

# Bainbridge Township Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 12, Issue 2

Bainbridge Township, Ohio 44023

Fall 2016

## *Bicentennial Planning Continues . . . We Need You!*

Several meetings have been held with residents and others to address possible celebratory activities for the township's 200-year birthday in 2017. As of October, discussion centered on setting aside several dates during the year so that everyone, between vacations and other commitments, might have an opportunity to experience at least a couple of events.

For certain, there will be a reenactment of an official meeting that was held in Chardon in 1817 with county commissioners and representatives from this community to officially recognize us as a township. In the spring of 1817 we had 72 residents. This program will be held in the Kenston High School auditorium on

Sunday, April 23.

Of course, there will be fireworks, scheduled for Sunday, July 2, and possibly many other events both that day and on July 4. There are tentative plans to host an antique auto display August 5 in conjunction with the Bainbridge Civic Club's annual ox roast at Centerville Mills Park. Other dates and activities are being considered.

**Your help is needed.** Without it, the celebration will have to be scaled back. For now, call Chuck Hesse (440-543-7425), Bainbridge Township Trustee Kristina O'Brien (216-299-1991), or Janice Sugarman (216-401-0841) of your interest

### **Bainbridge History: Did You Know?**

*by Barbara Hesse*

To continue our highlighting of Bainbridge history, here are some additional tidbits in no particular order:

- Justus Bissell of Bissell-Tucek House fame had already lived ten years in Aurora before moving his family to Bainbridge in 1818. Our first postmaster and builder of the gray Bissell-Tucek House in 1835 would live in Bainbridge until about 1855. He then moved about the county living with children and ultimately died in 1874 at his daughter's home in Munson. He was 92 years old and is buried in Fowler's Cemetery on Haskins Road, about a half-mile south of Taylor-May Road.
- On the southwest corner of Chillicothe Road (Rt. 306) and Bainbridge Road stands the historic Burns-Lindow Building built in 1822. Originally a church, it later became the town hall, a school gym, and the township's first fire station! It is now available for meetings, parties and other small-group activities. (Dick Burns was a township trustee for 17 years; Fred Lindow was zoning inspector. Both were instrumental in refurbishing the building.)

- Cat's Den Road gets its name from the massive stone formation that runs about 100 yards south of Chagrin Road. The Cat's Den waterfall drops into a "den" before exiting through a small natural arch. Early settlers claimed several bobcats lived there. The arch is one of only 12 documented natural arches in Ohio.



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- The rear section of our current Town Hall, where trustee meetings are held, was once the Sons of Temperance Hall. It was located along Rt. 306, just south of the fire station, until moved into place in 1937.

- There were once 10 one-room school houses in the township. All grade levels were instructed by one teacher. The tradition of not having school in the summer goes back to the need for children to help family farming from planting through harvest time.



- Most early Bainbridge pioneers traveled from New England during the cold winter months when the ground and rivers were frozen so their oxen and wagons did not sink in the mud of unpaved paths nor swift flowing streams and rivers.

- One of the most famous rides in Geauga Lake Park was the "Sky Rocket," a wooden roller coaster built in 1925. It later was called the "Big Dipper" and has just recently been demolished at the now defunct park.



## Bricks Commemorate Loss



Everyone is familiar with the untimely death of Ann Myers who was struck by a SUV while having breakfast in a local diner in January 2015. Her husband, Gil, chose to remember the "historical" significance of her life by providing several bricks from their children for the sidewalk at the Bissell-Tucek House. Three of the bricks are from their three sons Timothy, Scott, Patrick and respective families, while those ladies who had met for years for breakfast and were simply called the "Paddle Group" provided another. Gil and Ann had previously supported the brick-fundraising effort with their own designated marker. Details about brick purchases can be obtained at the Bissell-Tucek House.

## Tom Eakin's Support Continues



At the October program meeting of the BTHS, we welcomed lifetime member Tom Eakin who, again, provided a gift (\$200) to the society to augment other outside funding used to help sustain our museum. Tom annually prints the Kenston Sports Calendar that lists schedules for all Kenston fall/winter sports. To the left is Harriet Novy, secretary, Tom, and Chuck Hesse, president.



## 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:

**September:** Judy Dolence, Barbara Phan

**October:** Harriet Novy, Cyndy Vogley

**November:** "Pie Night" - Barb Gamble, Connie Clark, Sandy Dzurik, Marge Cook, Barb Hesse, Grace Henry, Donna Lucas, Barbara Phan, Gloria Triplett, Harriet Novy, Shirley Takacs, Lois Little

## Welcome New Members

Nick Lazanieh • Kim Skala • KC Henry

## Hours & Misc.

The Bissell-Tucek House & Museum will be open on the third Saturdays - September through December 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 2017

This is a reminder that annual dues 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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## **2016-2017 MEETING SCHEDULE**

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

### **NOVEMBER 9**

A review of plans for Bainbridge's Bicentennial Celebration in 2017.

### **DECEMBER 14**

Holiday Party. Bring a dish to share and gift (no more than \$5.00) for a fun-filled evening. Party starts at 6:00 p.m. with dinner at 6:30 p.m.

### **JANUARY – MAY**

Program meetings on 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

### **EARLY JUNE**

**ANNUAL GARAGE SALE.** We would like items now to assure a large selection of sale items. Proceeds help pay for programs, newsletters and artifacts. Call Barbara to advise, 440-543-3235



### **CUB SCOUTS VISIT**

2nd grade Cub Scouts from Troop #102, Den 3 visited the Bissell-Tucek House and Museum recently as part of their requirement to learn how their community has changed, while working towards their Wolf rank. They were escorted by docent Barbara Hesse who summarized Bainbridge history, the life of Justus Bissell and viewed many artifacts. The troop is led by Jeremy Janszen and Adam Jerina