



## Mission:

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

## Indian Hill Historical Society

**E-NewsLetter, April, 2020, Vol. 6**

*COVID-19 has wreaked havoc on everyone's lives. Currently, the office and Little Red Schoolhouse are closed, but the phones and email are being monitored. The March, April, and May programs have all been canceled. The Historical Society hopes that you are healthy and finding positive ways to cope with these challenging times.*

### What's Been Happening This Past Quarter?



#### **Tastings with Woodford Reserve, February 22<sup>nd</sup>**

On a Saturday evening in February, the Historical Society opened the doors at Livingston Lodge to welcome bourbon aficionados and neophytes. The tables were set with several bourbon tastings and food samplings. The fire was roaring and cheer was in the air.

Chris Poynter, Public Relations and

Partnership Manager of Woodford Reserve, brought his expertise and passion for all things bourbon. He was a very knowledgeable and engaging speaker with a fun sense of humor.

Three of Woodford Reserves bourbons were tasted: Woodford Reserve, Woodford Reserve Double Oaked, and Woodford Reserve Rye. There were five food samplings to pair with the bourbons: parmesan cheese, hazelnuts, dried cranberries, dark chocolates, and honey. It was fascinating to see how these different foods interacted with the various bourbons bringing out many different flavors and textures. As we learned, there are over 200 flavors in Woodford Reserve bourbon! The audience had a very fun time with the tastings and bantering with the speaker.

In keeping with the Kentucky theme, famous Kentucky burgoo, cornbread, and salad were served for dinner after the tastings. The meal was topped off with Derby and Chess pies for dessert – Yum!

It was truly a memorable evening of fun and comradery, enhanced by a little bourbon!

## Upcoming Events:

April	May	June
<p><b>-- CANCELED --</b>  <b>Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 p.m.</b>  <b>Treasures, Trails, and History ... in Your Backyard?</b>  <b>Come hear about the Village from one with intimate knowledge of the land of IH. She has found many "treasures" of historic interest!</b></p>	<p><b>-- CANCELED --</b>  <b>Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 p.m.</b>  <b>38<sup>th</sup> House Tour</b>  <b>Indian Hill is known for its beautiful homes and gardens, distinct architecture, unique barns, and other treasures on its rolling hills.</b>  <b>Count on a tour of Village surprises and enjoy the signature after-tour party.</b></p>	

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

## Member News, 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter, 2020

### New Members:

Carol & Bill Lichtenberg  
 Kathy Hamm

Christine Meyer  
 Cedric Vogel

### Renewals:

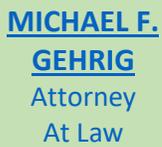
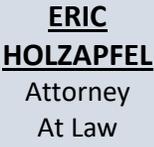
Cecile Allyn  
 Bonnie Bachman  
 Helene & John Bentley  
 Tamu & Amar Bhati  
 Mary & Bill Bramlage  
 Rhoda & John Brooks  
 Barbara & Robert  
     Bucciare  
 Sandra & Otto Budig  
 Susan & Burton Closson  
 Renie Dohrmann  
 Louisa Fleischmann  
 Donna & Karl Grafe

Ellen & Frank Grossi  
 Donald Harrison  
 Cathy Hausknecht  
 Susan & Chip Hunter  
 Dennis Janson  
 Lori & Tom Klinedinst  
 Kathryn Kranbuhl  
 Sandra Laney  
 Anne Lawrence  
 Marsha & Brad Lindner  
 Simona & Esh Lunken  
 Candace & Michael  
     McCaw

Marion & Hal Merten  
 Tracey & Todd Motto  
 Julie & Philip Myers  
 Kellie & Dan Peters  
 Marilyn Rabenold  
 Sandy & Fred Runk  
 Mary Ann Ryan  
 Ellen & Clark Sole  
 Kathy & David Turner  
 Bebe & Phil Vollmer  
 Rosemary & Frank Welsh  
 Alison & Jim Zimmerman

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

Thanks to Our Business Members

					
		 <p>Mariemont Inn</p>			
					
	 <p>Sandra's Scratch Kitchen</p>				
					

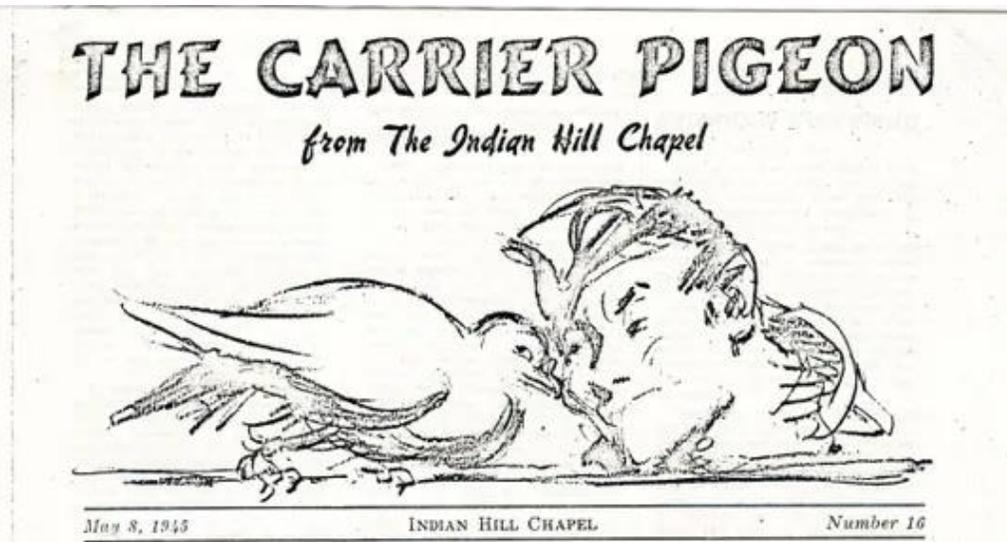
## The Carrier Pigeon

By Trish Krehbiel

As I recently finished digitizing our file on World War II, I came across copies of “The Carrier Pigeon”. For those of you who may not be familiar with this piece of Indian Hill History it is a fascinating lens on the personal challenges families and their soldiers experienced during America’s involvement in World War II. We are fast approaching the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day this coming May 8<sup>th</sup>. I thought sharing some of this priceless archive would be of interest to our readers.

True to the optimistic spirit characterized by most of Dorothy Rowe’s endeavors, “The Carrier Pigeon” was her effort to contribute to the morale of our own soldiers while offering an enhanced avenue of communication between families, friends, and their loved ones serving overseas. “The Carrier Pigeon” was a newsletter created by Dorothy Rowe and a group of erstwhile volunteers that served as a repository for news from home and news from the battle lines and military bases. A total of 17 editions were compiled, type-set, and mailed to approximately 140+ servicemen.

A serendipitous visit with artist, Charles Dana Gibson (Irene Emery’s father – she lived at Peterloon), at the time of the newsletter’s inception provided a hand drawn sketch of a carrier pigeon “whispering” in the ear of a serviceman. That sketch would appear on the masthead of every newsletter. We can only imagine the respite and joy our own Indian Hill servicemen stationed around the world must have felt upon opening the mail on the day “The Carrier Pigeon” arrived in their hands.



As we are currently experiencing our own somewhat dystopian aspects of life under the COVID-19 pandemic, I thought we might appreciate connecting through history with a generation of young men who surely faced serious and life-threatening/life-terrifying challenges away from friends and family.

The introductory issue explained the following “This is the first number of a Paper specifically published for you - the boys and men in the Services who have gone from our families...we thought you would also like to know... what is going on at home on the Hill...nothing will be missed that is likely to interest you...a note from you about your doings...would please us all here...”

“The Carrier Pigeon” newsletters are replete with fascinating stories from service stations across the globe and throughout the war. Happy news of births, engagements and wartime weddings were also included to cheer the IH soldiers and divert their attention from somber duty, if only for a brief time.

News regarding servicemen overseas came from their locally based families and directly from the men fighting the war. Here are some excerpts from the newsletter:

- "That dread telegram with the ominous words, "We regret to inform you that your son Captain \_\_\_ is reported missing. Details will follow from the War Office" arrived...family and friends put in a cruelly anxious three days before the happy news came that [Captain] \_\_\_ was safe and well... [Captain \_\_\_] was on his way back to his home base...when he saw a tiny cleared place in the jungle...he negotiated the tricky landing, and with even more skill required, the take-off next day was negotiated."
- "Censorship forbids much news of the front, except that the spring thaw has set up in me, and I expect to recover. At least I have noticed that the ground no longer groans when I lie down on it to go to sleep. I don't know how many layers of clothes I have on because I haven't taken them off to find out...I climbed out of my tent in a snow storm...All of Africa is not hot and dry, not by a long shot"
- "We [B 26 outfit] were making a regular night navigation hop. The first trouble developed with the right engine...then when we got to T\_\_\_ the left engine cut out completely. At this the pilot rang the bailout bell...as soon as they opened, I fell out backward into the black night. We were going at about 200 miles per hour so when the air current hit me it threw me over and over and I had a little trouble getting my hands on the rip cord to open the chute: then I stopped falling. The night was so black that I could not see the ground...when I did land I hit the ground very hard...the crew came back in one by one and called back to the field. You can imagine how glad we were to see each other."
- "Prisoner, Lt. \_\_\_'s family put in a bad couple of weeks last month. [Lt.] \_\_\_ was shot down on the Kassel road...somewhere near Berlin. The first news was all bad: Reported missing...and then a letter from a friend who had been flying in the next plane of the formation said anti-aircraft fire had badly damaged [Lt.]\_\_\_'s ship and they were able to watch it for a half hour constantly losing altitude and having to fight off a pack of Fighters...Then Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> four different ham radio enthusiasts sent word that they heard [Lt.] \_\_\_'s name and address mentioned on short wave , as being a prisoner of war in Germany..."he had been in a prison camp for 21 months...When Hitler began to see the handwriting on the wallpaper, they routed [Lt.] \_\_\_'s camp out in sub-zero weather and moved them on that famous cruel march to another place...Eventually they reached Moosberg, from which they were liberated by the Third Army April 29<sup>th</sup>."
- "Don't kid yourselves that the girls at home are just anguishing in your absence and doing nothing about it. Most of them, married and single, are holding down really interesting jobs....W\_\_\_ is working nights in Laboratory, testing the breaking point of metal....I\_\_\_ puts in from 7:30 till 4 six days a week at Wrights as an Observer for Engine Testing...One job isn't enough to use up S\_\_\_'s energy so she works 8 hours at Wright and then does Nurses Aid as an evening recreation...Seaman \_\_\_ of the WAVES recently graduated from the Naval Radio Communications School at University of Wisconsin."

As the war drew to a close Dorothy Rowe wrote in a personal letter printed in the second to last Carrier Pigeon, "Now that the longed-for V-E Day is at hand, nothing but the old cliché is really true - 'Our hearts are too full for utterance.'" The current immediacy of our communications with friends and family diverges from the long agonizing flow of information 75 years ago. I marvel at the patience and forbearance of the Greatest Generation and the lessons we all can still take from their strength of purpose and duty. A sense of humor rings through many of the communiques the troops sent back to Mrs. Rowe despite the dire circumstances most of the servicemen experienced. How fortunate for Indian Hill that such strength of character and selflessness is part of our heritage.



### From the President:

March is the month that changed everything. From businesses and schools to sports teams and families, we are all adjusting to a new normal. For the Historical Society, the coronavirus pandemic meant that we did not commemorate the Fight for Women's Suffrage in March, will not learn about the hidden treasures of Indian Hill in April, and will not tour iconic Indian Hill homes in May. And April is also the month for the Society's Annual Meeting when we would normally gather to review the year gone by and look ahead to the year to come. Instead, we are exploring the use of Zoom and Go to Meeting to carry on our mission. With ingenuity and persistence, our staff has found ways to keep us connected and pursue the work of the Society in these unprecedented times.

But infectious disease has been with us for a very long time. Tuberculosis was one of the most dreaded diseases in former centuries. By 1900, it had killed one out of every seven people who had ever lived. Symptoms of the disease included persistent cough, weight loss, hoarseness, night sweats, and fever. There was no effective treatment until antibiotics were introduced in the mid-1950s. The customary treatment was the "rest cure" -- confining sufferers in sanitariums and isolating them from healthy people. Dr. Charles Rockhill, a graduate of the University of Cincinnati medical school, founded a sanitarium in Indian Hill shortly after 1900. The Rockhill Sanitarium was located where Rockhill Lane is today and had a staff of seven nurses, one bacteriologist, two vocational students, one stenographer, and numerous Red Cross workers. The grounds housed a large main building, several smaller outbuildings, a laboratory, two barns, three sheds, at least two cottages, seven chicken houses, and its own septic system. In 1923, seventy-five patients were treated at the sanitarium. Dr. Rockhill died in 1925, and the sanitarium closed some time thereafter, bringing to an end an unusual chapter of Village history.

I look forward to greeting each of you in September – hopefully in person. Until then, please visit our website and stay in touch.

Sincerely,

Rosemary Welsh

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Cookie Recipe from *Treasured Recipes from Camargo to Indian Hill*:

#### **Bari's Oatmeal Chip Cookies – for the child in all of us!**

Mix:	¼ lb. butter	½ tsp. salt
	½ c. solid shortening	1 tsp. baking soda
	2 eggs	2 c. quick oats
	1 c. brown sugar	2 c. flour
	1 c. white sugar	

Fold in: 1-2 c. chocolate chips

Drop by teaspoonfuls on ungreased cookie sheet

Bake at 350 degrees for 10-12 minutes



**YUM !!**

## Office News:

Life has slowed down considerably with the “stay at home” order in place in hopes of “flattening the curve” of COVID-19 infections. Restaurants and many stores and businesses are closed so traffic is light. While it’s wonderful to hear less noise pollution, the health concerns and COVID-19 ramifications are terrible with many people sick and so very many out of work. The heart-breaking death toll continues to rise. This experience is a first for me on all fronts, and I suspect for many others. It feels as if the ground has shifted, and there is a new reality. It can feel scary and unsettling. As many have said, “we are all in this together” which is very true. I am hopeful that our humanity, generosity, and kindness will come shining through during this challenging and self-isolating time.



Buckingham Lodge

Thankfully, Mother Nature’s Spring is coming, and the sunshine has been warm and lovely to see. I’ve been taking daily walks around the neighborhood, and it’s wonderful to greet the many neighbors doing the same.

The Historical Society continues to pursue the mission: *Keeping Indian Hill’s Past and Present Alive for Tomorrow*. If you have memories of your life / adventures in Indian Hill that you would like to share, please let us know. Your comments and suggestions are always welcome. You may contact us through email: [history@indianhill.org](mailto:history@indianhill.org) or phone: 513-891-1873.

Hoping You Stay Healthy!

The Indian Hill Historical Society

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