



Indian Hill Historical Society

Mission:

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

E-NewsLetter, April 2019, Vol. 2

* * * * *

What's Been Happening?

The **28th One Room Schoolhouse Experience** took place for 2 weeks at the end of January and beginning of February. Over 300 fourth graders from Indian Hill Elementary School, Cincinnati Country Day School, and St. Gertrude School travelled “back in time” to the Little Red Schoolhouse to experience what it was like in the late 1800’s at school. They learned about how the settlers came to the Ohio River valley and began their lives here. (See “*From the Archives*” in this newsletter for more information about the settlers.)



In this day of tech everywhere, it’s wonderful to see such fun with the marble game, “Picking Plums”.



Students working with dip ink pens to write cursive letters – definitely a challenge!

Next came some hands-on experiences with reciting from the McGuffey Reader, cursive writing with pen & ink dip pens (it’s not as easy as it looks), using small slate boards to figure out math problems, touching and seeing tools used in the late 1800’s (the bull lead is always a favorite), and having fun with marbles. It’s a great day for learning and a very memorable experience for all.

Since this program has been going on for almost 3 decades, it was terrific to have a grandmother as a volunteer. She had as much fun with her granddaughter this year as she had with her daughter a “few” years ago. This wonderful tradition at the Little Red Schoolhouse continues.

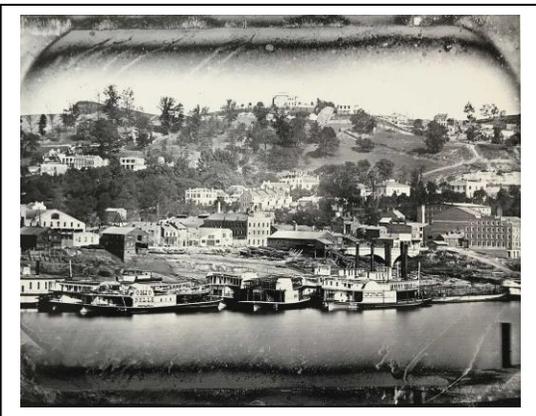
What's Been Happening? *Continued*

The Patron Party: The Indian Hill Historical Society held its annual “Thank You” party in appreciation of the Benefactors, Cornerstone, 1873 Club, and Life members whose support and contributions help the Society work towards its mission: “Keeping Indian Hill’s Past and Present Alive for Tomorrow.” This event is usually held in one on the Village’s historic homes, and this year, Peterloon was selected for the occasion. The beautiful home built in 1930 for Mr. & Mrs. John J. Emery is magnificent with its beautiful wood floors, walls, and ceilings – many imported from an English country home dating from the time of James II. Several rooms have French Versailles era wooden parquet floors, too. Today, the estate is managed by the Peterloon Foundation which provides charitable contributions for human services, health and welfare, and educational and cultural organizations throughout the metropolitan Cincinnati area.



1848 Panorama of Cincinnati: On September 24, 1848, Charles Fontayne and William S. Porter set up their camera on a rooftop in Newport, Kentucky and panned across approximately 2 miles of the Ohio River capturing on eight separate daguerreotype plates a panorama of the nation’s sixth largest city, Cincinnati. This photograph was so exceptional that it was displayed at the Crystal Palace in London for the first World’s Fair in 1851.

This 8-panel daguerreotype is on display at the Cincinnati Public Library downtown. In 2008, these brass panels were cleaned and digitized, and a richness of details previously unseen emerged. For example, it became possible to read the time on the clock tower and know these photographs were taken at 1:55 p.m.! The speaker, Chris Smith, of the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, introduced the capacity audience to many of the interesting features captured in the prints.

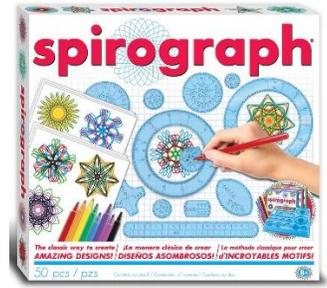


◀ In this panel, # 6 of 8, the hill in the background is Mt. Adams. The Observatory, dedicated by John Quincy Adams in 1843, appears in the top, center of the photograph.
At the shoreline, the riverboats include the *Ohio Belle* and the *Cincinnati*. There are 2 side-wheelers under construction, too.

Upcoming Events:

The History of Kenner Toys, May 19th, 4:30 p.m. Little Red Schoolhouse

Remember those great childhood toys - Easy Bake Oven, Spirograph, Girder and Panel building sets, and all the action figures such as Batman, Darth Vader, Superman, etc. that were mainstays of fun and imagination for children? Founded in 1946 in Cincinnati, Ohio by two brothers, Phillip and Joseph Steiner, the Kenner brand created memorable favorites until 2000. It was a pioneer in the use of television advertising for the marketing of



merchandise across the United States. Learn about the inspirations behind the minds that created these toys, and the fun they had in doing so! A delectable dinner will be served after the program

May	June	July	August
<p>19th, 4:30 p.m. <u>The History of Kenner Toys</u></p>		<p>4th, 10:00 a.m. <u>The Indian Hill Village July 4th Parade</u> is a long-standing tradition and the Indian Hill Historical Society always participates.</p>	<p>The Annual Mailer which lists the programs for the upcoming season. Keep a lookout for it in the mail.</p>

Please visit the website: www.indianhill.org for more details on these programs.

Member News, 1st Quarter, 2019

New Members:

Neil Badlani
 Carey & Melissa Chen

Greg & Amy Dowling
 Howard Jinkinson & Kathy Bernard
 The Tamborski Family

Renewals:

Cecile Allyn
 Bonnie Bachman
 Nicholas & Gail Bagnoli
 Amar & Tanu Bhati
 William & Mary Bramlage
 John & Rhoda Brooks
 Otto & Sandra Budig
 Richard Cocks
 Grant & Melissa Cowan
 Renie Dohrmann

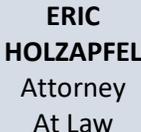
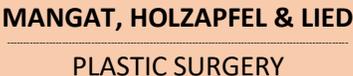
Helen Dupree
 Louisa Fleischmann
 James Geier & Gregory Smith
 George & Mona Glover
 Karl & Donna Grafe
 Don Harrison
 Cathy Hausknecht
 Chip & Susan Hunter
 Dennis Janson
 John & Maureen Johnston

Gregory & Cynthia Kennedy
 Pat & Mary Kirk
 Ann Weichert Kranbuhl
 John & Leslie Krehbiel
 Sandy Laney
 Anne Lawrence
 Brad & Marsha Lindner
 Bob & Paula Lindner
 Ed & Ina Loftspring
 Esh & Simona Lunken
 Andy MacKay
 Hal & Marion Merten
 Richard & Barbara Messinger
 Todd & Tracey Motto

Dan & Kellie Peters
 Barbara Pope
 Marylyn Rabenold
 Eppa & Buffie Rixey
 Basil & Diana Rowe
 Janet Sayre
 Clark & Ellen Sole
 The Tamborski Family
 Linda Trebbi
 David & Kathy Turner
 Phil & Bebe Vollmer
 Frank & Rosemary Welsh
 James & Alison Zimmerman

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

Thanks to Our Business Members

					
 Mariemont Inn					
		 Sandra's Scratch Kitchen			
					
					

From the Archives ...

by Trish Krehbiel, IH Historical Society Librarian

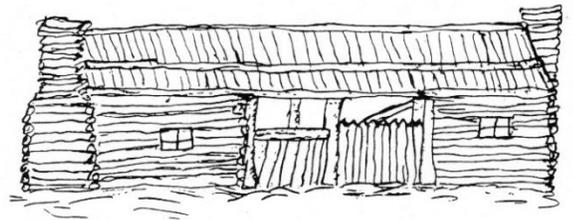
Life in the Early Settlements around Indian Hill

With self-driving cars beginning to populate our roads, it becomes harder and harder to imagine life in our area more than 2 centuries ago. The “Welcome to Indian Hill” road signs that greet drivers as they enter the Village tell us that the area was settled in 1795. What must life have been like in the late 1700s?

In the Historical Society’s archives are files with descriptions and memories of past residents that help us learn how the past landscape differed from the roads we traverse today. Documents and deeds exist that confirm the first purchase of land was made by Judge John Cleves Symmes. Symmes was a resident of New Jersey, and served as one of its delegates to the Continental Congress. With a purchase of 300,000+ acres of land between the Little and Great Miami Rivers in 1794, Symmes set out to survey his portion of the Northwest Territory. A 10,000 acre portion of Symmes land was sold to Captain Benjamin Stites.

The men who came out to survey and live in this part of the Northwest Territory had to learn to co-exist with the Native Americans. Stites’ little community built a fortified blockhouse and group of cabins and named this area (encompassing Indian Hill)

Columbia. In present day Madisonville, Nelson’s Station was established which provided a gathering place for the residents in times of danger. What a terrifying journey it must have been racing to a small, wooden structure to be with other settlers and the safety of numbers.



Nelson’s Station, 1808

Being near the banks of several waterways, namely the Ohio, Great and Little Miami rivers, the land was fertile for farming and growing of fruit. The rivers and surrounding wilderness were full of game to provide food and pelts for trading. The natural resources that made this area attractive to the early pioneers are the reasons that compelled the Shawnee Indians to use it as a hunting ground. The story passed on through time is that Shawnees stole 3 horses in our area. One of the horses was lame and the Indian stealing it was caught, killed, and buried on the Hill. When a subsequent farmer came across the remains, legend has it that our area began to be referred to as Indian Hill. We have only oral history to back up the story of how our village became known as Indian Hill. However, in 1940, a reporter for the *Cincinnati Times-Star* uncovered a transcript of payment made to compensate some settlers for horses that the Shawnee Indians had stolen in 1796 in Hamilton County. The document approved and signed by Governor William Henry Harrison lends credence to the tale of the Indians’ raid on the horses in our village.



Flatboat

A first-hand account comes from Mary Covalt Jones, who came with her pioneer family from Pennsylvania in early 1790. Mary’s father, Captain Covalt led a group of families to present day Terrace Park. Mary’s memories describe travel on boats laden with provisions and livestock hampered and stuck in ice at perilous times during the journey. Ohio was known as Indian

Country back then, and safety was in numbers. When Covalt's group arrived, they lived on the boat and in tents until they were able to cut down oak trees with axes and erect cabins for themselves. Having brought a millstone to grind grain, Covalt bought acreage and erected the first mill. The dangers of settling in the Ohio Valley plagued the pioneers and their families.

Separating fact from legend, the truth is held hostage by the cold trail of relying on long ago memories. Perhaps the jumble of facts inspires our imaginations to contrast our riding in cars along the Village roadways with the settlers, no doubt laden with game and provisions, walking and riding on horseback on these same paths.

Office News:

Finally, Spring is here! With many fits and starts, the trees are budding, the grass is greening, and the breeze is warming. YAY! The office is busy with program planning for the 2019-2020 season, researching questions which come in via email and phone, and continuing the digitization work, as always.



Buckingham Lodge

We have also been traipsing through the woods in search of pioneer cemeteries. So far, we have visited two of them. Along the lines of the "From the Archives" article in this issue, it's amazing to think about these hardy souls who came to the Ohio Wilderness and carved out their homes and lands. Look for more about these cemeteries, and hopefully the settlers, in a future issue of this newsletter.

Your comments and suggestions are always welcome. Please contact us through email: history@indianhill.org or phone: 513-891-1873.

Happy Spring!

The Indian Hill Historical Society

Indian Hill Historical Society Trustees

Rosemary Welsh, President
Chip Hunter, Vice President
Greg Miller, Vice President
Lois Rust, Secretary
Jim Barber, Treasurer
Ginny White, President
Emeritus

Judith Affatato
Rosemary Ballard
Brenda Benzar
Mary Bramlage
Edgar Cox
Dan Feigelson
Noah Fleischmann
George Glover

Barbara Hauck
Susan Holzapfel
Ed Jacobs
Cynthia King
Kent Little
Molly Lucien
Andy MacKay
Janet Reynolds

Office Staff:

Lawre Bonekemper
Administrator

Lindsay McLean
Historian

Trish Krehbiel
Librarian