



## Mission:

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

## Indian Hill Historical Society

E-Newsletter, April, 2021, Vol. 10

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

#### Virtual Programs, Building Maintenance, History Preservation

The Historical Society has been busy working to provide engaging content for our members, maintaining two historic landmark buildings, and continuing to grow and preserve the historical records of Indian Hill Village.

Email notices were sent to members for two interesting virtual programs: *Duveneck Stories: From The Whistling Boy to Foucar's Nude* created by the Cincinnati Art Museum, and Boone County Library hosted an event with Robert Webster, author of *The Beverly Hills Supper Club: The Untold Story Behind Kentucky's Worst Tragedy*. Links to each of these programs may be found on the [Historical Society's website](#). Other topics are being considered for the Historical Society to produce and post virtual presentations.

The aging infrastructure at the Little Red Schoolhouse made itself known when the 19-year-old furnaces gave "up the ghost" during the freezing temperatures in February. Two new HVAC systems were installed at the Schoolhouse. Additionally, one of the sump pumps in the basement "crawl" space quit working and had to be replaced. A new septic system at the Schoolhouse needs to be installed due to new EPA rules, not because it is not working. The design process is well underway, and the project will hopefully be completed before the end of the year.

The never-ending process of adding information to the historical archives of the Historical Society continues. Additionally, some summary databases of historical structures and cemeteries / grave sites are being built to facilitate search processes. All of this work is on-going.



## Member News, 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2021 Updates

### New Members:

Mary Lou & Tim Holt

Judy Recker – Sibcy Cline Realtors

### Renewals:

Valerie & Noah Allen

Cecile Allyn

Kathy Bernard

Tanu & Amar Bhati

El Bougraf

Mary & Bill Bramlage

John Brooks

Sandra & Otto Budig

Liz & Bill Colohan

Renie Dohrmann

Lou & Tom Gerdes

Donna & Karl Grafe

Lisa & Mark Greene

Don Harrison

Jeffrey Heinichen family

Susan & Chip Hunter

Dennis Janson

Sandra & Stephen Joffe

John Johnston

Lori & Tom Klinedist

Ann Weichert Kranbuhl

Elisabeth & Kasey Kuhlman

Sandra Laney

Anne Lawrence

Simona & Esh Lunken

Jill & Larry McGruder

Marion & Harold Merten

Julie & Philip Myers

Arlene & Bob Niehaus

Kellie & Dan Peters

Lynda & Ray Schilderink

Ellen & Clark Sole

Sarah & Steve Steinman

Kathy & David Turner

Bebe & Phil Vollmer

Rosemary & Frank Welsh

Cheryle Webb

Sally & Tony Woodward

Alison & James Zimmerman

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



Thanks to Our Business Members

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|  |  | <p><b>MICHAEL F. GEHRIG</b><br/>Attorney<br/>At Law</p> | <p><b>ERIC HOLZAPFEL</b><br/>Attorney<br/>At Law</p> |
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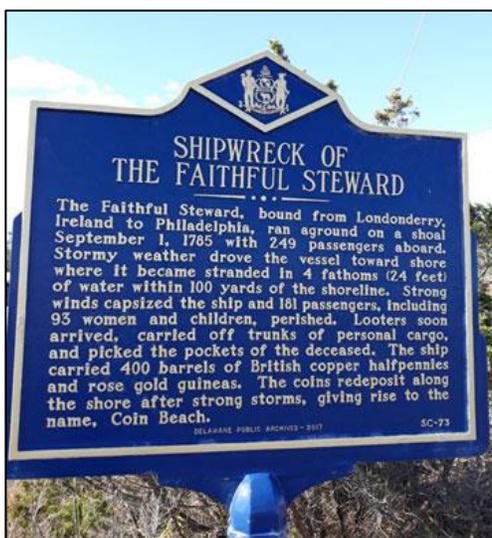
## Shipwreck of The Faithful Steward (The harrowing tale of the Elliott brothers' arrival in America)

By Trish Krehbiel

If you read my account of *The Elliotts and Elliott House* from the [October IHHS Newsletter](#), you no doubt came across the simple statement, "John Elliott, born in 1762, came to America from Ireland in 1784". This statement of an historical fact belies the truth of what coming to America encompassed for John Elliott and his brothers Simon & William. Thanks to a decades' long effort by one of John Elliott's grandsons, the tale of their journey to America was reconstructed and published. *The Elliott Families, 1762-1911* was written by Simon Elliott and published in Princeton, IL., 1911. We have a reprinted hardcover issue of the book in the Hauck Library at Buckingham Lodge.

To set the scene requires a brief understanding of the political landscape in Ireland at the latter third of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Anglo/British rule, a miasma of poverty loosely tied to religious affiliation and class grievances created an uncertain environment for peacefully raising a family in Ireland. Young men were required to take a tour of duty as soldiers for the Irish government. John Elliott, as the father of sons, was concerned for their welfare.

The Elliotts were part of a conclave of Scottish born farmers and merchants residing in Ulster, Northern Ireland. The Ulster plantation, as it was known, was established by King James IV of Scotland to colonize Ireland. A strong linen trade developed between Londonderry and Philadelphia. In the springtime, flaxseed was shipped to Ulster where it was then spun into fine linen and sent back to America to satisfy the strong demand for the cloth. Along with the shipment of linen fabric, many Ulster-Scots made the trans-Atlantic crossing seeking their fortune and opportunity in America. John Elliott, Sr. sent his older son John on a scouting expedition aboard *The Lazy Mary* to America in 1784. If John were to gauge opportunity for the family in the New World, he was directed by his father to send a letter home containing a preposterous suggestion. The Elliotts were comfortably well off in Ireland and lived in a large stone house. Young John who had settled in Pennsylvania, wrote to his father that he was unable to find a suitable house in Pennsylvania; would his father please send their stone home (quite preposterously) to America for him. John Elliott, Sr. received the coded message; packed up his 5 daughters, 2 sons (William & Simon), and numerous cousins on board *The Faithful Steward* for their transport to the New World.



Historic marker in Bethany, Delaware

Family lore passed down by grandchildren of John & William Elliott describe how the astonishing beauty of an Elliott cousin, Mary Lee, caught the eye of Captain McCausland. During the 53-day crossing, the Captain became so enamored of Mary Lee that he proposed as they were nearing landfall. Mary declined the Captain's proposal and family memory describes the captain falling into a drunken stupor, ill-equipped to steer the boat. During the night of September 1, 1785, *The Faithful Steward* ran aground in a wild storm a mere 100-200 yards off-shore. The mainmast and riggings were cut down and tossed into the sea to try to stabilize the ship as it rode the storm-tossed waves. The travelers endured a harrowing night hoping to make it to land the following day! Unfortunately, the merchant ship was sent aground a second time only to eventually break apart. In a desperate attempt to save lives 2 longboats were launched, but they too met with tragedy.

John Elliott, Sr. knowing the eventual outcome sent his two sons, Simon and William to swim ashore laden with some bags of the family gold as their best hope for the family's survival. The two Elliott boys were washed ashore unconscious and robbed of their gold by looters and bandits. The rest of their Elliott siblings and father were drowned in the wreck. Differing accounts list the number of survivors between 55 to 68, of the total passenger count of 270. Sadly, most of the women and children perished. *The Faithful Steward* held close to 400 barrels of small denomination coins minted in England with an image of George III stamped on them. There was no mint in America at the time, so coins were routinely shipped over on merchant vessels. Over the past 235 years, coins from *The Faithful Steward* continue to wash ashore along Coin Beach, near Rehoboth, Delaware.

Left penniless and with their family's belongings pilfered or destroyed, Simon and William Elliott eventually made their way to Pennsylvania to reunite with their brother John Elliott. The reunion of the three Elliott brothers must have been bittersweet as they rejoiced in seeing one another and mourned the devastating loss of their immediate and extended family members.

Simon Elliott moved to Illinois and worked successfully buying cheap government land, and loaning money at a profit. William married and moved with his wife and family to Muskingum County, Ohio and then on to Iowa. John met and married Mary Miller in Pennsylvania. The John Elliotts moved to the Columbia area in Ohio, subsequently purchasing ~112 acres for about \$450 where the Sycamore Creek meets the Little Miami River. It is at this site in Indian Hill where the Elliott home was built in 1803 from stone culled from the Little Miami River and its' banks.



**The John Elliott house in Indian Hill Village**

Harry Wenzel, an author from Indian Valley, PA is publishing a book about the *Faithful Steward*. After conducting extensive research on the ship, its passengers, and their disastrous fate in 1785, he has incorporated the information into an historical novel.



### From the President:

For twenty-nine years, the Indian Hill Historical Society has offered the *One Room Schoolhouse Experience* to local fourth graders. For two weeks in February and March, students from Indian Hill Elementary, Cincinnati Country Day, and St. Gertrude schools attend school at the Little Red Schoolhouse each morning to learn about local history and education in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This year the living history program was cancelled due to the pandemic and the accompanying restrictions on social gatherings.

The *One Room Schoolhouse Experience* is like a time machine in which students are transported more than a hundred years back in time. Their given names are changed to old-fashioned names such as Clementine, Wilhelmina, Jedediah or Ezekiel. As they arrive at the 1873 Washington School, the antique brass bell in the belfry rings in welcome. To begin, the schoolmarm, historian Lindsay McLean, tells stories of early southwest Ohio, particularly Indian Hill. Fascinating historical information is brought to life with illustrations, diagrams, and theatrical renditions of activities such as discipline at the whipping post. Tales of life in a one-room schoolhouse mesmerize the students. They learn about everything from sharing the classroom with children of all ages and grades to participating in calisthenics as part of the daily curriculum. The antiquated lunchboxes and the location of the outhouse in the back yard hold particular fascination. Both parent volunteers and Historical Society staff assist with the activities.

After an interactive session, the children experience some of the activities in a school of the late 1800s. They circulate around the room to five stations in groups of seven to nine. One of their favorite activities is dip pen handwriting. Using an old-fashioned pen and a bottle of ink, the boys and girls copy maxims meant to install proper values, *e.g.*, *He that scatters thorns, let him not go barefoot*, and *Little strokes fell great oaks*. All are required to write with cursive letters. Chalk and individual slate boards are the tools used to practice arithmetic, and the children solve word problems concerning the number of cords of wood needed for winter and how many bushels of oats are needed to feed the horses in the barn. At another station, nineteenth century household items sometimes mystify students who have never seen rug beaters, button hooks, bull leads, or ice tongs. Identifying these antiques and their functions makes the children glad to be alive in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Next is the game of marbles, specifically Picking Plums, which is played with two classmates attempting to knock each other's marbles out of play. At the recitation station, the pupils stand near the teacher's desk, with excellent posture, and read stories aloud from reproductions of an authentic *McGuffey's Reader*.

After the students have tried every activity, the class reconvenes for a summary session to discuss their favorite part of the day and the contrasts between schools of yesteryear and the present. The schoolmarm suggests other nearby places to visit of historical interest, such as Clifton Mill and Waldschmidt House.

Presenting this living history program to area students has become a tradition for the Indian Hill Historical Society, whose mission is "Keeping Indian Hill's Past and Present Alive for Tomorrow." The Society was founded in 1974 to preserve and restore the Washington School, and the Little Red Schoolhouse has become a treasured landmark of Indian Hill. The *One Room Schoolhouse Experience* has received both the Griffin Yeatman Historical Achievement Award and the Ohio Association of Historical Societies and Museums' History Outreach Award. This field trip to the Schoolhouse allows

local youths to experience educational practices of a bygone era. Their teachers and parent volunteers are enthusiastic about the presentation and the activities offered to the students and recognize the merit in sharing the past with future generations.

Students often write thank you notes after their visit. One attendee summed it up by saying, "I learned so much, and I even got to feel what it was like in the 1870s ... The 1870s was very different from now, but it was super fun to go back in time and see what it was like. Thanks again." The Historical Society has every intention of resuming this popular outreach program in 2022. We hope to see everyone at the Schoolhouse again in the year to come.

Rosemary D. Welsh  
President



Dip-ink pens for cursive writing



Math problems on small slates



Recitation from McGuffey's Reader



Playing marbles

## Office News:

With the formation of the Historical Society in 1974, information in many forms (newspapers, photographs, oral histories, legal documents, etc.) has been collected and archived for posterity. With technical advancements over the years, these records have been stored in many formats: paper-based hard copies, cassettes, CD-ROMs, DVDs, and digitally on hard drives or cloud-based storage. For the last 3+ years, a dedicated staff member has been diligently working to digitize all of the records – a task which has no end in sight. Additionally, the Historical Society utilizes a software system, Past Perfect, to facilitate storage, search, and retrieval of all this information. To supplement the research process, a simple database has been created with entries for each historic structure in the Village. Starting with the information found in *From Camargo to Indian Hill* and *Treasured Landmarks of Indian Hill*, and adding information from the Hamilton County Auditor website, Village home owners, and other sources, a database of 211 structures has been created with limited information about each structure. Sadly, this is not a complete listing, but it is a work in progress and has become the “go-to” tool when questions about a property are posed. Hopefully, structures will continue to be added to the database as more information is acquired, and that’s where you, the reader, come into play.



Buckingham Lodge

If you have done any research, history, deed tracing, etc. about your home, family, etc. ***please*** share it with the Historical Society. All forms of information are welcome. Your information will be copied and scanned, and the originals will be returned to you.

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

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.

Happy Spring!

*The Indian Hill Historical Society*

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