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# THE CURATOR

The Newsletter of the Brunswick Area Historical Society

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## We're on our way to a new building at the farm

The Brunswick Board of Zoning Appeals and the Planning Commission have OK'd plans for a new pole structure at the farm that will be used to house artifacts from the old high school (Edwards) building when it is demolished in 2020.

Engelke Construction Services, which is owned and operated by Brunswick natives, has taken on our project management and we're so grateful for the help. They helped us through the initial process and are now getting ready to accept bids.

Readers may remember we have a \$70,000 Ohio Facilities Construction Commission grant pending and we will soon begin our major fundraising effort.

Thanks to cooperation from the school district, we will be getting bricks from both Edwards and Visintainer buildings when they begin demolition. Those will be sold with a certificate identifying them. We haven't decided on a price yet, so watch for news in your local papers and on our Web site and Facebook page.

Former Memorial Principal and Brunswick grad, Judy Galo, is planning a trivia event based on Brunswick schools and community.

We are also hoping to find other grants from foundations to help us complete the project.

We would appreciate any other fundraising ideas members or the public may have. We will, of course, be announcing our efforts at our farmers markets this summer and at our Pumpkin Festival in October.



## Farmers markets set to begin on June 9 at Heritage Farm

Those of you waiting for those tents to go up and the music to start will be happy to know the Brunswick Farmers Market will be up and running from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. each Sunday at the farm, 4613 Laurel Road, starting June 9.

We have heard that Crow Hill Farm, the all-natural meat and produce vendor will be adding artisan cheeses – again with no hormones or other unwanted additives to their products this year. Sounds delicious, doesn't it?

Your favorite veggie vendors will be back

and hoping this year's crop will be bountiful. We always look forward to our crafters with their beautiful products. And Eli has promised to be there most weeks with his knife sharpener ready to go.

**Special events this year include:**

Ice cream social will be held on June 30 and we'll have those rootbeer floats back again.

Christmas in July will be on July 14 – Santa is headed back to the North Pole right after that. Pictures with Santa will be available, so be sure to bring the youngsters (and the pets) to get your photo taken.

In August, we are planning a Touch a Truck event with trucks of all kinds for kids and vehicle lovers to get up close and personal. It will be either Aug. 4 or 11 and we'll couple that with our Children's Costume Parade so the kids can wear those Halloween costumes or come as their favorite princess or hero. It's all free, so families can't go wrong. Bring your cameras – there should be lots of picture opportunities.

In September, we're moving our popular Canine Costume Contest up so we have a better chance at dry weather. It will be on September 15. Last year's event was absolutely amazing – those pet owners know how to get those doggies dressed to the nines!

In addition, we will have a butterfly release, headed up by Sandy Barczyk, who has been tagging and releasing butterflies for several years. She will be setting up near our Heritage Farm Butterfly Garden. Once again, the youngsters should really enjoy this event, but -- it's not just for kids. If you love butterflies and want to see them thrive – come to the release.

Then the annual Pumpkin Festival will be held the weekend of Oct. 5-6 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both Saturday and Sunday. It's a special event we know everyone looks forward to. We're hoping to have our belly dancers and the Brunswick Rec Line Dancers back again – they were a big hit last year.

We are, of course, hoping for better weather than 2018 when the rain really made a muddy mess. But it will be held, rain or shine, so mark your calendars.

## **Music, music, music**

Musician Ken Uram has assured us another wonderful year of music at the barn during farmers market. He's taken on scheduling the entertainment and is planning to play most weeks along with fellow musician Scott Yeager who also played for us last year.

If you are a musician who would like to join in, you can contact Ken at the farm to inquire about taking a turn at the microphone. Our musicians donate their time and talent to make our markets even more special.

## **Don't forget – hot dogs and popcorn**

Your donations for our hot dogs, popcorn and beverages help to keep the farm up-to-date and running. The Brunswick Area Historical Society is responsible for maintenance of all the buildings. Their age makes it a challenge sometimes, but it's important to keep our history alive for this and future generations.

Our Vice President, Dave Goodyear, always says, "You can't know where you're going if you don't know where you've been."

## Tour the farmhouse museum

The museum is open from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. each Sunday starting June 9 during farmer's markets and anytime by appointment. You can email us at [brunswickareahistory@gmail.com](mailto:brunswickareahistory@gmail.com) or call 330-441-0292 if you'd like to schedule an appointment. We're happy to take you through the house filled with items donated by local residents to preserve our heritage.

Once we have the new building, we will be moving our offices and storage from the second story of the 1899 portion of the house and will turn those rooms back into display areas.

## Thanks for your support

Patrons and sponsors add to their annual dues to help us maintain the historical society. If you know one of these generous folks, please say thanks on our behalf.

Thanks to Dick and Darlene Beeching, Ann Benninger, Ken Chamers, Ernie and Cathryn Daiber, Judy Galo, Spring Mist Farm, Ruth Hagedorn, Steve Hambley, James Hayas, Jody Hunter, Homestead Insurance, Rick and Barb John, Steve Hambley, Rosalie Kappeler, Carolyn Kinton, Dave LeHoten, Bernice Miller, Roy and Cindy Montonaro, Jane and Kevin Reed, Nancy Sprowls and Tom Rounds.

## New items in the collection

Thanks to Lois Thomas and family for donating two women's costumes to our collection that we can wear for programs.

Thanks to the Neely family for finding and donating lots of Sesquicentennial plates – yes – they are 54 years old! We often are asked for donations to other worthy causes and this will be available now.

## Your dues make a difference

Our small group of volunteer workers uses your dues to pay utilities, insurance, security and upkeep of all the buildings at Heritage Farm. That means the smallest things – like telephone, stamps, copy paper – are all paid from your annual dues.

So, in case you have not yet sent them in, or they are due this month, please help keep local history alive by mailing your dues for 2019 to PO Box 714, Brunswick. Or now you can pay online on our Website with Paypal.

## Annual membership:

- INDIVIDUAL (under 65) \$20
- STUDENT/SENIOR 65+ \$10
- FAMILY \$25
- SILVER PATRON \$50
- GOLD PATRON \$75
- PLATINUM PATRON \$100

## Corporate Sponsorship:

- Diamond Sponsorship \$200
- Star Sponsorship \$500

We try to include sponsors and patrons in each newsletter. For sponsors, Web site acknowledgement also available.

Amount Enclosed

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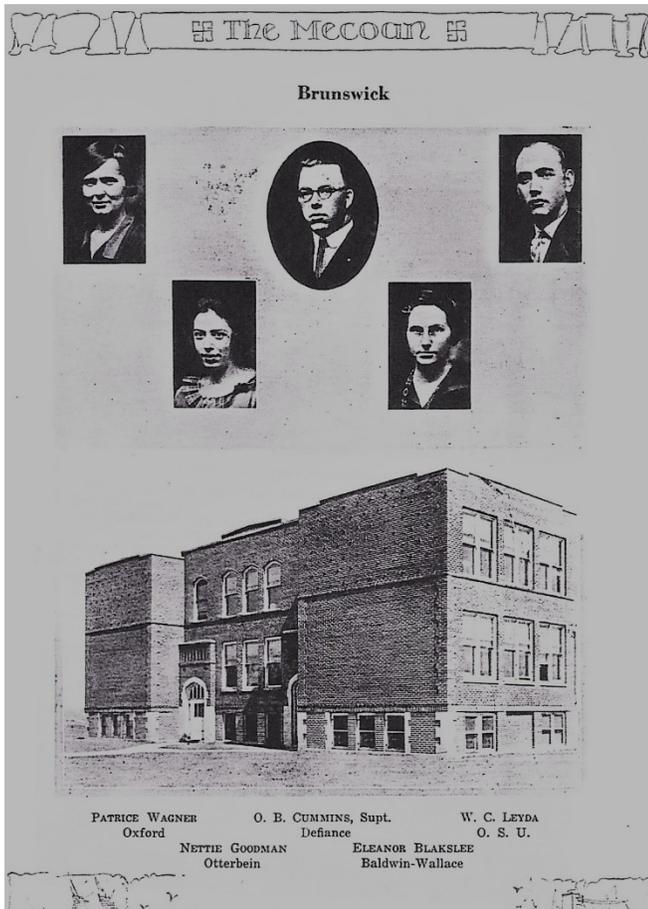
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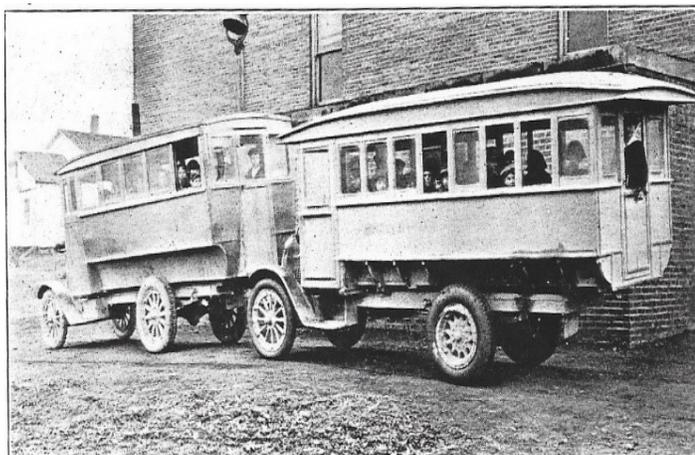
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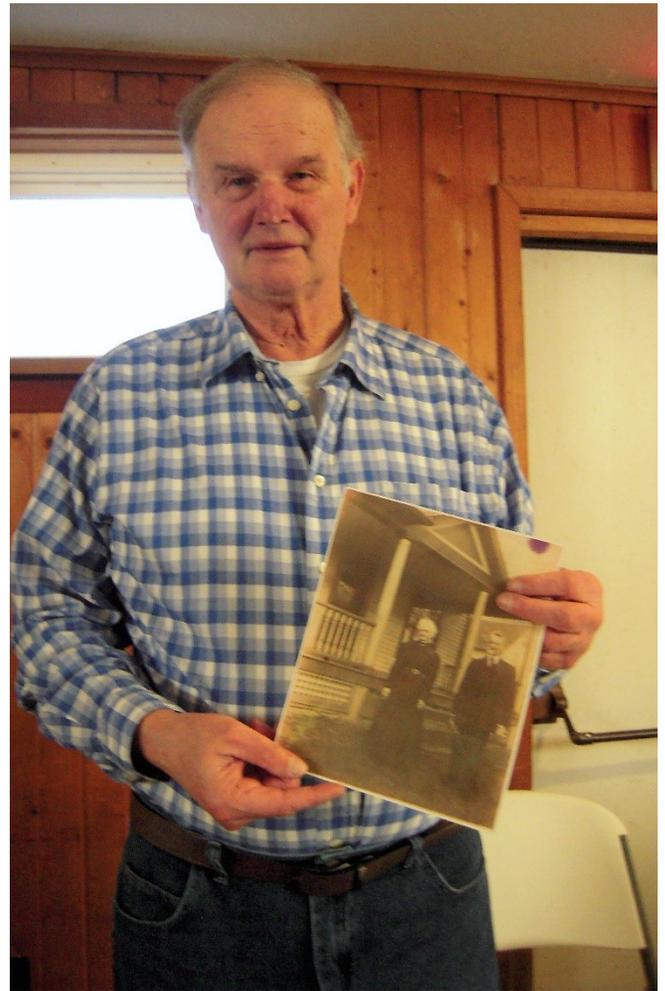
Look what we found in the archives! It's 1925 and this was apparently a Medina County Schools' "annual." Found this in a file – no "book" just the pages.



And then there were the "kid wagons"



That year, 143 students were transported.



### Program featured historic home

In February, the Historical Society meeting at Goodyear's Big Barn began with a local resident taking time to talk about historical topics.

Walter Wozniak, who lives in one of the community's oldest homes on Center Road, brought photos and research he has done about his home, on land originally owned by B.W. Freese.

Walt, who is a history buff, said B.W. was born in 1781 and in 1817, at the age of 36, he came to Brunswick where within three years he had more than 800 acres of land here.

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The property stretched from Substation to what is now Cherry Lane and across the street down Substation to Gravel Pit (Laurel) and it actually backed onto the Berdan property – the land on which Heritage Farm now sits.

In 1836, B.W. divided half of his main farm to his children, each of whom got around 55 acres, including Clyde and Fern Freese whom many of those in the audience remembered. When Walt was young, he would help out at Clyde's farm and he said Clyde always had great stories, but it was Fern who was the "real" farmer.

His daughter, Elmina (married to Dr. Elijah Somers), got 132 acres. She leased the land back to her father and he farmed it for nearly 10 years. Her family then moves back and takes possession. Her parents remain with them.

Dr. Somers had a practice in Olmsted Falls and Elmina and he had six or seven children, Walt said. When she passed away, her daughter, Jane and her husband, Orson Harrington buy out the siblings and take over the farm. Orson was from Columbia Station.

They had two sons, Walter and George Harrington who took over the farm when their dad passed away. Walter married Mabel Bolles who lived down the street and George married the woman who was his parents' housekeeper. Neither had children of their own.

The farm was sold in 1938. Owners included families named Gilmore, Bowers and Ertle until Alwin Wolff bought the land and divided it for a housing development from Meadowbrook to Blueberry Hill Drive. Walt's dad and mother, Joseph and Caroline

Wozniak, bought the farmhouse and 3 acres the original owners.

Walt has since learned the house started out as a "salt box" style home, with additions turning it to neo-classical.

Walt shared photos of the house and its owners with the group that came to see the presentation. Here's a photo that shows what the house still looks like today.



## **April meeting will feature the Entertainment Company**

The program at 6 p.m. April 25 will include the programs, some of the scripts and lots of memories from people who were part of the Brunswick Entertainment Company family.

The meeting will be held in the fellowship hall at Brunswick United Methodist Church, 1395 Pearl Road. The Fellowship Hall is downstairs and handicapped accessible by an elevator. Meetings and programs are free and open to the public.

Starting in May, weather depending, we will meet at the barn at Heritage Farm.

## **Sleepy Hollow Lake program attracted a big crowd in March**

Historical Society members, Greg and Lin Crane presented a very interesting program on Sleepy Hollow Lake at our March meeting.

Greg's family owned 70 acres of land on Sleepy Hollow Road from 1953 to 1984. He explained the lake was created from dams along Plum Creek – the same way Brunswick Lake was formed.

They learned that until 1920 there was a sawmill on the creek. Former owner, Harry Coon told the Cranes that the first earth dam used to provide the water power for the sawmill had washed out.

When they purchased the property there was already a clubhouse on the property and a 120-foot slide into the lake. There was also an island in the lake. During the winter, they used to have ice skating and tobogganing. Greg, who was 6 when the family came, remembers it was his job to clear the snow from the surface for those sports. The family also included Pat and Connie, while Rene came along after they moved here from Cleveland.

His dad, mother and grandmother had a restaurant and bar in the clubhouse and a 1953 menu showed a T-Bone steak dinner was \$7.95 and Surf and Turf was \$10.95. The Saturday steak dinner special was just \$5.95.

Lin talked about the special events the family would hold and how much food they would make for their luaus and clambakes. She also had a great story about their huge 1967 wedding and how Greg's grandmother made all the food.

Here's the lake looking from the island toward the slide and clubhouse.



By 1959, the lake became unusable for swimming so they built an Olympic-sized swimming pool, where many of the children took Red Cross swimming lessons. Many people in the audience remembered swimming there.



### **Board members elected**

Two new board members have joined the Historical Society team. Carol Foote and Ken Chamers join Ernie Daiber, Mamie Grunau, Cindy Kintop, Betty Taller, Dennis Wunn and Linda Scarcella. Carl Bilski is president; Dave Goodyear, vice president; 'Sam' Boyer, secretary (newsletter editor) and Joyce Petchler is treasurer.