



Mission:

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

Indian Hill Historical Society

E-Newsletter, January, 2021, Vol. 9

What's Been Happening This Past Quarter?

Halloween, Thanksgiving, and the Holidays

The Fall and Winter holidays have come and gone. Social distancing is still the rule. While there were a few rentals of the Little Red Schoolhouse for weddings and such in October, the Schoolhouse is quiet now.

We are hopeful with the vaccine starting to be made available to the public that we will be able to resume the programs and events sometime in 2021. We will keep you posted as plans unfold.

With the updated leases and new responsibilities for maintenance at the Little Red Schoolhouse and Buckingham Lodge, the Historical Society has been busy defining maintenance "to do" lists. The work on this list has begun – specifically painting, roofing, and gutter work have been completed at both buildings this Fall. The driveway at Buckingham Lodge has been regraded, and new gravel added and spread.



Member News, 4th Quarter 2020 Updates

New Members:

Amy & Peter Fovel
Emma & Warner Off

Sheila & Reed Schroeder
Geoffrey Strauss

Renewals:

Delores & Bob Adleta
Robin & John Armstrong
Bonnie Bachman
John Barrett
Ester Binns
Ann & Stephen Bjornson
Barbara & Robert
 Bucciare
Jane & Mark Burke
Jeanie & Rob Champlin
Missy & Grant Cowan
Claudia & David
 Cummings
Ellen & James Hammond
Jeanne Hannan

Sue & Bill Hill
Pat & Don Hinkley
Diana Jaeger
Ann & Jon Keeling
Cynthia & Greg Kenny
Ali Kerr
Evelyn & Gary Kirschner
Marsha & Brad Lindner
Paula & Bob Lindner
Andy MacKay
Colby Chapman & Mark
 Manly
Mary & Michael McGraw
Judith Mitchell
Linnea & Norbert Nadel

Debbie & Rich Oliver
Marlyn Rabenold
Stephanie & Keith
 Rabenold
Buffie & Eppa Rixey
Janet & Scott Sayre
Anne & Doug Schmidlin
Emily & Jeff Schoeny
Melinda & Robert
 Sherman
Joanne Sloneker
Barbara Sutphin
Ginny & Al White
Donna & Don Wymore

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



Thanks to Our Business Members

		<p>MICHAEL F. GEHRIG Attorney At Law</p>	<p>ERIC HOLZAPFEL Attorney At Law</p>
	 <p>MAIN AUCTION GALLERIES</p>	 <p>Mariemont Inn</p>	
		<p>SCOTT CONCRETE</p>	 <p>SERENE SUITES PREMIER MEMORY CARE</p>
	<p>Taft FOCUSED CAPITOL SOLUTIONS LLC</p>	 <p>TOTAL WEALTH PLANNING</p>	
			



A Restored Map Returns

By Lawre Finn-Bonekemper

Several years ago, when the staff started to work on digitizing all of the Historical Society records, an inventory of all items was conducted to confirm the condition of the items and documents. There were several maps which had been rolled up and stored in archival tubes. One of these maps was in terrible condition – the paper was curled, brittle, and breaking off. In March, 2018, the Trustees approved for the map (and several other historical items) to be restored.

Old World Restorations came to the rescue. The map was the most challenging of the items, and it took over 2 years, to bring it back to life! Their assessment of the map stated: “Map of Indian Hill on Paper Unframed 40 x 36 is rolled, acidic, discolored, tears, holes, losses, creases, surface dirt/grime, tape marks, tape/glue stains & right edge is completely separated from the map in many pieces.” The restoration process involved almost a year worth of treatment in a humidity-controlled room to encourage the paper fibers to relax enough to allow for the map to be laid flat without tearing. Once the map could be flattened on a table, the restoration work could begin. The map required surface cleaning to remove the dirt. A deacidification solution was applied to neutralize the acid in the paper. The tears were stabilized with a combination of adhesive and archival mending tape. Fortunately, the damage that remains visible is off on the right side where no information is even printed. The landowners’ names and lot boundaries are completely legible. The map has been mounted on a mat board, framed to allow for a full view, and is now hanging on a wall at Buckingham Lodge.

The map is of property owners in Indian Hill at the time it was created. Prior to the restoration, we were unsure as to the year of the map. When it was returned, we spent a fair amount of time researching the property owners and believe the map to be circa 1904. It presents a truly fascinating picture of the Village.

Twenty years after this map was drawn, The Camargo Realty Company started what has become known as the “estate era” of the Village, when they took out options on 12,000 acres in Indian Hill. One thousand acres in the center was earmarked for the Camargo Club which would be comprised of a club house, golf course, tennis courts, polo fields, stables, and shooting range. With the remaining acreage, they combined properties and began selling tracts for large, private estates which ranged from 25 acres and upwards. By 1930, approximately 60 houses had been built and occupied as part of this development.

In looking at the map, one realizes what an effort it must have been to purchase all of the land. There were hundreds of land owners in Indian Hill in 1904 and probably more by 1924. So, there were many people to contact, to negotiate with, and then to re-parcel the land into 25+ acre lots for sale. It certainly took concerted work to make the vision of the leaders of The Camargo Realty Company a reality.

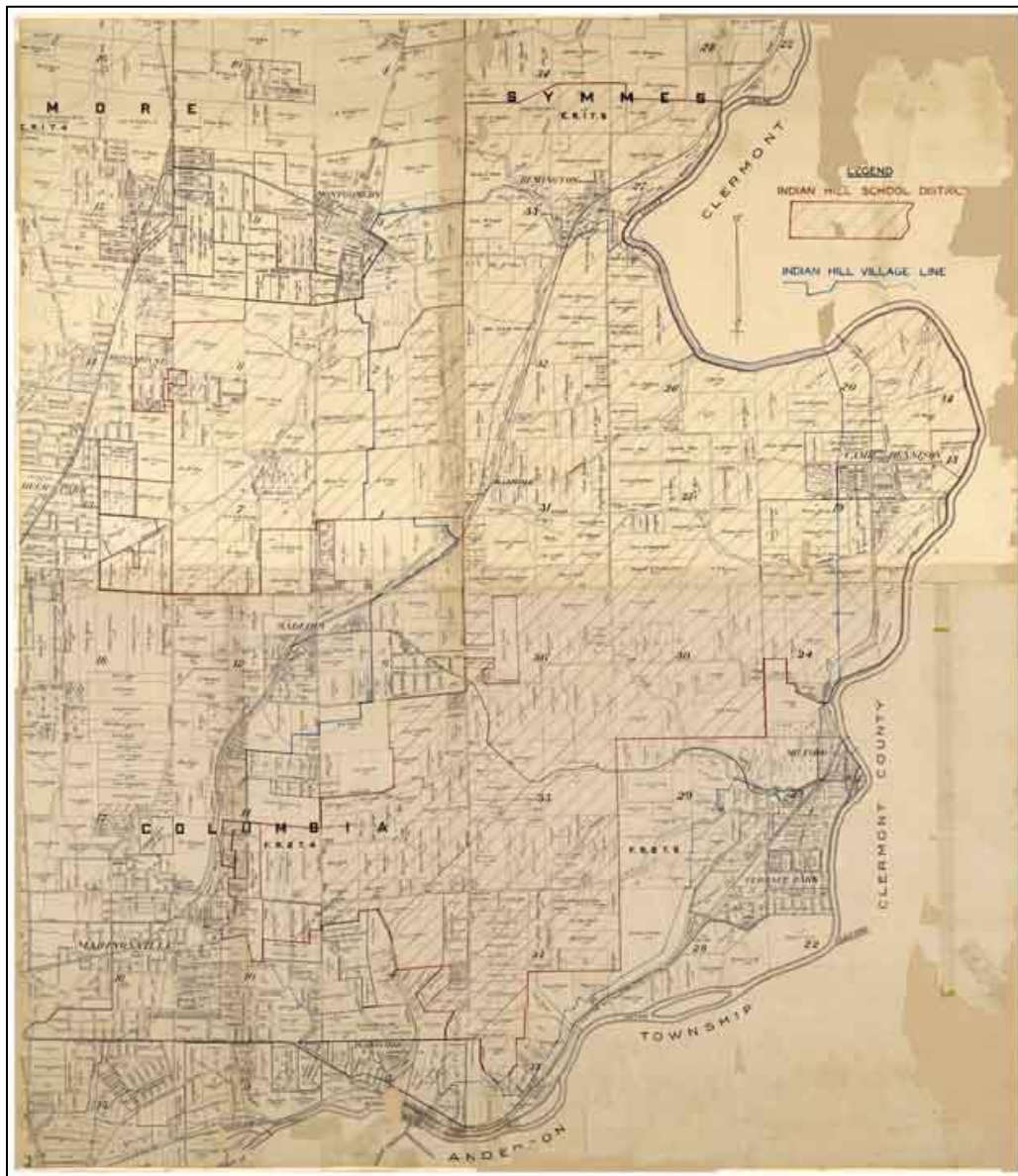
Another interesting perspective found looking at the map is seen in the street names.

- Spooky Hollow Road was called Mill Road as it ran from Montgomery to the mills near where Sycamore Creek runs into the Little Miami River. (As you may remember from the last newsletter, John Elliott and his descendants had several mills in the area near today’s Camp Livingston.)
- Blome Road was spelled Bloom Road (hence its’ current day pronunciation). Louisa Bloom owned property at the corner of today’s Blome and Spooky Hollow Roads. I’m not sure when or why the spelling was changed, but Frederick Blome lived at the

other end of Bloom Road where it meets Camargo Road at the same time. I suspect he had something to do with the later spelling change.

- Shawney Run was the preferred spelling of today's Shawnee Run Road. And, west of Drake and Shawnee Run, it was named Hudson.
- Old Indian Hill Road was marked as Madison
- Drake Road ran all the way to Wooster Pike and was called Drake Avenue.
- Several other roads were called Avenues or Pikes, too, such as Indian Hill Avenue and Camargo Pike.

Maps have always held a fascination for me, and this one is no different. There is a lot to be learned in looking at maps, and the Indian Hill Historical Society is thrilled to have this map back in house and hanging on the wall. We hope you will stop in to see it.





From the President:

We will remember 2020 as the “Year of the Pandemic.” The worldwide surge in coronavirus infections brought far reaching changes in daily life. In March, Governor Mike DeWine started his daily press conferences. Dr. Amy Acton, the soft-spoken director of the Ohio Department of Health, appeared at his side, answering questions and providing guidance to concerned citizens. Closures of schools, gyms, amusement parks, and restaurants were mandated. Shortages of toilet tissue, paper towels, and cleaning supplies cropped up everywhere.

People stayed home or practiced social distancing and maintained a six-foot separation. Handwashing for 20 seconds became a ritual, and wearing a face mask in public is now common practice. Some people donned gloves to cover their hands and wore plastic shields to cover their faces. Zoom and other virtual meeting platforms provided a means to stay in touch with colleagues, friends, and neighbors. Ohioans learned to interpret yellow, red, and purple zones on the map to gauge the severity of the pandemic in a particular region. New words became common in the national vocabulary, including PPE, N95 mask, quarantine, contact tracing, flattening the curve, and lockdown.



Products in short supply

Although most other local Hamilton County governments closed their doors for weeks, the Village’s administrative offices have remained open throughout the crisis. City Manager Dina Minneci and her team ensured that services to residents continued uninterrupted while still protecting the safety and health of all employees. Many annual events were cancelled, such as the new residents’ party, the National Day of Prayer, the Memorial Day observance, the Fourth of July parade, and the Veterans’ Day service. Mayor’s Court was not held for several months.

The Rangers adjusted the scheduling of personnel and changed tactics at routine traffic stops to minimize unnecessary contact. Their vehicles were thoroughly cleaned after each shift and cleaned again before the next shift started. Safety precautions were put in place at the Administration Building. Plexiglas shields were installed in some offices, and distancing marks were placed on the floor. Electronic submission of permits for home improvements was implemented. Zoom meetings with the Village Council and the Planning Commission became the new normal.

The Public Works Department continued to provide essential services to the Village. To reduce the number of employees at the shop, some were headquartered at Livingston Lodge instead. When parks closed, caution tape was wrapped around prohibited areas, and the use of tennis courts and basketball courts was restricted for a time. Signs provided directional



Playground at Stephen Field closed due to Covid-19

guides to assist people walking in preserves and parks. Residents placed their trash cans outside their garages to diminish contact with the Public Works personnel. The department

reported large increases in the tonnage of trash collected and the number of brush pick-ups. Homebound citizens used their spare time to tidy their homes and clear honeysuckle and debris from their yards.

The Madeira and Indian Hill Joint Fire Department and the Rangers introduced a new service – drive-by birthday celebrations and graduation parties. Because people could not congregate to celebrate, firemen and policemen paraded past homes with sirens blaring and lights flashing. Special tee shirts were distributed to some lucky honorees, and the surprise appearance of these Village heroes brightened everyone’s day.



Temperature taking at Cincinnati Country Day School

Other Village organizations also devised innovative approaches to cope with the pandemic. Schools staged socially distanced graduations, and churches held services outdoors. In May, the Indian Hill Historical Society held its annual meeting in the parking lot of the Little Red Schoolhouse. The main item on the agenda was approval of the Amended and Restated Code of Regulations which enabled the Society to conduct its business via GoToMeeting and similar platforms. Next spring, the Society is planning to offer virtual programs as an alternative to in-

person gatherings. Indian Hill and its residents have demonstrated great resourcefulness during a challenging year.

Some of the changes wrought by the pandemic are likely to be permanent, such as flexible work locations and virtual meetings as an alternative to business travel. With COVID-19 vaccines now in distribution, we look ahead with hope that 2021 will bring change for the better.

Rosemary D. Welsh
President

Office News:

The weather has changed, and winter is upon us. We had the first snow in the beginning of December. The holidays were certainly different with smaller gatherings and more virtual get-togethers. While these have been unusual and challenging times, taking a moment to reflect on the many blessings of life is always a positive step.



Buckingham Lodge

With the recent surge in the pandemic, social distancing is still the rule and so our programs will continue to be postponed. We are working to be ready to resume events as soon as we are able to gather safely.

Your continued support and membership are truly appreciated and critical for keeping this organization a vital part of our community.

The Historical Society works 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.

Happy 2021!

The Indian Hill Historical Society

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