new high school building was completed in 1954.

The original old high school building was then used by various businesses over the years. At first it was used as a residence with several apartments available. Later it was taken over by the local Marshall Brothers as a Studebaker dealership for sales and service. Sometime later several other businesses moved in including the Mead Company and Systems Research and Development.

Its last known usage was as a restaurant known as LaMachey's. However this business did not last long as a fire destroyed much of the interior and the decision was made to tear down the building.

Society member Harold "Bud" Filer salvaged some of the old bricks and eventually used them to construct a fireplace in the main room of the Ankeney House at Wartinger Park.

The site of the first high school is now occupied by Ritters Frozen Custard. We give special thanks to these citizens, some long time residents of Beavercreek, who shared their memories and stories of the old school: Robert Coy, Charles Durnbaugh, Harold Filer, Dawn Gilbert Jones, Everett Koogler, Phil Marshall, Jeanette Marshall Papaczik, and Lester Prether.



Beavercreek High School — 1888

A BIT ABOUT SAMUEL FISTE

by **Ruth A. Tobias**

Samuel Fiste's name was on a record of interments in Beaver Cemetery for the years 1894 to 1902. Samuel died December 15, 1894 at age 52—kicked in the jaw by a horse. That fact seemed interesting, but was I ever surprised at the final outcome of some research in old newspapers and census records!

Samuel Fiste was born on April 1, 1841, one of the children of John Foist from Berkley, W. Virginia. On December 27, 1860, Samuel and Susanna Trubee were married in Beaver Creek. Two years later he joined the 110th OVI, company F, as a 19-year-old infantry private. This company was mobilized in Piqua in October 1862 and participated in 21 engagements, including the Battle of Cedar Creek, Virginia, where Samuel was wounded on October 19, 1864. He was shot in the leg, the bullet traveling from the groin to the knee. (He bore the pain, and the bullet, for the rest of his life, applied for a pension at age 48, and received only \$4.00 per month.) He was mustered out in Washington, DC and discharged at Tod Barracks (named for Governor David Tod) in Columbus, Ohio, on June 25, 1865.

When Samuel Fiste returned home he found work in a local oil mill. He and Susanna eventually had five sons: John Edward., Charles A., Simon Harry., William Augustus, and Samuel L. At the

time of his death, Samuel had worked for 25 years as a teamster for J. H. Harbine. He was well acquainted with horses. His obituary says that he was “usually kind and careful” with horses, but this one time at home he hit a horse with a board. He was kicked in the jaw and lingered in constant pain for a week before he died.

John Edward Fiste was married first to Nellie Steel, there was a second marriage, then a third to Jessie, who was 16 to his 47.

Charles Fiste died of “galloping” consumption in 1912; he had never married. At that time his brother Simon Harry lived in Simms Station William Augustus in Alpha, and John Edward and Samuel L. in Dayton.

William Augustus Fiste and Stella Belle Stephenson were married in 1897. William A. was a prominent stock dealer in Alpha. In 1915 he offered for sale a large brick building with grocery and blacksmith shop in Alpha (could this be the current Alpha House B & B?), plus a story and a half frame house, these being near the Dayton-Xenia traction line. He also sold his livestock, moved to Xenia and opened up a saloon. He was married twice more after Stella's death in 1918 and died himself in 1942. His widow Myrtle died in Indiana at age 96.

Samuel L. Fiste was married to Cora Sizer in 1900. They had 7 children. If this is the same

Samuel L. Fiste, he and William Trubee (maybe a cousin?) got into some mischief in May 1901. They were accused of stealing 25 chickens from David Gray's henhouse and some hams from John I. Willette and selling them in Xenia. They were jailed, but their fate was not recorded in the newspaper. Cora died in 1955; Samuel in 1960, age 82.

Now we get to the good and surprising finale: Simon Harry Fiste married Alva Letha Duncan in 1892. One of their sons was Cassius (Cash) Edward Fiste, born in 1895. He was married to Erma Harris and worked as the crane operator for Dayton. They had one daughter, also named Erma, born in 1927. Get ready ...

Samuel Fiste, kicked in the jaw by a horse, was the great-grandfather of Dayton's own Erma Louise Fiste Bombeck!

My Life: One Story at a Time

Meetings of this writing group, sponsored by our society and led by Bob Wagley, are held the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month from 3:00 to 4:30 at the Coy House. Participants enjoy sharing and comparing their stories and life experiences from childhood to the present. For more information about joining this lively group call Bob at 426-8325.

Living History

By Gerry Smalley

The spring Living History program is set and by the time you read this I hope to have a good start on the schedule. However if you have not been contacted and would like to help out, I hope you will contact me. The dates are a little scattered as we had to work around vacation days and testing for the 3rd graders. We start on Friday April 15 with Fairbrook School. Fairbrook also will attend Thursday April 28, Friday May 6, and Friday May 13. Main School is scheduled Monday

April 18 through Thursday April 21 and Tuesday April 26, Thursday April 27, Friday April 29 and Monday May 9. Parkwood School will attend Tuesday May 10 through Thursday May 12. That's 15 classrooms running from April 15 through May 13.

We have had many people working to get ready for these days. The following people have been making doll kits/yarn balls: Barbara Walker, Wilma Stafford, Charlotte Panton, Becky and Denny Jarvi, Laura Bader. Also thanks for donations of material and yarn. We can always use

material and yarn, so if you have some to donate let someone know. Linda and Carl Hogrefe have been busy making pioneer soap for each of the children. Thanks to all of you. I'm sure there are others who are working behind the scenes, thanks to all of you. Looking forward to seeing many of you during our Living History Program, April 15 through May 13. Please call if you can help.

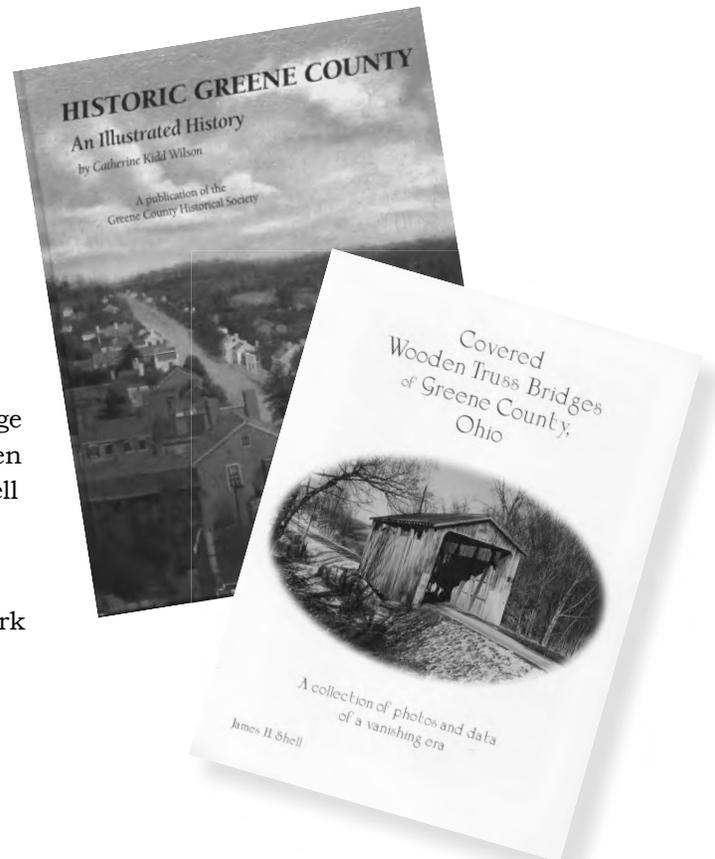
Director of Living History:

Gerry Smalley, 426-5869 or E-mail Gjet@sbcglobal.net

Greene County Historical Society Books For Sale:

The Greene County Historical Society is offering two books for sale. The first, *Historic Greene County, An Illustrated History* by Catherine Kidd Wilson, is a 64-page hardback, available for \$20. The second, *Covered Wooden Truss Bridges of Greene County, Ohio*, by James H. Shell is a 76-page soft cover, available for \$5.

To purchase, send a check, payable to the Beaver Creek Historical Society, to Attn: Treasurer, 1368 Research Park Drive, Beaver Creek, OH 45432-2818.



Pride in Public Education Long Valued in Beavercreek

By Jill Kincer

The history of public education in Beavercreek begins initially with the Northwest Ordinance passed by the Congress of the United States in 1787. This act formally established the Northwest Territory (now the states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin and Michigan), and among other things, outlined procedures for statehood and prohibited slavery within its boundaries. Most importantly for public education, the Ordinance declared that "schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged."



Old Beaver School

The first school house was built in Beavercreek Township and Greene County in 1800 about two miles west of Alpha, three years before Ohio gained statehood. By around 1820 there were four schools in the township. Beavercreek Chronicles, (a compendium of local Beavercreek history available for sale through the Beavercreek Historical Society) states that between 1850 and 1880, the Union School---or "Old Beaver" as it was known, was "the outstanding school in

Greene County, attracting pupils from all parts of the county..... that students who completed the courses at "Old Beaver" were able to enter the Sophomore Class at Miami University." The Old Beaver (Union) School stood at the site of a granite marker behind the present Beaver Church on Dayton-Xenia Road.



Zimmerman School No. 12
*Southwest corner of Dayton-Xenia
and Farfield Road*

Post-World War II suburban growth in the 1950s and 60s brought many new families and the need for additional schools to Beavercreek. Today's existing 5 elementary schools, 2 middle schools and the 1954 Beavercreek High School building have had updates and renovations over the years. The recent renovation of the auditorium at Main Elementary (the original 1932 high school building) brings new life to an important part of the history of public education in Beavercreek. It is with great anticipation that the community now looks forward to a new elementary and middle school complex currently under

construction on the corner of Dayton-Xenia and Ankeney Roads, slated to open in the fall of 2013.

For much more detailed information including remembrances from students of the early schools, and pictures, check out Beavercreek Chronicles at the Beavercreek Library, or you may also purchase your personal copy at that same location for \$30. In addition to our schools' history, the book has extensive information about many aspects of the Beavercreek's history.



**Main Elementary Auditorium,
built in 1932, underwent
a complete restoration and
renovation in 2010**



**Recent renovation of the
auditorium at Main Elementary**

The Persimmon Tree

By Bob Bader

One of the more interesting trees at Wartinger Park is the Persimmon tree. This particular tree grew from a three foot seedling planted by the Flower Trail Garden Club in 1989. The Persimmon tree is a member of the tropical Ebony family and in the United States is generally found in the Southeastern States and rarely north of central Ohio. The word persimmon is derived from language related to the Blackfoot, Cree and Mohican Indians of the

eastern United States, meaning a dry fruit. The Persimmon fruits are generally light yellow–orange to dark red–orange in color, and depending on the species, vary in size from 0.5 to 4 inches in diameter, and may be spherical, acorn, or pumpkin-shaped. The fruit is nutritious but will pucker the mouth unmercifully if not dead ripe, or as Captain John Smith put it, “will draw a man’s mouth awrie with much torment.” Persimmon wood is exceptionally

hard and tough and is used for such things as trim on furniture and shuttles in the weaving industry. Until recent years it was used for the heads of golf clubs, thus the term “woods;” however, metal became the choice of “wood” club heads late in the 20th century. The tree at Wartinger Park was incorporated into the design of Marie’s (Wartinger) Garden.

ACQUISITIONS

A Jenny Lind baby bed, now located in the Ankeney House, was donated by Val and Ovidio Pugnale.

A hand bell used in the old Beaver Creek High School and 4 paintings of early covered bridges in Beaver Creek, painted by Laura Bader, were donated by L. Jeanette Papajcik. The bell is located with other Beaver Creek school items in the barn and the paintings are hanging in the Coy House.

A collection of 16 books, dealing with early Ohio history, was donated by the Fairborn City Schools. This was a nice addition to our library located in the Coy House.

A chip carving portrait of Emma Cosler (the late Ken Cosler’s mother) dated 1907 along with a collection of historical papers was donated by Laura and Bob Bader.

Cheryl Coy has donated a large box of letters and documents concerning the Coy family of Beaver Creek.

These items will be housed in our archives at the Coy House.

We thank the above for their generous contributions to our collections. Anyone with questions about donating should call Lorraine Wagley at 426-8325.



DID YOU KNOW?

The Beaver Creek Historical Society was founded in 1985 when a log home was discovered in the city when its siding was removed. It would have been destroyed if action would not have been taken. The group raised money to have the home disassembled and reassembled at Wartinger Park. It is part of the Beaver Creek Ohio City Parks Department. The society has since saved another log home and an historic barn by moving those two structures to the park. Once the homes and barn were moved and had passed inspection for safety they were given to the city.

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

(Excerpt from the Beaver Creek Chronicals)

The pumper in this photograph, loaned by Mrs. R. Kockentiet, is not identified. Probably it was long out of use when John Scott, with the cooperation of the Knollwood Civic Association, organized the first fire department. They purchased three portable back pumps, fire axe, rope, etc. Mr. Scott used his own truck to haul the equipment to a fire. The

Civic Association purchased a small siren to be located at the Knollwood Florist so that the men who volunteered could be alerted when there was a fire.

From the first meeting in 1946, our fire department has grown to four stations, has all the latest equipment to cover any emergency, has active auxiliaries,

and has the appreciation of the whole community.

This appreciation is also directed to all the services, paid and volunteer, which keep Beaver Creek operating. We have grown to 600 streets and that is a great responsibility to care for.



One of the first two trucks of the Beaver Creek Fire Department.

- Courtesy of the Fire Department



THE OLD SCHOOL BELL

By Laura Bader

During the time that the Marshall Brothers Studebaker Dealership was located in the old Beaver Creek High School (see accompanying article on pg. 2) Whitey Marshall investigated the top floor and belfry tower. There he discovered quite a collection of old school memorabilia – records, pictures, etc. the lovely old bell used at the school, see photo.

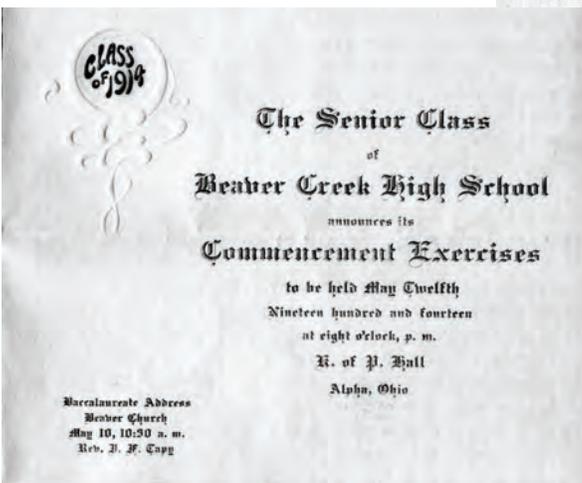
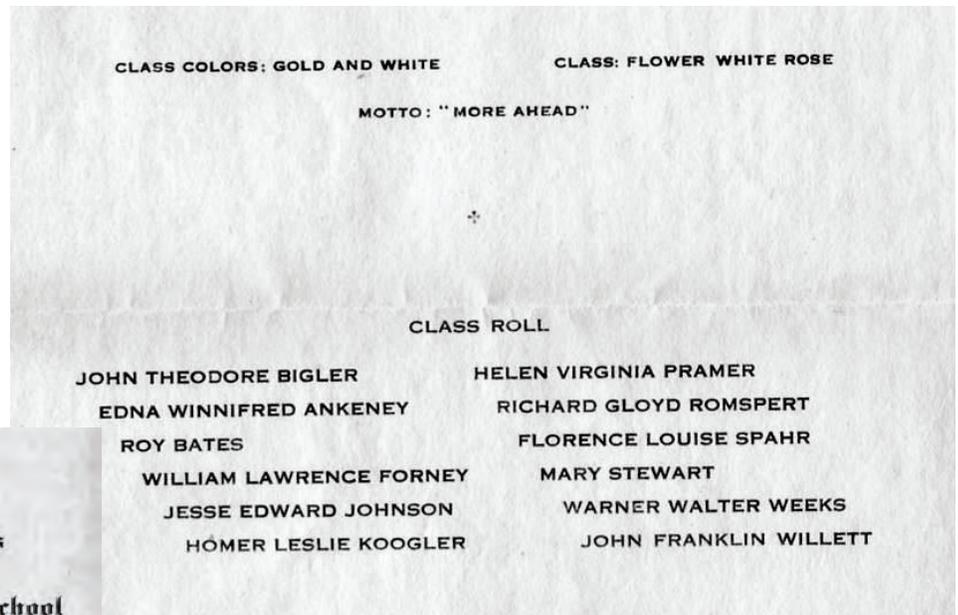
For many years Whitey collected and stored all these historical documents at his house. The collection is now in the hands of Whitey's son Phil Marshall. Recently the old bell was donated by Phil and his sister Jeanette Marshall Papaczik to the Beaver Creek Historical Society.



1914 Beaver Creek High School Commencement Announcement

By Bob Bader

This 1914 Commencement Announcement was included in a donation of Beaver Creek Memorabilia by Cheryl Coy of Alpha. Note the old familiar Beaver Creek family names in the class roster and the spelling of Beaver Creek back then.



1914 Beaver Creek High School commencement announcement.

Seeking Your Stories ...

The goal of the Log by Log newsletter is to keep our readers abreast of what is happening currently with the Beavercreek Historical Society and to share historical information about Beavercreek's past—be it a century past or the more recent past. After all, our organization's official purpose is preserving the past for the future. We very much appreciate those of you who have been contributing articles and hope you will continue to do so; but we also seek to broaden our input, hearing from others who also have interesting stories to share with our readers. If you have an interest in writing, particularly

articles regarding happenings from the past, please let us hear from you. Because we now publish quarterly rather than monthly, we ask that each article be self-contained with the start and finish of the story contained in one issue on one page. The recommended length is within 640 words without a picture, or 500 words or less if there is an accompanying picture or pictures. You may submit your article by email to our Log by Log editor, Steve Baldwin at sbaldwin@baldwincreates.com. Call Steve at 937-912-0230 if you have questions. We'd love to hear from you!

Board of Trustees

Contact us at bhsohio@gmail.com

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Yes, I'm Interested.

I'd like to join!

Name: _____

Phone: _____

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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 Beavercreek
- 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 Beavercreek Historical Society) and this form to:
1368 Research Park Drive, Beavercreek, Ohio 45432



1368 Research Park Drive
Beaver Creek, 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."

Upcoming Events:

Board Meeting, April 14

Coy House - 7:00 p.m.

Quarterly Meeting, April 26

Beaver Creek Community Theatre
3868 Dayton-Xenia Road - 7:00 p.m.

Board Meeting, May 12

Coy House - 7:00 p.m.

Board Meeting, June 9

Coy House - 7:00 p.m.

Newsletter Submission Deadline

June 21 - 5:00 p.m.

Annual Meeting/Ice Cream Social, July 26

Wartinger Park
3040 Kemp Road - 7:00 p.m.

Beaver Creek Historical Society Quarterly Meeting

Beaver Creek Community Theatre, 3868 Dayton-Xenia Road
April 26, 2011 | 7:00 PM

"Then Sings My Story: The History of Music in the African American Church"



Dr. Brenda Ellis, Associate Professor of Music from Wright State University and Director of the Paul Laurence Dunbar Chorale will be giving a presentation that will provide us with a historical overview of development of music and worship from within the African American church.

Members of the Dayton African American Choral Society will be part of the presentation where there will be live interactive audio, visual, and live performance demonstrations. They will share the music of Africa, spirituals, gospel music, anthems, hymns, and inspirational songs while encouraging audience participation through the whole journey.

Do you have something to submit?

The next issue of Log By Log will mail on July 1st, 2011. If you have something to include, please send it to the editor by the June 21st, 2011 deadline. Submissions can be sent to:

sbaldwin@baldwincreates.com



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