

BAY VILLAGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President's Message

Cathy Flament

What unprecedented times we are having. Who would have thought six months ago that we would be facing the challenges we are today?

The historical society has been dramatically influenced by COVID-19 regarding the work we have been able to accomplish and financial situation we face. As you know, it had been weeks since we have had access to Rose Hill or the Osborn Learning Center, so our renovation of displays, inventory, and storage improvements had been on hold. We are drastically limited as to access for now, but rest assured we will need you once we are able to work more freely.

Stephanie, our collections manager, had been working diligently at home to create signage for both buildings that will truly put a new spin on attracting visitors to the museums and provide a better understanding of the displays and our local history. We had just received the go-ahead for her to be able to get back in and continue the updates that are occurring at Rose Hill when she gave us her two-week notice. Devastated is an understatement, but excited for her. She will now be the curator for the Akron Art Museum which is a full-time position with benefits, tough for us to compete with. Steph and I have been working relentlessly for the last two weeks and we have the 1840 Cellar, 1818 Basement and storage area rejuvenated with signage ready to be installed. There will still be work to do completing the computer input and covers made for some of the storage. I can't wait for you to see the changes.

We have made tremendous strides over the last couple of years and we don't want to lose our momentum. There has been an overwhelming transformation of the organization and storage of our collection at the Osborn Learning Center. Our focus at Rose Hill is even more daunting due to its size and complexity, but we have embraced the challenge. Having to cancel the fundraiser we had in the works has greatly diminished our planned income. "Cahoon in June" would normally bring in about \$9,000. I am excited to announce that we have received assistance from "The Village Foundation," and we are grateful for their support, but this will help with only a fraction of the cost that will be incurred. We have the additional expense of a part-time curator who we hired after a two-year unsuccessful search of trying to find a volunteer replacement for Janet. Our hope is to have a replacement for Steph soon to keep the momentum going.

By now everyone should have received a letter addressing donations to help us maintain and improve these Bay Village treasures. I encourage everyone to please consider a generous contribution, over and above their membership, to allow us to continue the amazing transformations and increased accessibility of records that we have initiated. Memberships have just started to come in and 2/3rds of those responding so far have enclosed an extra donation supplementing last year's membership. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. If you have not responded yet, I encourage you to consider the work that is being done and help support us financially.

Going one step further, would you consider asking one or more friends and family members if they would support the society? Personally reaching out to someone you know will have a greater impact. As a member, you realize the importance of our mission to "promote interest in preserving information relating to area history and genealogy and provide stewardship of relevant artifacts, documents and buildings". I hope your family and friends will join mine to support our amazing museum. It has been requested by some members that a letter be distributed to the membership that they may use to pursue donations. We will forward one to you. Please consider any corporate connections you may have. All donations will be acknowledged in a future newsletter.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Spring 2020



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Rose Hill, Log Cabin & Smokehouse

Osborn Learning

Center Director

Tom Phillips

Accessions

Plans are underway to update our website and I am enthusiastic about upcoming changes and additions. With the help of Jack Hanley and Bill O'Brien you will be able to view documents as a result of the "Preservation and Digitization of the Early Settlers' Papers" project. They will be scanning, evaluating and uploading documents for the website. The funding for the preservation of these documents has been provided by an award from the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board, through funding from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), National Archives and Records Administration.

The election procedure has also had to be adjusted. Jean Pell is stepping down as a trustee due to work commitments and will need to be replaced. Jean has been a wonderful member on the board, always willing to lend a hand and has been insightful during our decision-making as we move forward. We are grateful for all she has done for the society. She assures me though that she will remain involved which is much appreciated.

With that said, we are looking for someone who is enthusiastic about the society, willing to assist with projects as needed and able to help us evolve to become the best we can be. If you are interested, please contact Doug Gertz at drgbay@aol.com or by calling 440.554.6355.

Special thanks to Karen Gertz who has been entering accession records into the PastPerfect program. Her assistance is helping this overwhelming task go a little bit faster. Chuck McKee, Stephanie and Bill West have diligently been addressing our landscaping. Thanks for all your hard work.

I have a list again of items needed: More sheets (solid colors preferred but not necessary), sturdy wire hangers and Velcro for fabric. They can be dropped off at Rose Hill on the porch, but please let me know so I don't miss them. Pick-up is available if needed.

We are still unsure when we will be open to the public, be able to have volunteers back in the buildings or have our quarterly potlucks. Notices will be sent out as soon as we find out when we can safely open. Please stay safe, follow the recommended guidelines and hope we are able to get back to some semblance of normalcy. This is definitely another "recorded" moment in Bay's history.

Osborn Learning Center

Tom Phillips and Dean Brennan

In 1990, there was a bulletin going around Bay Village requesting "Save The Reuben Osborn House." As it is now, it was then, many residents did not know, and now do not know, what the "Reuben Osborn House" means. In 1990, this home was the **oldest frame home** between Cleveland and Lorain.

In 2020, this Bay Village Landmark Home, The Reuben Osborn house, is 206 years old.

The strategic plan of the Reuben Osborn Learning Center is to tell the story of the pioneers who came to this unclaimed territory, Dover Township, to settle. They left their imprint on this community which paved the way for all of us to settle.

Reuben and Sarah Osborn were one of the first "pioneers" in the area. They left Connecticut with two children and arrived in Dover Township on the same day as the Cahoon Family, October 10, 1810. The Osborn family settled at 29202 Lake Road and lived in a log cabin for three years. In 1814, Reuben built his home, a frame structure, on the same property as the log cabin. During these years, this four bedroom home had only 2 children running about as two of their four children passed at an early age.

Their son, Sheldon, eventually built a home (still standing) on Lake Road. Sheldon and his wife had nine children. These nine grandchildren of Reuben and Sarah filled their home with life and love as they were taught baking, sewing, farming, fishing and reading.

Sheldon's son and Reuben's grandson, Reuben II, moved into Reuben and Sarah's home after they passed. Reuben II along with his wife, Esther and their five children, lived there for many years. This structure was home to the Osborn family members until the early 1960's.

When the home was sold, the barn in the back became the kitchen. The home was charming - surrounded by Lake Erie and a white picket fence.

Tom Phillips saw that this Landmark Home was about to be razed and notified then Mayor, Tom Jelepis. Together, Mayor Jelepis and Tom Phillips saved the Reuben Osborn homestead. The structure was moved to it's present location and stewardship of the property was passed on to the Bay Village Historical Society.

Tom Phillips had the idea to create the Osborn Learning Center inside this historic structure. Here the history of Bay Village lives on for all to experience. Here is where we tell the story of the pioneers who came to this unclaimed territory to settle and leave their imprint on what is now Bay Village.

Tom Phillips and Dean Brennan are your hosts at the Osborn Learning Center. When The Osborn Learning Center is able to reopen, we hope that you will visit this historic home filled with our founding fathers' stories, which lead the way to what is now Bay Village.



Snippets of Bay Village History

Kay Laughlin

1949 Brings a New Shopping Center to Bay Village

When I was a little girl, Dr. Knoll, the village dentist, purchased 250 feet of Lou Scholl's farm land on the south side of Wolf Road near Dover Center Road. The land was between the Columbia Gas Company building on the east and the Scholl farm house on the west. In the middle of his new farmland, he built a red brick one story colonial medical building with a center door and office space on each side. Here he set up his dental practice. Earl Ross, a medical doctor rented the other side. It was the first medical office building in the village.

Dr. Edward Knoll was the Mayor of Bay Village. At the time, the village had a population of 6,600 residents and 1,840 homes. Dr. Knoll predicted that the biggest spurt in population would be in the next 5 years and could reach 25,000 residents in 18 years.

In 1948, the only shopping area in the village was on Dover Center Road near the railroad tracks. Mayor Knoll saw a need rising for more shopping. He decided to move his medical office (today Pizza Hut) behind Ernie Olchen's Gas Station and clear the farmland for a shopping center. Construction was actively underway for a \$350,000 shopping center, including bowling alley, to open in July 1949.

Excerpts from a newspaper article in July, 1949 reads: 'MAYOR KNOLL MAKES FIRST PURCHASE IN NEW BAY VILLAGE SHOPPING CENTER - The first unit in the new Bay Village Shopping Center was opened on Saturday, July 2, 1949. Promptly at 9:00, Mayor Knoll, President of Bay Knoll Inc., owners of the buildings comprising the shopping center, cut the ribbon in the ceremonies leading to the opening of Avellone Pharmacy, the first unit in upwards of 15 units that will comprise the Bay Shopping Center. After ribbon cutting ceremonies, Dr. Knoll and a crowd of Bay residents and tradesman had a flag raising ceremony. Now the people of Bay Village and it's surrounding areas are seeing the realization of a long needed facility for complete shopping needs right in their hometown community. The new center has ample parking conveniently located at the front entrances of all the units which is an important feature of this development. The Nichols 5c and \$1.00 Variety Store unit is scheduled to open its doors to the public around July 15, 1949. It will be run by Mr. Kahrs.'

The September 25, 1949 Plain Dealer featured an article and picture of the shopping center. It states that a three day 'grand opening' celebration will take place at the Center and will climax with street dancing and a band concert on Saturday night.

The Center held a one year celebration in 1950. The following stores participated: Nichols 5 cent to \$1 Store, Polly Beauty Shoppe, Village Men & Boys Wear, Bay's Food Center, Neil O'Connor Florist, Bay Barber Shop, James Hardware Co., Jack 'N Jill Kiddie Shoppe, Vargo Delicatessen, Bay Sportsman Shop, Society Dry Cleaners, Avellone Drug, Andy's Shoe Repair, Lee Hymes Shoes. This information is furnished by Harley McNeal, President of the Bay Kiwanis. Krogers is not mentioned but was one of the opening stores. One unit is missing. I think it might have been a bakery.



Historic House Plaque

Clark (left) and Barb Young recently purchased a century home plaque for their Electric Drive home from the Bay Village Historical Society.

Neighbors Bob and Loreen Dorin (middle and right) saw it and were so impressed they purchased one for their Florence Road home, as well.

The Bay Village Historical Society makes available plaques to the owners of homes in the city that are more than 100 years old.



Eric Eakin

The plaques, made of cast aluminum and colored black and gold, are 10 inches by 14 inches oval, and include the words “Bay Village,” “Century Home” and the year of construction. The cost is \$125.00, which includes delivery and a one-year membership in the Bay Village Historical Society, a \$35 value. For more information call (216) 386-5997 or www.bayhistorical.com.

A special thank you to the following individuals for their extra donations to our society.

As of May, 11, 2020 they are:

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Evelyn Allen | Rev. Richard Lutz |
| Marilyn & Greg Baeppler | Larry Marsalek |
| Denise Baldanza | Ed Neal & Susan Lewis |
| Cindy Bauman | J. Marshall Osborn |
| Janet & Ed Bremke | Linda & Jim Potter |
| Nancy & Dwight Clark | Susan & Steve Ruscher |
| Sonia Coulton | Cornelia & George Ryan |
| Debra & Howard Doughty | Glenda Schillizzi |
| Pamela & Gary Ebert | Judy & Don Trask |
| Catherine & Paul Flament | Kathy Whipple |
| Jen Flament | Larry Wolf |
| Molly & Jack Hanley | |
| Shannon & Shawn Harris | |

The Bay Village Historical Society welcomes the following new members:

Dolores and Walt Bettcher of Bay Village
 Dan Bridgeo of Bay Village
 Mark and Chris Elhardt of Bay Village
 Barb Crystal Houston of Bay Village
 Joan Kummert of Westlake
 Mary Sue Mallett of Bay Village
 Elaine and Bill O'Brien of Bay Village
 Barbara Taushanoff of Bay Village
 Stephanie West of Bay Village

Leave a Legacy

Do you want to leave a legacy, a little something to remember you by? Then please consider a charitable bequest to the Bay Village Historical Society.

A charitable bequest is simply a distribution from your estate to a charitable organization, such as the Bay Village Historical Society, through your last will and testament.

The society is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization as defined by the Internal Revenue Service and the State of Ohio, and all donations and bequests are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

If you care to make a bequest to the Bay Village Historical Society in your will, please consult your legal counsel. He or she can provide the specific language, usually just one paragraph, which should be included in your will.

Your bequest can be a donation of a specific amount, a donation for a specific purpose, or a percentage of your estate. Your legal counsel can assist you. You also might consider naming the Bay Village Historical Society as recipient of donations in lieu of flowers or other remembrances upon your passing.

Your continued support of the Bay Village Historical Society over the years, and into the future, is sincerely appreciated.