

# Bainbridge Township Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 8, Issue 1

Bainbridge Township, Ohio, 44023

Winter 2012-2013

## SUGARING TIME

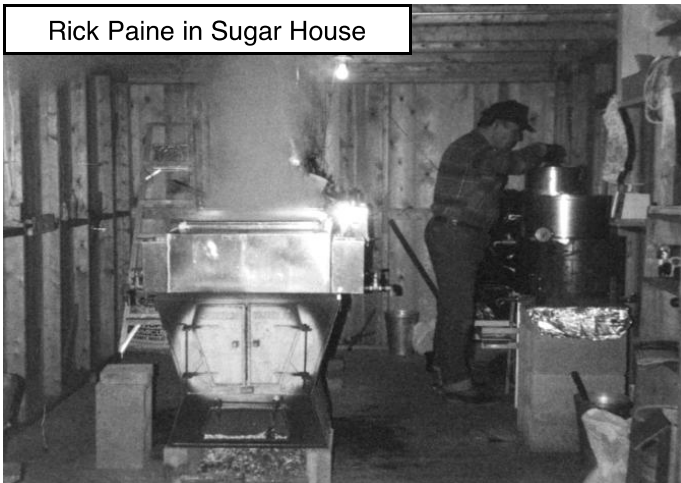
*By Bill Takacs*

It's the first of March and maple syrup time in Bainbridge Township. Having been born and raised in Bainbridge, March brings back many memories of a time when almost all farms in the township made maple syrup. Even now Bainbridge still has several families involved in making this product, and although the area has seen much development, there are still hundreds of trees that are tapped. Until Bob Haskins moved away, he could be found in the old sugar house off Haskins Road. Bob's grandfather used to gather sap the old fashioned way -- with horses. Rick Paine has a little red barn with an evaporator and, as a hobby, has made many gallons of syrup each year with a scaled down evaporator. (An evaporation pan is designed so that sap is added to the pan at one end and syrup is removed at the other in a continuous process.) Down the road at my grandfather's old farm, the Tom Hauser family tapped the same trees that Grandfather John Takacs tapped over 70 years ago. My grandfather moved to Bainbridge in the early 1900's and purchased a farm on the old inter-urban rapid transit line. The inter-urban was a big plus over the more common transport for getting goods to the city by slower horse and wagon. The maple tradition is highlighted locally with the

Bainbridge Civic Club pancake breakfasts usually held in March and drawing up to 1,200 people on a Sunday. With this annual event, people get the taste of real maple syrup produced in the area. According to club records, it spends about \$3,000 per year just for the syrup, and unless individual residents have close ties to a syrup producer, few ever get to enjoy this syrup due to costs. Retail price for real maple syrup is about \$60-65 a gallon.

The high cost is related to all of the labor involved. In Ohio, sap averages about two percent sugar content, requiring 43 gallons of sap to produce a gallon of finished syrup. The sugar content in the raw sap varies from tree to tree, with weather, and other factors. If the sap sugar level is high, less sap will be needed to make a gallon of syrup. Conversely, if it is lower, more sap will be required. Sap flow is also not always consistent. Some days no sap will flow. Other days, as much as a quart to a gallon or more may run during a flow period (several hours to a day or more). On a lesser scale, an average tap will produce 6 to 10 gallons of sap with slightly more than 10 gallons of 2% sugar-content sap required for one quart of syrup. Most large commercial producers use a continuous feed evaporation process to make syrup. It will normally require somewhere between 28 to 56 hours of continuous boiling (and sap refilling) if a pan with one square foot of liquid surface is used.

Rick Paine in Sugar House



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I visited the Hauser family syrup operation a few years ago and saw them collect raw sap with a John Deere Gator (a utility vehicle) equipped with a large storage tank. This is an ideal vehicle and a great deal easier than using a horse and sled as in earlier years. While large full-powered tractors were some-

Tom Hauser gathering sap in Takacs woods



times used, it was always difficult and tiring to climb into the seat and move from tree to tree. Ideally, this process would include a tractor driver who remained on the vehicle. But large tractors, like horses and sleds, tended to damage and tear up the woods. The new JD Gator operation, however, leaves hardly any damage in the woods. Further, a

Tom Hauser dumping sap at sugar house



driver can get on and off very easily. So if all of these remembrances wet your taste buds for a taste of maple sweetness, come out and visit one of the county's local pancake breakfasts. You will be in for a real tasty treat.

*(This revised article by Bill Takacs was first printed*

*in a 2004 edition of the Geauga County Genealogy Society newsletter.)*

### Meet a Horse Trader

I wonder if anyone ever gave a thought of where you would buy a horse in the early 1900? They did not have horse dealers around like we have auto and tractor dealers as we have today. Say you were busy harvesting hay in the summer or collecting maple syrup in the spring and your horse broke its leg or became lame, what would you do. This happened to my parents just after the depression. Money was tight

at the time and they could not get the money together to buy a tractor. The horses they needed were not heavy draft horses but light utility horses that were just right for the small farmer.

# HORSE SALE

1-2 Mile North of Auburn Corners on Route 44

## Good Western and Native Horses

### Colts and Saddle Horses

OSCAR WEINSTEIN  
Auctioneer

VENE SQUIRE

Meet horse trader George Vene Squire. He went by the name of Vene and was born around 1890 in Ohio to Arthur Squire and Clara Bales. Vene grew up on his father's farm where he learned his horse-trading tactics after a few bad trades. He met his wife by chance. He saw a young lady driving a horse and buggy down the road and recognized the horse pulling the buggy as one his father recently sold. He got into a conversation with Rachel and the rest is history. They were married February 1913. The first child born was Cora and then came Robert and Lloyd. Vene and Rachel lived on 110 acres on Ravenna Road, Route 44, just north of Auburn Corners. The children all grew up on the farm and at one time there were 18 people with the Squire name all living within a one-mile stretch on Ravenna road.

Continued on page 5

## The "Haskins" name...remains alive and well in Bainbridge

Marge Haskins Cook, a descendent of one of our township's earliest families, was a founding member of the Bainbridge Township Historical Society in 1991. She has a record of family and community service befitting a relative of that hearty pioneer family which settled and thrived in this area.

Marge's ancestors, Philip R. Haskins and wife Lovisa McFarland Haskins, arrived here in 1818 with 15 other members of the Haskins and McFarland families, after a difficult trip from North Adams, Massachusetts. While constructing their own cabins on property purchased for \$2.50 an acre, these families stayed three weeks in the crowded, but welcoming cabin of new Bainbridge residents, the Justus Bissells. The Bissell cabin was located near the center of the township, close to the current intersection of Bainbridge and Chillicothe Roads.

Philip Haskins built his log cabin on the northwest sector of his 196 acre property in the vicinity of what are now Northbrook and Kings Orchard Trails in Tanglewood. In 1843 they moved into the still existing family home on Haskins Road that was constructed for the price of \$300 and one barrel of whiskey! Philip and Lovisa cleared forested land, planted fruits and vegetables in the humus soil, and raised dairy cattle. Lovisa was the first of many Bainbridge settlers to make cheese from surplus milk, before it would spoil from lack of refrigeration.



Marge Haskins Cook

Eventually Philip's grandson and Marge's Grandfather Clarence took over the farm in 1899. Clarence became an expert in grafting fruit trees and raising lush vegetables which his sons sold at a stand. When the interurban ( a network of single electric railcars which carried passengers and/or products to railroads between Cleveland and stops in the eastern farm communities) came to Bainbridge, he and sons Albert and Leslie began shipping their milk to the dairy for processing. Clarence died in 1940, leaving Albert the property west of Haskins and Leslie the property east of the road. Albert continued to emphasize fruit and vegetable gardening, as well as the family tradition of "sugaring." Shortly after Albert died in 1964, his heirs sold their land to Tanglewood developers.

Son Leslie Haskins, the father of Marge (Cook), Mildred (MacRitchie), Elinor (Harris), and Robert Haskins focused his farm on all aspects of raising dairy cows - from growing and harvesting feed, to milking the cows, and shipping the milk. Leslie also loved "sugaring." One of Marge's favorite childhood memories is hopping off the school bus to the magnificent aroma wafting from the sugar house and dashing there to join family in the activities involved with producing maple syrup products. The children also enjoyed driving the horses for the hay wagons and riding the sap sleds. Each of the girls owned a cow and a sheep and helped with chores. They learned fractions from their father while determining the number of cows that had been milked out of the entire herd at any one time. Brother Bob grew to work mainly with his dad tending the cows.



Marge says school was a high priority with the Haskins. She was in the same Bainbridge graduation class as historical society members Bruce Chittock, Carol Taylor Malz, and Rich Kluchar. She remembers Hattie Scott teaching first and second grades in the relocated Sons of Temperance Hall, where current Bainbridge Trustees hold their public meetings. Hattie frequently held a first grader on her lap and took students to her home each fall to collect buckeyes. (The Scott home remains located a few doors south of the relocated Bissell-Tucek House.) Marge remembers the new brick school built in the early 1940s that housed all twelve grades. Her fifth and sixth grade teacher was Martha Witmer, wife of Pastor Witmer and the mother of historical society member Elaine Witmer. Marge recalls teacher Frank Tucek driving a school bus and the roads in Bainbridge getting busier as more houses were built in the area.

Still, Bainbridge was mainly a close knit farming community in the 1940s and 50s. Big family gatherings highlighted holidays.

Even until brother Bob Haskins and wife Jan moved several years ago to the Mt. Vernon, Ohio area, where they still dairy farm, "Christmas at the farm" often comprised up to forty relatives for dinner.

Following high school, Marge attended Baldwin-Wallace College, earning a teaching degree, as had her mother and sisters. She first taught in Parma, then after marriage and motherhood, she took ten years off to care for the couple's three young children. Returning to teaching, she taught a total of 31 years, mostly in second grade at West Geauga. Marge retired in 1993, but is active in the Geauga County Retired Teachers Association, currently as chairman of volunteers. She also works with others from the Federated Church making soft fresh pillows for Hospice patients. And of course, she continues serving in the BTHS where she is vice-president, in charge of membership and the sale of engraved bricks for sidewalks around Heritage Park.

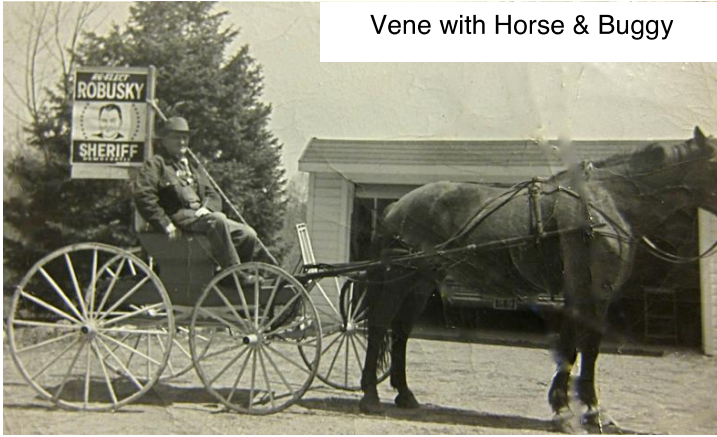
Marge has been married to Alan Cook, a cabinet maker and wood craftsman, for 57 years. Their children are Janice, now a music teacher in Medina; Curt, who bought his Uncle Bob's farm on Haskins Road; and Jennifer, a nurse practitioner at Ohio State's Ross Hospital. Son Curt continues to produce maple sugar products at the old Haskins homestead. "Mom" not only feeds the sugaring crew, but also handles communications and sales to customers. No doubt at all, Marge Haskins Cook would certainly make her hard-working ancestors proud. *(This article, with others to come, highlights the life and times of one of Bainbridge's well-known families.)* - Barbara Hesse



Haskins barn & house on Haskin's Road looking north 2007



Continued from page 2—Horse Trader



Vene with Horse & Buggy

Why go to Billings, Montana to buy horses? These are wild horses that roam freely in the Pryor Mountains near Billings, Montana that were rounded up by cowboys. By 1900, North America had an estimated two million free-roaming horses. Since 1900, the Mustang population has been reduced drastically. Mustangs were viewed as a resource that could be captured and used or sold (especially for military use) or slaughtered for food, especially pet food. These horses were believed to be derived from the horses of Portugal and Spain and were brought in by the different Indian tribes, especially the Crow. They roamed the mountain area for 200 years. This was more recently proved by DNA genetics. It was determined that the herd has high genetic diversity. These horses were not broken for work and needed to be tamed down and broken for pulling use. Billings, Montana at the time had good rail accommodations for shipping

Son Robert took over the horse-trading and son Lloyd did farming at the homestead in later years. Rachel died in 1978 at 84 years, Vene died at 89 years of age in 1979.

*Thanks to Fae Krause, granddaughter, for information and pictures for this story.*



Front Row—Vene & Rachel  
Back row—Lloyd, Cora and Robert



Horses in pasture during winter

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 \* **The Bissell-Tucek House will be open every Saturday from March—May from 1-4 p.m..** \*  
 \* **Men and women, come be a docent and help visitors appreciate old Bainbridge.** \*  
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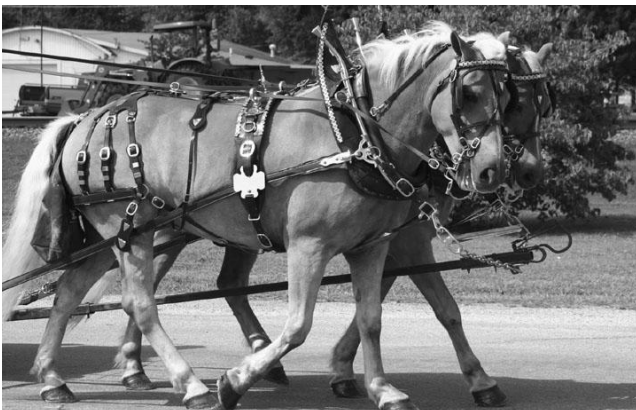
Mareen Wolf &amp; Elaine Witmer

### Librarians critical to a historical society

In a historical museum, librarians are the custodians of the written word. They preserve books, manuscripts, newspapers, obituary notices and collect family histories and photographs. It is also their intent to archive and develop a data base of valuable items for present and future generations.

As you look in every nook and cranny of your home and find items pertaining to Bainbridge history that would benefit our museum, please consider donating or loaning them. Our librarians, Mareen Wolfe and Elaine Witmer, spend several hours every Tuesday morning at the Bissell-Tucek recording information about local families. They would be pleased to accept your valuable donation and obtain its history. Names of people in photographs are desired.

Thank you for helping to preserve Bainbridge history.



Look at the picture, does a horse pull or push a wagon?

### Society to manage entire Bissell House

In late January, our historical society and Bainbridge Township entered into a revised lease agreement that permits us to manage the entire Bissell-Tucek House. The arrangement is for 2013 only. Citing a need to display an increased number of donated artifacts and records depicting old Bainbridge history, the society now assumes control over the northern portion of the house that was added in the 1870s by the Edick family (Christopher and Lovina). This section contains a living room, kitchen, and two bedrooms. A full bath will be renovated into a research room for visitors. In addition and as a condition of the lease, the living room area will be available for rental by civic-oriented groups from the community who might wish to occasionally host meetings.

While the township will assist us with renovations, members are encouraged to provide light labor on Saturdays. Please call Chuck Hesse, president, 543-7425 to indicate your interest in helping.

### Cleveland's glorious past reviewed



Dan Ruminski

BTHS held one of its largest attending programs in January when it hosted Dan Ruminski, above, who spoke to about 165 members and guests at the town hall. He described Millionaire's Row, the story of Cleveland's personalities who lived on Euclid Avenue in their 20,000 - 40,000 sq. ft. mansions between the 1850s-1920s. They included such giants of industry as John D. Rockefeller, Samuel Mather and Walter White.

**Officers 2012-2013**

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**Vice President**

**&**

**Program Chairman**

Donna Yuse  
543-3199

**Secretary**

Harriet Novy

**Treasurer**

Donna Lucas

**Membership Chairman**

Marge Cook  
440-338-5375

**Editor & Publisher**

Bill Takacs  
440-543-4991

**Proof Reading**

Harriet Novy

**Meetings of the Bainbridge Township Historical Society are held the second Wednesday of the month (September through June) at 7:30 p.m. generally in the Burns-Lindow Building at the corner of Route 306 and Bainbridge-Solon Road.**

**Bainbridge Township Historical Society  
17870 Chillcothe Road  
Bainbridge Township  
OH 44023-0363**



Town Hall—Circa 1914  
Now—Burns Lindow Bldg

Everyone enjoys the refreshments at our meetings so remember when the refreshment sheet gets passed around to be sure to pick a convenient date and add your name to the list. It will make the job of our Refreshment Committee much easier. Barb Phan and Lois Little are our chairwomen and it will save them time calling around to find volunteers. Please call **Barb Phan, 543-7972**, if you can help.

**Thank you to the following for hosting refreshments.**

**January, 2013—Marge Cook, Sandy Dzurik, Barb Phan**

**Welcome New Members**

Gary & Dawn Andrews	Peter & Barbara Avrea
Denise Baggett	Joe & Jane Davis
Judy Dolence	George & Sandy Dzurik
Hugh Edwards	Mike & Carol Gaydos
David & Anne Greisl	George & Nancy Hanna
Jim & Grace Henry	James Jakab
Danya Morgan	Susan Preuss
Paul Seibert	Mark & Cyndy Vogley
Dr. Mark Vogley	Glenn & Linda Wozniak

**Check out our web page [www.bainbridgemory.org](http://www.bainbridgemory.org)**

The Historical Society is now in a position to accept your donated artifacts, both large and small and we'd certainly appreciate any time you can give to work towards this dedication, even an hour or two. If you do not wish to donate an item, please share it with the community by lending it to the museum. Photos can be scanned into the computer and returned.

Please contact our curator David Edmondson at [talkinghorse204@yahoo.com](mailto:talkinghorse204@yahoo.com) or 440-384-7437 Your contribution will be appreciated. The museum needs volunteers to be present for the open houses. Even one hour or two is helpful.

We're always looking for ideas for this newsletter. If you have a story to share, please let me know. If you don't want to write it, call me @ 543-4991 and we'll try to get it on tape or take notes. We really need to hear from you. *Bill Takacs*

**Just a Reminder—**Our constitution states membership dues are to be paid in September of each year. **Deadline for payment is December 1<sup>st</sup>.** Those current members who have not paid by December 1<sup>st</sup> will not receive a newsletter. **New members** who joined May-Aug. of 2012 will be carried through to September 2013. **-\$10.00 for singles, \$20.00 for family. Life Membership-\$100.00. Make checks payable to *Bainbridge Township Historical Society*. Pay Marge Cook at the meeting or mail to her at 116 Leaview Ln., Chagrin Falls, OH 44022.**

Bainbridge Township Historical Society Newsletter  
17870 Chillcothe Road  
Bainbridge Twp.OH 44023

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

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**DATED MATERIAL - PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY**  
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## 2012—2013 Meeting Schedule

**February 13, 2013** - Beth Croup & Dick Taylor will speak about the history of early American rug making in the Western Reserve. Rug hooking is an old craft that is enjoyed by both men and women.

**March 13, 2013** - Sylvia Wiggins will share with us real life stories of old Chesterland characters..

**April 10, 2013** - Foster Brown, historical interpreter and naturalist with the Cleveland Metroparks will portray "Dr. Wildweed," a character depicting the life of an "old time herbalist."

**May 8, 2013** - Shirley Weinreich returns to explore the trials and tribulations that women endured while on the trail in covered wagons. Many of these women recorded their personal thoughts in journals. It is also annual meeting night.

**June 12, 2013** - Annual picnic, Pot Luck. Bring dish to pass and your own place settings. Location and time to be announced.

***Place this handy schedule on your refrigerator or desk. We want to see you each month!***

