



## Indian Hill Historical Society

### Mission:

*Keeping Indian Hill's  
Past and Present Alive  
for Tomorrow*

E-NewsLetter, October 2019, Vol. 4

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### What's Been Happening?

#### A Visit from our Mayors, September 15<sup>th</sup>, Little Red Schoolhouse

Ten of the distinguished Mayors from the last 30+ years visited the Little Red Schoolhouse to share stories of the past and present about our Village from these insiders' perspectives. The Mayors who attended the event included: Jim Anderson, Don Klekamp, Stephen Black, Stella Hassan (the first and only female mayor), Tom Rink, Eppa Rixey, David Ottenjohn, Mark Tullis, Dan Feigelson, and Mark Kuenning.

They shared numerous stories from their tenures which included major accomplishments, amusing stories, challenging times, and a few strange events. The Bicentennial, Grand Valley, the Veteran Monument & War Memorial, Camp Dennison Park Memorial Park, new Fire Stations, and new or renovated Public Works and Administration buildings were just a few of the important developments mentioned. Weddings were fun and happy times. The loss of the Ohio Estate Income Tax and the 2007-2009 recession were difficult events to navigate while keeping the Village fiscally sound and maintaining the Village services. Mayor's Court provided a few unusual and sometimes strange moments. Dogs, deer, and other animal issues often arose and were always debated with ardor from all sides of the discussions.

The Mayors reflected on the importance of this role as both a non-political and volunteer position. The members of Council are focused on the goals defined in the Village charter ("it shall continue to be a rural neighborhood of homes and farms") in fiscally responsible ways without partisan agendas. The Mayors were very complimentary of and thankful for the Village staff which does a tremendous job. The Village and its residents are extremely fortunate to have such a committed citizenry who volunteer for this important managerial role.

After the presentations, a delicious meal was served and fun conversations were had at the tables among friends and new acquaintances. It was a very enjoyable afternoon / evening for all.



Front row: David Ottenjohn, Mark Kuenning, Eppa Rixey, Tom Rink.  
Back row: Don Klekamp, Dan Feigelson, Stella Hassan, Steve Black, Jim Anderson, Mark Tullis

## Upcoming Events:

October	November	December
<p><b>6<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 p.m.</b>  <b>Annual Patron Party</b>  Held in one of Indian Hill's finest homes, this annual "thank-you" party is for the many generous supporters of the Historical Society, some of whom have been members since 1973!</p> <p>By Invitation</p>	<p><b>17<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 p.m.</b>  <b>What do the CIA and Cultural Arts Have in Common?</b>  <b>Julius Fleischmann ...</b>  His passion for the arts made him the perfect choice by the CIA to lead the unofficial psychological war against the Soviet Union during the Cold War.  Join us for this intriguing story.</p>	<p><b>1<sup>st</sup>, 3:00-5:00 p.m.</b>  <b>Village Christmas Party</b>  Bring your family and join your neighbors for a delightful afternoon at the Little Red Schoolhouse. Make merry with the music, jugglers, magician, and of course,  <b>Santa!</b>  Eggnog, punch, and homemade cookies top off our annual gift to the Village</p>

Please visit the website: [www.indianhill.org](http://www.indianhill.org) for more details on these programs.

## Member News, 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter, 2019

### New Members:

Dick Alexander family  
Carol Armstrong  
Sue & Jim Bero  
Jane & Mark Burke  
Robert Greiwe

Sharan & Phil Hinkle  
Pamela Irvine  
Ali Kerr family  
Patricia Klaus  
April Rockey

Bonnie Roe  
Cherie & Martin Silverstein  
Rita & Son Stolper  
Elizabeth Tilson

### Renewals:

Dolores & Bob Adleta  
Judith Affatato  
Kathryn Al-Lamadani  
Robin & John Armstrong  
Diane Babcock  
Ann & Todd Bailey  
Molly & Jim Barber  
John Barrett  
Mary Jo & Gary Beck  
Jane & Larry Bennett  
Elizabeth & Rick Bieser  
Aggie & Luke Boswell  
Sandra & David Bowen  
Susan & Neil Bortz  
Hazeleen & Leland  
Brewster  
Felicia & Harry Brown  
Stephanie & John Busam

Colby Chapman & Marc  
Manly  
Kathryn Ciafardini  
Jessica & Chris Cicchinelli  
Sue & Tim Clarke  
Susan & Burton Closson  
Richard Cocks  
Carolyn Condorodis  
Emily & Ryan Conner  
Jane & Edgar Cox  
Claudia & David Cummings  
Sue & Kent Cunningham  
Jennifer & Brian Davis  
Ronald Dolan family  
Bobbie & James Farley  
Jodi & Dan Feigelson  
Barbara Fitch  
Noah Fleischmann

Susanne Geier  
Ann Gentile  
Lucille & Thomas Gerdes  
Sharon & Bob Gill  
Mary & Jack Gimpel  
Susan & Gary Green  
Lisa & Mark Greene  
Roberta Hair  
Ellen & James Hammond  
Stella & John Hassan  
Janet & Cornelius Hauck  
Melanie & Bruce Healey  
Jane & Bill Higgins  
Katherine Hinckley  
Sharan & Phil Hinkle  
Leslie Gilbertson & William  
Hurford  
Melanie & Doug Hynden

Sharon & Bob Gill  
Mary & Jack Gimpel  
Jane & Bill Higgins  
Katherine Hinckley  
Joan Ireton  
Diana Jaeger family  
Sandra & Stephen Joffe  
Delle & Ted Jones  
Frani & Don Jones  
Jeanette & Gregory Jones  
Eileen Kilday  
Cynthia & Kelly King  
Evelyn & Gary Kirschner  
Teddy & John Kladikas  
Marianne & Don Klekamp  
Lori & Tom Klinedinst  
Jane & Ron Koppenhoefer  
Trish & Steve Krehbiel  
Elisabeth & Kasey Kuhlman  
Barb & Eddie Lane  
Caryn & Arthur Lee  
Betty Letscher  
Robert D. Lindner, Sr.  
Ina & Edward Loftspring  
Whitney & Philip Long  
Molly & Ted Lucien  
Carolyn & Peter Ludwig  
Kristin & Mark Magner  
Molly & Ken Mahler  
Doug Manzler

Alicia Bridgeland & Donald  
McGraw  
Jill & Larry McGruder  
Cassie & Lachlan McLean  
Deborah & Don McMullen  
Audrey & Greg Miller  
Judith Mitchell  
Charlotte & Bill Moore  
Hien & Ron Mueller  
Cynthia & Rick Muhlhauser  
Arlene & Bob Niehaus  
Mardie & Bob Off  
Cora Ogle  
Debbie & Rich Oliver  
Paula Ott  
Emily & Gregg Pancero  
Lisa & Chip Pettengill  
Sue Price  
Irene & Daniel Randolph  
Angela & David Reed  
Phyllis Reichle  
Pattie & Bill Reina  
Janet Reynolds  
Cynthia & Paul Riordan  
Susan & John Roberts  
Marianne Rowe  
Lois Poe Rust  
Bob & Melanie Schaeffer  
Shirley Scharfenberger  
John J. Schiff, Jr. family

Carol & Bill Schmidter  
Michelle & Robert  
Schneider  
Carolyn Schulteis  
Patricia Schwemlein  
Monique & Mike Sewell  
Libby & Raleigh Sharrock  
Gloria Uziel & Patrick Shea  
Rhonda & Larry Sheakley  
John Shepherd  
John Shields family  
Linda Siekmann  
John Steele  
Sarah & Steve Steinman  
Kay Sudbrack  
Jane & Ed Terrill  
Nadia Tranter  
Vicki & Mark Tullis  
Brenda Walker  
Paula Watters  
Tory Watters  
Barbara & Irwin Weinberg  
Jean Wiester  
Donna & Don Wymore  
Cheryle Webb & Frank  
Zemlan  
Debra & Bill Zimmer  
John Zinke

### **Member News, 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter, 2019, *continued***

#### ***Business Members (New and Renewals):***

The Phoenix - Catering

**Interested in becoming a member? [Click here](#)**

Thanks to Our Business Members

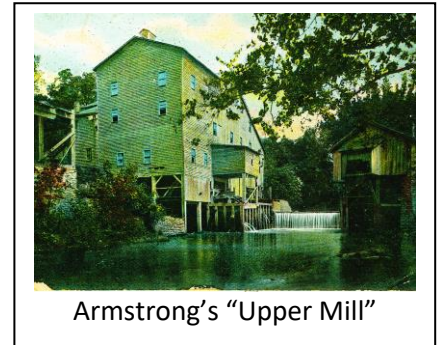
	<p>crEATions by Melody</p>		<p>MICHAEL F. GEHRIG Attorney At Law</p>	<p>GIBBS Insurance Associates</p>	<p>ERIC HOLZAPFEL Attorney At Law</p>
 <p>Mariemont Inn</p>	<p>MANGAT, HOLZAPFEL &amp; LIED PLASTIC SURGERY</p>				
<p>Taft FOCUSED CAPITOL SOLUTIONS LLC</p>	 <p>Sandra's Scratch Kitchen</p>	<p>PFM Architecture</p> 	<p>Peterloom Foundation</p>	<p>SCOTT CONCRETE</p>	
			<p>THE V COLLECTIVE</p>		
<p>Main Auction Galleries</p>			<p>The Phoenix - Catering -</p>		

## Water Mills in the Settlement of Indian Hill

By Lindsay McLean

Water powered mills on the Little Miami River played an important role in the growth of the Indian Hill area. Early settlers, squatters, and landowners took products from their plots of ground to the mills where the raw materials became commodities.

Around 1800, Nathaniel Armstrong moved to the Ohio Lands with his wife and eight children. He and his son, Thomas, who was a miller's apprentice back east, established several mills near the confluence of Walton Creek and the Little Miami River. The Armstrong Mills were known as the "Upper", "Middle", and "Lower" (named for their proximity to the river's headwaters), and the family prospered from their water powered sawmill, gristmill, and woolen mill.



Armstrong's "Upper Mill"

Water from the Little Miami was brought to the wheel by means of a flume or pipe. From the flume, water dropped onto the wheel's paddles, propelling the wheel, which transferred power to the drive shaft. In turn, the drive shaft powered gears that enabled the top millstone to grind. Two millstones, weighing about a ton, were utilized to grind whole grain into flour. The same technology applied in the sawmill and the woolen mill. This complex method of using water as a power source was environmentally sound because the water was recycled.

In earlier times, individuals used a mortar and pestle to crush grain. Circular millstones driven by water processed a larger quantity at a greater speed. The top stone balanced on a spindle, which could be raised or lowered, varying the space between the millstones, thus producing fine or coarse meal. Both stones were corrugated, so that when the top stone was turning, the grain between it and the bottom stone was scraped rather than bruised. To make flour from meal, it was sifted through mesh sieves, with the fresh grist going into the donor's bag or barrel. Flour was used for baking, and coarser meal was used for livestock.

The woolen mill enabled local farmers to turn profit on sheep and made production of household garments much easier. Shorn fleece was taken to the mill, washed, picked clean of impurities, and carded into rolls. Large revolving cylinders combed it; then rolled and wound it on spools. The machines produced in one hour what would have required a full day to card by hand. The wool could then be spun into yarn for knitting stockings, and finer grades were used for clothing. What the farmer did not use was sold in downtown Cincinnati markets. The millers charged a toll or portion of goods as payment for milling any product. Eventually cash fees replaced the traditional tolls.

The sawmill worked similarly. Logs cleared from a settler's land were transported down Upper Mill Road (currently Drake and Varner) to the mill where the logs were sawed into boards or planks. The boards were used in barns and houses, or sold for profit. Millers were able to do custom work sawing logs into precise dimensions to build a new barn. The local landscape that once was an impenetrable forest changed with the advent of the sawmill.

The Armstrongs and other local millers (Beasley, Elliott, Waldschmidt, and Kugler) were entrepreneurs who helped tame the wilderness of Ohio. Because of their role in economic development, they became leaders in their communities.

Mills eased the workloads of early residents. Instead of using hand tools to prepare meal, or two-handed saws to cut logs, settlers utilized local mills to reduce the drudgery of providing basic food and shelter. Going to the mill also brought together scattered neighbors, facilitating social intercourse in the rural community and making living in isolated areas more enjoyable.

Over time, the water mills gave way to the new power sources of steam and electricity. Local mills declined, became obsolete, and eventually were razed. Yet these early mechanisms were a major factor in the early life in this area, enabling previous generations to thrive on the land that we now call Indian Hill.

## Office News:

The office stayed busy this summer in preparation for the Fall programs and never-ending digitization work. While the digitization is slow work, the digital library is growing significantly. Vacations came and went too quickly, and summer is now waning – even though it has been in the 90s this week. Leaves are turning and cooler weather is on the horizon.



Buckingham Lodge

We had a few donations to the archives this summer. My favorite was historical and genealogical research about the Barber and Cruger families who owned the property on Spooky Hollow where Greenacres is currently. A descendant spent untold hours tracing her roots to the property in the 1850s and has shared the research with the Historical Society.

Your comments and suggestions are always welcome. Please contact us through email: [history@indianhill.org](mailto:history@indianhill.org), or phone: 513-891-1873.

Happy Autumn!

The Indian Hill Historical Society

## Indian Hill Historical Society Trustees

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Janet Reynolds

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Historian

Trish Krehbiel  
Librarian