



INDIAN HILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

E-Newsletter

January, 2022

Vol. 13

What's Been Happening This Past Quarter?

Wine Tasting with Piazza Discepoli, October 17th

We were all in for a treat when representatives from Piazza-Discepoli of Madeira arrived at Livingston Lodge laden with exquisite French wines for the tasting. Spencer Tackett and Jennifer Goosman shared their vast knowledge of wines and food pairings with the audience. The sampled spirits included Champagne, White Burgundy, Beaujolais, and Red Blend. Intimate details of the vineyards, vintners, and grapes were conveyed providing the listeners with an appreciation for the history and culture of the wines.

It was a happy gathering of old and new friends!



Jennifer Goosman, Rosemary Ballard,
Janet Reynolds, Cynthia King, Spencer Tackett



Don Harrison with Rebecca Bugos



Tina DiSanto & Emily Stahl



Jon & Ann Keeling, Evelyn & Gary Kirschner,
Kent Little



Malcolm Ballard &
Pam Middendorff



Chip Hunter, Greg Miller, &
Andy MacKay

Annual Village Christmas Party, December 5th

Santa stopped by the Little Red Schoolhouse on Sunday, December 5th to greet his fans, both young and old. He was delivered in a bright red, open-air, retired fire truck. The Schoolhouse was bedecked in its holiday glory and welcomed all. A tent was set up on the lawn, and children played in the schoolyard. Eggnog, cookies, candy canes and other sweets were available for all. Many happy faces were seen, and fun times were had at the 38th Village Christmas Party hosted by the IH Historical Society.



Member News, 4th Quarter, 2021 Updates

New Members:

Carolyn & Phil Buffington
Michael Camacci
Sarah Cohen
Kerry & Jayson Daus
Jill & David Devine
Elizabeth & Chris Hardy
Kim & Michael Hoeting
Allison & Eric Kahn

Rosalind & Duncan Moir
Nancy & Malott Nyhart
Allison & Brian Phelps
Carol & Steve Reubel
Coco & George Taliafero
Lauren Thaman
Arianna & Rob Warfel

Renewals:

Robin & John Armstrong
Jennifer & Harold Angus
Bonnie Bachman
Rebecca Bugos
Sue & Kent Cunningham
Diana Jaeger
John Johnston
Paula & Bob Lindner, Jr.
Mary & Michael McGraw

Andy MacKay
Linnea Nadel
Emma & Warner Off
Marlyn Rabenold
Stephanie & Keith Rabenold
Buffie & Eppa Rixey
Diana & Basil Rowe
Janet & Scott Sayre
Emily & Jeff Schoeny

Monique & Michael Sewell
Melinda & Robert Sherman
Joanne Sloneker
Kathy & David Turner
Ginger & David Warner
Ginny & Al White
Sally & Tony Woodward
Debra & David Wright

New Business Member:

Juila Wesselkamper – Coldwell Banker Realty

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



Thanks to Our Business Members

<p>Core Strengths Management Dennis Schuler</p>			
	<p>MICHAEL F. GEHRIG Attorney At Law</p>	<p>ERIC HOLZAPFEL Attorney At Law</p>	
	 <p>Mariemont Inn</p>		
 <p>Judy Recker SIBCY CLINE REALTORS</p>	<p>SCOTT CONCRETE</p>		
		<p>Taft FOCUSED CAPITOL SOLUTIONS LLC</p>	
			



Featured History Topic:



The Jefferson Grange in Indian Hill

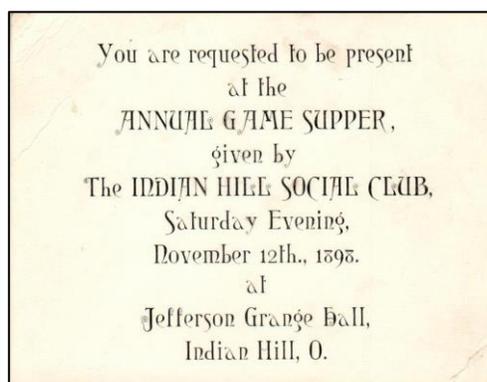
By Lawre Finn-Bonekemper

Most 19th century residents of Indian Hill were independent farmers with small-scale growing plots and/or livestock. It was subsistence agriculture, although a few farmers sold excess produce from a farm cart on their property or carted it to Madisonville to sell. After the Civil War, the farming landscape changed nationwide as agriculture became more industrialized and commercialized. New methods of farming were being introduced such as crop rotation, fertilization, and soil conservation. In 1867, the National Fraternity of the Order of the Patrons of Husbandry (P of H) was founded to help spread these new ideas. It was a non-partisan, political fraternity open to men and women for the promotion of mutual cooperation in the community and agricultural activities.

Local “Grange” chapters of P of H were formed throughout the country, and by the 1870’s the organization had over 1.5mm members! This organization was particularly popular in the South which was rebuilding the war-torn countryside. While membership has declined over the years, P of H still has about 1,700 chapters today. The word “grange” was long used in England when referring to large farming estates.

A local chapter, “Jefferson Grange, #1164”, was formed in Indian Hill in 1875, and was one of over 900+ “Granges” in Ohio. There was a building near the southeast corner of Drake Rd. and Beacon Hill where the Jefferson Grange chapter was established. It is unclear who originally owned the Grange property or built the structure. Meetings were held to discuss and learn about the latest farming techniques. It also provided an important opportunity for community building and cooperation among Indian Hill residents.

The Ladies Aid Society (LAS), a group organized to support Armstrong Chapel, purchased the Grange property from the Jefferson Grange chapter in 1899 for \$425. It was then rented back to Grange members and other local groups for meetings, music concerts, plays, quilting bees, square dances, vaudeville and minstrel shows, etc. Under the ownership of the LAS, the Grange Hall and property flourished as a community center. Per some oral histories in the Historical Society archives, it rapidly became the scene for all the local activities during the years of growing up for residents such as Jack and Clyde Stevens, Viola Chapman Waite, and Bill DeMar, to name-drop a few of the locals.



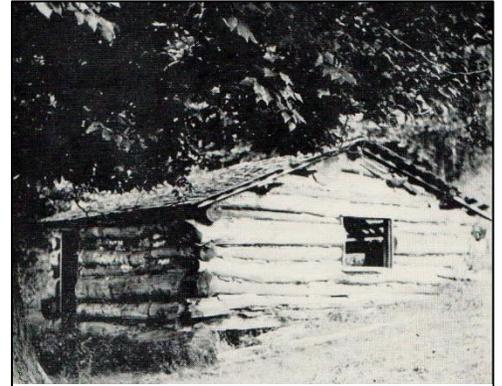
People of all ages within the community participated in the numerous events at the Grange. The Indian Hill Silver Cornet Band became the house band for many of the events. Through an oral history with Jack Stevens who reminisced about the band, he shared, “It is hard to imagine anything more unique



Indian Hill Band, c. 1904

than a quartet employing a row of tin cans somehow connected to a horn from an Atwater-Kent radio and piped to a kazoo!” He added that, “I played an ocarina, often called a ‘sweet potato’, while Gaylord Finch and Willis Jackson each held four bottles containing different amounts of water, blowing across them to produce the different music tones.” It’s hard to imagine what that sounded like! As years passed, this band became more organized and became known as the “Indian Hill Band”.

As Indian Hill became more populated and its soils depleted, farming declined in the Village. The Jefferson Grange formally disbanded in 1917. However, the Grange location had become such a popular gathering place that the LAS purchased a house next door to Grange Hall in 1919 to expand the facility. This second building became known as the “Community Center” and was primarily rented to the Men’s Club. This club’s purpose was to provide sociability throughout the neighborhood, increase a neighborly spirit, and forward the well-being of the community in every way. The building was refurbished to house an extension of the Hamilton County Public Library, as well as rooms for pool and card playing. Eventually, two baseball diamonds were built across the street, too.



Early log cabin above Walton Creek from *Hither and Yon on Indian Hill*

At the end of the summer, a two-day fair was held each year. According to *Hither and Yon on Indian Hill*, “All who lived on Indian Hill were invited to participate; to enter fruits and vegetables and grain, domestic animals and fowl, cabinet work and embroidery and sewing and crocheting. Prizes were ribbons, blue, red and white for adults, but for children (to encourage them to sew and darn, to raise beans or corn or pigs and chickens), the first prize might be as much as a dollar.”

As the Village of Indian Hill continued to develop with paved roads, new schools, new churches, subdivisions and new homes, opportunities for social interactions, activities, and entertainments grew. There was less need for Grange Hall and Community Center. The Men’s Club ceased in April 1934; the Ladies Aid Society held their last meeting in April, 1936. The Grange Hall was razed in 1941.

In today’s world with so many distractions and options for entertainment and activities, it’s hard to relate to the less complicated life at the turn of the 20th century in Indian Hill. It was a physically hard life requiring toil and labor to carve out a living. There was no electricity and few paved roads; walking or horse & buggy were the main forms of transport (although the Swing Line rail ran through the parts of the Village); Madeira was not the commercial district of today – Madisonville was the primary commerce hub for the southern part of Indian Hill; and one room schoolhouses were the only options. The Jefferson Grange facility provided important opportunities for community gatherings and helped to lay the groundwork for improving “neighborly spirit” and promoting the “well-being of the community in every way” for Indian Hill residents.



From the President:

Bob Greiwe: Designer of the Official Flag of the Village of Indian Hill

In 1995, Indian Hill celebrated the Bicentennial of the founding of the Village two hundred years earlier. The commemorative activities included the creation of a Bicentennial logo, a Bicentennial sculpture which is still displayed at Stephan Field, plus Bicentennial tee shirts, ball caps, and golf shirts. The traditional 4th of July parade had a Bicentennial theme, and a Bicentennial time capsule was placed at the Village Administration office.

In keeping with its mission of “Keeping Indian Hill’s Past and Present Alive for Tomorrow,” the Indian Hill Historical Society sponsored a competition to design a permanent flag for the Village. Entries from local artists were accepted from January 1 until March 31, 1995. The selection process was based on specific criteria. Points were awarded for various aspects of each flag, including appropriateness to the Village, readability, historical merit, and artistic merit. A seven-member selection committee comprised of Village residents and officials chose the winner from over two dozen entries.

The winning flag was designed by Robert L. Greiwe, a long-time Village resident. Mr. Greiwe recalled that the mayor at the time, Don Klekamp, inspired him to enter the competition. Mr. Greiwe’s design incorporated the Village seal on a field of blue with a red border around the perimeter. Reflecting on the design, Mr. Greiwe said he wanted it to “look like a flag” and reflect the colors of the American flag. He used a simple circular motif to focus attention on the center of the flag and a red border to tie it all together. “It came down to layout and balance, color and design,” he explained.



8020 Blome Road

Bob Greiwe was raised on his parents’ 14-acre farm at 8020 Blome Road, and his childhood memories influenced his decision to live in the Village for over 30 years. He recalled tending a 2-acre garden, mowing 5 or 6 acres of grass with a push mower, harvesting fruit from apple, peach, and pear trees, and caring for chickens, ducks, and a pony. As a youth, he and his dog explored the creek under the historic Blome Road bridge, often sharing a can of baked beans for lunch. Sunday afternoons at the farm were memorable for the baseball games in the back yard, when families picnicked, and the fathers competed. As a teen-ager, Bob cruised around with his pals at

Frisch’s Mainliner and took dates to Coney Island or the Montgomery Drive-In movie theater. Later, Bob and his wife, Kay, raised their five children in a home at 8001 Graves Road that Bob designed.

Mr. Greiwe, now a spirited 89, had a distinguished career in the design field for many years. He and his brother Dick joined the family business, Greiwe Decorating Company, which was founded by their

grandfather in 1881. Initially a specialty painting company, the business expanded to include wallpaper and décor. Both brothers attended the Parsons School of Design in New York City, and Bob later graduated from the College of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning at the University of Cincinnati. By the 1990s, Greiwe Interiors was one of Cincinnati's largest interior design firms, and Bob had won five awards from the American Society of Interior Designers. One of the awards was for designing the Spirit of America, a replica of an 1870's sidewheeler offering dining and entertainment. Bob crisscrossed Ohio tracking down art, artifacts, and memorabilia from the steamboat era. In 2016, the University of Cincinnati bestowed its Distinguished Alumni Award on Mr. Greiwe. Over the years Bob's interests have broadened to include oil and watercolor painting, writing three books, tennis, automobile racing and restoration, and local history.

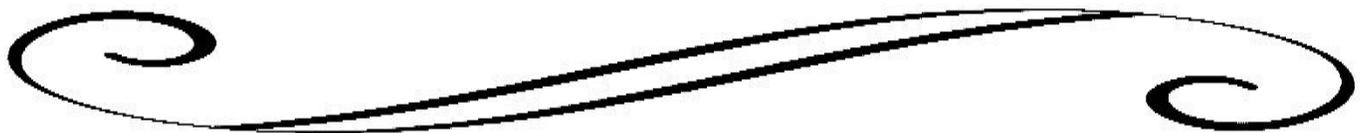
Greiwe, Inc., continues as the oldest interior design firm in the United States, now managed by the fourth generation of Greiwe family members. Before creating the official flag of Indian Hill, Bob redesigned the Great Seal of the State of Ohio in 1967. It is still in use statewide today. In 1995 when Bob Greiwe was announced as the winner of the Bicentennial flag contest, he said, "This community has done a lot for me, and I am very happy to give back, especially during this Bicentennial year." The 3'x 5' flag was unfurled for the first time at the July 4th Parade. Greiwe and the Village obtained full-sized, custom-made flags, and replicas were available for purchase by residents. Since then, the flag has been displayed at Village buildings, including the Little Red Schoolhouse.



Governor Rhodes, State Representative R. Kohnen, and Bob Greiwe with the redesigned Great Seal of Ohio

Recently, Bob Greiwe donated his personal custom-made flag to the Indian Hill Historical Society, the sponsor of the flag contest. His generous gift was gratefully accepted, and the flag will be kept in perpetuity at the Society's office, representing this historic community and honoring Mr. Greiwe's creative genius.

Rosemary D. Welsh



Office News:

The return of programs in the Fall of 2021 was terrific – it was great to see members & friends, and to meet new people at these events. Plans are underway to resume programs in March, and our fingers are crossed hoping the recent coronavirus surge dissipates.



Buckingham Lodge

Buckingham Lodge recently underwent a little sprucing up with the replacement of the back deck. It had been about 30 years since the construction of the existing wooden deck, and it was high time to redo it. The new deck is made of composite materials to reduce future maintenance needs, and solar lights were installed on the railing posts to provide additional nighttime lighting.

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 or phone: 513-891-1873.

Wishing you a happy and healthy 2022!

The Indian Hill Historical Society

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