

INDIAN HILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

E-Newsletter

April 2023

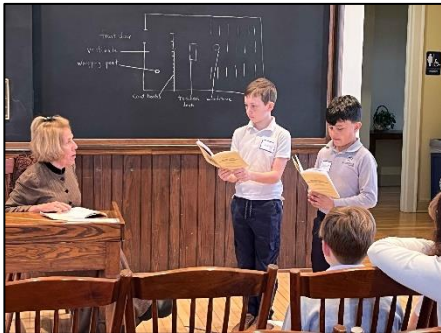
Vol. 18

What's Been Going On?

4th Grade One-Room Schoolhouse Experience, February 28th - March 1st

After a 2-year hiatus due to Covid, the Historical Society opened the doors of the Little Red Schoolhouse to welcome local schools' 4th graders to an interactive history experience. The students learned about what life and school was like in the late 1800s and engaged in hands-on activities such as reading from a McGuffey's Reader, practicing dip-ink pen cursive writing, working on math problems with small slate boards, identifying tools and items used in the late 1800s, and playing marbles. It was a fun day filled with learning.

This was the 30th year of this award-winning program which the Historical Society provides for the community.



Reading from the McGuffey's Reader



Cursive writing with dip-ink pens



Indoor calisthenics



Working math problems on slates



Identifying objects used in the 1800s



Playing marbles

Little Known Facts of Indian Hill, March 19th

The Little Red Schoolhouse was filled to the brim with an audience hoping to learn more about the Village. Presenter and Board Treasurer Chip Hunter entertained the room with many fun, fascinating, obscure, and memorable tales of people, places, and events from the past years. It was an entertaining afternoon with new and old friends at the Schoolhouse.



Gloria Uziel & Patrick Shea with
Rosemary & Frank Welsh



Ruth Estep with Frani & Don Jones



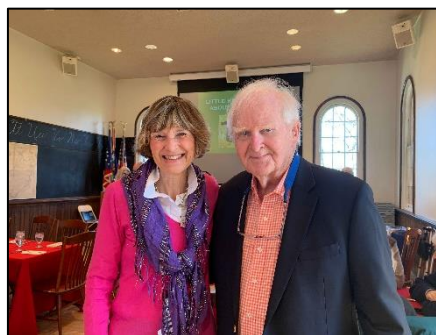
Deb Bradley & Polly Whittaker



Bill & Chris Judd with Rick Vogel



Karl & Donna Graf with Grep Frappier



Rosemary Ballard & Dick Bethel

Upcoming Events:

April	May	June
<p>23rd, 4:30 p.m. <u>The Story of Jay Trump</u> tells the tale of a horse and local owner who took the world by storm winning the English Grand National Steeplechase. The Annual Meeting of the Historical Society will be held at the start of the program.</p>	<p>21st, 4:30 p.m. <u>Trails & Trees: A History of IH's Green Areas and Bridle Trails</u> will look at the beautiful greenery and nature of the Village.</p>	<p>4th, 4:00 p.m. <u>The Patron Party</u> is held in one of Indian Hill's finest homes, this annual "Thank-You" party is for the many generous supporters of the Historical Society.</p> <p><i>By invitation</i></p>

Member News: 1st Quarter, 2023 Updates

Thank you to all the new & renewing members this past quarter

New Members this quarter:

Joann Rude Chamberlin
Laila Frank
Holly Rebensdorf

Karen & Rene Robichaud
Matthew Schloss

New Business Member this quarter

Cincinnati Country Day School

Renewals this quarter:

Clare Ackermann
Mary & Bill Bramlage
Kathy Bernard
Tanu & Amar Bhati
Susan & Neil Bortz
Sandra & Otto Budig
Lissa & Michael Cambron
Bill & Liz Colohan
Norma & Leo Dean
Molly & Benjy Diesbach
Karen Dinsmore
Renie Dohrmann
Donna & Karl Grafe
Susan & Gary Green

Cornelius Hauck
Alicia & Jeff Heinichen
Kathy & Rich Hidy
Susan & Chip Hunter
Dennis Janson
Greg Kenny
Zofeen & Khurram Khan
Don Klekamp
Ann Kranbuhl
Leslie & John Krehbiel
Eddie Lane
Sandy Laney
Sue Lawrence
Ina & Ed Loftsprig

Simona & Esh Lunken
Doug Manzler
Debbie & Rich Oliver
Kellie & Dan Peters
Janet & Scott Sayre
Lynda & Ray Schilderink
Monique & Mike Sewell
Clark Sole
Kathy & David Turner
Rick Vogel
Bebe & Philip Vollmer
Rosemary & Frank Welsh
Debbie & Bill Zimmer
Alison & Jim Zimmerman

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



Thanks to Our Business Members

 <p>Doggie Day Care Madeira – Opening 7/2023 8185 Camargo Rd.</p>			
 <p>GINA DUBELL SMITH'S Designed2Sell Team</p> 			
<p>MICHAEL F. GEHRIG Attorney At Law</p>	<p>ERIC HOLZAPFEL Attorney At Law</p>		 <p>Mariemont Inn Best Western Premier</p>
			
<p>Taft FOCUSED CAPITOL SOLUTIONS LLC</p>			
		 	



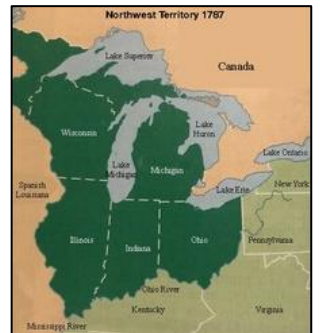
Camp Dennison: The Northwest Territory

By Trish Krehbiel, IHHS Archivist

In my effort to digitize our collection of archives, I stumble onto some incredible stories. Imagine, if you will, selecting play on an audio recording and hearing the voice of a woman who lived in Camp Dennison in the late 1800s sharing her memories! I was fortunate enough to listen to an oral history taken by a past resident who was somewhat of a scholar on the topic of the history of the Camp Dennison area. In addition, a member of the Daughters of The American Revolution (D.A.R.), recently sent an inquiry searching for any information we had regarding the Waldschmidt House prior to the 1940s. With a lot of information about the Camp Dennison area swirling on my desk, I dug deeper into our archives and learned some interesting facts that relate to the area at the Little Miami River's edge of the Village. This article is the first of several I am working on to share knowledge of the Camp Dennison area that we have in our Historical Society archives.

Prior to the Civil War era, Camp Dennison was known as New Germany, Big Bottom, and further back, part of the Northwest Territory. The pioneers who headed out this way were in search of freedom, looking for an opportunity to prosper, and were surely people full of courage, optimism, and practical skills. The pioneers set out into a frontier, the Northwest Territory, that had previously been land the Hopewell mound builders inhabited over 12,000 years ago.

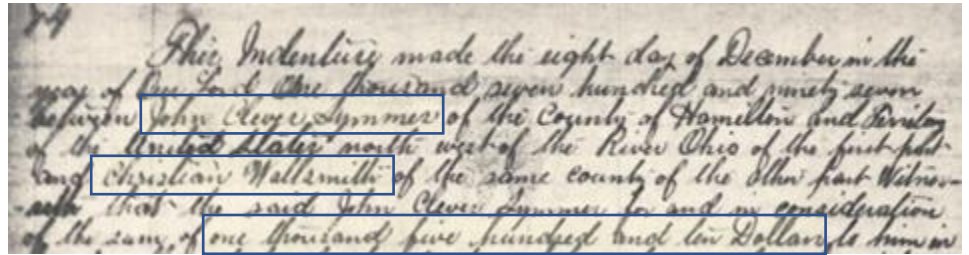
As far back as the late 1600s there is record of French-Canadian explorers traveling to the O-y-o, ("great river" in the Iroquois language). Fast forward to the end of the American Revolution; the area west of Pennsylvania, northwest of the Ohio River, east of the Mississippi River and below the Great Lakes was ceded to the new country of America through the signing of The Treaty of Paris in 1783. A map of today's state boundaries shows the Northwest Territory encompassed all or part of the following 6 states Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, and NE Minnesota.



The arrival of such a vast amount of land required several iterations of the Northwest (NW) Ordinance to settle the legalities of settlement and ownership. Converging needs of expansion, remuneration for war service, and the debts owed by the nascent United States were addressed and codified by the ordinance. The floodgates of settlement into the Ohio Country were figuratively opened.

In the Historical Society's library and archive collection there is information on the following 1790s pioneers who came to explore and live in this region; Benjamin Stites, Judge John Cleves Symmes, the Covalts and the Waldschmidt family, to name a few. I will be primarily focused on Christian Waldschmidt and his family, as they were the settlers who came to the area near the east banks of the Little Miami River, in present day Camp Dennison. Three contributing reasons why Waldschmidt traveled west from his home in Pennsylvania may have been seeking recompense for his Revolutionary War service, opposition to the Whiskey tax, and/or searching for religious freedom. But, almost certainly based on the successful industry and community Waldschmidt directed and led here, the imprint of the NW Ordinance of 1787 aligned with his views. The importance placed on education, religion and land ownership were codified by the 1787 NW Ordinance.

In the late 1700s, John Cleves Symmes received his Land Patent to the vast acreage known as The Miami Purchase. Symmes' name appears on many of the early deeds for land purchase in Indian Hill and the surrounding communities. Found in 2 recent additions to the



A portion of one of several land grants by John Cleves Symmes to Christian Waldschmidt. This parcel was sold for 1,510 \$ (Spanish dollars).

Historical Society's Library, Waldschmidt's purchases of land are listed. In 1795, Waldschmidt paid over 3,000 \$ Spanish dollars to Symmes for a substantial tract of land in the Little Miami River valley. Spanish dollars were considered the most reliable currency in the late 1700s and were the coin of trade with the West Indies. Interestingly, as early as the 1600s, Spanish dollars were used across Europe, the Far East, and in the Americas as a trusted world-wide currency.

Waldschmidt and his fellow Pennsylvanians, having purchased title to their land, set upon the task of working to thrive and settle into their new homeland. In my next article, I will visit a first-person account and the historical record to recount the story of Waldschmidt's impact on this local slice of the Northwest Territory.



The Waldschmidt house in Camp Dennison





From the President:

The 150th Anniversary of the Little Red Schoolhouse

In 1873 the Symmes Township Trustees purchased land at the northeast corner of Camargo and Given Roads for \$340. Soon afterwards the one-room Washington School was constructed. Named for George Washington, its nickname was the Little Red Schoolhouse. It has been a focus of the community's life ever since.

The first group of 52 students was taught by Charles Earhart, who educated all grades, 1 through 8. The room was heated by a pot-bellied wood stove and later by a coal furnace. Students walked to school and learned the three R's as well as cursive penmanship and geography. A music teacher came once a week, arriving by horse and buggy. She prepared the children for the Christmas recital and the annual end-of-the-year production. Pupils engaged in methodical recitations, class by class and subject by subject.

Washington School still looks much as it did when the youths of agrarian Ohio were educated there. Constructed of local brick, it has an entry cloakroom capped by the belfry. The pull rope for the school bell descends through the ceiling. A full basement once used for coal storage now houses items used for historical programs and a bridal dressing area. Notable architectural features distinguish Washington School. Among them are the double doors, the fanlight transom at the entry, ten tall arched windows with companion shutters, and decorative brickwork accenting the structure's façade. The interior vestibule leads to the main room, which has hardwood floors and the original blackboard on the north wall. Two doorways which used to provide access to the exterior (and the outhouses) now lead to the restrooms and kitchen.

The Little Red Schoolhouse served the community well for its first 60 years. Besides its educational role, the schoolhouse became a hub for social activities, including student performances, card parties featuring euchre and five hundred, oyster suppers, and meetings of a parent organization similar to today's PTAs. It was also a polling place on Election Day.



1893 Class Picture at the Washington School



1944

In 1940 the Ohio legislature passed the School Foundation Act in order to develop larger organized school districts, resulting in the closure of many small schools, including Washington School. When Indian Hill Village was incorporated in 1941, the school became its administrative office until the current Williamsburg-style administration building was completed in 1956. From 1956-1961, the schoolhouse was utilized as a community building and then as the headquarters of the Board of Education until 1972 when the Board moved to the current high school.

In 1973 the Village Council invited resident Tyler Emerson to form a committee to find a use for the old building. With the support of 100 local families who donated \$100 each, the Indian Hill Historical Museum Association, now known as the Indian Hill Historical Society, was founded and the schoolhouse was preserved. The founders' names are written in calligraphy on the vestibule wall. The schoolhouse was entered into the National Register of Historic Places in 1975. With generous assistance from the Village, a modern kitchen, two new restrooms, and a handicapped entrance were added in 2004.

Currently the Little Red Schoolhouse is used for meetings and functions of the Historical Society and also for social gatherings. It continues as an historic landmark and a place where local citizens congregate for education, enrichment, family events, and celebrations. Happy 150th Anniversary!

Rosemary Welsh
President

Below are pictures from 1974 when the Indian Hill Historical Society started work on renovations at the Little Red Schoolhouse.



Office News:

Things in the office continue to hum along with a full program schedule, rentals of the Schoolhouse, planning for the next season of interesting programs, researching and writing articles, transcribing oral histories, digitizing – always digitizing, and more! We are migrating to a new system for accessing the archives and are looking forward to providing web-access to these historical treasures in the near future.



Buckingham Lodge

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

Happy Spring!

The Indian Hill Historical Society

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