

INDIAN HILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

E-Newsletter

October 2024

Vol. 24

What's Been Going On?

The Little Red Schoolhouse Celebrated 150 years!

On Sunday, September 15th, the Historical Society celebrated this Village landmark. The interior of the Schoolhouse was set up as a "museum" to take visitors through days of yore. Tables held displays of various aspects of history - old photographs of students in the late 1800s, renovations of the building, tools / implements used in the late 1800s, pictures from some of the programs held by the Society including the "Map of Camargo", Henry Farny and Elizabeth Nourse art shows, "treasures" from Buckingham Lodge and the Hauck Library, and so much more. A 10-minute video displayed many images of the past too. The Schoolhouse yard was full of fun with antique cars and a 1937 firetruck, face painter, balloon artist, and games. It was a beautiful afternoon to visit and enjoy this treasured building.



Schoolhouse displays of images, registers, and books



"Map of Camargo" Homes



Barb Hauck, Carol & Bill Schmidter, Rosemary Welsh



Antique cars including a 1954 Buick Skylark, 1970 Mercedes-Benz 300SEL 6.3 sedan, 1937 BMW 328, & 1934 MG NA Special BLL492



Guests enjoying the day



MIHJFD members and guests in front of a 1936 Dodge Ahrens Fox Fire Truck

Upcoming Events:

Authors Series with Dr. Jonathan W. White:



Lincoln's Presidential Pardons: *Difficult Decisions in Challenging Times*



Presidential pardons have been used throughout history. These acts of forgiveness have been controversial at times, but at others have been healing for the nation.

Dr. White will examine some of Abraham Lincoln's most important presidential pardons and explore how he used his power to pursue justice and a moral vision for society. Among the cases reviewed will be the famous "Sleeping Sentinel," the infamous slave trader Nathaniel Gordon, and the Dakota Native Americans who were sentenced to death after the U.S. - Dakota war in 1862.

Historian Jonathan White is an author of many books and numerous published articles, essays, and reviews. The Gilder Lehrman Lincoln Prize was awarded to him in 2023. Dr. White is a professor of American Studies at Christopher Newport University in Newport News, VA.

Thursday, October 24, 2024 ~ 7:00 p.m. (Doors open at 6:30 p.m.)

Indian Hill High School, Sue Harder Memorial Performing Arts Center

6868 Drake Rd. ~ This event is free and open to the public.

Donations are accepted.

For questions or additional information: Tel: 513-891-1873 Email: history@indianhill.org

October	November	December
Thursday, 24th, 7 p.m. <u>Authors Series</u> (See above article)	Sunday, 17th, 4:30 p.m. <u>Cincinnati Chamber</u> <u>Orchestra Quartet</u> Enjoy a vibrant music experience with a quartet from the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra in an intimate setting at the Little Red Schoolhouse.	Sunday, Dec. 8th, 2-4 p.m. <u>The Village Christmas</u> <u>Party</u> 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! Eggnog, punch, and homemade cookies top off our annual gift to the Village.

Member News: 3rd Quarter, 2024 Updates

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

New Members this quarter:

Mary & Rob Cassidy

Su-Yang Chan

Holli Hansen

Sandra High

Joan & Alvin Roehr

Joan & Mark Stuhlreyer

Laura Wogen

Renewals this quarter:

Judith Affatato

Robin & John Armstrong

Gail & Nick Bagnoli

Mary Jo & Gary Beck

Jane & Larry Bennett

Betsy & John Betagole

Elizabeth & Rick Bieser

Ann & Stephen Bjornson

Susan & Neil Bortz

Aggie & Luke Boswell

Hazeleen & Leland Brewster

Sandra & David Bowen

Monnie & Stephen Caine

Sue & Tim Clark

Joann Rudd Chamberlin

Jessica & Chris Cicchinelli

Richard Cocks

Carolyn Condorodis

Emily & Ryan Connor

Jane & Edgar Cox

Claudia & David Cummings

Jennifer & Brian Davis

Norma & Leo Dean

Mary Jane & Ronald Dolan

Helen Dupree

Lisa Elliott

Karen Blackburn &

Javier Felipe-Morales

Bonnie & Larry Foltz

Susan & Jim Gibbs

Mindy Hastie &

Tim Goldsmith

Susan & Gary Green

Don Harrison

Bobbi Hart

Janice & Gary Hartman

Stella & John Hassan

Cornelius Hauck

Sally & Jack Heckscher

Julie & Rob Heidt

Ali Hill

Sharan & Phil Hinkle

Elizabeth Hodges

Eddie Hooker

Elizabeth Warner &

Laurent Huguenin

Ellen & Garrett Jackson

Diana Jaeger

John Johnston

Frani & Don Jones

Jeanette & Gregory Jones

Louise Head & Ted Jones

Chris & Bill Judd

Samuel & Mitchell Kaeser

Ali Kerr

Cynthia & Kelly King

Carolyn & James Kite

Jane & Ron Koppenhoefer

Eddie Lane

Caryn & Arthur Lee

Lynn & Wayne Lippert

Ina & Edward Loftspring

Whitney & Phillip Long

Marcie & Mark Longenecker

Molly & Ted Lucien

Doug Manzler

Alicia Bridgeland &

Don McGraw

Cassie & Lachlan McLean

Debbie & Don McMullen

Audrey Miller

Sally More

Cynthia Muhlhauser

Linnea Nadel

Nancy & Malott Nyhart

Natalie & Patrick Nesbitt

Linda & David Parlin

Jonathan Pharr

Lynn & Stephen Phillips

Irene & Daniel Randolph

Angela & David Reed

Janet Reynolds

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Molly & Tripp Rogers

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Monique & Mike Sewell

Rhonda & Larry Sheakley

John Shepherd

Linda Siekmann

Cherie & Martin Silverstein

Jane & Ed Terrill

Linda Trebbi

Vicki & Mark Tullis

Cedric Vogel

Brenda Walker

Paula & Tory Watters

Julie & Andy Webster

Bill Weyand

Ginny & Al White

Jan & Owen Wrasman

Jessica & Blake Zaring

Member News: 3rd Quarter, 2024 Updates, continued:

New Businesses this quarter:

RX Integrative Solutions Inc.

Business Renewals this quarter:

Central Bark Madeira – Indian Hill

Daley Design & Build

Gina Dubell Smith – eXP Realty &

Ohio Equine Properties

InPrint Madeira

Total Wealth Planning

Julia Wesselkamper Group –

Coldwell Banker

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

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>			
		 	



History Topic:

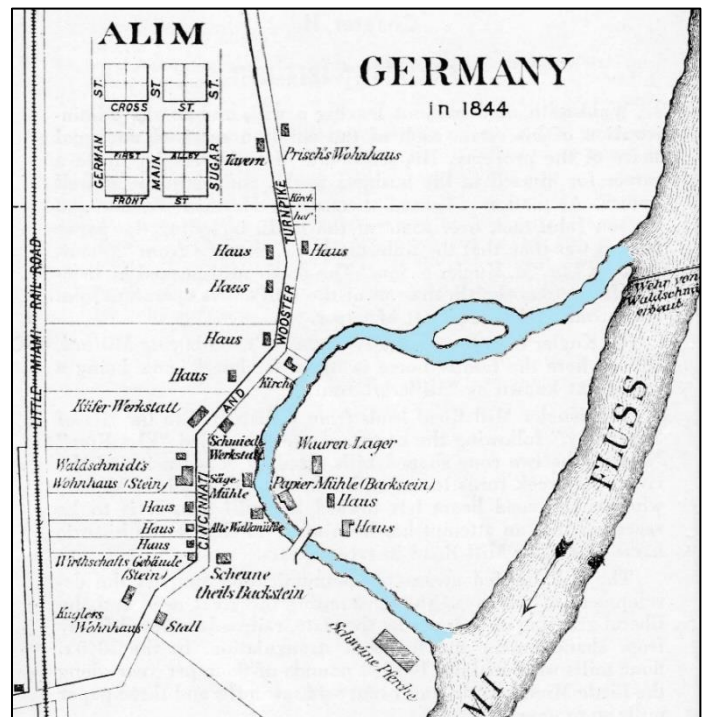
German Paper Making Comes to the Little Miami River Valley

by Trish Krehbiel

Christian Waldschmidt (C.W.) led a group of families from Pennsylvania who physically carved out of the wilderness what became the thriving settlement of New Germany. Today, we know the area as Camp Dennison. Coming from sturdy German heritage, with an entrepreneurial mindset, Christian built a home in 1804 that stands today as one the best examples of Pennsylvania Dutch architecture west of the Allegheny Mountains. In addition to a homestead, Christian was the guiding force behind founding a church and a school, as well as building a commercial enterprise that included a co-op distillery, a grist mill, a woolen mill, a sawmill and a black smithy. Within a relatively short amount of time, the industriousness of C.W.'s community had dug a millrace and diverted the Little Miami River to harness the water power to run Waldschmidt's many operating mills.

Perhaps, of most import, Waldschmidt engineered Ohio's second paper mill. In the early 1800's the closest paper mill supplier was in Redstone, PA. Paper was in very short supply. Newspapers were experiencing shortages for their publications. In the frontier, the military was hard pressed to find paper on which to write military orders and supply requests. Paper was essential to conduct commerce in the growing frontier and to record the many deeds to land purchases. Families who had resettled from the east had little correspondence with loved ones back home.

Reduced to using torn bits from existing letters, and publishing condensed or delayed newspapers, it was a welcome sight to read the following notice and advertisements in the "The Liberty Hall", January 16, 1810 edition, "Christian Waldsmith Announces His Intentions Of Building A Paper Mill On The Little Miami". On the same date of January 16, 1810, Waldsmith took out the following advertisement:



The millrace is shaded in blue.

RAGS WANTED

C. WALDSMITH

Having commenced building a paper Mill on the Little Miami,
Respectfully informs the public that STORE GOODS will be given for

Any quantity of Clean linen and cotton rags,

At 3 cents a pound. Rags will also be received as cash in payment of book accounts.

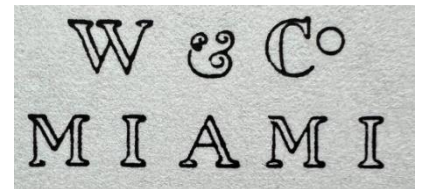
Those who wish to make special contracts for the delivery of rags, Will please to apply immediately.

The advertisement appeared almost weekly thereafter. Joining forces with a German trained paper maker, C.W. hired Johannes Schmidt to oversee the construction of the paper mill.

A **1947 Bulletin from the Historical and Philosophical Society of Ohio, Vol. 5, No. 1** is in the Society's Camp Dennison archives. The Bulletin contains an extensive paper by Marie Dickore, "The Waldsmith Paper Mill". (Waldschmidt changed the spelling of his name.) Ms. Dickore details the extent C.W. influenced the commerce of New Germany. The Waldschmidt mills not only supplied fine linen to Cincinnati for clothing and household needs, but also satisfied the large amount of coarse linen required to produce paper.

C.W.'s involvement in his papermaking enterprise extended to ensuring a strong supply of cloth. In addition to ubiquitous advertising for the purchase of rags, C.W. taught women how to grow flax and then how to weave the harvest into linen cloth vital to the production of paper. The very basics of successful paper manufacture follows these steps: Rags & linen were boiled; then washed and bleached to reduce them to a white pulp; the pulp was placed into molds; the molds were shaken and shifted by workers to drain out the excess water; the layer of the molded pulp was put on a piece of felt and stacked; a pile of stacked felt and pulp sheets were put under pressure to further drain away water, and then set for "hanging" to dry the sheets into paper.

Within 3 months' time the paper mill was up and running. Waldschmidt's paper carried a mark on the right on all sheets. →



As C.W. steered the development of New Germany and built his mills, a young fatherless Mathias Kugler, traveled to New Germany in 1797 looking for work. Differing accounts can be found in the archives, but they all conclude with the romance and marriage [1798] of Mathias Kugler to C.W.'s oldest daughter, Catherine Elizabeth. Overnight, Mathias Kugler's fortunes changed from laborer to son-in-law of one of the most prosperous and industrious men in Columbia. The stone building that currently houses the Civil War Museum in Camp Dennison was the home C.W. gave to Catherine & Mathias Kugler after they married.

Mathias undoubtedly learned alongside Waldschmidt's grown children some of the business acumen C.W. employed in crafting his community. Kugler's mentorship would come into sharp focus in March of 1814 when, suddenly, a devastating "cold plague" took the life of Christian Waldschmidt and one of his sons. Christian died without a will or clear direction for the management of his many enterprises.

In 20 years' time, Christian Waldschmidt was responsible for creating the settlement of New Germany. The legacy of his German born Father and forebearers, religion and papermaking, and milling and production factored heavily in Christian's priorities for his new-found homeland. Christian served as the visionary, leader, and manager of the town settlement. Christian Waldschmidt's stamp on the community and lives of the residents of New Germany would live on through his children and their families.



The Waldschmidt homestead

Stay tuned for the next E-Newsletter to continue the tale of Christian Waldschmidt's heirs, Catherine & Mathias Kugler, and how they fared at the helm of the many enterprises C. W. built.

Office News:

This summer witnessed the end of a farming dynasty in Indian Hill. Bill Grob, the last of a long line of farmers, died in December 2023. An auction was held in June to sell off the equipment which Bill used and maintained for decades. The property on Given Road which had been in the Grob Family since the late 1800s is now being farmed by its neighbor, Turner Farm.



Buckingham Lodge



An old dump hay rake used by the Grobs was donated to the Historical Society. It now sits in the field next to Buckingham Lodge in Bonnell Park. The graceful, but rusted tines harken back to the days when hay was gathered by a horse or mule pulling this rig.

So, the next time you pass the Society's office, take a look in the field where there is a remembrance of the rich agricultural history of the area.

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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