
THE CURATOR

330-441-0292

The Newsletter of the Brunswick Area Historical Society

July 2022



Bell Tower is set in its forever home

BRUNSWICK, Ohio – The old bell has a new home.

In 1852, a 644-pound bell was forged in Troy N.Y. for the Brunswick Methodist Church. When the building was sold to the Disciples of Christ, the bell came along with it.

After 184 years in Brunswick, that congregation, now the First Christian Church, disbanded, and those who remained as members donated the bell to the Brunswick Area Historical Society.

With funds donated to help build a tower, Historical Society President, Carl Bilski, took on the task of creating a tower for the bell and preserving it for future generations. The pandemic hit shortly after the donation and planning turned to action as the prices of steel were rising dramatically.

Bilski bought steel beams and built the tower in his workshop and then brought it to

Heritage Farm where it was stored over the winter.

With the help of Dave Chidsey of Chidsey Towing, who moved the bell; Brad Hoffman of Hoffman Tree Services who lifted the tower; Michael O'Keefe of O'Keefe Concrete and Bilski's team of Michael Gable and Mark Salmonski, the bell and tower were lifted into place on a concrete pad near the new Old School Museum on the farm. Be sure to stop by to see it.

Now add the bricks

Once again, Carl Bilski came up with the idea of engraved bricks surrounding the steel beams on the tower. Each brick will have the name of a person, church, company, graduating class, organization, or family. The money generated from the sale goes toward the completion of the Old School Museum.

Order your brick today

To help fund improvements and maintenance of the Old School Museum, the Bell Tower and Heritage Farm & Museum, please purchase a commemorative engraved brick which was salvaged from Edwards or Visintainer Middle Schools. Deadline for ordering is Aug. 31. Your brick will proudly become a part of the Brunswick Historical Society Bell Tower and Brunswick Area History.

Order forms are available on the Historical Society website www.brunswickhistory.com

If you do not have internet access, print or type what you want inscribed on your engraved brick for the Brunswick Historical Society Bell Tower. Maximum inscription is 3 lines with 26 letters/spaces per line.

Bricks are \$145 each.

Mail check and completed form with your name, address and phone to Brunswick Area Historical Society, c/o Carl Bilski, president, 4274 Marks Road, Medina, OH 44256

Questions: Email Carl at thesandman@zoominternet.net . OR Call him at 216-780-1309.

Thank you for your support of Brunswick Area History in the Making!

Our officers, committees

President, Carl Bilski
Vice President, Dave Goodyear
Recording Secretary, Barb Buser
Corresponding Secretary, Sam Boyer
Treasurer, Joyce Petchler

Trustees: Linda Scarcella, Cindy Kintop, Carol Foote, Ken Chamers, Dennis Wunn, Judy Galo.

Caretaker, Roger Keller.

Finance Committee: Mary Tulenko, Judy Galo, Cindy Kintop, Barbara Buser.

Heritage Farm has a long, storied history

In 1817, three Berdan brothers arrived in Brunswick from New York City. They were Peter, John and Abram Berdan. Their father, David Berdan Jr. purchased this property in 1818. But David, a world traveler on his own, never visited the property he had purchased.

Peter was the youngest. Records show him marrying Sarah Simmons. Peter's wife came from New York City and was considered "the neatest woman in town."

The story goes she returned to New York to visit her parents, the Berdan house burned to the ground. Research notes there was a fire on the property in 1839. But, as the tale goes, "her fine neighbors helped the family to be re-established."

Abram became clerk of Brunswick Township and John was a Justice of the Peace.

John married another early Brunswick resident, Pamela Freese. John, however, was a merchant at heart. He and his family moved to Toledo, where he gained a popular reputation as an astute and honest businessman. When the city of Toledo was incorporated in 1837, John Berdan was elected its first mayor. He was re-elected in 1838. In 1839, the county named him an associate justice of the Court of Common Pleas for Lucas County, where he served until his early death in 1841.

Can you volunteer?

We are always looking for people to join our all-volunteer ranks at the Brunswick Historical Society. If you would like to learn to be a tour guide, help at a special event, keeping files up to date, park cars, help us keep our gardens relatively free of weeds, or can help serve refreshments at Sunday Farmers Markets, we can use your help. Just email us at brunswickareahistory@gmail.com

**2022 BRUNSWICK AREA
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

_____INDIVIDUAL (under 65) \$20

_____STUDENT/SENIOR 65+ \$10

_____FAMILY \$25

Patrons

_____SILVER PATRON \$50

_____GOLD PATRON \$75

_____PLATINUM PATRON \$100

Corporate Sponsorships

_____Diamond Sponsorship \$200

(Includes website acknowledgement)

_____ Star Sponsorship \$500

(Includes website acknowledgement and business card ads in publications)

Amount Enclosed _____

Name _____

Company _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

*Clip and return your completed membership form, along with a check for payment to...
Brunswick Area Historical Society P.O. Box 714
Brunswick, OH 44212*

Your dues make a difference

Whether you pay senior citizen dues of \$10 a year or are a patron or corporate sponsor, the money you send to the Brunswick Area Historical Society goes a long way.

Our small group of volunteer workers uses your dues to pay utilities which, of course, have increased with the addition of our new Old School Museum. The funds also go to pay insurance, security services, and upkeep of the farm.

That means the smallest things – telephone, stamps, copy paper – are all paid from your annual dues.

So in case you have not yet turned them in, please keep local history alive by mailing your dues for 2022.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.brunswickhistory.com/>

or call (330) 441-0292 or email us at

brunswickareahistory@gmail.com

Join us at our next meeting

The Historical Society meets at 7 p.m. on the last Thursday of each month except November and December and is open to all who are interested. On July 28 we will hold a business meeting to catch members up on all the exciting things we have coming up in the next few months.

We will meet in July, August and September in the big red barn at Heritage Farm. So please join us.

Farmer's market is back

Farmers markets returned to Heritage Farm on June 12 and continue to Oct. 2. The market is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. each Sunday.

The Historical Society has its farmhouse museum open for tours on the market days and you can visit the big red barn to see the amazing workmanship that has been standing since 1860.

The society sells snacks and beverages as well as fresh popped popcorn and frozen goodies. On special dates, like July 24, plans are to have Mary's famous chili dogs for sale for Santa's visit.

On Aug. 21, plans are underway for the arrival of Uncle Dave's Traveling Farm from Spring Mist Farms for that day. Watch for details.

On Aug. 26, it's International Dog Day. At 6 p.m. Ofc. Joe Ceccacci and canine officer Koda will come to show how canines are trained for duty. *No other pets allowed during the presentation.*

On Sept. 11 we will be holding the annual butterfly tagging and release at about noon. See now to tag a monarch butterfly.

Thanks to our Corporate Sponsors



***Steve Hambley, Medina County
Commissioner***

Santa Claus is coming to Heritage Farm



DATE: SUNDAY - JULY 24, 2022

TIME: 11 AM - 1 PM

**PLACE: HERITAGE FARM
4613 LAUREL RD.
BRUNSWICK, OH 44212**

Santa has agreed to take time from his summer vacation to visit us again at Heritage Farm. Bring the kids at noon to the big red barn and enjoy a visit with Santa.

Pictures with Santa will be available. For a \$5 donation you receive a 5"x7" Keepsake Card, frame ready, by mail. Your photo with Santa can be with one or more members of your family. A digital copy of photos will also be available for a \$5 donation. All donations help preserve Heritage Farm.

Santa's visit is made possible by Greg Zoltan, State Farm greg.zoltan.quhj@statefarm.com

Refreshments will be available in the big red barn, stay and enjoy the music by Ken Uram and take in the beauty of the historic farm.

And don't forget to stop at the Christmas Shoppe where Stacey and Tony have a wonderful array of holiday displays and items for sale. Pick up your Christmas gifts early from our market vendors.