

# BAY VILLAGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## President's Message

Cathy Flament

February 2021



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### Rose Hill, Log Cabin & Smokehouse

### Osborn Learning

### Center Director

Tom Phillips

### Accessions

This newsletter will be dedicated to providing you with a glimpse of what has been going on at Rose Hill. as this has been a frequent request in the last month.

COVID has been a curse and a blessing for us. We would never have been able to complete what we have done had we been open all year. The pandemic has definitely created its challenges for us to maintain a safe environment, but has allowed us to totally immerse ourselves in the current project. Not counting the time dedicated to the overhaul from the city, we have averaged over 125 hours/week, primarily volunteer over the last 17 months.

We have been fortunate to be able to have professional help to aid us in following recommended practices for museum collections. Kristen Blackburn joined us in the spring to assist with the costume collection. Anticipating the birth of their first child, we knew she would not be able to stay past November. Elanor was born a couple of weeks after we completed the majority of the textile and clothing collection. The Blackburn family is doing well and we wish them the best.

Kelsey Rogers joined us this year with a Master's of Library and Information Science from Kent State University with an emphasis on digital libraries, archives and museums. She has experience working with museum collections, recently with the International Woman's Air and Space Museum. I feel that her background will be a great

asset to us moving forward. She is concentrating on the inventory, but also organizing our photo collection a few hours each week. It would be exciting to get some of these online.

Here we go with our progress so far:

We are approaching 600 documents from the "Early Papers Collection" being scanned and entered into PastPerfect, a museum computer program and have added them to our online website. The project was supported in part 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. We are grateful for their assistance which enabled us to archivally store these amazing documents, letters, ledgers, etc. Check out what has been entered by going to <http://www.bayhistorical.com/>. On the right-hand side of page, you will see Document Archive at the bottom of the list. When you click on that, you will be able to view the first page of each document giving you a glimpse into the past.

Building update:

- All of the walls/ceilings were repaired and painted on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor west end and Children's Victorian Bedroom. Some areas required sections to be replaced. This was a monumental job by the city.
- Electrical outlets and switches replaced upstairs.
- Windows repaired
- Missing historical door latches have had replacements recreated by the service dept.
- Humidity monitors strategically placed throughout the building and humidifier installed in the upstairs kitchen.

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- Wallpaper stripped and walls, woodwork, cabinets and refrigerator painted in the kitchen. The kitchen has been reorganized to create more office space.
- Swing doors designed and installed to the basement storage area and accession area on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Outdoor railing at the south entrance stair area has been replaced and stairs painted.

Inventory is underway of all accessioned, display and educational items at Rose Hill. We are finishing up entering the previous data from 1996. Over 3,000 items have been inventoried so far with each item assigned an appropriate updated number entered into PastPerfect along with its description, dimensions, source, condition, relation to other items and photographed. We have completed approximately half the rooms so far. This creates an efficient way for items to be identified and monitored.

Once entered, the items have been appropriately stored archivally using current recommended museum standards. This includes the use of archival boxes, unbuffered tissue, fabric, etc. To summarize we have:

- Created 115 padded hangers and garment bags with twill tape closures and Tyvek tags identifying contents.
- Textiles stored in boxes are layered or wrapped in unbuffered tissue with tissue numbered.
- Custom inserts designed for boxes holding small items such as jewelry, hat pins, etc.
- Stockinette tubes created to stabilize the shapes of the shoes.
- Special tubing designed to appropriately store the flag collection.
- Cardboard dividers placed between frames being stored to prevent damage.
- Small braided rugs are being hand-washed and repaired.
- Quilts vacuumed with screening and HEPA vacuum before being stored.
- Restrung rope beds.
- Custom curtain panels made with insulating fabric for the west windows in the accession room.
- New curtains made for the accession room and kitchen door.
- Top of the work/desk table in the accession area was stripped, stained and finish applied.
- Wischmeyer boats cleaned and restored.
- Metal and wooden shelving repurposed to the basement with individual fabric covers on each shelf and fabric covers designed to encase each shelving unit.
- Peg board installed on the east wall of the basement storage area and basement display area to showcase tools.
- Collections Management document updated and expanded.

Thanks goes out to those who donated to the project through our membership appeal, the Bay Village Foundation for the approved grant and support by the Bay Village Service Dept. which made this initiative possible. We are very proud and excited about the progress that has been made and look forward to reuniting with everyone as the situation becomes safer. Looking forward, we need to continue with the inventory for the remainder of the building. This may take another year if we are able to maintain the same pace. With COVID vaccinations now a reality, it is hoped that we will have more volunteers in the future.

There are a number of projects we have previously discussed that we hope to accomplish.

- Redesign/organize the gift shop. Possibly increase our online presence with donated items that do not fit into the collection. *Help needed.*
- Reorganization of the cabin so visitors may be welcomed. The new path is creating increased traffic we would like to take advantage of. *Help needed.*
- Signage throughout the museum and outside, including the Osborn Learning Center outdoor sign.
- Signage/benches placed along the path in the valley area to highlight historical sites.

Volunteers need to:

- Organize volunteers for Rose Hill and the Osborn Learning Center.
- Become a guide for the museum on Sunday when we open.
- Cut circles of felt to be placed between plates.
- Clean small woven rugs.
- Assist with inventory.
- General cleaning of artifacts as we go.

These are exciting times for the historical society and we hope we will be able to share our progress with you in person. If all goes well, we will be able to open Rose Hill by the end of spring, early summer.

Accession Room at Rose Hill prior to the project.





Part of the Accession Room as of January 2021  
with textile storage completed.



## Digging Dover: Bay Village—A Gift For All Seasons

Will Krause, Historian

Benjamin Franklin said “Show me your cemeteries and I will tell you what kind of people you have.” Thanks to Mr. Charles (“Tallie”) and Mrs. Carolyn Young, Bay Village Lakeside Cemetery is saved! They epitomize the kind of people that make Bay Village the fine community that it is.

“Retracing Footsteps” by Catherine Burke Flament is an excellent source for all things “Lakeside Cemetery”. Here are some of the facts gleaned from that book: The cemetery was founded in 1814 when Reuben Osborn’s sister-in-law and infant nephew were accidentally drowned in the Rocky River. Reuben donated some property on the north side of Lake Road for the first public burying ground in Dover Township. Eventually Reuben Osborn’s land was divided between his descendants and through the years the cemetery has been expanded to approximately half acre that it is today.

It was in 1877 that Reuben’s grandson David Deforest Osborn sold land to the Trustees of Dover to expand the cemetery to the north, east and west of the original. At that time an additional 28’ wide piece of land to the east was purchased from others as well. David Osborn had grown up in his father Selden’s house which still stands at 29059 Lake Road, located diagonally southwest of the cemetery.

Because the first three generations of the Cahoon family are buried in Lakeside Cemetery, Ida Cahoon’s Will of the early 19<sup>th</sup> century includes a statement that Lakeside Cemetery is to be sacredly cared for and if need be protected to the north by a stone wall but is never to be removed from its current location.

During the 1970s about 40 feet of waterlogged land was lost to the lake. At least one casket was said to have been partially exposed by the landslide into the lake. At that time a rebuilding process was begun by the City of Bay Village and the Army Corp of Engineers. Steel mesh baskets filled with stones, and land were added to the north. Erosion since that time threatened the cemetery yet again.

It was at a meeting of the Bay Village Historical Society Trustees that I learned about this problem and that it was already in the midst of being solved thanks to the generosity of Tallie and Carolyn Young.

The Young’s live at 29039 Lake Road, just east of the Selden Osborn house. I had heard, but cannot verify that the core of their home consists of two former Osborn structures that were joined together years ago. A 1914 Hopkins plat book shows a 26.87acre parcel with the Seldon Osborn home and two other structures set much farther back on parcel. Hopkins plat books for 1920 and 1927 show a rectangular home in the same location as the current one and the County Auditor lists the year built as 1920.

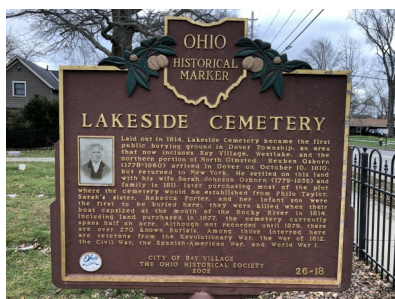


In 2008 the Young’s purchased the home from “B. J.” Schwartz, another minded soul who spearheaded the replacement of the cemetery fence in the early 2000s. In

addition to the house lot on the south side of Lake Road, the purchased property includes narrow parcels of land which nearly encircle the existing cemetery on the north side of Lake Road. When the Young’s purchased the home they did extensive additions and renovations, including adding a large central tower to give themselves a lake view over cemetery. When they want to experience the lake intimately, they just cross the street, walk alongside the cemetery fence and use their lakeside patio with fire pit and bench.

The Young’s could have haggled with the city over who would pay for what because any improvements to the lakeshore would benefit both their property and the cemetery. They simplified the matter by offering to pay for all of the improvements themselves. This donation must be well in the six figures. On August 31, 2020 Resolution

No. 20-79, accepting their donation of shoreline work was passed by Bay City Council and the Cahoon Memorial Park Trustees. The actual physical shoreline work continues as this article goes to press. From the westerly stone pier in Huntington Park the heavy equipment can be seen constructing that stone wall that Ida Cahoon predicted might be needed years ago.



## Early Settler's Papers

Jack Hanley

Did you know:

That Harriet Beecher Stowe appears in the genealogy of the Foot Family (1630-1920)?

That a local boy joined the Ohio Militia under the command of "local popular farmer, (future President) Colonel James A. Garfield"?

That a Dover resident wrote about his children including daughter Elizabeth "killed by Indians"?

These and other fascinating items are included in the Early Settlers Papers project conducted by the Bay Village Historical Society.

The project is supported in part 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 Historical Society is in the process of reviewing, summarizing and digitizing the papers of early settlers in Dover (now Bay Village and Westlake.) The papers of the Aldrich family are the first set under review.

At present nearly six hundred documents have been reviewed, scanned and are available for review on the Society's Webpage. The plan is to digitize the entire collection of early settlers' papers, some 600 cubic feet of history. The papers can be reviewed on line or in person by appointment.

## Osborn Learning Center

Tom Phillips and Dean Brennan

It seems like such a long time since we have been able to have our Bay Village neighbors visit their own historic home named the Osborn Learning Center.

We look forward to having the *doors open again this summer*, and we look forward to seeing you!

## 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.



Friendship isn't a big thing—  
It's a million little things.

PAULO COELHO

