



INDIAN HILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

E-Newsletter

October 2023

Vol. 20

What's Been Going On?

The 50th Anniversary of the Indian Hill Historical Society

In 1973, Indian Hill Village was trying to decide what to do with the recently vacated Little Red Schoolhouse. For the previous 30 or so years, the Village had used it for the Administration offices, community programs, and later for the Board of Education. The Administration offices moved out in 1956, community members held various events from 1956 – 1961, and the Board of Education was there from 1961 – 1973. Several ideas were being floated such as selling it to a private individual, operating the Public Works office there, supplementing Camp Livingston's outdoor recreation program on the grounds, or creating a William Howard Taft memorial at the site. Village Council asked resident Tyler Emerson for her thoughts about how to use the Little Red Schoolhouse. Tyler Emerson put forward the concept of a historical museum.

This idea caught momentum, and soon the Indian Hill Historical Museum Association (IHHMA) was born! Tyler formed a steering committee with Andy Hauck (IH Village Council member), Viola Eustis, Margo Taft Tytus, and others. They got busy creating the organization.

There have been many milestones for the Society, and a few are listed below:

- 1973 Restoration of The Little Red Schoolhouse
- 1979 First Annual House Tour features 9 estates: "Roaring Twenties Tour"
- 1983 Publication of From Camargo to Indian Hill by Virginia S. White
- 1987 Publication of Treasured Recipes of Indian Hill
- 1988 Restoration of Bonnell House (Buckingham Lodge) begun, serves as new IHHS office.
- 1991 Indian Hill Historic Landmark Plaque Program initiated
- 1992 Publication of Treasured Landmarks of Indian Hill by Virginia S. White
- 1992 First year of annual "One-Room Schoolhouse Experience" for 4th graders, now in 31st year
- 1998 Dedication of the Hauck Library and Resource Center
- 2001 Publication of From Camargo to Indian Hill, 2nd ed. by Virginia S. White
- 2003 Little Red Schoolhouse renovation/addition completed
- 2008 Publication of Indian Hill: A Point of View by Leslie Shiels and William Chatfield
- 2014 IHHS History Award for Outstanding Achievement established for IH and CCDS students
- 2017 Digitization Project of Archives of IHHS initiated
- 2019 First Quarterly E-Newsletters sent to Subscribers
- 2022 First Authors Series started as an Annual Program

To salute the golden anniversary, a party was held. It was a beautiful fall evening on Friday, September 15th, with music playing, guests dancing, and everyone having fun at Peterloon!



Jane Bennett, Mary Bramlage,
Marvin Quin



Guests at
Peterloon



Polly Whittaker, Don Hinkley, Ric Vogel, Jeanie Champlin,
Pam Middendorff,
Lauren Toussaint



Cora Ogle, Carol Reubel,
Ann Kranbuhl



Chip & Susan Hunter, Jen &
Peter Snow, Sterling &
Lauren Sams



David & Linda Parlin,
Susan & Eric Holzapfel,
Grant Hesser



Alleen Manning,
Carol & Steve Reubel



Kathy Myers, James
Murphy, Graeme &
Nikki Daley

It's been a busy and successful 50 years. There have been over 430 programs / events hosted by the Society during the last half century! These gatherings have spread history knowledge, provided education, and brought people together to build community connections. Additionally, with the help of the Society, several historic structures have been saved - Elliott House, Jefferson School, as well as Washington Heights School (the Little Red Schoolhouse) and Buckingham Lodge. With new leases in 2019, the Historical Society has taken on the responsibility for maintaining the latter two structures.

While times have changed since 1973, the camaraderie and spirit of the group hasn't. The Society was formed to save the Little Red Schoolhouse and later developed its mission statement: *Keeping Indian Hill's Past and Present Alive for Tomorrow*. The Board of Trustees recently completed a strategic plan to guide the Society for future years. The community and membership have been wonderfully supportive over the years, and the Society looks forward to the next 50 years and a continuation of quality programs, fun social events, and preservation of history.

Upcoming Events:

November	November	December
<p>7th, 6:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m. Election Day</p> 	<p>19th, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. The 150th Anniversary of the Little Red Schoolhouse</p> <p>Come tour “our Museum”, peruse the many displays and take a stroll back through time to learn about a treasured Village landmark.</p>	<p>3rd, 2:00 – 4:00p.m. The Village Christmas Party</p> <p>Bring your family and join your neighbors for a delightful afternoon at the Little Red Schoolhouse. Make merry with the music, jugglers, magician, and of course, Santa!</p> <p>Eggnog, punch, and homemade cookies top off our annual gift to the Village.</p>

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



Member News: 3rdrd Quarter, 2023 Updates

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

New Members this quarter:

Megan and Nathan Alley
Lynda & Nathan Bachman
Simon & Lucy Barnes
Karen Blackburn & Javier
Felipe-Morales
Monnie & Stephen Caine
Mindy Hastie & Tim
Goldsmith
Any & Eric Groh
Bobbi Hart
Ali Hill

Eddie & Teresa Hooker
Pam Irvine
Molly & Ken Mahler
Anita Minturn
Grace Munique
James Murphy
Gail & Dennis Murray
Sue Price
Carol & Steve Reubel
Molly & Tripp Rogers
Lisa & Mike Rousseau

Carol & Robert Scallan
Candace & Gregg Schuler
Lauren & Todd Schwartz
Victoria & Milliam Sena
Robert Shively
Linda Trebbi
Julie & Andy Webster
Traci Zins

Renewals this quarter:

Jennifer Adams
Robin & John Armstrong
Diane Babcock
Gail & Nick Bagnoli
Mary Jo & Gary Beck
Helene Bentley
Elizabeth & Rick Bieser
Nancy Blum
Susan & Neil Bortz
Hazeleen & Lee Brewster
Sandra & Otto Budig
Jane & Mark Burke
Stephanie & John Busam
Jessica & Chris Cicchinelli
Sue & Tim Clarke
Richard Cocks
Carolyn Condorodis
Emily & Ryan Collier
Jane & Edgar Cox
Claudia & David Cummings
Sue & Kent Cunningham
Jennifer & Brian Davis
Norma & Leo Dean
Carol & Troy DeBord
Mary Jane & Ronald Dolan
Helen Dupree

Lisa Elliot
Jodi & Dan Feigelson
Carin Fike
Lewis & Noralee Gatch
Susan & Gary Green
Roberta Hair
Don Harrison
Janice & Gary Hartman
Stella & John Hassan
Cornelius Hauck
Louise Head
Sally & Jack Heckscher
Julie & Rob Heidt
Phil & Sharan Hinkle
Elizabeth Hodges
Elizabeth Warner & Laurent
Huguein
Doreen Isett
Ellen & Garrett Jackson
Frani & Don Jones
Jeanette & Gregg Jones
Chris & Bill Judd
Ali Kerr
Cynthia & Kelly King
Carolyn & James Kite
Suzanne & Tiger Kite

Meg & Chris Kohnen
Jane & Ron Koppenhoefer
Lis & Kasey Kuhlman
Eddie Lane
Caryn & Art Lee
Betty Letscher
Paula & Bob Lindner
Patricia & Calvin Linnemann
Lynn & Wayne Lippert
Whitney & Phillip Long
Marcie & Mark Longenecker
Molly & Ted Lucien
Candace & Michael McCaw
Alicia & Don McGraw
Cassie Lachlan McLean
Debbie & Don McMullen
Pam Middendorff
Audrey Miller
Sally More
Cynthia & Rick Mulhauser
Christopher Nicholson
Nancy & Malott Nyhart
Cora Ogle
Linda & David Parlin
Sarah & JP Pharr
Lynn & Steve Phillips

Gina & Richard Pratt
Irene & Daniel Randolph
Angela & David Reed
Alison & Tom Rink
Bonnie Roe
Susan & John Roberts
Lois Rust
Susan & Michael
Scharfenberger
Jack Schiff
Carol & Bill Schmidter
Michelle & Robert Schneider
Mary & Larry Schumacher

Patricia Schwemlien
Monique & Mike Sewell
Rhona & Larry Sheakley
Gloria Uziel & Patrick Shea
John Shepherd
John Shields
Linda Siekmann
Cherie & Martin Silverstein
Rita & Don Stolper
Gerri Strauss
Kay Sudbrack
Jackie Sweeney
Jane & Ed Terrill

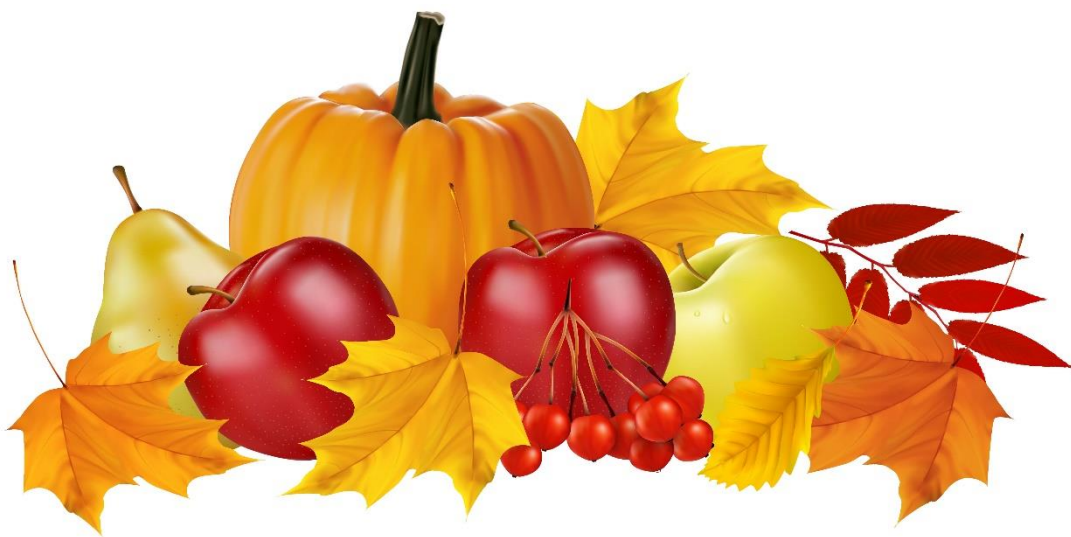
Carol Thoman
Vicki & Mark Tullis
Brenda Walker
Paula & Tory Watters
Barbara & Irwin Weinberg
Polly Whittaker
Tonja & Patrick Wilson
Jan & Owen Wrassman
Jessica & Blake Zaring
Debbie & Bill Zimmer

Business Member Renewals this quarter:

Central Bark: Madeira / Indian Hill
InPrint Madeira

Mariemont Inn
The Julia Wesselkamper Group

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



Thanks to Our Business Members



 Doggie Day Care 8185 Camargo Rd.			
 GINA DUBELL-SMITH 513-477-1219			
MICHAEL F. GEHRIG Attorney At Law	ERIC HOLZAPFEL Attorney At Law		 Mariemont Inn Best Western Premier
		Taft FOCUSED CAPITOL SOLUTIONS LLC	
			
		 	



Early Area Pioneer: Christian Waldschmidt

By Trish Krehbiel

The Miamese

I hear the tread of pioneers
Of nations yet to be.
The first low wash of waves, where soon
Shall roll a human sea.
The elements of empire here
Are plastic yet and warm,
And the chaos of a mighty world
Is rounding into form.

By, J. G. Whittier

Christian Waldschmidt had secured his land in 1795, (in present day Camp Dennison) with 3,200 Spanish Dollars. After scoping it out and creating a general plan for the area, he left behind 3 of his companions to begin the work of clearing and preparing shelter. These men would have built small cabins made from hand-felled, hand-hewn lumber using what small number of tools they had at their disposal; all the while foraging, growing, and catching their food!

In the ensuing year, Christian traveled back to Pennsylvania to close out his affairs and prepare to return with his wife Catherine and their 6 children, ranging in age from daughter Catherine, 15 to the baby, less than a year old. The journey from Pennsylvania took them over the Allegheny Mountains, to Pittsburgh, and eventually to the Ohio river traveling by flatboats.

From a detailed, first-hand account written by Thomas Fitzwater, he described the river journey as follows, "C. Waldsmith, our own family, and four other families started for this State on or near the first of May, 1796...we were detained near three weeks waiting for our flat-boats....The Ohio River was low, and the three flat-boats had great difficulty in getting along....After being on the river seven weeks, we landed in Columbia. The Miami



was pouring out muddy water and driftwood. This was the first sight I got of that river. Not far above the mouth of the Miami the boat which contained Waldsmith's family ran aground. The four men and a boy tried to get it afloat that afternoon and into the night, but they did not succeed."

With the help of other river travelers, Christian's boat was freed. After the flow of the Miami River calmed and lowered, it took about 2 ½ weeks for them to travel from Columbia to present day Camp Dennison. Oliver M. Spencer, a settler from early 1790s describes the scenery and flora the Waldschmidts and their enterprising group of friends saw, "... March the redbud, the hawthorn, and the dogwoods in full bloom...ground was covered with Mayapple, bloodroot, ginseng, violets, and a great variety of herbs and flowers....Birds of various species...the beautiful redbird...loud gobble of the turkey...the clumsy bear,...the timid deer...It seemed an earthly paradise..."

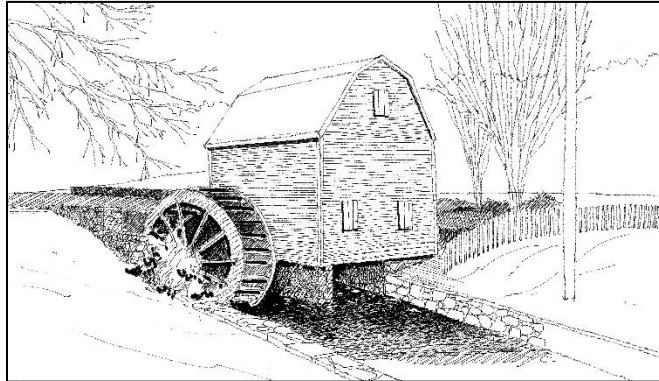
Waldschmidt had purchased a 3-mile-long valley, situated about 10 miles north of the town of Columbia; 20 feet lower in elevation, called the Big Bottom. He owned land on both sides of the Little Miami River. Because so many of the German community pioneered their way into Big Bottom along with Waldschmidt or within a few years of him, the area became known as "Germany." They brought

industriousness and generational knowledge from their homeland. In the span of 1 year, Waldschmidt and his fellow settlers had diverted the Little Miami River into a mill race that powered a saw mill and grist mill.

With the opening of the grist mill's operation, people traveled from as far away as Waynesville and South Lebanon to have their grain milled. In 1800 there was a roadway these folks took known as the Wallace to Waldschmidt Mills Road.

Upon the heels of Christian's success, came further building for the Waldschmidt clan. With 2 more children born to Catherine and Christian, they embarked on building their stone home that bears the date 1804. A paper mill was built in the early 1810s'... but that is a story to be continued!

An example of a mill constructed along a mill race.



Office News:

It has been a very busy summer with preparations for the 50th Anniversary of the Historical Society, the second event in the new "Authors Series" with Dr. Allen Guelzo's visit to discuss *Lincoln and Democracy*, and the 150th anniversary of the Little Red Schoolhouse.



Buckingham Lodge

It's been fun looking back through all the old photos and documents to learn the stories of the Historical Society and Little Red Schoolhouse. One of my favorite photos is of two young boys riding their bicycles home from the Schoolhouse, down Camargo Rd.



c. May 1923 - Marion Stewart (left in white shirt) and Nat Walker, 8th graders, riding bikes home from school (Little Red Schoolhouse) on Camargo Road, possibly the Buckingham Barn in the background.

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

Happy Fall!

The Indian Hill Historical Society

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