



BAINBRIDGE-AUBURN TWP. BICENTENNIAL

1817 - 2017 ★ 200 YEARS



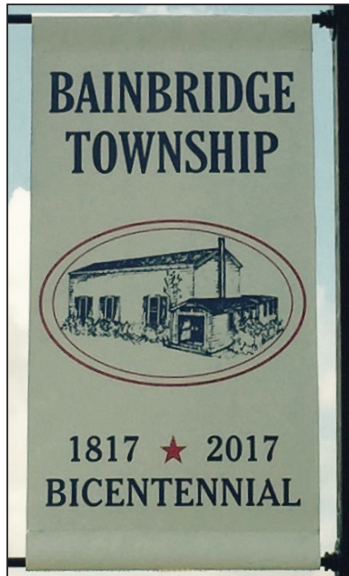
Volume 13 Issue 1

Bainbridge Township, Ohio 44023

Winter 2017-2018

SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE

After much planning in 2016 and early 2017, the Bainbridge Township Historical Society, Bicentennial Committee, township officials and many individual residents were of agreement to plan for multiple events over several months rather than for just one weekend party. This would encourage participation by many families who otherwise might miss one weekend due to other commitments.



Our history literally began on March 3, 1817 in a meeting held at the court house in Chardon when Geauga County commissioners accepted a special recommendation from residents to name the area "Bainbridge Township." Details about how the name was selected follow later in the newsletter.

Presumably residents celebrated the township's founding or birthday multiple times. We believe there was a gathering in 1911 to honor the earliest residents (for example, David McConoughey

arrived in 1811). A centennial party was probably not held in 1917, because the nation was involved in World War I. Much information about the township was placed in a booklet in 1976 to honor this country's 200-year birthday. Copies are available at the Bissell-Tucek House and local library. Brief information about the township was published in 1992 in a "community information guide." There was a plan to have a 200th founders party in 2011 to honor original settlers, but was cancelled due to significant construction around the town hall.



Commodore William Bainbridge, USN (1774-1833)

Advertisement for Bicentennial Hats (\$12.00) and T-shirts (\$15.00) available at Bissell-Tucek House/Museum on Rt. 306. It's a wonderful remembrance.

Table with 2 columns: Item Name and Page Number. Includes items like Commemorative Issue, Highlights 2017, Bicentennial Skit Highlights, Memorial Day Service/Parade, Schedule, Baseball, Celebrating at Kenston, Celebrating at Town Hall, Antique Cars/Ox Roast, Time Capsule, and Other Activities.

Highlights of Bainbridge Twp's Bicentennial Celebration - 2017

We began on Sunday, April 23 with nine resident-actors telling our story in a 12-minute skit at Kenston High School. It was held in conjunction with the school's Fine Arts Showcase. More than 500 residents attended. *(Incidentally, tapes of the skit are available for loan at the local library and at the Bissell-Tucek House.)*

Next came our Memorial Day ceremony (May 28) at Restland Cemetery, the township's last remaining active cemetery opened in 1849. The other three cemeteries are scattered about and contain much history, but are no longer used for burials – Southwest or Henry on Brewster Road, Fowler Cemetery on Haskins Road near Aurora, and the McFarland Cemetery on Chillicothe Road across from present-day Lake Lucerne.



Leading the parade from Bainbridge Commons located at Bainbridge Road at Rt. 306 and into the cemetery were retired military, Scouts, civic organizations, township officials, and many residents.

Guest speaker was former resident and Kenston graduate Rich Childs who portrayed Bainbridge pioneer Enos D. Kingsley (for whom a road is named after the family.)

Later that afternoon, about a dozen residents climbed aboard a decorated hay wagon to represent both Bainbridge and Auburn in the annual Chagrin Falls Blossom parade.



Highlights of Bainbridge Twp's Bicentennial Celebration - 2017

Every bicentennial needs to have an “old timers” baseball game. We were fortunate to schedule an outing with the “Babes of Solon” on a Kenston diamond, and while the visitors won by a couple of runs, everyone had a good time and want to try it again.

Sunday baseball was followed by games, live music, face painting, and fireworks on the Kenston High “ School campus. Several thousand residents attended.

Two days later on July 4, the party continued in Heritage Park...children's rides in fire apparatus (thanks Fire Chief Metz), a tour of the police department (with Police Chief Bokovitz), open house at the historic Bissell-Tucek House, old movies of Bainbridge provided by Bill Takacs, music in the gazebo and free food for everyone.

A month later and in conjunction with the Bainbridge Civic Club's Ox Roast, about 20 antique autos and trucks, a fire engine, and much old equipment was on display at Centerville Mills Park.

One of the more unique displays was presented near the end of 2017 when a time capsule was placed in a lobby wall at the town hall. The effort was spearheaded by Anna Gibson and Glenn Wozniak with a 6” diameter X 24” long stainless steel tube dedicated by trustees in December.

Many thanks to all who worked at or participated in these events saluting 200 years of township history, and apologies to those whose names are omitted.



Now, let's plan for 2117!



Bicentennial Skit - 2017 Script Highlights

On this 200th anniversary year of the establishment of our township, we return to March 3, 1817 at a meeting before Geauga County Commissioners when our communities became a named township and were permitted to form a simple local government. The first family to settle in the area was David McConoughey in 1811 near today's Crackel and Snyder Roads. Soon other families arrived with names such as Bildad Bradley who built near current Rt. 44 in today's Auburn, Gamaliel Kent, and the Smith Brothers (George and Robert). Families soon came from CT, MA and NY building one room log cabins and clearing the heavy forests for farming. They spent \$1.50 to \$3.00 per acre in the Western Reserve.

There were 72 residents who lived in the southwest section of the county, some from the land known as "Kentstown" and "Austintown" and areas to the east known as "Troy". All communities in the area abided by the rules of the Ordinance of 1787.

Each of the representatives spoke of their trip from eastern states and the vast difficulties riding in wagons for 50 days. They faced cold weather,

numerous challenges with roads, animals and illness with children. Yet, all of the individuals believed they were ready to be self-governing and establish a township.



The three major representatives urged commissioners to allow them to place their own names in a hat and if selected, they could recommend a name for the township. As reported, George Smith's name was selected and he wanted the township to be

called "Bainbridge".

Now, back then Commodore Bainbridge was a very well-known war hero. His ship was the U.S.S. Constitution or "Old Iron Sides" that destroyed many British frigates that were transporting supplies to British soldiers in America during the War of 1812.

Interestingly, the name Auburn was not included in the Minutes of March 3, 1817 and within a few months this eastern community was clearly separated from "Bainbridge". Reasons are unknown.

The next two pages were taken from the skit and list the actors and provide other historical notes.

Special thanks to Andy Kenen and the Kenston High School Auditorium Tech Crew and Katy McGrath, Director of Community Relations (KHS).



CREATING BAINBRIDGE AND AUBURN TOWNSHIPS MARCH 3, 1817

Bainbridge and Auburn Townships are pleased to present this short skit that describes how the two communities were formed in 1817. As a result, both are celebrating their 200th birthday....their Bicentennial in 2017.

ACTORS

Geauga County Commissioners:

Jedediah Beard P.J.Cavanagh, Auburn Twp.
Jesse Dodd Bill Takacs, Bainbridge Twp.
Solomon Kingsbury Glenn Wozniak, Bainbridge Twp.

Bainbridge Township:

David McConoughey. Mark Kautzman
Gamaliel Kent. Jacob Spencer
George Smith Rich Childs
Mrs. David McConoughey. . . Harriet Novy
Mrs. George Smith Barbara Phan
Narrator John Kline

Auburn Township:

Bildad Bradley Matthew Blowers



Commodore William Bainbridge

Additional historical notes:

Connecticut Western Reserve: If you return to history, you will note that the area from the Ohio-Pennsylvania border to near Sandusky (about 200 miles west and 41 degrees north latitude, or 3.3 million acres) was the Connecticut Western Reserve. After the Revolutionary War, most eastern states agreed to give up their claims to western lands beyond the Allegheny Mountains. But special consideration was given to the small state of Connecticut because it had contributed disproportionately to the American victory in the war and so many of its towns had been spitefully burned by retreating British troops.

Reasons to move: By 1817 there were 72 residents in the Bainbridge area. To the area east, there were about a dozen settlers in 1815. They had come to this area because:

- They likely took the opportunity to get cheap, fertile, less rocky land, with favorable weather;
- Many probably saw this move as an opportunity to start a new life after the war;
- There were religious considerations, to escape strict judgmental interpretations in New England;
- Others joined neighbors and relatives to experience a ‘new spirit’ together;
- Many loved being closer to nature – the lure of the virgin forests and wild game;
- With no aggressive Indians in the area, families would be safe.

Geauga County Clerk’s Minutes: The Minutes of that eventful day (March 3, 1817) read exactly as follows:

“And that the Towne known by the name of Kents Town and Troy, or #6 in the ninth Range and No. 6 in the 8th be declared a separate Township by the name of Bainbridge.”

Unfortunately, fire consumed the courthouse in Chardon in 1868 and records were destroyed. It seems many files for the years 1818 through 1828 were lost, but what we have presented here as to the action of the Geauga County Commissioners on March 3, 1817 was recorded by others and contemporaries at the time. Nonetheless, Auburn had separated from Bainbridge Twp. by the end of 1817 and became an independent township.

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THE HISTORICAL MUSEUMS FOR THE TOWNSHIPS ARE LOCATED AT:

Bainbridge: Bissell-Tucek House & Museum, 17870 Chillicothe Road adjacent to fire department

Auburn: 11742 East Washington Street west of Rt. 44, across street from Shadyside Cemetery

We thank Kenston High School for allowing us to share our story at the Showcase, April 23, 2017.



Memorial Day Service

Our Memorial Day Service held at Restland Cemetery welcomed Enos D. Kingsley who came to Bainbridge around 1816 and generally lived here the entirety of his life until 1870. Kingsley's relatives are buried in Restland Cemetery, and many residents will recognize that a street in Bainbridge, off of Snyder Road, has been named after them. Excerpts from his speech follow:

"My name is Enos Kingsley. I first came to what is now Bainbridge in 1814 at the age of 22. When I returned to Becket, Massachusetts, I married Miss Sally Harris. On November 30, 1816 our daughter, Sally, was born. She was the second girl born in the township. Sadly, nine days later on December 9, my wife was called to leave us. Her's was the first death in the settlement."

"When Bainbridge became a township in 1817, we had 72 residents, and I was fortunate to serve as a clerk of the first election held here. Our economy was based on timbering, cheese-making and other agricultural products. I was a farmer and deacon of the Congregational Church soon to build in this area. Relatives would soon call me "Uncle Enos."

"There are three Soldiers of the American Revolutionary War who lived in Bainbridge and are buried here. The first was my father, Enos Kingsley, who moved here in the early 1830s. He is buried near the front of the cemetery near the entrance. Daniel McFarland is buried at the bottom of Lake Lucerne Hill, and Joseph Witter is buried in the Old Southwest Burial Ground near Giles Pond, which you know as Geauga Lake."



Memorial Day Parade

Bainbridge has been fortunate to enjoy several parades during the Memorial Day weekend, one in Bainbridge and the very large one in Chagrin Falls where it was the 60th annual Blossom Parade before 30,000 observers. Our wagon, provided by Hugh Edwards of “red barn” fame located along Rt. 422 and one who has supported our historical society in innumerable ways, had 11 participants...Harriet Novy, Barb Phan, Judy and Matt Blowers (also known as Bildad Bradley), Sue and Bill Berger, Anna Gibson, Becky Obradovic, and Barbara and Chuck Hesse. Our tractor driver was Glenn Wozniak.



JOIN NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS • ENJOY OUR 200th BIRTHDAY PARTY!

BAINBRIDGE TOWNSHIP ★ bicentennial ★ 1817-2017

BICENTENNIAL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sunday, July 2

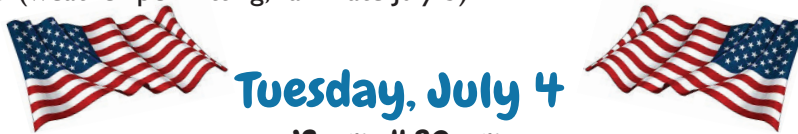
4 p.m.–10:30 p.m.

All activities on July 2 at Kenston High School

4 p.m. Baseball game: Bainbridge All-Stars vs. Babes of Solon. Kenston Softball Field

6 p.m. Fun for everyone: Games, food, souvenirs at historic tents and music at Kenston High School.

9:45 p.m. Fireworks (weather permitting; rain date July 3)



Tuesday, July 4

12 p.m.–4:30 p.m.

All activities on July 4 at Heritage Park Area and Police Station

12:15–3:00 p.m. Fire Station Tours (hot dogs available)

12:30–1:30 p.m. & 2:00–3:00 p.m. Police Station (park @ station off Bainbridge Rd. or shopping center/walk)

12:15–4:00 p.m. Tour Bissell-Tucek House (our own historic home)

1:30–3:30 p.m. Games for children (ages 4-8) on the baseball fields

1:30–3:30 p.m. Watch old historic videos (town hall)

1:30–3:30 p.m. Provide ideas & items for Time Capsule, sign birthday card (town hall)

1:30–3:30 p.m. Buy raffle tickets for antique quilts (town hall)

3:30–4:30 p.m. Ice Cream social (town hall)

4:10 p.m. Remarks by Bainbridge Township Trustees

Tour the Police and Fire Stations · Ride in the Bucket · Watch a police dog demonstration · See how firemen rescue people · Climb in a police car
Watch an auto extrication exercise · See a holding facility(jail) · Visit the historic Bissell-Tucek House · Preserve our history in a time capsule
Sack Races · Spoon-Egg Races · Corn Hole



Baseball - Babes vs. Bainbridge

More than a dozen senior Bainbridge baseball players took to a Kenston baseball field on July 2 to battle the Babes of 1916, a softball league from Solon formed in 1983 and now playing in its 34th year. The average age of the Babes' ball players is 74 years old.

Playing on a sharply manicured field prepared by Kenston Community Education and Kenston staff, coaches Maggie and Hadge Hissam, our team "ran the bases and scored "occasionally." As one player remarked, "My knees haven't

been stretched like this in over 40 years!" Scott Cardaman led the local team while Dennis Fruits was coach for the Babes. John Kline was our play-by-play announcer.

For 4 years, Kenston High School has served as principal site for the July 4th firework festivities. It is hosted by both townships, Bainbridge and Auburn. But before the skies are lit with color and noise, a band played, games are provided for children, and food is plentiful...some offered by the Bainbridge Civic Club. Thousands enjoyed.



The 2017 Bainbridge Township Senior All-Stars

Kneeling (l-r): Dan Cardaman, Scott Cardaman, Dave Strauch, Norm Schultz, Sr., Beth Ryan and Wayne Burge. Standing (l-r): Frank Gharky, Dave Kubaitis, Jon Bokovitz, Mark George, Mark Muntean, Norm Schultz, Jr., Gary Welch, and Dale Ryan. Not pictured: Rich Kluchar



Baseball - Babes vs. Bainbridge



Celebrating at Kenston



Celebrating at Town Hall



Celebrating at Town Hall

Photo courtesy of Rod Ramsey.



*Thank You
Bainbridge Service Department*

Antique Cars & Ox Roast



A very successful mixture of roast ox and antique vehicles was celebrated on August 5, 2017. The Bainbridge Civic Club held their 6th annual picnic and family entertainment at Centerville Mills Park at the former Cleveland YMCA lodge (now a township park), while several hundred feet away several dozen old-time vehicles were on display. With the assistance of the Model A Club of Northeastern Ohio and support from several dozen Bainbridge residents who love old cars, hundreds of visitors spent the afternoon just enjoying life!

Model A Club president, Skip Schweitzer encouraged his membership to bring Model A Fords. Bainbridge residents Bob Salman, Roger Rodhe, Dick and Marilyn Roddie brought some of their special vehicles



Antique Cars & Ox Roast





2017 Bicentennial Time Capsule

In concluding Bainbridge Township's Bicentennial celebration (200 years), residents of our community filled this time capsule with the hope that it might be opened or accessed in 50 years. It contains photographs, videos, letters, personal notes, and various artifacts of limited value that will give future generations a snapshot of the appearance of the township and the daily life of its residents in 2017.

A brief list of some of the donations contained in this stainless steel tube follows:

- Photographs from the Bicentennial Events
- Bainbridge Civic Club 2017 Ox Roast "Fun Run" Cowbell
- Geauga County Public Library Cards and Pen
- June 30, 2017 Edition of the Spirit of Bainbridge
- Letters to the Future from current and former residents
- DVD of "Reenactment of the Founding of Auburn & Bainbridge Townships" from April 23, 2017
- Credit Card with Chip
- Grocery Ads from local grocery and drug stores
- 2017 Coins



Glenn Wozniak, Anna Gibson, Becky Obradovic, and Chuck Hesse



Finally, a proclamation by Bainbridge Township Trustees Lorrie A. Sass Benza, Kristina O'Brien, Jeffrey S. Markley and Fiscal Officer Janice Sugarman and placed in this capsule "...celebrates the culmination of a year when residents celebrated 200 years as a township and notes the pride that was displayed. On December 11, 2017, we proclaim and recognize this Bicentennial as one of rich heritage, proud traditions and a legacy reaffirming the ideals and goals upon which this township was established by our forefathers."



These lovely cakes were provided by Jodi Schaefer of Raised and Glazed for our July 4th celebration. Her daughter, Heather Schaefer Harris, did the decorating. Also, thanks to the Bainbridge Women's Club for all their support with the ice cream social.

Population Growth of Bainbridge Township

1817	72	1980	8,207
1820	199	1990	9,694
1850	1,653	2000	10,916
1970	7,038	2010	11,395



Our local library celebrated the bicentennial all year. Led by Eric Coulbourne, manager and his staff, the library made a donation and sponsored special programs each month. To the right are Anna Gibson and Becky Obradovic marketing hats, shirts and other goodies at the library's ice cream social in August. Then they scampered over to Cibik's Dairy Island to enjoy, would you believe, more ice cream!

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

Minuteman Press
of Chagrin Falls

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.

Quilt Raffle



Jack and Dorothy Batchelor, who once lived in the Bissell-Tucek House, donated two antique quilts that were made in the 1930s for our bicentennial raffle. Both quilts were charming and became wonderful additions for two lucky winners. One quilt featured a Dresden pattern, measuring 84" by 84", in beautiful pastel colors (pinks, greens and blues). It was won by Carolyn Mastropieri. The second quilt featured a double-wedding ring pattern, measuring 90" by 66.5", with exquisite patchwork and cloth patterns throughout. Roger Rodhe, a BTHS member, won the double-wedding ring pattern quilt.

The quilts had been on display at the July 2nd Independence Day celebration at the high school and the July 4th Bicentennial celebration at the Town Hall. Additionally, they were also on display at the Community Ox Roast on August 5th at Centerville Mills Park. The drawing took place at the September BTHS membership meeting with lucky ticket winners drawn by special guest Dottie Batchelor herself.

A total of 102 tickets were sold, with proceeds benefitting the historic society and the Bissell-Tucek House & Museum.



*Bainbridge Township Historical Society members at local library.
Nancy Grossman, Elaine Witmer, and Maren Wolfe.*

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

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