



INDIAN HILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

E-Newsletter

July 2024

Vol. 23

What's Been Going On?

Covalt's Station with Author Steven Early, Jr., April 21st:

Local author, Steven Early, shared the history of the settling of Covalt's Station in today's Terrace Park with the audience at the Little Red Schoolhouse. The sold-out crowd was rapt with attention as the story unfolded.

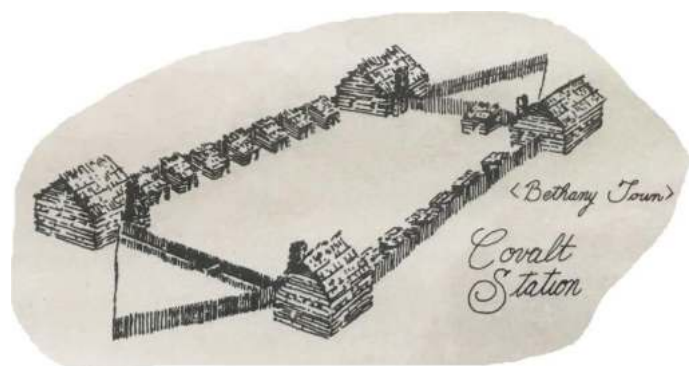
In 1789 Captain Abraham Covalt, Jr. and Levi Buckingham were members of a group who scouted the area north of the Ohio River and between the Miami Rivers. This was prime land with rich hunting and foraging as well as providing ample access to water. The area was well known to several Native American tribes such as the Shawnee and Miami who depended on the abundant resources in the area during their seasonal travels.

Upon returning to his home in Pennsylvania, Covalt rallied other locals to move to Ohio in search of new opportunities and a better life. In January 1790, Covalt set off with 14 members of his family and another 26 people to travel down the Ohio River to the relatively newly established landing spot called "Columbia" or "Ft. Miami" at the mouth of the Little Miami River. From there, they went up the Little Miami and created a post or station in today's Terrace Park, near where St. Thomas' Church is located. Covalt family history lists some members of the group as including the McKinneys, Pittmans, Webbs, Hutchings, Hinkles, Fletchers, Coleman, Taylors, and Gerstens.

The first order of work was to clear land and build shelter. While there are no pictures of the station, the design is believed to have looked like the drawing on the right. They also constructed a mill which "would become the most important mill in the Miami Purchase."¹

The Native Americans were alarmed at the loss of their traditional hunting grounds and violence ensued. There was much bloodshed and death as the two cultures brutally collided.

Steven Early's book, ***Amid the Honorable Plenty***, is full of fascinating history and details about this local settlement and the people who strived to establish a foothold in the territory. It's a terrific read and is highly recommended for those wanting to know more about the area.



Footnote 1: Early, "Amid the Honorable Plenty", pg. 56



Steve Early & Ginny White



Steve Garcia, Ali Hill, and Vicki & Bill Sena



Tracey & Todd Motto with Tamela Zimmerman (center)



Carol Scallan, Molly Harrison, Linda Parlin, & Lydia Hirsh



Audrey Miller with Debra & Bill Zimmer



Kent Little, John Armstrong and Don McGraw

Annual Meeting, April 21st: New Trustees

Prior to the start of the Covalt's Station program, the Annual Meeting of the Historical Society was held. President Rosemary Welsh provided a recap of last year's events and provided a few teasers about the next season's roster. She also reviewed the new Board members who were added to the Board in February to replace those who stepped down. These three new Trustees include Greg Kenny, Don McGraw, and Scott Sayre. Additionally, three new Trustees' names were presented during the Annual Meeting, and a vote was taken by the membership to approve them joining the Board. With this vote, Allison Kahn, Ashley Kothehal, and Beth Onthank have also become Trustees of the Historical Society.

Please join the Board in welcoming these new volunteer Board members.



Patron Party, May 19th:

A long-standing tradition of the Historical Society, the Patron Party was created to show appreciation for the generous supporters of the Society. The first event was held in October 1985 at the home of James Ewell. Since then, there have been 37 of these parties which have been hosted in lovely, welcoming, and often historically significant houses in the Village.

This year, Sue Lawrence opened her wonderful home for the Society's guests. It was a beautiful Sunday afternoon, and the stone terrace and grounds provided a pleasing background for the gathering.



Clark Sole, Jim & Susan Gibbs,
Sue Lawrence



Malcolm & Rosemary Ballard,
Alleen & Shayne Manning



Rosemary Welsh with
Eric & Amy Groh



Frank Welsh, Ashley Kothegal
Gabriel Pagani-Estevez, Rosemary Welsh



Sally Woodward, John Hassan

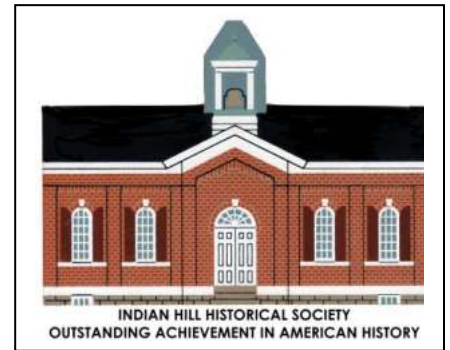


Helene & Rachel Bentley



Outstanding Achievement in American History Award

Since 2014 and with the generosity of the Nippert Foundation, the Indian Hill Historical Society has been granting awards annually to two students, one at Cincinnati Country Day School and one at Indian Hill High School, for “*Outstanding Achievement in American History.*” This year, the awards were increased to \$1,000 for each student. The winners are selected by their teachers at the respective schools, and the award is based on the students’ participation in co-curricular activities related to American history and student government.



The Historical Society is pleased to announce the following winners for 2024 and share their teachers’ comments:

- **Kevin Pearson** of Cincinnati Country Day School: “Kevin has put tremendous effort into his US History and Government class, often leading in class discussion, making sound arguments, and always seeking to improve. Additionally, Kevin’s curiosity in the classroom is unparalleled. Often, Kevin asks tough questions in class that lead us into deeper discussions. Aside from his accomplishments in US History, Kevin is a part of the Lemelson-MIT InvenTeams and a member of the EDI Council. Kevin leads with kindness, is always willing to help his peers, and is simply a natural leader.”
- **Jacob Ruby** of Indian Hill High School: “Jacob has excelled in Honors European History, AP U.S. History, AP Human Geography, and AP U.S. Government and Politics. Beyond just the course work, Jacob displays a passion for history and politics. He seeks out opportunities to get involved in activities like political town halls and campaigns. The IH Academic Quiz Team realizes his vast knowledge of history and politics for their various competitions. He is currently planning to establish an activity to push IH students to register to vote for the upcoming general election in November.”



Upcoming Events:

Summertime is typically a slower time for the Historical Society as plans are being made and events organized for the Fall. The Annual Mailer with details of Fall programs will be sent in August

| June | July | August |
|------|---|--------|
| | <p>4th, 10 a.m. <u>Indian Hill Village Fourth of July Parade</u> This time-honored tradition continues in 2024. The parade starts at Cincinnati Country Day School and ends at Stephan Field. Be sure to join in the summertime fun!</p>  | |

Member News: *2nd Quarter, 2024 Updates*

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

New Members this quarter:

Steven Early

Allison & Eric Kahn

Beth & Steve Onthank

Jacob Ruby

Renewals this quarter:

Helene Bentley

Nancy Blum

Jill Lindner Boldt

Lissa & Mike Cambron

Sarah Cohen

Lucy Davis & Ted Safrin

Jean Davison

Kathy & Bill DeWitt

Kit & Dick Duval

Christine Elfers & Dave
Hendren

Kathy & Stephen Fish

Val & Ted Folger

Laila & Michael Frank

Dani & Gregg Frappier

Jen & Chris Frutkin

Ann & Jeff Gibson

Sandra Heimann

Sue & Bill Hill

Marilyn & Gerard Hyland

Melanie & Doug Hynden

Ed Jacobs & Mike Minadeo

Dennis Janson

Sandra & Stephen Joffe

Evelyn & Gary Kirschner

Ashley Kothehal

Barbara Kreider

Kym & Mark Kuenning

Patricia & Calvin Linnemann

Ruth Ann & Kent Little

Jane MacEachen

Allenn & Shayne Manning

Kym McBride

Leah & Tim Miller

John Mitchell & Deb Bradley

Tracey & Todd Motto

Hien & Ronald Mueller

Michael Muth

Christopher Nicholson

Cora Ogle

Debbie & Rich Oliver

Emily & Gregg Pancero

Lynda & Ray Schilderink

Greg Schmidt

Pam & Rob Sibcy

Nancy Steman

Nancy Tehan

Beth & Chalky Thomas

Mary Uhlenbrock

Deborah Sagan Wiebe

New Businesses this quarter:

Summermusik: Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra

Business Renewals this quarter:

Central Bark Madeira

English Rose Design

Michael F. Gehrig, Attorney at Law

Holzappel Law

Mariemont Inn: Best Western Premier

Sibcy Cline Realtors

Taft / Focused Capitol Solutions

Turner Farm

The V Collective

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

Membership Changes

The Historical Society is grateful for the support of its members. The Board of Trustees and staff work to fulfill the mission of the organization: *Keeping Indian Hill's Past and Present Alive for Tomorrow*. This is achieved through:

- Archives and Research
- Community Connections
- Landmark Preservation
- Informative Programs
- Unique Special Events

The Membership Committee of the Board of Trustees analyzed membership levels, rates, and benefits and decided to make some changes – the first since 2015. *These changes will be effective as of September 1st.*

The benefits / perks for each level are listed below:

| | Life | 1873 Club | Bell Ringer | Cornerstone | Business | Patron | Family | Individual |
|---|------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| Annual Dues | \$10,000* | \$1,873 | \$1,200 | \$600 | \$350 | \$250 | \$90 | \$60 |
| <i>*One time, not annual</i> | | | | | | | | |
| Benefits | | | | | | | | |
| Free Program Admission | All Pgms | All Pgms | 3 Pgms | 1 Pgm | | | | |
| Patron Party Invitation | ✓ (Free) | ✓ (Free) | ✓ (Free) | ✓ (Free) | ✓ (Free) | ✓ (Free) | | |
| Members Only Events Invitations | ✓ (Free) | ✓ (Free) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Little Red Schoolhouse Rental Discount 1 per calendar year | ✓ 25% off | ✓ 20% off | ✓ 15% off | ✓ 15% off | ✓ 10% off | | | |
| Program Notification | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Bring up to 2 Associates & 2 Guests to members only events | | | | | ✓ | | | |
| Special Name Tags at Program (if desired) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| Special Recognition in Annual Mailer, Programs & Patron Party | | | | | ✓ | | | |

Please [contact](#) the office if you have any questions.

Thanks to Our Business Members

| | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
|  <p>Doggie Day Care 8185 Camargo Rd.</p> |  |  |  |
|  <p>GINA DUBELL-SMITH 513-477-1219</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> | |
|  |  | | |
|  | |  <p>COLDWELL BANKER REALTY</p> | |





From the President:

Green Areas and Steer Meadow

The Green Areas are one of Indian Hill's most valuable resources. The concept of preserving land traces its roots to the Village Charter of 1941, which states "It is the purpose and intent of the people of Indian Hill that the character and uses of the area within the Village shall not be changed, and it shall continue to be a rural neighborhood." For over eight decades, people have devoted their energy to keeping forests and meadows in their natural state and preserving land for perpetuity. Currently, about 2,800 acres of land are protected within the Village's 20.5 square miles.

One of the sanctuaries of natural beauty is Steer Meadow, located on north Keller Road near Bridgewater Lane. It has fifteen acres of undeveloped land and offers an enticing vista across open fields. This serene area is enjoyed by birdwatchers and horseback riders. At the entry to the property, a memorial plaque on a large boulder reads:



Steer Meadow

STEER MEADOW
DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF
PAUL W. STEER
SOLICITOR OF THE VILLAGE OF
INDIAN HILL 1944-1972.

OUR GREEN AREAS
KEEP FRESH THE MEMORY OF
HIS PIONEERING VISION AND
DETERMINATION TO KEEP
FOREVER UNSPOILED THIS
COUNTRYSIDE HE LOVED.

Paul "Pete" Steer grew up in Parkersburg, West Virginia, and graduated from Ohio Wesleyan and Harvard Law School. A founder of Steer, Strauss, White, and Dryer, he handled Village legal concerns as Solicitor for twenty-eight years, until his death. He also taught law at Chase College of Law and was President of the Cincinnati Bar Association.

He and Stanley Rowe developed the concept of a green belt, and the first gift of land was a 38-acre parcel from Julius Fleischmann in 1946. Later the green belt concept evolved to a vision of green areas. As Solicitor, Steer prepared all legislation enacted by the Village. He helped maintain the 1, 3, and 5-acre zoning regulations during the 1950s and 1960s when developments were changing the landscape. His revision of the Green Areas Trust in 1962 allowed owners of minimum acreage to donate land. He influenced property owners to add to the Green Areas, with a "bargain purchase program" by which owners could achieve significant tax benefits. Under Steer's inspired leadership, over 1,600 acres were set aside for preservation in the Trust.

An avid recreational horseman, he was Honorary Whip and Treasurer of the Camargo Hunt. He shared his love of riding with both of his children, Peter and Hilda, aka "Nonnie". Visiting friends along the trails, when Indian Hill was mostly farms, he acted as a circuit rider for the Green Areas program, preaching zoning



Paul "Pete" Steer

laws and land donations. A very persuasive gentleman, he convinced many residents to give land to Indian Hill, explaining that the land would be kept in its natural state, or if there were bridle trails, they would be restricted to horses and hounds. He also worked to acquire large contiguous parcels, often convincing neighbors to donate adjoining acreage.

Pete Steer died of a heart attack at age 63. Indian Hill's City Manager paid tribute to him saying that his efforts were "by far the major single factor" in Indian Hill's acquisition of natural lands. His obituary requested that memorials be given to the Green Areas Fund. Recognizing Steer's assistance to a succession of mayors, council members, and staff, the Village honored him after his passing by creating Steer Meadow. The land, which is located beside his now razed home at 8750 Keller Road, was once the hayfield for his horses and still has the trail which he used to ride early in the morning.

Rosemary Welsh
President

Scenes from Green Areas around Indian Hill Village



Office News:

We received an exciting email from a pastor in Grapevine, TX. He had a Bible, published in 1791 which he thought was from the Buckingham family who came to this area in the late 1780s and purchased property in and around today's Indian Hill. It was donated to his church. He searched the web for the Buckinghams and found the Indian Hill Historical Society. (The internet can create some interesting connections!) We expressed great interest in the bible, and it arrived a few weeks later.



Buckingham Lodge

The Bible is about 11 3/4" x 8 3/4" and 4 1/2" thick – quite a tome to be luging around through the years! Not surprisingly as it's over 200 years old, it's not in great shape, but it is a treasure.



A record of Buckingham births and marriages is listed in the Bible, starting with William Buckingham's birth in 1789. He was the son of Enoch and Mary Jeffries Price Buckingham of Hamilton County, Ohio.



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

Happy Summer!

The Indian Hill Historical Society

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