

# Log by Log



**Beavercreek  
Historical Society**

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BeavercreekHistoricalSociety.org

## ACQUISITION OF BEAVERCREEK NEWSPAPER ARCHIVE IS WELCOMED

By Jill Kincer



**Ruth Mitsoff (L) hands over one of the many historically significant binders containing the Beavercreek News.**

The Beavercreek Historical Society is very pleased to announce that Mrs. Ruth Mitsoff has generously donated her collection of 26 years worth of Beavercreek News editions dating from 1960 to 1986 to our organization. This major donation deals exclusively with Beavercreek history and consists of many bound volumes. The collection contains thousands of articles that give insight into the lives of the residents and the events that occurred over time as Beavercreek changed from an unincorporated, mostly rural township into the largest populated city in Greene County. Chris Mitsoff, Ruth's late husband, was the founder, publisher and editor of

the Beavercreek News, while Ruth worked by his side, gathering facts, keeping the books, writing classified and managing other needs.

The early portion of this large collection covers the time when the newspaper was a weekly publication. In 1960, Beavercreek was an unincorporated farming community, with scattered housing plats across the landscape. It was a time when the school year still ended in mid-May to allow the young men time to help plant crops in the spring. As the years rolled along, many more new residential plats popped up providing inviting housing for young families looking to live on half-acre lots. Beavercreek was the choice place for many to settle. Thus, as the population was changing, so was the community.

The Beavercreek News became a daily paper in 1975. The newspaper's office, located on the east side of North Fairfield Road just to the north of the Dayton-Xenia Road intersection, was a busy place. Chris and Ruth always welcomed photos and stories of community activities, whether they dealt with schools, scouts, sports, religious or community...

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### **Beavercreek Historical Society Quarterly Meeting**

January 24, 2012 | 7:00PM | Beavercreek Board of Education  
Civil War Diary - 14 Months in the Union Artillery

## IN THE BEGINNING: A BRIEF HISTORY OF BEAVERCREEK

RESEARCHED BY RUTH MITSOFF

**1)** Miami and Shawnee Indians had their summer hunting grounds in the area of Fairgrounds Road. Most settlers came from Maryland and were farmers, grist millers and had distilleries: A man named Owen Davis had the first grist mill in Beaver creek, then moved to Clifton Mills. Ben Beldon started Daytona Mills.

**2)** Greene County was established in March 1803, and Beaver creek Township was established on May 10, 1803. Boundaries included Sugarcreek, Caesar's Creek, Mad River and Springfield Township.

**3)** The first Greene County Courthouse was established August 2, 1803 and was held in a tavern with the second floor housing visiting judges. The location was Dayton-Xenia Road and Factory Road in Alpha. 200 yards from the Courthouse was a log blockhouse intended for safety if there was an Indian attack. The

first court session, 25 attended. There were no cases, but a group went outside and brawled over the hog business and nine were arrested.

**4)** In 1881, the village of Zimmerman was established at the corner of Dayton-Xenia and Bellbrook-Fairfield Road, which was the first official road in Greene County. It consisted of one schoolhouse, a German Baptist Church, one grocery store and 40 houses.

**5)** In 1895, there was an "Interurban Trolley" which traveled between Xenia and Dayton, and stopped in Beaver creek. It was housed at the trolley barn at Patterson and Grange Hall Roads. It traveled from Detroit Street in Xenia through Beaver creek to Dayton. There were many rail derailments and chemical spills, plus accidents. The trolley route became a train route. The worst accident occurred in 1959 when a train hit a station wagon carrying Beaver creek Girl Scouts and leaders, killing all the Girl Scouts. (A park named in their memory has been established at the Factory Road crossing.)

**6)** In 1946, John Scott (founder of Knollwood Gardens) used his own truck to haul equipment for the fire department. The Knollwood Civic Association purchased a siren and placed it on the roof of Knollwood Gardens.

**7)** In 1960, Beaver creek was growing and needed communications. So Chris and

Ruth Mitsoff started a weekly community newspaper until 1975 and then it was felt the community needed a daily newspaper.

**8)** In January 1964, a military airplane crashed in the schoolyard of Beaver creek High School. No one was injured, except from the shattered glass of windows. It was considered a miracle. The pilot had ejected at 12,000 feet, and the plane spun through the air for a distance of 15 miles. It lost its wings where the fuel was stored.

**9)** In 1966, the Chamber of Commerce was formed.

**10)** In 1969, there was a barrel factory explosion at the corner of Grange Hall and Patterson Roads.

**11)** On April 3, 1974, the Xenia tornado struck. Beaver creek raised \$8,000 to help Xenia businesses

**12)** In the 1960s, the Committee of Eleven was formed, eventually leading to the incorporation of Beaver creek on January 11, 1981.

**13)** In the late 1980s and early 1990s, the Mall at Fairfield Commons was approved and developed, with much resistance from many residents of Beaver creek. Since then, the Four Corners district at North Fairfield and New Germany-Trebein has developed around the mall. In 1992, there were 13,915 homes in the city.

**14)** Special 'gatherings' in Beaver creek included:

- Began 1963 – Beaver creek Boosters' fund raiser – "The Ox Roast" and was held until 1992 =

**continued on next page**



Beaver creek's first high school

39 years.

- Began in 1947 – St. Luke’s County Festival until 1963 = 16 years.
- In 1963, Beaver Creek businesses started the annual “Tent Sale” held

every August – and is still held.

- In 1986, Beaver Creek held its first official Popcorn Festival and celebrated its 23rd annual festival this September.
- The Greene County Fair is the

oldest fair west of the Allegheny’s and is 150+ years old.

- The Taste of Greene County is our latest gathering including all the community of Greene County.

## LIVING HISTORY

**GERRY SMALLEY | LIVING HISTORY COORDINATOR**

Another year has arrived and we completed the 2011 Fall session of Living History and are getting ready to think about the Spring 2012 session. I wish I could give you dates for the Spring Session but they have not been set yet. The fall session was held the end of September and the first couple weeks in October. We had good weather for most days but one day had to be cancelled due to an electrical storm. That day was made up and all 13 classes of third grader from Main, Valley, and St. Luke's got to enjoy the program. The following people made the program a great one and we'll look forward to seeing them in the spring. Those who helped with the program are as follows:

**Fire starter:** Bob Bader, Dennis Jarvi, Art Bauer, and Bob Wagley.

**Opening:** (History of the cabins and people who lived in them) Nancy Michaels, Jill Kincer, Julie Sanderson and Kathy Bauer.

**Quilting:** Lois Neal, Gina Kahn, Julie Sanderson, Becky Jarvi, Parlee Hendrickson, Elizabeth Tieman, and Dottie Kamammer.

**Candles:** Grace Axer, Edie Keast, Jill Kincer, Gina Kahn, Melissa

Reichart, Stephanie Lindsley, Paralee Hendrickson, and Kathy Bauer.

**Laundry:** Jill Kincer, Pat Shearer, JoAnn Manski, Gerry Petrak, Diane Phillips, Lorraine Wagley, and May Lou Wilkinson.

**Butter:** Charlotte Hopkins, Gerry Smalley and Mary Bayman

**Spinning:** Becky Jarvi, Shirley McCourt, and Jenny Harvey.

**Knitting:** Martha Rothman, Becky Jarvi, Stephanie Lindsley, Elizabeth Tieman, Marianne, Nancy (sorry don't have a last name for them), and Diane Phillips.

**Gardening:** John Rohdhammel, Bob Gustin, Ed Stafford, Denis Jarvi, Don Kocarek, Stephanie Lindsley, and Carl Lindsley.

**Herbs:** Stephanie Lindsley, Traudl Schrick, Dottie Kamammer, and Mary Bayman.

**Ragdolls:** Gerry Petrak, Nancy

Wagner, Janice Rice, Pat Shearer, Diane Phillips, and Gerry Smalley.

As you can see it takes many volunteers to make this program work. Thanks to all that helped. There are also many who help in other ways. Wilma Stafford cuts 325 fabric squares for quilting, and Laura Bader and her volunteers sees that we have 325 dolls kits and yarn balls. Linda and Carl Hogreffé provide the pioneer soaps for each child.

We had a number of new volunteers for the fall session. Thanks to Elizabeth Tieman, Marianne & Nancy, Pat Shearer, Edie Keast, and Melissa Reichart. Carl Lindsley did his first solo presentation this fall (Carl is an 8th grader). So great to have all of these new volunteers. Hope to see you all this spring.

**This is your last Log by Log Newsletter if you have not renewed your membership for 2011-2012!**

*Check the mailing label on this letter for your expiration date.*

**Hurry! Hurry! Hurry!** We don't want you to miss out on news from the BHS

*Any questions please call Zelma at 426-2850.*

# 2011 Annual Harvest Dinner

*By Deborah Sasser*

Once again, the annual Harvest Dinner was a success. The dinners were held on October 21, 22, and 23, 2011 and were very well attended. The Harvest Dinners were served in the Harshman and Ankeney log homes at Wartinger Park and everyone who attended really enjoyed the wonderful food and decorations. A special thanks to

Helen Haun for heading up this year's event and to the Master Gardeners for providing the autumn décor.

This event would not be the success it is without the cooks, servers and all others who volunteer. As a first time attendee, I was very impressed with the whole experience. The

decorations, the table settings, the warm fire and the fabulous food all came together to create an environment that took you back to a time when life was simpler. I am already looking forward to next year's event.

Thank you to all who volunteered your time and talents, you are very much appreciated.



**Check out the Ohio Historical Society's electronic newsletter!**

*Get your subscription by going to [www.ohiohistory.org/e-news](http://www.ohiohistory.org/e-news)*

# Saluting Our Volunteers: Laura Bader

*(Note: This is the third in a series of articles that focus personally on the many volunteers that together make the Beavercreek Historical Society a vital part of our Beavercreek community. We thank and salute ALL who in any way contribute to the Society's mission of preserving the past for the future.)*

If you wonder what involvements might be available to you as a member of the Beavercreek Historical Society, just check with Laura Bader. She's done just about everything! As a long-time member who joined the organization over twenty years ago, her efforts to preserve the past for the future have been dedicated and on-going.

When the idea arose to publish a newsletter for the Society, Laura took on the challenge as the first editor of the publication you are now reading—the Log by Log, and she published it monthly for nine years before passing the position on, for a total of 108 editions. She continues as a contributing writer and as a member of the committee that prepares the newsletters for mailing. In 1999, Laura served on the committee for publication of the Beavercreek Chronicles.

Her strong interest in identifying and preserving historic buildings and sites led to her involvement in various Society projects. She served on a committee with Bob Zimmer, Izzy Caro and Bob Wagley to establish the Beavercreek Historical Inventory in 2001, now

totaling 34 structures and 9 sites. Laura cites re-establishing the forgotten Nesbitt Cemetery off Beaver Valley Road as one of her most memorable moments in her Historical Society involvements. She chaired the committee that restored the known but un-kept family cemetery with burials dating back 200 years. Not afraid of getting dirty, her work included not just organizing its restoration, but painting fences and other necessary chores.

As you pass through Alpha, you will notice the Beavercreek Historical Society's Ohio Historical Marker which notes the site of the first courthouse in Greene County. This project, chaired by Laura, involved coordinating the effort not only with two City of Beavercreek departments (Parks and Public Works) but also Greene County Parks, Greene County and Ohio Historical Societies. The marker was dedicated in 2005 when Laura received a commendation for the project from both the State of Ohio and the Ohio Historical Society.

Throughout the years, Laura has been a loyal and faithful volunteer, helping organize the Society's Home and Garden Tours, working in the Living History program that introduces Beavercreek school children to their past-- even using her leisure time to cut and package fabric for children to use when creating their rag dolls as a Living History hands-on project. Laura is also a dedicated (and successful!) worker when it comes to garnering volunteers for the Society's annual Heritage and Herb Days Festival each fall at Wartinger Park. She and fellow member Nancy Makley spend many hours lining up workers and donations of baked goods for this event that requires so much involvement from so many people. If you are looking for a person who will take on a job and then see it through, count on Laura Bader. She's a prize! We thank not only Laura but all our volunteers, as we could not do what we do in our community without the willingness to serve that is modeled by so many of you.



## ACQUISITION OF BEAVERCREEK NEWSPAPER ARCHIVE IS WELCOMED

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organizations. Many a Beaver creek family has scrap books with articles clipped from the Beaver creek News, covering some important event in their lives.

Ruth has also donated a scrapbook that Chris kept detailing Beaver creek's official birth as a city in 1979. As Beaver creek grew, surrounding municipalities threatened to annex various parts of the township, and to avoid that, the process was begun to incorporate the area as a city. Chris's scrapbook contains information regarding the lengthy process of determining incorporation boundaries, the writing and winning voter approval of the city charter, and other efforts that were necessary to legally establish a new city within the state of Ohio.

The entire collection is now stored in the Society's headquarters at the Coy House. Many thanks to members Bob and Lorraine Wagley, Bob and Laura Bader, and Bob and Wendy Kirchoff who helped move the collection in October 2011 from the Mitsoff home to the Research Room at the Coy House.

The documents are available to the public, but as the Coy House is not staffed on a full-time basis, viewing must be arranged by advanced-notice appointment only. Documents must remain on the premises. To arrange an appointment please contact the Society through the Beaver creek Parks office at 427-5514 or by email at [bhsohio@gmail.com](mailto:bhsohio@gmail.com).

## ACQUISITIONS

**Recent donations to the Historical Society include the following:**

Two framed photos of early Harshman descendants were donated by Dan Harshman. The originals will hang in the Coy House and copies can be seen hanging in the Harshman House.

Ruth Mitsoff donated bound copies of The Beaver creek News dating from 1960-1986. Also included in the donation was a scrapbook covering the period of Beaver creek becoming a city and an autobiography written by Chris Mitsoff, her husband. All of these items are now housed in

our Reference Room at the Coy House.

Adapting the Jarusiewicz Cabin to reflect an early one room schoolhouse has led to several donations. Nancy Wagner has donated seven school desks. The Bob Zimmer Family has donated a blackboard, Mary Holt has donated a collection of elementary school books, Judy Hill has donated a school desk and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Calcutt have donated two tin light fixtures.

Carolyn Streisel has donated

a collection of clothing to be worn by our volunteers at society events.

Doris Mitchell has donated a pair of stilts that have been added to our collection of items used by the children attending our Living History Program.

We thank all of the above people for their donations to the Historical Society. If you have questions about making a donation please call Lorraine Wagley at 426-8325. From March thru June please call Bob Bader at 426-4871.

# 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!

## OFFICERS FOR 2011 - 2012:

**Lynn Hickman-Long**

President  
426-1522

**Bob Wagley**

VP, Internal Operations  
426-8325

**Nancy Wagner**

VP, External Operations  
426-1272

**Jill Kincer**

Secretary  
429-0291

**Wendy Kirchoff**

Treasurer  
429-1520

Contact us at [bhsohio@gmail.com](mailto:bhsohio@gmail.com)

## 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 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

## Upcoming Events:

### **Board Meeting, January 12**

Coy House – 6:30 PM

### **Quarterly Meeting, January 24**

Beavercreek Board of Education

3040 Kemp Road – 7:00 PM

*Civil War Diary - 14 Months in the  
Union Artillery*

### **Board Meeting, February 9**

Coy House – 6:30 PM

### **Board Meeting, March 9**

Coy House – 6:30 PM

### **Newsletter Submission Deadline**

March 28 – 5:00 PM

### **Quarterly Meeting, April 24**

Beavercreek Board of Education

3040 Kemp Road – 7:00 PM

*Gypsies in Pants Down Woods  
(rescheduled)*



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 Quarterly Meeting

*January 24, 2012 | 7:00PM | Beavercreek Board of Education*

The January 24, 2012 quarterly meeting speaker will be Larry Marple. Mr. Marple has been a professional educator for 20 years and has been actively involved in living history and reenactments for 25 years. His program, set in 1872, focuses on the 16th Ohio Independent Battery of Artillery which was raised in Springfield, Ohio and served from September 1861 through the end of the War. He will be presenting his program in the first person, wearing a civil war uniform.

He will discuss the book *14 Months in the Union Artillery: The Diary of Private Wallace Byrd, 16th Ohio Battery* which he published. He will be bringing with him a collection of 16th Ohio Battery items for this program. He is also bringing the transcribed diary of Private Wallace Byrd which tells the story of the everyday life of one Union artilleryman and his friends and family.

The diary also contains photographs of many of the men who served in the 16th Ohio Battery who are mentioned in the diary and copies of some of the diary pages. There is also a brief history and description of the Byrd family of Springfield, Ohio as well as a list and description of some of the civilians mentioned in the pages of the diary. At the end of the book is a listing of the service of the 16th Ohio Battery along with descriptions of what happened to many of the soldiers mentioned in the diary. The diary will be available to purchase for \$8 each.



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