

# Bainbridge Township Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 12, Issue 1

Bainbridge Township, Ohio 44023

Spring 2016

## Bicentennial Planning Underway We Need You!

About 25 Bainbridge and area residents attended an exploratory meeting on April 20 to discuss plans for the township's 200-year birthday in 2017. Under consideration are a number of separate celebratory events as well as one long weekend party. A parade, music, many activities for kids, and programs tied to such popular events as pancake breakfasts, the fourth of July fireworks, and ox roast were suggested. One idea that merits further discussion is a reenactment of the day that Township #6 in the 9th Range became "Bainbridge" in March, 1817.

While we need many residents to participate in this

effort, we are clearly in need of leadership. A chairman, co-chairman, treasurer and clerk/secretary must be identified and it is important to develop a web page and/or Facebook to keep readers informed of activities. Resident-volunteers are needed to help with many tasks associated with these festivities. Don't be bashful!

The next formal group meeting will be held on June 15 at 6:30 p.m. at town hall. Hopefully, dozens of additional residents will attend. For now, please advise Chuck Hesse (440-543-7425), Township Trustee Kristina O'Brien (216-299-1991), or Janice Sugarman (26-401-0841) of your interest.

## Bainbridge Nears 200th Birthday...in 2017

*by Barbara Hesse*

As we approach 2017, which marks the 200th birthday of the establishment of Bainbridge Township, this newsletter and others will provide vignettes and stories in no particular order describing our history. We hope others in the community will recall their life here as we commemorate our bicentennial throughout all of 2017. Here's a little bit of our history...long past and more recent:

- In November 1811, the first white family to officially become residents of our community was that of David McConoughey and his family of eight who built a log cabin house near Crackel and Snyder Roads. Jaspar Lacy and Gamaliel Kent also purchased and cleared lands in 1811, but did not come to reside until 1812.
- Our population in 1817 was 72 and by 1850 we had grown to 1,014 residents. There was a dip in the latter half of the nineteenth century, but by 1940 we stood at 1,563. Today, we're about 12,000.

- In 1911, some 400 residents held a celebration honoring the settlement of the township. There was a parade with floats and band, and a community dinner under tents with speeches.
- Bainbridge was officially established in March, 1817 by Geauga County Commissioners. Prior to that date this was simply known in records as "Township #6 in the 9th Range" of the Connecticut Western Reserve.

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- The bell which called students to school from atop the first Centralized Bainbridge School is now displayed in front of our fire department. The inscription “expresses appreciation to all members for service to the township.”



- Wheat and other grains were brought to the Western Reserve by pioneers. We got corn from the Indians, but most grains came from Europe and seeds were carried west by Americans.
- Illegal gambling establishments once thrived in Bainbridge in the 1930’s on the very properties where Valley Presbyterian Church and Parkside Church now stand.
- Grange meetings were held every other week at “Edic’s (Edick’s) Hall” on the second floor of what is now the Bissell-Tucek House.
- Until 1975 the township was served by the Sheriff’s

Department of Geauga County. In that year, our Bainbridge Township Police Department was established with a chief and only four patrolmen.



- Lake Lucerne was established as our first subdivision in 1922. The lake was created by damming up McFarland Creek.
- Carlton Lowe, founder of Lowe’s Greenhouse, was the first man to propagate the tuberous begonia in the U. S.
- In 1999, Bainbridge made local history with a \$15 million windfall inheritance tax from the Paul Frohring estate.



## Goodbye Rolene, and Thanks

On April 18, Rolene Murphy, 88, a long-time Bainbridge resident and active in many, many community activities passed away. Perhaps her last outing was in late February and March when she represented our historical society at the pancake breakfasts sponsored by the Bainbridge Civic Club.



Here is Rolene shown with Barbara Hesse (c) and Harriet Novy (r), as the ladies promoted membership and answered questions about the organization. Rolene served as president of our organization for 8 years and urged township trustees in 2001 to purchase the residence of Frank and Valeria Tucek and earmark it as a museum for the historical society. In a matter of a few years the home, which was located just south of the fire department, was moved 400’ to the site of the former Kenston Intermediate School. Thank you Rolene for your delightful personality, inner strength, and making such a wonderful impact on local history.

The community also honored former resident Jack Batchelor in April at a memorial service. Jack and Dottie lived as tenants in the former Tucek House (renamed Bissell-Tucek) in the 1950s for about 5 years and were members of the historic society. We featured a picture of Jack in our Spring 2013 newsletter which can be found on [www.bainbridgehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.bainbridgehistoricalsociety.org).

# FROM THE CURATOR'S CORNER

From the "Corner" we have occasional updates from Elaine, Nancy and Connie about new accessions received at the Bissell-Tucek House or other interesting news occurring at the museum. The following artifacts arrived during the past few months. Come see them. Also, in mid-May more than 200 third grade students from Timmons Elementary School will be touring the museum and Restland Cemetery. Finally, we plan to have our third annual garage sale in June. Stay tuned and let us know if you have items to donate.



**GOLD LOCKET**, once belonged to Hattie Scott renowned Bainbridge teacher who lived three houses south of Bissell-Tucek House. Donated by Dale Reed, a relative.

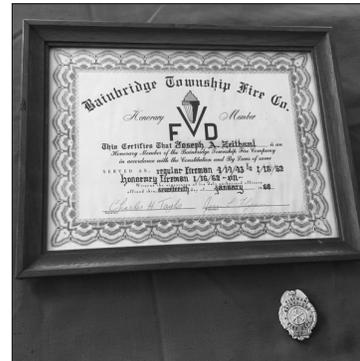


**METAL FOOTWARMER WITH BRASS FITTING**, donated by Joan Demirjian.

**LOW BOWL AND CREAMER - PINK TRANSFER - ROYAL STAFFORDSHIRE**, donated by Joan Demirjian.



**OLD PEGGINS (SAP GATHERING PAILS) USED IN THE EARLY 1800'S ON THE OLD BENNETT ROBENS FARM ON CHAGRIN ROAD.** This display on the second floor were loaned by Marge Haskins Cook and David Pfouts.



**BAINBRIDGE FIRE DEPARTMENT PLAGUE AND BADGE #29.** Certifies that Joseph A. Zeithaml is a Honorary Member from 1943-1962, attested to by Charles Taylor, Secretary and Jerry Flynn, President. Donated by Dick Zeithaml, son.



**ROSEWOOD VICTORIAN MANTLE CLOCK**, c. 1880. Given by Maren Wolfe.



**WOOD ICE BOX AND WOOD CABINET**, donated by Maren Wolfe. These artifacts will refurbish the kitchen located on the north side of the house. Members: Other older artifacts from the period 1880-1910 are desired, including a kitchen sink.

Your help in locating old pieces of kitchenware will be appreciated.

# Historical Society Website

By Joan Demirjian

*"The wonderful work done by a Web Development class at Kenston High School recently was capture by Joan Demirjian and published in the Chagrin Valley Times. We thank all students and Kelly Selby, teacher. Other classes will be adding new stories about Bainbridge Township in weeks to come." Credit: Chagrin Valley Times, March 10, 2016.*

Ethan Brinkman-Sull  
Will Britton  
Alexandria Czech  
Zachary Czech  
Kayla Drcar  
Sydney Gorski  
Jessaca Higginbotham  
Michael Leshar  
Scott McNeil  
Grant Nelson  
Dylan Polz



Barbora Ptackova  
Sofija Raudins  
Annemarie Rizzo  
Jakob Roberts  
Craig Roch  
Luke Roman  
Jacob Sandoval  
Elijah Singleton  
Alexia Stubbs, absent  
Donald Walukas  
Matthew Williams

**BAINBRIDGE** – Founded in 1817, Bainbridge Township holds much history and Bainbridge Historical Society President Chuck Hesse has seen a need to promote and bring alive that history for the public.

The historic Bissell-Tucek House, located at the town center adjacent to the Bainbridge Fire Station and Town Hall, holds displays of the township's past but some are not aware of its treasures. What better way to promote it, the former township trustee said, than to create a website to highlight that history.

Knowing that it could cost quite a bit to set up a website, and without anyone in the historical society who could do it, he thought of the students at Kenston High School who are experts in computers and who created the school's website under the guidance of Ron Continenza.

Mr. Hesse wrote a note to him and Mr. Continenza suggested Kelly Selby and Andreas Johansson, the school district technology director.

Mrs. Selby took on the project with her students. Mrs. Selby had created a Web Development and Design course about three years ago with the goal of offering services to the community.

Mr. Hesse said students were given historical society newsletters with historical information. "The kids were very enthusiastic," he said. He and his wife Barbara gave a presentation to the students about the township history at the high school.

After much planning, creating and polishing, the finished website is now online. Photos include one of Chillicothe Road (Route 306) when it was just a dirt road. Additional photos and more history are being added, along with information to come for the planning for the township's bicentennial celebration in 2017, Mr. Hesse said.

"The students are learning about the township and its local history, and more," he said. "They liked doing something local and they visited the Bissell Tucek House with historical society member Elaine Witmer taking them on a tour.

"It is an interesting relationship, with area students working together to preserve and make known our local history," Mr. Hesse said.

"It brought to life a lot of things they had put into the chapters and had seen on our power -point presentation. It brought history alive for them," Mr. Hesse said. Now, history buffs can go to the website and learn more about the township's history.

In one of the photos, there is a member of the original McFarland family at corner of Chillicothe Road and East Washington Street that indicates the location is McFarland Corners.

Mr. Hesse said he spoke to a recent gathering of historical societies in Geauga County and many were enthused about the idea of getting young people involved. "It widens the scope of those interested in

history," he said.

Information in vignettes will be added about Geauga Lake Park, Sea World and the old race track and gambling site that was once in the southwestern corner of the township as well as the importance of lumbering and agriculture in Bainbridge. There will be a focus on cemeteries as well.

The society is seeking any memorabilia for the Bissell-Tucek House, Mr. Hesse noted. People who have artifacts that reflect old Bainbridge are most welcome, and the society will find a good home for them at the house.

Mrs. Selby said her students have created quite a few business websites. The class of about 25 students worked on the historical site last fall with five of them heading up the project. Her web development and design class is an elective course.

"I wanted the students to create websites from scratch," Mrs. Selby said. "And we branched out to the community." The class created the website for Academy Custom Test Prep in Chagrin Falls.

"That was the first one we created. We also created one for the Bainbridge Consignment Shop, as well as one for Ballard Furniture Services, she said. The class is open to students in ninth through 12th grades.

When Mr. Hesse asked about students creating a website, Mrs. Selby said, she spoke to the students. "They were excited to be working with an organization they could identify with."

A few weeks into the project, the students took a field trip to visit the historic Bissell-Tucek House. "They gained valuable knowledge about the community in which they live and gathered information to assist in constructing the website," Mrs. Selby said.

"They were very enthusiastic about the local history, more so than I ever thought," she said. Part of that enthusiasm was inspired by the talk Mr. Hesse and his wife Barbara gave to the students on the township's history. They even talked about the different communities in the township and the students could relate to where they lived, she said.

Annie Rizzo was one of the students who worked on the website. She said she learned a lot about local history in a presentation from Mr. and Mrs. Hesse. "We also went on a field trip to the Bissell-Tucek House and saw all the historical artifacts," she said. One of

the interesting things they learned was there was a gambling place near Geauga Lake Park.

"I'm really into computers and it was fun to do with the community," she said. "We are a part of it." They made the website user friendly for the public, she added. The students also created a manual for the historical society for updating the website in the future.

A new group of students started in January and they will be adding to the Bainbridge Historical Society website. "It is not something that is finished," she said. It will be an ongoing project. Mr. Hesse wants to continue to update the website.

Photos are being identified and they will be placed on the site with text. The historical society can call her if at any time if help is needed, she added.

The students are now starting on a website for Gift of Life, headed by Ken Fogle of the Rotary Club of Chagrin Valley.

The historical society website is at [www.bainbridgehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.bainbridgehistoricalsociety.org) Anyone interested in a website for an organization can contact Mrs. Selby at [kelly.selby@kenstonapps.org](mailto:kelly.selby@kenstonapps.org).



*Chuck Hesse of BTHS meeting with students.*

**Bainbridge Township  
Historical Society's  
GIGANTIC  
GARAGE  
SALE**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 2018  
at Bissell-Tucek House/Museum  
17870 Chillicothe Rd. (Rt. 306)  
8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

# Early Typewriter

## Captures Life Story of Captain Henry

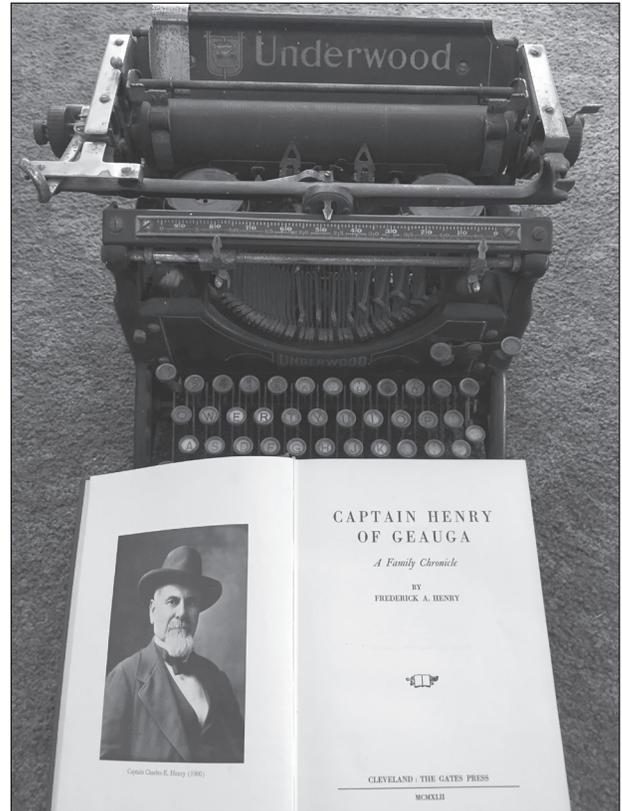
Everyone familiar with Bainbridge history recognizes the HENRY name since original family members came to the township in 1817 and many descendants remain here. Perhaps one of the most renowned was Captain Charles Eugene Henry, born in 1836 in the township. Captain Henry was a gentleman farmer, graduated from the later-named Hiram College, served in the Civil War and was injured in the Battle of Vicksburg. He returned to his property on Geauga Lake Road and rekindled his friendship with James A. Garfield (who was born in Moreland Hills in 1831).

One of Captain Henry's children was Frederick (1867-1949), who among many accomplishments, became a writer and memorialized his father's life in a 600+ page book entitled "Captain Henry of Geauga...A Family Chronicle." 1942.

Final drafts of the book were typed on an Underwood No. 5 typewriter that was manufactured from 1900 to late 1931. The Underwood became the stereotype of a typewriter until the introduction of the IBM Selectric in 1961 and later electric typewriters and computers.

We are fortunate to have received a No. 5 typewriter from Linda Henry, widow of former judge Charles "Chip" Henry. It was used by Frederick to record the Captain's life. According to sources, the serial

Number on the typewriter indicates it was produced in the 1923 time period. Come see this new gift at the Bissell-Tucek House.



*Holy Angels*  
Helps BTHS

In early March, four members of the Church of the Holy Angels descended on our museum and provided four hours of "parish service days work." They dusted, vacuumed, provided other light cleaning, and removed old cabinets in the northside kitchen that is undergoing remodeling. Overall, more than 400 parishioners went out into the community to provide assistance. Posing in front of old kitchen artifacts in the 1835 portion of our house are: David and Tami Papajcik, Nancy Garrison and Becky Obradovic.

*Thank you to all!*

## OFFICERS 2016

### President

Charles Hesse  
216-407-2616 (c)

### VP & Program Chair

Donna Yuse  
440-543-3199

### VP & Membership Chair

Grace Henry  
440-543-1579

### Secretary

Harriet Novy  
440-543-9206

### Treasurer

Donna Lucas  
440-564-9634

### Publisher

Excel Printing & Graphics

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 Road.

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



Town Hall - Circa 1914  
Now - Burns-Lindow Bldg.

## Refreshments

Everyone enjoys the refreshments of our monthly meetings, so remember when the refreshments sheet gets passed around to please pick a convenient date and add your name to the list to provide a voluntary item. This makes the job of our Refreshment Committee much easier. Barb Phan and Lois Little are our chairwomen. Besides their setting up tables and making beverages, they too often have to make numerous calls to find bakery volunteers. Call Barb Phan at 440-543-7972 if you can help.

Thank you to the following for providing refreshments:

**February:** Barbara Phan, Lois Little

**March:** Grace Henry, Barbara Hesse, Dick Newton

**April:** Janet Novak, Barbara Phan, Shirley Takacs

## Welcome New Members

Lauren Quigley • Neil Lazanieh • Jeanne Lyons

Ellen Morrison • Michael Lutkus

Eric & Tricia Baumgartner • Roger & Gail Kallock

## Hours & Misc.

The Bissell-Tucek House & Museum will be open on the third Saturdays - May through September from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. It can be opened by special appointment for group tours. The House contains numerous memorabilia depicting old Bainbridge history. The public is encouraged to visit and receive a tour from one of our docents. Admission is free.

Consider buying an inscribed brick for a loved one to place along the outside sidewalk. Prices are \$50.00 and \$80.00. Forms are available at the house.

Now that renovations of the North side of the House are nearly complete, we can begin to accept your permanent donations or loaned artifacts. Please call Elaine Witmer at 440-543-3442 to determine whether your "gift" can be accepted. We don't want too many duplicates, but pictures of old Bainbridge are always welcome.

*Chuck Hesse*

## Membership dues are "due" for 2016

This is a reminder that annual dues for 2016 need to be paid. Dues underwrite the costs of the newsletters, programs and purchase of artifacts for our historic home. If you are a lifetime member, no further dues are required. But financial gifts are always welcome.

Make checks payable to Bainbridge Twp. Historic Society and transmit to Grace Henry, 7589 Pettibone Road, Chagrin Falls, OH 44023. If you have questions, call Grace at 440-543-1579. We are also collecting emails that can provide timely communications to our members. Please consider providing.

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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## 2016 MEETING SCHEDULE

*All programs at Burns-Lindow Building @ 7:30 p.m.*

**May 11.** Rebecca McFarland will speak of **THE GREAT LAKES EXPOSITION OF 1936-1937**. It was a world's fair-type celebration to celebrate the centennial of Cleveland and drew over 11 million people including a president. It was housed on grounds now used by the Great Lakes Science Center, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and Burke Lakefront Airport.

**June 7 (Tuesday). ANNUAL PICNIC.** *Please note day/date change* - Frohring Meadows on Savage Road. 6:00 p.m. Please bring dish to pass and your own place settings

**June 18. GARAGE SALE** 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
at Bissell-Tucek House, 17850 Chillicothe Road.  
Donations and helpers are needed.  
Call Barbara at 440-543-3235.

