

The Story of the Indian Hill Historical Society

The Indian Hill Historical Museum Association was begun in 1973 by a group of fifteen Village residents led by Tyler Emerson who wished to preserve The Little Red Schoolhouse. The building was repaired and restored. In 1974 the Board of Trustees stated that their plan for the Schoolhouse was "after restoration, to collect and contain here the history of Indian Hill and its region and to be an educational center."

The beginnings of IHHMA/IHHS were supported by a group of over 100 families as "founders." Each contributed \$100 within the first year to establish a fund to restore the Schoolhouse. In its early years the organization was geared toward the concept of a "museum."

The first years saw emphasis on exhibits, with the driving idea being that the Schoolhouse would be a museum to preserve and present artifacts and art pertaining to Indian Hill. Undoubtedly one of the most successful art exhibits was the Farny show of 1975. However, by 1982, with a lessening of interest in exhibits and shows as the predominant feature of each year, the Board moved away from the concept of a museum; and the name was changed to "The Indian Hill Historical Society."

Following the goals "to chronicle and preserve the history of this Village through photographs and research," an estate photo collection was begun in 1977, based on the "Map of Camargo." Virginia White's first book, From Camargo to Indian Hill was based on this pictorial exhibit.

The Little Red Schoolhouse has served as a social center for the Village. The annual House Tour (1979-present), the Village Christmas Party (1980-present), dinner programs, slide shows and travel talks, and musical and theatrical presentations have had a place in the planning for each year. However, it has been the programs centered on aspects of life in the Village, featuring speakers on the history of Indian Hill, that have been the best received.

IHHS has taken a stand on matters pertaining to zoning and preservation, always encouraging the retention of historic properties. Founded to restore the Schoolhouse, it has also worked to preserve such properties as Buckingham Lodge, the Elliott House, and the Jefferson School. IHHS is still dedicated to the preservation of landmark properties in the Village, through publications illustrating their value, the Historic Landmark Plaque program, and through attention to current issues regarding Village planning.

To communicate the Village's history the Society published four major books in 1983, 1987, and 1993 and 2009 (Indian Hill — A Point of View). This activity continues today in the ongoing series of IHHS pages (1992+) and "Images" pages (1996+) in the Village Bulletin, and also in the Village video and DVD, "An Indian Hill Scrapbook," (1997.) The Society's creation and cooperation in the Bicentennial celebration in 1995 won it new attention as an organization of action and activity.

In 1998, a significant donation was made to the Society by Barbara and Andrew C. Hauck, III to modernize and expand the library at Buckingham Lodge. Their gift honored Andrew C. Hauck, Jr., the former Council member and Mayor of Indian Hill. The library with the family name continues to grow and develop and is a significant educational resource for students, researchers, genealogists, and history buffs.

Major bequests to the Society have also come from Webb & Ellen Hill in 2008 and from the Louis & Louise Nippert (and their ensuing foundation) starting in 2012 to further our mission of "***Keeping Indian Hill's Past and Present Alive for Tomorrow.***" Other significant donors are recognized on the donor plaques at the Little Red Schoolhouse.

Beginning in 2014, the Board established the 'Indian Hill Historical Society Outstanding Achievement in American History Award'. It is given to 2 students: one at Indian Hill High School and one at Cincinnati Country Day School. These students demonstrate excellence in the areas of American History, extracurricular activities, and as role models.