



Mission:

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

Indian Hill Historical Society

E-NewsLetter, July, 2020, Vol. 7

What's Been Happening This Past Quarter?

COVID-19, social distancing, nationwide protests – just to name a few.

Amidst all of the trials of this past quarter, life continues. The Historical Society has clearly felt the impact of COVID-19, although very thankfully, none of the Board, staff, or members (to our knowledge) have been seriously ill. We are continuing to pursue the Society's mission and adhering to state guidelines regarding the coronavirus. The spring programs were all cancelled, and the Little Red Schoolhouse was closed for rentals. Planning for the next program year is underway, but the uncertainties surrounding COVID-19 are challenging. In light of the virus, we are working to provide the educational programs and social opportunities in new frameworks. The Annual Program mailer is targeted to go out in August, and with fingers crossed, we'll be able to provide safe environments to gather physically or cyberly.

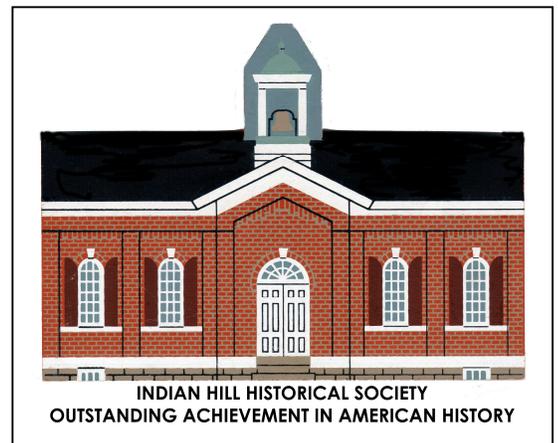
Outstanding Achievement in American History Award

Each year, the Indian Hill Historical Society awards two junior students, one at Cincinnati Country Day School (CCDS) and one at Indian High School, with the "Outstanding Achievement in American History" award. The winner is selected by the teachers at the respective schools and is based on students' participation in co-curricular activities related to American History and student government. This person also exemplifies a positive attitude, shows respect for others, and serves as a leader and role model in the school community.

Due to COVID-19, schools held virtual award ceremonies or have postponed them. CCDS hosted a virtual event at the end of May. **Lila Weizer** received the Historical Society's honors and a \$500 check. In addition to her hard work in American History, she has also been involved with Science Olympiad, Cincinnati Symphony Youth Orchestra, Inner City Youth Organization, Stepping Stones, and CCDS Cross Country and Track & Field teams,

The Historical Society is pleased to recognize Lila's many activities and achievements.

The recipient for Indian Hill High School will be announced when the school holds its award ceremony at a future time.



New Leases for the Little Red Schoolhouse and Buckingham Lodge

The Historical Society has been leasing the two buildings from the Village for several decades, and recently has successfully negotiated two new leases for the next 20 years with options for future years. A major change with the new leases is that the Society will take on significantly more financial responsibility for the maintenance of the buildings, as the Village is working to manage the budget and reduce costs. Like most old buildings, there is always a to-do project list for old buildings, and these structures are no different. The incredible support of the donors and members through the years makes it possible for the Society to take on these additional obligations.

The Historical Society is proud to be the steward for these two Village landmark buildings and is committed to keeping them relevant to the community. These wonderful structures have significant storied pasts, and they will continue to be part of the Village's future stories.

Member News, 2nd Quarter, 2020

New Members:

Jane Birkhead
Brian Brockhoff

Tamara Galligher
Michael Muth

Renewals:

Gail & Nicolas Bagnoli
Aggie & Luke Boswell
Nancy Tehan & Hugh
Brandt
Jeanie & Rob Champlin
Jean Davison
Katherine Dewitt
Kit & Dick Duval
Kathy & Stephen Fish
Blair Fleischmann
Dani & Greg Frappier
Jennifer & Chris Frutkin
Noralee & Lewis Gatch
Julie & Rob Heidt, Jr.

Sandy & Bob Heimann
Alicia & Jeffrey
Heinichen
Christy Elfers & Dave
Hendren
D.J. Hildebrandt
Kate Hinckley
Marilyn & Gerard Hyland
Anne Ilyinsky
Ed Jacobs
Maureen & John
Johnston
Fred Koehler
Ruth Ann & Kent Little

Jill & Larry McGruder
Deb Bradley & John
Mitchell
Sheri & John Pestian
Lucy Davis & Ted Safrin
Greg Schmidt
Jane & Paul Stewart
Barbara & Irwin
Weinberg
Lila Weizer
William Weyand
John Zinke

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

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Lola Bonnell, Buckingham Lodge, Bonnell Park

By Lawre Finn-Bonekemper

The Village of Indian Hill and the Indian Hill Historical Society are fortunate to have had residents like Lola Bonnell a part of our local history. The Society's offices are located in Lola's home, and I often reflect on her life and her gift of Buckingham Lodge and Bonnell Park to the Village.

Lola was born in 1885 and lived her entire life at 8650 Camargo Road in the house built by her family with wood harvested from the property (walnut & pine). Her parents were William J. and Florence (nee Buckingham). Lola was a descendant of several local pioneering families including the Buckinghams who settled in the area in 1791. The Bonnell family came to Indian Hill in the early 1800s and settled property around Given, Camargo, Keller, and Kugler Mill Roads. Additionally, Lola was a descendant of the Weller family which settled in the northern area of Indian Hill. She had deep genealogical roots in the area.



From 1893, in front of the Little Red Schoolhouse, Lola is seated, far left

Lola attended the Washington Heights School, a.k.a, the Little Red Schoolhouse. Further formal education is unknown, but she was said to have been well read and knowledgeable on a wide variety of subjects. The land and the Village were very important to her. She attended meetings of the Council and Board of Education, and cared deeply for the Green Areas program. If Lola disagreed with the direction that things were going, she made her opinion known.

Independence and self-sufficiency were hallmarks of Lola's personality. One neighbor noted, "She had a 'bound and determined' attitude." She lived in the house where she was born, took care of her mother in the home until her death, and never married. The land was used for farming, and she was the farmer; she loved the country life style. Extensive flower and vegetable gardens with corn, potatoes, and more, were planted and maintained each year. Cows, chickens, and horses were raised and tended, too. Fresh vegetables, eggs, and milk were a mainstay of Lola's diet. Dandelions and other spring greens also supplemented her dishes. A neighbor reported that Lola would bake the potatoes inside the door of her coal furnace. Additionally, a cleaning person who Lola hired commented that milk was used as the sole cleanser inside the house!

Frugality was another characteristic of Lola's. She never owned a car and could often be seen walking to and from Madeira wearing a skirt, red tam o'shanter hat, and carrying a shillelagh along with her supplies or groceries! She worked downtown for a period of time and would get rides to / from work with neighbors or catch the Swingline at Allandale. Remembrances of Lola often cited her attire. If one saw Lola in a professional or social setting, she was "properly" dressed. But, at home and in the garden, Lola was dressed for work. She was an early adopter of denim jeans and wore them thinly and / or patched. Army fatigues and old bonnets were often worn, too. A kerchief or clothing pins would hold her hair. Safety pins were a prominent tool for keeping her clothing intact.

Lola's legacy lives on today with the house and the park. The Historical Society is grateful to have such a repository for the many files and artifacts of Indian Hill. The office is open for visitors to come see and learn about the Village – please stop in.



Buckingham Lodge



From the President:

This year’s celebration of Independence Day invites a contemplative approach. We miss the fire engines, brass bands, and red-coated riders on parade, but we are free to remember and celebrate the birth of our country. Following years of tension with the British, representatives of the 13 colonies signed the Declaration of Independence during the summer of 1776 and established a new nation. Multiple skirmishes and battles with King George III’s forces during 1775, including the battles of Lexington and Concord, propelled the colonists to break free. The Revolutionary War lasted from 1775 to 1783 and ultimately achieved independence from the throne. Some soldiers who fought for independence emigrated to what is now Ohio and lived here for the rest of their lives. Several are buried in Indian Hill or its environs, and you will recognize many of their names.

William Finch saw action in the Rhode Island and New Jersey campaigns. He is buried in the cemetery at Armstrong Chapel, and his tombstone reads, “Private Webb’s Conn Regiment Revolutionary War.”

Decades ago, Jonathan Waring was documented as a soldier in the conflict and was mentioned as having been interred at Armstrong Chapel. Unfortunately, the inscription on what is believed to be his gravestone is no longer legible, and his identity cannot be verified.

Nathaniel Terwilliger’s regiment fought in the invasion of Canada and the Battle of Saratoga, considered a turning point of the war. Terwilliger’s grave is in Hopewell Cemetery, northwest of Indian Hill. His epitaph reads, “New York: 4 Regt.: Orange Co Mil: Revolutionary War.”

Christian Waldschmidt was a private in the Third Company, Sixth Battalion from Pennsylvania. He is buried in a cemetery in Camp Dennison, which borders Indian Hill on the east. A bronze tablet below his name states, “Revolutionary Soldier, 1775-1783.”

David Black served as a drummer boy in four New York regiments. He was first buried in a family cemetery in Indian Hill in 1832, then reinterred in 1863 in Laurel Cemetery located on Roe Street in Madisonville, west of Indian Hill.

The Indian Hill Historical Society pays tribute to these patriots in celebration of the July 4th national holiday: “Let freedom ring!”

Rosemary Welsh



Office News:

The staff has continued to work throughout the Spring. Buckingham Lodge provides for ample social distancing. In addition to the normal activities, several projects continue to be worked on:

- The website is undergoing redesign and updates, and hopefully, it will be ready for unveiling by the end of the summer. The Society has a new email address: history@indianhill.org, and the old email address will be phased out soon.
- The project to digitize all of the files continues (and will for a long time). This is a massive undertaking which has been underway for about 3 years. So far, the following records have been digitized:
 - 1/3 of the house files
 - 1/5 of the oral histories
 - 1/5 of subject files
 - All of the physical objects and artifacts in the Lodge have a digital record and image



Buckingham Lodge

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 or phone: 513-891-1873.

Hoping You Stay Healthy!

The Indian Hill Historical Society

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