



# INDIAN HILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

E-Newsletter

April 2024

Vol. 22

## What's Been Going On?

### 4<sup>th</sup> Grade One-Room Schoolhouse Experience

For the 31<sup>st</sup> year, the Little Red Schoolhouse welcomed local 4<sup>th</sup> grade students through its doors for them to learn about and experience a one-room schoolhouse as it was in the late 1800s. "Schoolmarm" Lindsay McLean dons the appropriate garb, rings the school bell, and escorts the children into the past. She sets the stage for the period by discussing the journeys many of the pioneers made down the Ohio River or over land with horse or mule drawn wagons. The area between the two Miami Rivers had abundant natural resources such as timber, water, and land for crops. The woods were full of wildlife with deer, bear, wolves, and more. The area provided bountiful hunting grounds for the Native American Indians such as the Shawnee and Miami tribes. Conflicts between the Native Americans and the pioneers were often brutal and deadly as both groups battled over the land. Eventually, the well-armed pioneers with supportive militias drove the Native Americans from Ohio. Further settling of the area proceeded with growing settlements and churches and schools being erected. Several one-room schoolhouses were in or near the boundaries of today's Indian Hill Village: Jefferson School, Franklin School, Camp Dennison School, and the Washington Heights School (aka, the "Little Red Schoolhouse").

At the Little Red Schoolhouse, records show as many as 52 students of all ages attended at the same time. The 3 "Rs" (reading, 'ritin', and 'rithmetic) were taught and are part of the current day field trip. There are five stations that the visiting 4<sup>th</sup> graders experience. The reading station uses the McGuffey Reader, a well-read book used in many one-room schoolhouses of that era. Schoolmarm McLean has the visiting students recite passages from it. Next is "ritin" with dip-ink pens and cursive writing – always a challenge! The third stop is math where the students solve word problems using addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division on small slate boards with chalk. The fourth station is identifying items used in the late 1800s such as a butter mold, rug beater, ice tongs, candle mold, bellows, and more. The fifth station is indoor recess as the children play marbles and try to "pick plums" by rolling their marbles and hitting the opponents' marbles. A lot of fun is had with such low-tech items!

It's a memorable day for the students, and it ties in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum focusing on US and Ohio history. The Schoolhouse is alive with students and learning, and it is a wonderful event to host.



Reading from the McGuffey Reader



Cursive Writing with Dip-Ink Pens



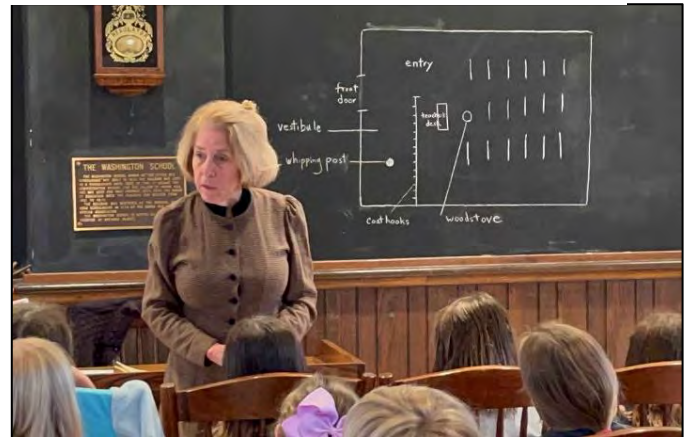
Identifying Objects from the late 1800s



Solving math word problems on slates



Playing "Picking Plums" marble game



Schoolmarm McLean leads an interactive discussion with students about the schools and activities in the late 1800s and how they compare to those of today.

## Queen City Cuisine with Polly Campbell

On March 17<sup>th</sup>, the renowned Polly Campbell delighted a sold-out crowd with stories about how Cincinnati cuisine became what it is today. She was the *Cincinnati Enquirer's* food critic from 1996 to 2020. Her reviews were “must-reads”, and she had a very loyal following.

Polly's recent book, *Cincinnati Food: A History of Queen City Cuisine*, recounted the stories of the pioneers and entrepreneurs of the past and present. She explored the varied ethnic influences of immigrants who brought their cultural recipes to the area. She shared this historical perspective and how many of these foods and beverages are Cincinnati favorites today.



Rosemary Welsh, Polly Campbell,  
Rosemary Ballard



Chris Stacy, Edgar & Jane Cox,  
Amy Griffin



Rob & Jeanie Champlin, Greg Kenny  
Susan & Chip Hunter



Michael & Laila Frank,  
David Parlin




George & Mona Glover  
Jim & Susan Gibbs



Dick Bethel & Gail Bechtold

## Upcoming Events:

April	May
<p><b>21st, 4:30 p.m.</b> <b><u>Covalt's Station: An Ohio Frontier Settlement with Author Steven Early</u></b> In 1790, 45 white settlers traveled up the Little Miami River to establish Covalt's Station in today's Terrace Park. The land they claimed was used as seasonal hunting grounds by the Miami &amp; Shawnee Native Americans. This is a story of two cultures colliding as one empire began, and another began to disappear.</p>	<p><b>19<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 p.m.</b> <b><u>The Patron Party</u></b> 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> 

Please visit the website: [www.indianhill.org](http://www.indianhill.org) for more details on these programs.



## Member News: 2nd Quarter, 2024 Updates

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

### **New Members this quarter**

Abby & Kyle Lehr  
Melinda & David Hileman

### **Renewals this quarter:**

Cecile Drackett Allyn  
Vicki & Peter Alpaugh  
Eileen & John Barrett  
Gail Bechtold  
Kathy Bernard  
Elizabeth & John Betagole  
Tanu & Amar Bhati  
Cynthia & John Bismayer  
Sue & Larry Blum  
Sandra & David Bowen  
Mary & Bill Bramlage  
Jane & Mark Burke  
JoAnn Rude Chamberlin  
Susan & B. Closson  
Elizabeth & Bill Colohan  
Kerry & Jayson Daus  
Karen Dinsmore  
Renie Dorhmann

Laila Frank  
Susan & Jim Gibbs  
Donna & Karl Grafe  
Alicia & Jeff Heinichen  
Jane & Bill Higgins  
Pat & Don Hinkley  
Susan & Chip Hunter  
Cynthia & Gregory Kenny  
Zofeen & Khurram Khan  
Teddy & John Kladakis  
Ann Kranbuhl  
Leslie & John Krehbiel  
Carol & Bill Lichtenberg  
Ina & Eddie Loftspring  
Simona & Eshelby Lunken  
Doug Manzler  
Stephen Oughterson  
Kellie & Dan Peters

Holly Rebensdorf  
Buffie & Eppa Rixey  
Karen & Rene Robichaud  
Janet & Scott Sayre  
Melanie & Bob Schaeffer  
Shirley Scharfenberger  
Matthew Schloss  
Anne & Doug Schmidlin  
Joanne Sloneker  
Clark Sole  
Christine Stacey  
Kathy & David Turner  
Cedric Vogel  
Bebe & Phil Vollmer  
Rosemary & Frank Welsh  
Bill Weyand

### **Business Renewals this quarter:**

Cincinnati Country Day School

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

# Thanks to Our Business Members

 <p><b>Central Bark</b>  <u>Doggie Day Care</u>          8185 <u>Camargo Rd.</u></p>			
 <p><b>exp</b> OH EQUINE          REALTY PROPERTIES.COM          GINA DUBELL-SMITH 513-477-1219</p>			
<p><u>MICHAEL F. GEHRIG</u>          Attorney At Law</p>	<p><u>ERIC HOLZAPFEL</u>          Attorney At Law</p>		 <p><b>Mariemont Inn</b>          Best Western Premier</p>
		<p>Taft          FOCUSED CAPITOL SOLUTIONS LLC</p>	
			
		 <p><b>Julia Wesselkamper</b>          GLOBAL LUXURY SPECIALIST</p> 	



## Camargo Realty and the Development of Indian Hill

by Lawre Finn-Bonekemper

At the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, things were changing in Indian Hill. The land, which had been primarily used for small family farms, was tired and crop production was declining. At the same time, many people who lived in or close to Cincinnati were looking for cleaner living in terms of air (factory smokestacks spewed a lot of pollution) and disease. With the spread of electricity plus the new travel conveniences such as the automobile and Swing Line, property in the “country” became more appealing. The move was on, and many Cincinnatians bought large tracts of land and began to build grand estates.

In the early 1920s, members of the Cincinnati Country Club (CCC) put forward the idea of a new, more spacious club further out from town where open land was available and cheaper. Multiple sites were under consideration including Indian Hill and Mt. Washington. Several of the club members had already purchased extensive tracts of land in Indian Hill and were very interested in having polo fields, golf, and a club closer to their homes. A committee was created to explore the possibilities. In 1923 a syndicate was formed by some members of the club and named “The Camargo Realty Company.” This group began purchasing land with the intent that it would later be sold to the club at cost. The CCC appointed 4 members (John Omwake, William S. Rowe, Fredric J. Flach, and Lucien Wulsin) to choose the syndicate investors. Originally, there were to be 70 stockholders of the syndicate with Frederick Chatfield as President, E.B. Stanley as Vice-President, and William Semple as Secretary. Attorney Walter W. Clippinger handled most of the property negotiations.



Cincinnati Country Club c. 1915

The concept of a new location proved to be contentious among the members of the CCC. Many members wanted the club to stay where it was and merge with the neighboring Cincinnati Golf Club thus creating an enhanced facility for CCC members. Others were anxious to add new club amenities such as polo, riding, trap shooting, and additional land for golfing. In June 1923, the merger between CCC and the Cincinnati Golf Club was approved, but the question of a new location was not resolved.



Approximate land parcels owned by Camargo Realty Company – over 900 acres.

Things were quiet on the surface from 1923 to 1925 between CCC and the Camargo Realty Company, but the latter group was moving forward with the plans for a new club. In all, over 900 acres were purchased in Indian Hill which were loosely centered around the current location of

Camargo Club and Camargo Stables. By July 1924, the golf course (designed by Seth Raynor), polo fields, stables and clubhouse had been surveyed and laid out, and construction work began in August. In the Fall, the syndicate planned to send invitations to an additional 150 names to increase participation in the project.

In June 1925, a vote on the new location in Indian Hill was put forward to CCC members and more than 2/3 of the members voted against the purchase of the property in Indian Hill. President Frederick Chatfield wrote to the shareholders of Camargo Realty that the potential deal with CCC was over and that “steps should be taken to organize a separate club.” The syndicate went into high gear and ramped up its marketing campaign. In the ensuing years, there were regular articles in the Society columns of the *Cincinnati Enquirer* about the Camargo Club, Camargo Stables, polo, trap shooting, golf, Camargo Hunt, Cincinnati Country Day School (which opened in 1926), and more. They promoted Indian Hill as the new place to live with fresh air, room for horses, golf, and wonderful country living.



Early days of Camargo Club – clubhouse and stables

The campaign was successful and population in the area grew. With the added residents and homes, this population provided the core necessary for the incorporation of the Village of Indian Hill in 1941. Walter W. Clippinger became the first mayor of the Village. The charter for the Village was created and the reasons these new land and home owners came to Indian Hill were foremost in the minds of the founders as they wrote it. The Village charter states, “*It is the purpose and intent of the people of Indian Hill that the character and uses of the area within the Village may not be changed, and that it shall continue to be a rural neighborhood of homes and farms.*” This became the guiding principle for the further development of subdivisions and neighborhoods throughout Indian Hill.

The Village is a wonderful community for its residents. The amenities are numerous and unique. The Green Areas, bridle trails, and parks are special treasures in the Village and are a direct result of the priorities and goals of the visionaries of the Camargo Realty Company.



Scenes from throughout the Village



## Office News:

Part of the job which we enjoy most is talking with people about history in Indian Hill. We get phone calls from near and far, and a few people drop by to see the building and ask questions. You never know what they may ask, and we head in many research directions which is always fun. There is a lot of untapped history in our files and in the research databases to which we have access. If you have a question, please let us know. We are here to help.



Buckingham Lodge

In that same vein, we ask that if you are moving, downsizing, or reorganizing and have things to get rid of, please let us know. Specifically, we are looking for older Cincinnati Blue Books, photographs, letters, and such which pertain to Indian Hill.

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

Happy Spring!

*The Indian Hill Historical Society*

### Indian Hill Historical Society Trustees

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